

Tolerance should be a tradition

Yes, Virginia there are mean, intolerant people.

They live next door to you. They go to class with you. They work with you. There may even be one inside of you controlling your very own actions.

And do you know what these intolerant people sometimes do?

They will scorn you for your religious beliefs. They will stereotype people based on whether or not they wear a uniform and have short hair — this applies to both people who stereotype Corps members and Corps members who stereotype non-Corps members.

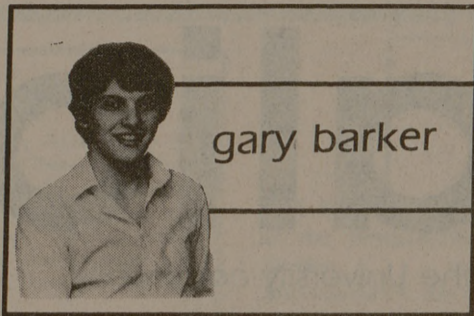
They will also dislike you because you are from some other part of the country or another country or don't share the same political beliefs.

Well, tolerance for intolerant people should no longer be tolerated!

There seems to be a shortage of respect on campus these days — both respect for other people's property and their beliefs.

Letters to the editor the last few weeks have been full of labels calling certain persons "bleeding-heart liberals," "pseudo-Christians," "socialists," and "damn Yankees."

These labels not only demonstrate in-



gary barker

tolerance, but they are also fallacious attempts to refute arguments. Arguments must be disputed on the basis of their content — not on the basis of personal beliefs about the author. Calling someone names does not refute the logic of his argument.

Other letters have called for limits on freedom of speech for persons of differing beliefs.

Apparently some people think the Constitution guarantees freedom from being harassed by ideas with which they don't agree, but this is not the case. The Constitution protects the rights of all speakers and in the process, many people will hear things that offend, anger and

annoy them. But this is a tiny price to pay for freedom.

A healthy mixture of political beliefs, nationalities and religions is good for society, this University and each individual student.

It is fortunate for our society that all people don't share the same beliefs. Granted, there are some extremes that may prove to be damaging to society, but what an unchallenging, uninteresting world it would be if everyone went around muttering the same ideologies.

There's something to be said for compromise and balance. A healthy number of Democrats in Congress keeps the Republicans from going off the "right" deep end and a healthy number of Republicans keeps the Democrats from going off the "left" deep end.

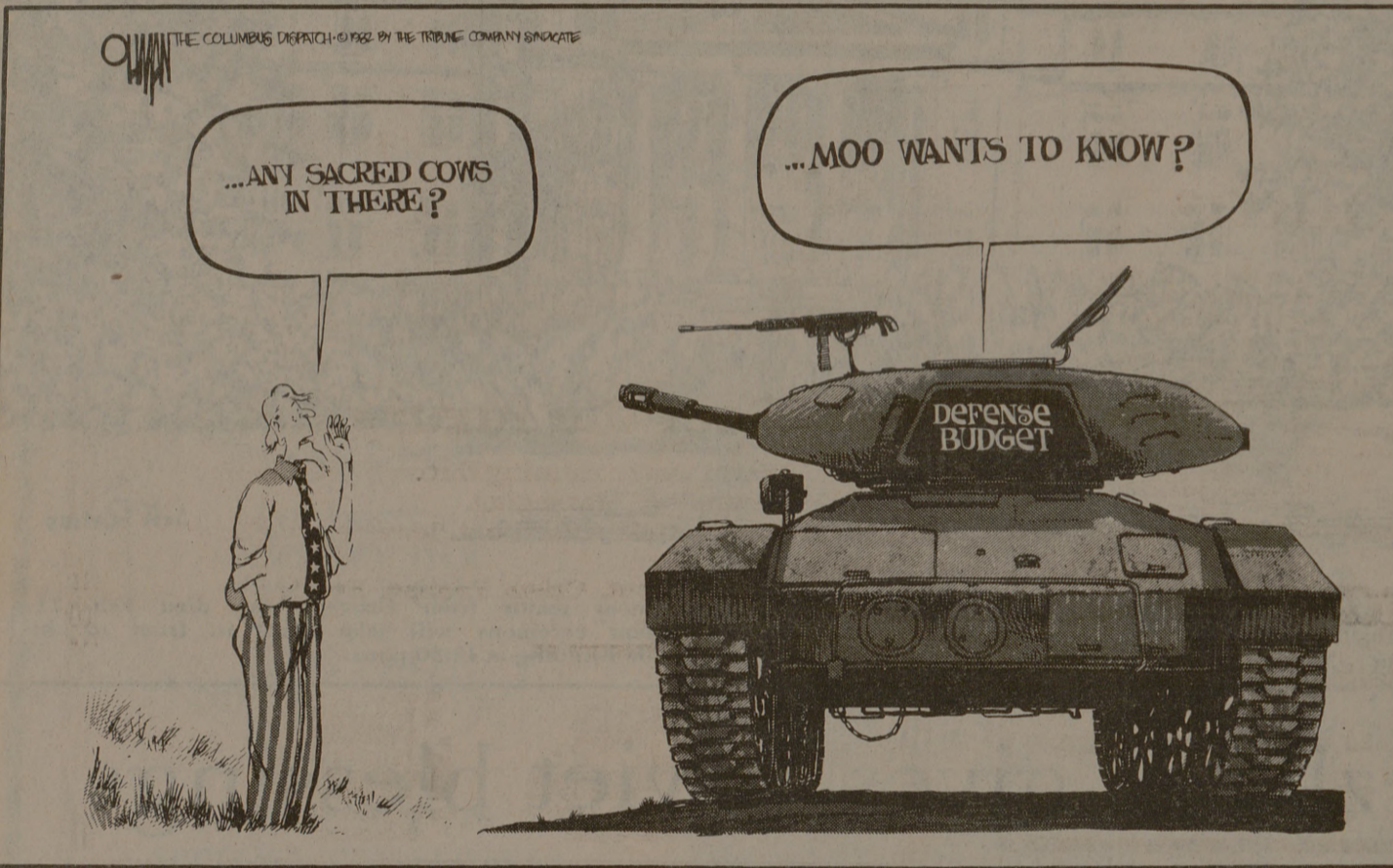
In 1859 English philosopher John Stuart Mill wrote a treatise calling for the unlimited exchange of ideas in the marketplace. His basic argument was that if truth and falsehood are allowed to battle in the marketplace of ideas, a greater truth will result.

