

"You mean he changed his name to 'None Of The Above' just for the election?"

OPINION

'Mumm' gets a 10, but Aggies get a 3.5

A bit of magic touched us last night. A trio of mimes took us from Bryan-College Station and put us in the middle of ourselves. Through their skits and characters, they opened our emotions and our frailties to public view — often humorous, sometimes sad. The MSC OPAS show was entertaining and enlightening. One measure of its success came from a devoted baseball fan — he said he was glad he missed the seventh and ultimate game of the World Series. A full review appears on page 3; in a word, Mummenschanz was great. Sadly, a few seats were open — not many, but a few more students could have seen the show. And that symptom — low student attendance — is epidemic. Last week fewer than 100 students heard David Halberstam, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. Even more embarrassing was the attendance for U.S. Rep. Bob Eckhart — about 20. And Muhammed Ali, a world-famous personality, drew only 1,200, much less than the 8,000 expected. Students and administrators who arrange the programs say they don't know why students stay away. But they do say the problem is worse now than it used to be, even with increased enrollment.

Students, and others in the university community, obviously lose through missing the chance to see and even argue with the experts. But students also lose because they're paying for programs with their student service fees. In the "real world," sociologists say Americans are becoming passive observers instead of active participants. Is the same thing happening to Aggies?

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18, 1979

READER'S FORUM

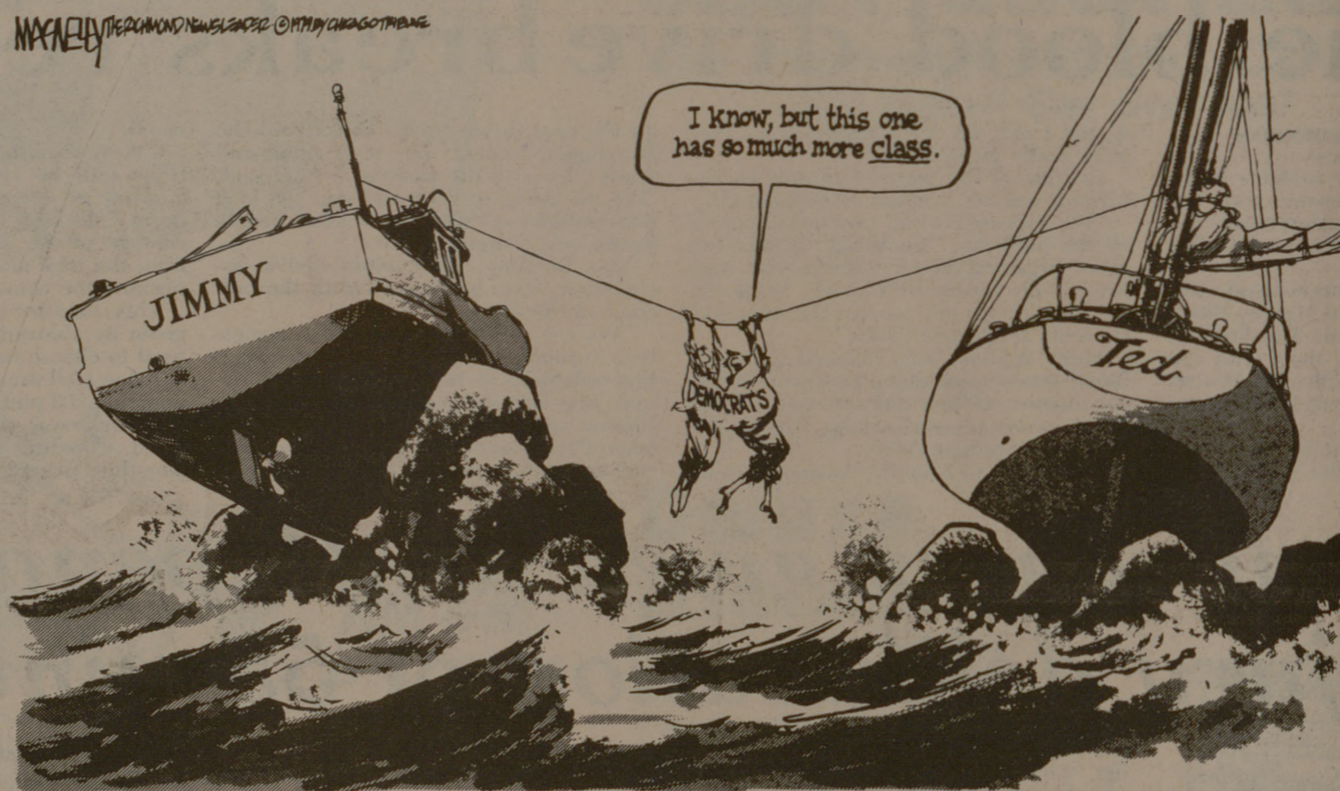
Lets look at possibilities for those nine free hours

