

# Battalion not involved with faculty 'debate'

Students for Academic Excellence, in an open memorandum to the faculty, falsely stated The Battalion would be involved with that organization in sponsoring a "debate" on teaching problems within the University.

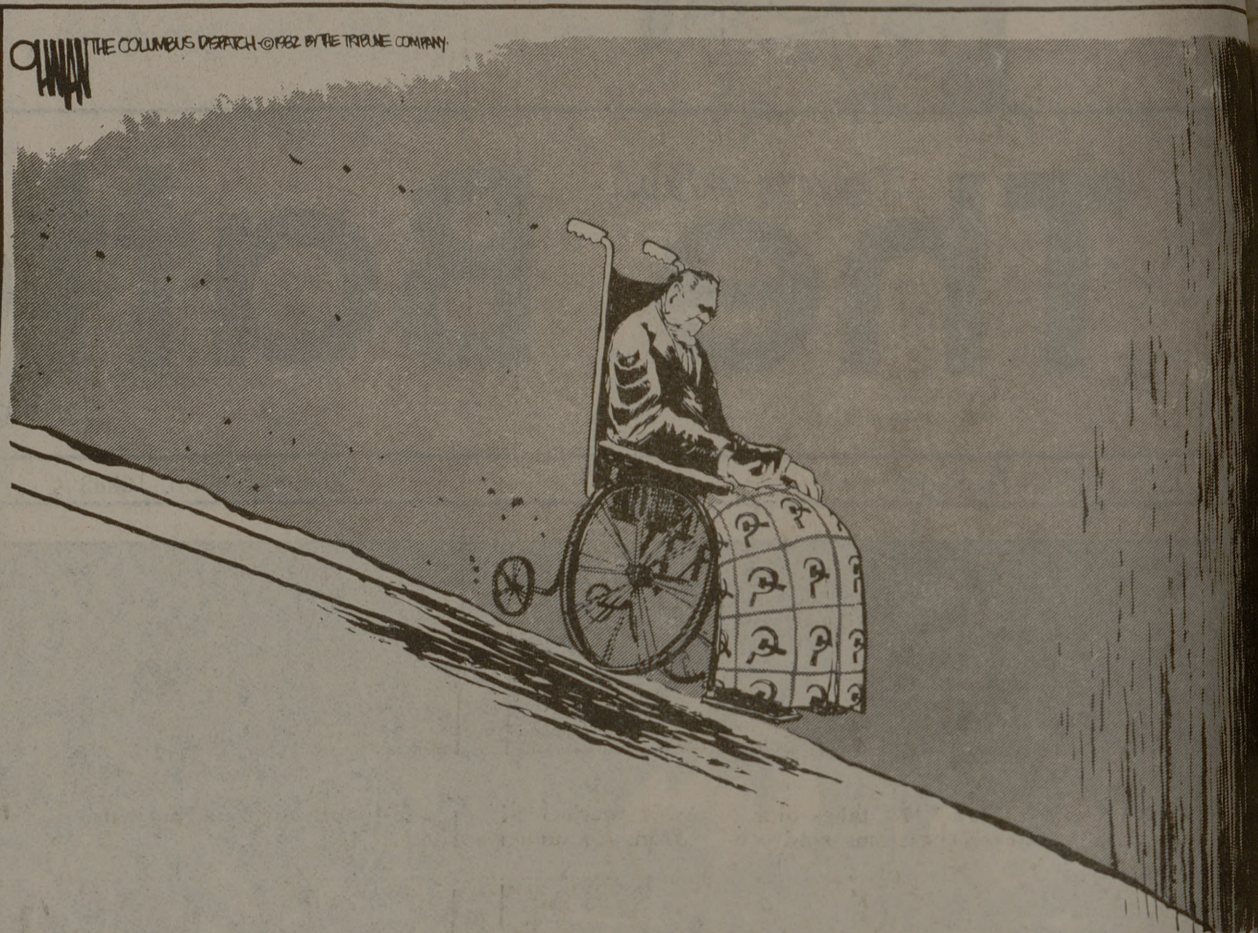
The memorandum solicited letters from faculty members on subjects including "tenure, growth of the university, office hours, research versus teaching emphasis, budgets, ... and any other subjects you (faculty) might consider a major problem."

It stated that the letters would be "edited for a representative sample by The Battalion staff and then published by The Battalion." The memo also guaranteed anonymity to the authors of the letters.

These statements are false. The memorandum was published without the knowledge of The Battalion.

Any response to this debate sponsored by Students for Academic Excellence would be judged for its news value and then considered for publication. Anonymity for the authors would be granted only if it could be demonstrated that publication of the name could result in recriminations against the author.

Possible coverage of the debate, including use of quotes from some of the letters, was discussed prior to distribution of the memo, but no guarantees were made. The Battalion tries to cover all items of interest to the University community. Response to the memo, like all other events, must be considered for news value before publication.



## Slouch By Jim Earle



"I just realized that I've never known what you look like."

## Let's hope there's no domino effect

by Dick West  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Atrocities almost always accompany armed invasion, and the Falklands are no exception.

Within hours after Argentina forces took over the islands, there came reports that the new military government was forcing British subjects there to drive on the right hand side of the street.

One Falklander protested that it was as though "a dextral curtain had descended across the roadway."

You have seen, I'm sure, pictures of the poor wretches tooling to starboard under compulsion, their natural predilections and inclinations ruthlessly crushed. It fair makes a body's blood run cold.

Horror photographs, as much as anything, rallied public opinion in this country against the war in Vietnam. One wonders if stark, graphic shots of traffic in the Falklands will now swing the pendulum of America public opinion against Argentina.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was reported to have told the beleaguered Falkland motorists, "I have nothing to offer but fender-benders, tailgating, traffic jams and exhaust fumes."