Perhaps someday soon Texas A&M will adopt this philosophy as a tradition and understand the benefits of open-mindedness.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"You've had more experience — should I try to take off an extra day before Spring Break or after the break?"



Film may stir trouble between U.S., Chile

by Jim Anderson

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A new film, "Missing," is likely to open the barely healed scars over the U.S. role in the right-wing military takeover in Chile.

The renewed debate about events in 1973 takes place when a new argument — with some of the same forces aligned in familiar roles — is beginning over U.S. activities in Central America.

The Costa-Gavras film bills itself as a semi-documentary. It claims the "facts" recounted are true, although some names have been changed to make the telling easier (as well as libel-free).

It tells how a straight-arrow New York businessman, Ed Horman, goes to Chile to look for his missing son, Charles, a slightly flaky and vaguely leftwing filmmaker who got caught in the military takeover.

It is a troubling film because there is no seam when it moves from events that incontestably happened to those that Ed Horman (and Costa-Gavras) think happened.

They think the U.S. government concealed from Horman that his son was dead, executed shortly after being arrested for "knowing too much" about the American role in overthrowing the left-wing regime.

The motive for the American covert intervention, according to the film, was that the 3,000 U.S. firms doing business in Chile were suffering under the socialist Allende regime, and so the United States helped topple the Chilean government "to protect our way of life."

The "facts" in the case are less clear than the film would like them to be.

The Chilean episode was exhaustively investigated by Congress. Some questions and answers that came out of that:

Did the United States play a role in toppling the Allende government? Apparently a very minor and ineffectual — not a crucial — one.

It is clear from leaked documents and testimony that the U.S. government (as

well as the Soviet government) distributed funds secretly to their Chile to influence events before Allende came to power in 1970.

Henry Kissinger swears that as part of a program to help Chilean business by left-wing governments.

In his book "White House Years" Kissinger says, "When Allende was overthrown (in 1973), it was by a group of school-age boys and young men, many of whom were trained by the U.S. government against him on their own initiative because they were convinced that the intent on taking over total power was to organize his own coup."

The State Department later said it heard rumors that the military was to move on Sept. 11, 1973, the day of the takeover. But it had also heard that the military leaders were going to move earlier and they did not.

It was clear to everybody, including reporters, that Allende's government was collapsing (among other things, the annual inflation rate was up 300 percent).

Did the United States at least destabilize Allende to protect U.S. interests? The answer is, mainly no. Those investments, mainly in mining and smelting, were considered about \$800 million. But, despite amateurish and apparently ineffectual attempts by International Telephone and Telegraph to overthrow Allende, there was a general consensus in the government and business world, leading to a 1973 Library of Congress report to see the large U.S. investments as a strong reason for maintaining friendly relations with the new government of Chile, regardless of its political character.