By TERRY J. WOODFIELD
The Academic Council has wisely considered a resolution that would allow students the freedom to choose nine hours of electives outside their major departments. This should let in the "fresh air" desired by the writer of the Opinion column in the October 10 Battalion. Surely the liberal artist will heed the advice to take some "decent difficult" science courses, and certainly "practical" majors will seek out "impractical" courses to fill their free elective hours. Fortunately, the administration and faculty have already anticipated the desires of knowledge-hungry students. Consider: Freshmen too young and innocent to be exposed to the rigors of Calculus no longer must sit through boring college algebra lectures that inevitably doom the student to failure in one short semester. Now these backward freshmen can take a whole year to complete self-paced college algebra, leaving them plenty of time to stand in line for non-existent football tickets. One may recall that "college" algebra is actually high school algebra carefully

disguised in books with similar print and fewer pictures. Soon even seniors will be clamoring to sign up for this decent, difficult math course as one of their free electives. The fresh air fever has caught on, and surely mathematicians will seize upon their initial advantage and attempt to add more students to the rolls of an otherwise unpopular department. Recently overheard at Milner Hall were these suggestions for new courses: Math 1/2: Three Digit Multiplication from a High Viewpoint. Math e: Number Crunching for the Mentally Deficient. Math Pi: "Thank God for Calculators" Trigonometry. This new gust of fresh air in curriculum creativity has caused the balanced knowledge bug to infect virtually the entire academic community. Careful investigation has led to the discovery of a host of new suggestions from all corners of the A&M campus. The English department, tired of being linked with stodginess and literacy, is rumored to be developing:

English 1: The Alphabet. English 101: Combining Nouns and Verbs (with emphasis on forming sentences.) English 10101: Introduction to Poems that Don't Rhyme. Further courses being planned by other departments are: Computer Science 206: Computer Programming for Homemakers. Oceanography 205: Fishing on the Galveston Pier with Applications to Sun Bathing. Animal Science 201: Principals of Puppy Toilet Training. Imagine the chagrin of those poor Aggies who graduate without having had the opportunity to take one of the following: Journalism 111: Creative Sports Reporting Through Science Fiction. Education 325: Teaching the Clinically Dead. History 454: Midget Homosexual Women on the Chisholm Trail. Philosophy 210: Concepts of Love. Engineering 102: Elementary Principles of Completion Date Postponement.

Physical Education 214: Finger rehabilitating. Enough about the fascinating courses being considered, one might wonder, "What about the leeches who wasted, despite their worthless easy courses for the scavenger hours of free electives?" Even if a few easy courses were hopefully the two percenters who are doing it for one of its ship cows or to teach school. Texas A&M's best option is to utilize college caliber courses taught by graduate supervisors and to provide excellent supervision of degree programs. works nine hours of free electives around an extra semester, but don't a degree program carefully worked administrators and faculty. Otherwise might end up like the t.u. graduate ing high school algebra, who when the relevance of logarithms, "Logarithms are outdated, and dancing is where it's at." Terry Woodfield is a graduate in statistics.



Castro: war of nerves with New York

For many New Yorkers — especially those who found themselves captives of security provisions during Fidel Castro's visit — the manner of his leaving was his finest hour. After his UN speech, there were reports that he planned to hang around for as many as five or 10 more days. The spectre of an interminable large-scale police security operation (augmented by Castro's own

machine-gun squad) haunted those who had been entrapped in the immediate area of his presence. Indeed, it almost began to seem as if Castro had embarked on a war of nerves against New York. If five or 10 more days, why not 20? Was he impersonating the fabled man who came to dinner? How could New York, with its tradition of hospitality for all

varieties of foreign visitors, tell him that he was testing the outer limits of local tolerance? Was he contemplating a plea for asylum? Then suddenly he ended the deepening tension. In a gesture that at last momentarily won him the hearts of those who had been most afflicted — economically and spiritually — by his visit, he let it be known that he did not wish to

seem to be overstaying his leave. And so he took off, with the armed contingent that had shadowed him. For the police and others who so conscientiously during his trip grievous had come at last. If few had disposed to say "hail" on his arrival, was zestful unanimity in the farewells.