Probably the worse thing about barbaric treatment of one sort is that it tends to give rise to other inhumane actions.

A junta that is capable of an iron-fisted suppression of portside steering can be expected to impose other cruel measures, such as forbidding the British Falklanders to keep stiff upper lips.

The rights of the Falklanders to self-determination with respect to the side of the road they drive on was a prime consideration in Her Majesty's government's decision to send a war fleet to South America.

Should the British armada strike at "the soft under-belly of Argentina" and restore British control of the islands, you can bet that will be among the first civil guarantees reinstated.

"We shall fight in the median strips, at the cloverleafs and on the exit ramps," a

member of Parliament was quavering. "We shall never surrender right-of-way."

In this country, where motorists have been driving on the right side of the road ever since the horseless carriage invented, the intensity of the battle to solve may be underestimated.

Try putting yourself in the shoes of the empire collapsing about the world's coastlines. The empire's left side is one link with a glorious past that won't be abandoned without a struggle.

As one pro-Falkland activist put it: "Let us therefore brace ourselves for our duties, and so drive our men that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, they will still say: 'This was the rush hour.'"

# Letters: People must become more safety conscious

Editor:

We would like to share with the readers of this paper an incident which we feel would make more students aware of the very real, but little discussed problems of violent crime in the College Station area.

This past Easter weekend's beauty was scarred when at 4:50 a.m. Saturday morning, my roommate and I were awakened by a call from a close female friend. While she was sleeping, a man broke into her home. She awoke to the sight of a stocking-faced figure kneeling by her bed. The man, not knowing she had awakened, was startled when she sat bolt upright and screamed, frightening him away. She immediately called the police, then us. We hurriedly left for her house, arriving at 5:05 to find a very frightened and confused young lady standing all alone in her living room.

The police (whose station is about 4 blocks away) arrived at 5:15. They proceeded to question the young lady about the intruder and left after promising to spotlight the house 2 or 3 times a night for the next few nights (a promise which incidentally was not kept).

We've taken time to write this because we feel that it is time that Aggies realize that although it is very easy to become

secure in our self-contained little world down here in Aggieland, it is still a real world with real dangers and real people who think nothing of violating a person's property, privacy or sexuality. In the immediate area of the aforementioned incident, three rapes have been committed in the last two months, with absolutely no mention of this in the press. How much more do we have to be abused before we finally do something? Does it have to happen to your girlfriend, sister or mother before you realize things aren't as rosy in Aggieland as they seem?

Please don't misread the anguish in this letter as vigilantism or rabble-rousing. It is our aim only to try our best to get people to be more safety conscious and wary of criminals — something very strange in a town with a University where people are noted for their openness and friendliness to strangers. Please, let's not allow ourselves to be intimidated to the point where we don't even feel safe in our own homes. Let's work to make Bryan-College Station safer by being more safety conscious and trying to get more out of our police department.

Doug McPherson '85  
Matt Jameson '84

## Thanks for the blood

Editor:

Once again, Texas Aggies have answered the never-ending need for blood by turning out in record numbers to donate in the recent blood drive. On behalf of the Aggie Blood Drive Committee, I would like to thank all of you Aggies donated 2,159 units of blood, making it the largest Spring Blood Drive.

We would like to recognize and congratulate several groups which supported the blood drive by encouraging their members to donate this semester. The Fighting Texas Aggie Band donated 196 units. In appreciation, they have been awarded three kegs. Second and third prizes have been awarded to Aston Hall and Mosher Hall. In addition to the kegs, each of these groups will receive a plaque. I wish we could award more prizes because in addition to the groups mentioned, Off Campus Aggies and Squadron 12 both made tremendous efforts.

APO, OPA and Student Government co-sponsor Aggie Blood Drive each semester, but without your support, we can do nothing to relieve the shortage of blood needed for patients and research. Once again, we thank you and seek your continued support.

Suzanne C. Alexander

## the small society

by Brickman

## Emergency response lacking

Editor:

In the past I have always heard derogatory comments about the Health Center or "quack shack." However, I always found that I got adequate treatment there. I was satisfied. That was until I observed the response of the staff there to an emergency situation. A girl in our dorm collapsed and I raced over to the Health Center. I went over instead of calling because Leggett is just adjacent to the Health Center. At the front desk, I told them that a girl had collapsed and they told me I should go upstairs. At this point I think they should have called the Emergency Squad instead of sending me on a wild goose chase. Reaching the desk

of the nurses station, I quickly told them the situation. The nurse then went through a series of phone calls to find the EMT who was supposed to be on call for the ambulance. When they finally located him he was down in the lab helping take blood which, as far as I am concerned, is not the place for someone on emergency call. When they finally contacted him, they sent him over to the dorm without asking what room or even what floor the victim was on. Another girl looking for the delayed help found him coming out of the wrong floor, and directed him upstairs. I followed over with another EMT, after I reminded the lady at the desk that he did not know where they were going.

I do not know exactly how long it took these "trained workers" to get there, but for a situation that could have possibly been a heart attack it was long enough to be a very fatal delay. This whole episode totally disgusted me and took away what confidence I had in our "health center." If anyone asks, now I know how the

health center came to be called "quack shack."

Martha E. S. Leggett

## Response to zero percent

Editor:

This is submitted in response to a letter by Thomas M. Rossi, published in the April 14 issue of The Battalion.

Tom, Tom, Tom ... you've confused your terminology; your bitter and spiteful attitudes could never reflect an apathetic outlook of a true proclaimed "zero percenter." They only illustrate the outlook of a proclaimed zero!

Buzz Steiner

## The Battalion

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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 courses 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 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: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 847-2611.

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