In other words, American business was essentially amoral, willing to do business with either right or left, so long as investment was protected.

Letter: Editorial page is important

Editor:

This is a response to Mr. Albert Eby's illogical article which appeared in the Reader's Forum on Tuesday (Feb. 23). What he does not seem to understand is that by definition, letters to the editor are one person or persons opinion, generally on a topic which is volatile enough to elicit public comment.

His vitriolic attack on free expression is dangerous in that to deny a person the right to express his opinions is tantamount to an attack on civil liberty in general. It is hardly a waste of pages of newspaper on the part of The Battalion to attempt to provide a forum for students and residents of the community to exercise their right to free and open exchange of ideas.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Eby, that you do not care to hear other peoples opinions, because it is through such an exchange of ideas that people develop a better understanding of their fellow human beings. If the opinions expressed in the letters to the editor section are so offensive, simply stop reading and let those of us who choose to continue to exercise our rights as a free people alone.

Jerry O'leary '84

For example, I have learned how people feel about the saber incident, the hiring of Coach Sherrill, panty raids, the campus bicycle problem, the sophomore cadet who wrote on the wet cement, etc. The second page of The Battalion gives me the opportunity to know more about the people I am with at Texas A&M University.

Jeffrey S. Robertson '84

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by three other signatures.

Sorry we didn't disturb you

Editor:

Howdy Ags, thieves? I hope this letter is published to make Aggies more aware of a growing problem on campus. Theft. Theft doesn't carry the controversial impact of the recent Battalion letters but it is something that affects all of us.

Last Wednesday night (Feb. 24) I left my bike in front of Sbisas locked, and Thursday it was gone! This is just another of the many items I have had stolen. (2 car batteries, 1 set of speakers).

To make matters worse, it is my fiance's bike who has had it since child-

hood and cherishes it very much. So if anybody knows of the whereabouts of a J.C. Penny brown 10-speed with black disc brakes and an Austin bike license plate, I would appreciate a call. Contact Carl at 260-1042. I am really sorry to see Texas A&M turn into a paradise for thieves.

P.S. Reward offered. No questions asked.

C. Husmann '81

Theft a growing problem

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the Tuesday, Feb. 23 letter from Robert Jones, Dorm 5, Class of '83.

The only times that Alpha Phi Omega (APO) uses the Corps lounge C is for mum delivery on days of home football games — none of which are in the spring semester. The rest of our meetings are held in the MSC Complex.

So, if we disrupted your studying and/or activities at 6 a.m. on those days last fall, we apologize.

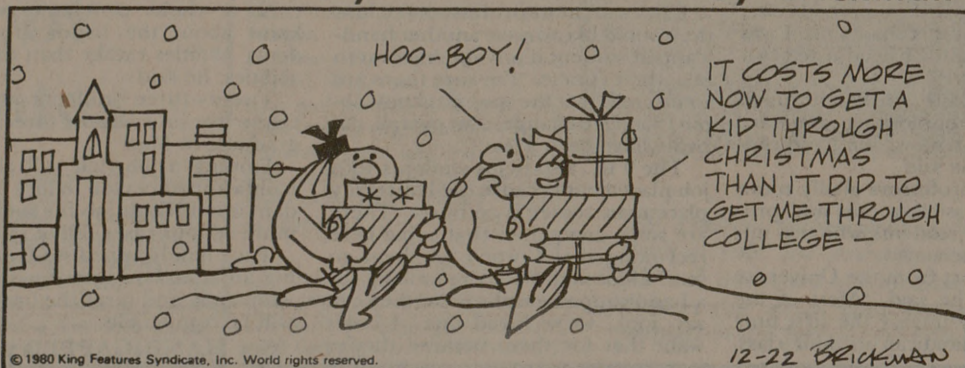
Sharron Cox '82
APO President

Letters keep reader informed

Editor:

I am a regular reader of The Battalion and after reading the "Reader's Forum" in the February 23 edition I would like to say that I appreciate the second page of my University newspaper. Mr. Eby may gripe about The Battalion and its second page, but when I want to find out what is happening at Texas A&M, I turn to the second page and read the letters written to the editor. People express their opinions and they contest others' opinions, and through it all, I learn about the thoughts, attitudes, desires and motivations of people associated with Texas A&M.

the small society by Brickman



IT COSTS MORE NOW TO GET A KID THROUGH CHRISTMAS THAN IT DID TO GET ME THROUGH COLLEGE —

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The Battalion

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Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of

Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, and the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-2611.

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