The New York Post

LETTERS

Editor: I read a rather amusing article in the Battalion a couple of weeks ago. Some naive person was lauding the new intra-campus bus system. This person told of how efficient the system was and, if my memory serves me correctly, of how she had made it from campus to Kleberg or a fictitious class in a meager 8 minutes. If so, it was sheer luck — believe me. The intra-campus system has been a nemesis of mine for a very long time. I work at the Vet School and have a class this semester at 2:00 in Francis Hall. I am a very trusting person — actually downright gullible and slightly lazy — so each semester I try to use the bus. If I leave my office at 1:40 and walk to my class, I usually get to class three to five minutes before it starts. If however I decide to save myself some time and exertion (hal), I can leave my office at 1:30 — attempt to catch the bus — and end up five minutes late to class. Another Aggie efficiency marvel.

Last Friday I waited at the bus stop between Kleberg and the Vet School from 1:35 to 1:52. When the bus finally did get there, the driver told me he was running a double route because the other driver had been fired and the person who was to take his place couldn't find the bus. I got to campus at 2:01 — and still had a 5 minute walk to class ahead of me. Instead, I decided to forget the class and pick up my schedule refund — but that's a story in itself. Today I decided I'd beat the system. I walked all the way to Kleberg. I knew both buses stopped there, so I would get to campus. I caught the first — and incidentally at that time the only — bus that was running — and ended up at the baseball field! I must admit, we had a nicer tour of its parking lot.

On my way back from class, I stood waiting at Beutel. The first driver that came by said he didn't go to the Vet School. So, I got on the next bus. We crossed the tracks ... slowly rounded the bend ... when we turned toward the baseball field, I asked to get off. Argh!!

I have been seeking a way to effectively complain about this for a long time. I am even considering joining FA (Frustrated Anonymous). . . . And they wonder why their buses run empty!! — Linda Clark

We listened to Mel

Editor: In response to Ava King's concert review (Mel Tillis), I would have to believe that she has never seen anyone on stage,

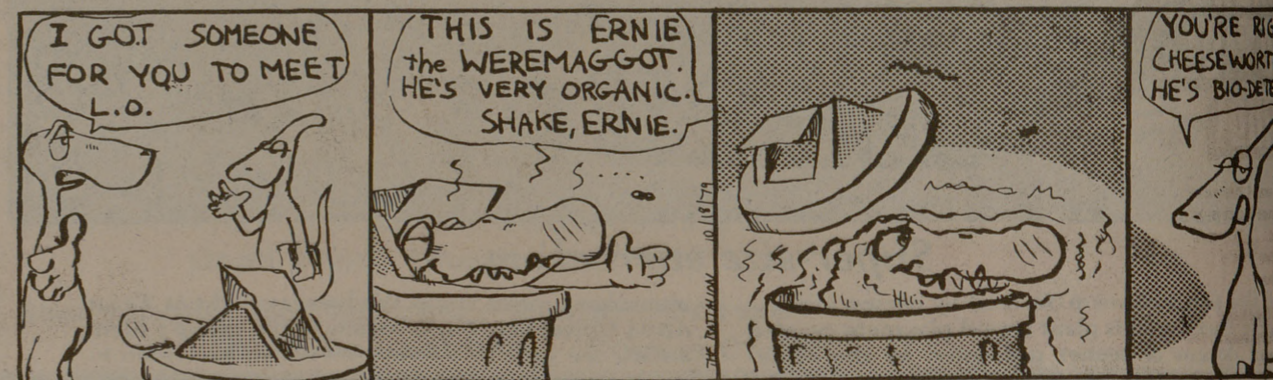
except maybe the Beach Boys, or any of those other styles of music where everyone must be yelling or screaming or breaking something.

What is so bad about cheering between songs and shutting up during the song so you can hear the music? Is that not the reason you're going to the concert anyway? If you want to raise hell all night instead of listening to the music, go to one of your disco concerts, 'cause I'd probably do the same thing if I ever had to listen to that kind of music, too. Leave our country alone! — Bart Daniel, '83

Let 'em know

Editor: In response to Scott Roberts et. al. (Oct. 16) reference that the Twelfth Man is dying, I would like to say that if this is so it is

THOTZ



by Doug Graham