

Spoof paper imitates but doesn't flatter

An underground spoof of The Battalion hit the streets Monday.

But the "real" Battalion staff didn't do it.

The newspaper's authors were clever — the paper arrived at the stands at the usual Battalion distribution time and at

Editorial

the usual places. In fact, many readers thought it was The Battalion.

The point behind the parody was explained in an "editorial" on the second page of the parody; the writer claimed the "real" Battalion is boring and spineless and never criticizes.

We must agree with the Battalion authors on a few things. A myopic attitude does exist. Some Aggies seem to think that Aggiedom is perfect and that the world revolves around College Station.

However, the attitude expressed in

the Battalion seems to be that The Battalion is an inaccessible publication controlled by a few people.

But that isn't the case. We're open to suggestions; give us a call. We're always looking for more good writers — and not just journalism majors.

Let us know when you see story possibilities. If we don't know it's happening, we can't cover it. If you see problems, absurdities or anything else that we have overlooked, let us know. We love a well-written, critical — even juicy — story as much as readers do.

Most readers took the parody in fun. But some parts of the Battalion shouldn't have been taken in fun. Some of the humor is juvenile at best, and much of it is crude. We were disappointed.

We like humor as much as the next newspaper, but we'd have preferred to see a parody done on a more professional level, with the true subtle and intellectual style the Battalion authors claim to have.



School for lobbyists a future possibility

by Ira R. Allen

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Nurdy Hoffman, once remembered as a Notre Dame All-America lineman who played for the legendary Knute Rockne, first came to Washington as a lobbyist in 1947 and didn't know a thing. Not even how to find where committee hearings were being held, or how a bill becomes law.

After 35 years in Washington, first as lobbyist for the United Steel Workers union, then as director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and later as sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, Hoffman is now dedicated to making what some consider a sleazy racket into an honest profession.

He is starting a school for lobbyists.

What he is promoting is not just a high-priced seminar, but a full-fledged master's degree in "congressional and governmental relations" to be offered by Catholic University in Washington.

If corporations and law firms Hoffman has worked with so smoothly for a more than a generation come up with the necessary \$425,000 soon, a 30-credit graduate degree program will begin next spring combining studies in government, "styles and techniques" of lobbying, "dynamics of negotiation and coalition-building" and ethics.

The board of regents is a "Who's Who" of Washington insiders, from top lobbyist Thomas Hale Boggs Jr., to former Federal Elections Commission Chairman Robert Tiernan, to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum. A stable of "lecturers" includes 44 current or former members of Congress and heavyweight roster of corporate lobbyists, with a few union buttonholers to boot.

Hoffman said he knew absolutely nothing when he arrived. But back in a time when Congress did not meet during the summers — back before widespread air-conditioning of

muggy Washington — he sat down three hours every morning with as knowledgeable a mentor as there was.

He was Al Sabath, a 45-year veteran of Congress, a Chicago Democrat who headed the House Rules Committee.

"Al Sabath taught me most of the things I know," Hoffman said.

Now in his 70s and a consummate Washington insider in his own right, Hoffman is trying to professionalize lobbying, stigmatized by a public image of fast women, threemartini lunches and bribery.

That image "is one of the things that got me involved," he said. "I have felt for years that the only way our democratic form of government can survive is to have people who work in that marketplace have a degree of understanding of morals and ethics in government.

"Doctors, lawyers, teachers all go to college to get a degree. The only requirement for a lobbyist is to file (registration papers) in the House and Senate."

The Center for Congressional and Governmental Relations, as the lobbying school is called, will emphasize techniques of what is euphemistically known as "Washington representation."

But Hoffman vows to include a strong dose of ethics as well.

"I don't necessarily think it's unethical now, but a lot of things have happened in the last few years that if they (lobbyists) had a better understanding, they wouldn't have committed some of the errors that have been committed," he said.

Although the shady side of lobbying — and sometimes its most effective — involves funneling campaign contributions to members of Congress — Hoffman said there is "no way" that kind of technique will be taught.

Honorable lobbying, said Hoffman, "is not that difficult. It's just hard work."

Letters: Campus art work critiqued

Editor:

I would like to applaud Russell Sanders and his fine (?) achievement in art.

My reactions to his work were quite severe. (The best laugh of my life.) I said to myself, "He has got to be kidding." I am a Fine Arts major from t.u. with an emphasis in Studio Art.

I have been taught and do believe, that good art evokes responses, be those responses good or bad. So, to a lot of peoples chagrin, Russell Sanders work is excellent. He has gotten Texas A&M's attention. Who knows, maybe he'll be in the Louvre some day. Some art is passed by, never to be remembered. Not his. Simplicity cannot be surpassed. I would like to give Russell Sanders a big hug.

Also, I would like to commend whoever it is that obtains the changing exhibits in the MSC. I am a little perturbed although, due to the fact that the last exhibit of bronze sculptures and really fine prints, was never open when I went to take a closer look. These exhibits are wonderful. I bet a lot of people weren't even aware that one of Grandma Moses' paintings was exhibited earlier this year. (Along with a lot of other fine painters.)

In response to Russell Sanders filling the vacuum here at Texas A&M, I think he forgets the wonderful art in the Rudder Tower, the art that is produced by the elves in the craft shop and the changing exhibit in the MSC.

I could go on. Art is everywhere, the macramé sculptures all around campus, the paintings in the hallways, etc. But as current student art goes, Russell Sanders seems to be it. There is a small art department here, (unfortunately for us art people) but where is it? Those art students should be exhibiting their endeavors. The professors should make it mandatory for these students to exhibit their works. Maybe they do. But it would be as Russell Sanders', openly aired.

Robin Faison
1600 Welsh

Freedom of choice

Editor:

This is a letter to two Ags to whom I would like to express my opinions.

To Bill Booth:

I am not criticizing you for not liking Russell Sanders' art. Your opinion is your own, and you have a right to it. What you have apparently forgotten is that my opinion is my own, and I have a right to it. It offends me that you wish to deprive me of my right to see and either like or dislike Mr. Sanders' works.

The Academic Building front lawn is not "your side lawn." It is, as Mr. Sanders said, "a public place that belongs to the citizens of the State of Texas." There are people at this University who have the authority to forbid or throw away, respectively, Mr. Sanders' art.

I am not asking you to like the pieces. I have not liked all of them, but I enjoy seeing them and formulating my own opinion on whether I like them or not. I'm sure there are many other Ags who feel the same way. Please allow us this right.

To Russell Sanders:

Thank you for adding a spot of interest (and sometimes beauty) to our days. Do not be discouraged by Mr. Booth's actions, or those of his friends. In other words, please continue your work.

Glenn Vanderburg '85

Editors note: This letter was accompanied by 10 other signatures.

Apologies

Editor:

Fellow Ags, after reading the front page article on the AAG, (Aggies Against Graffiti), which appeared in The Batta-

lion, Nov. 18, we, residents of Hart Hall were very upset.

The article would lead one to believe that all Hart Hall residents are members of the AAG. This is not the case. Actually the AAG consists of a very small minority of Hart residents. The majority of us, in no way whatsoever, had anything to do with the destruction of Mr. Sanders' art and would like to apologize for the behavior of our fellow residents.

We hope that this incident does not reflect upon the reputation of Hart Hall residents, though Hellraisers, respect the rights and property of individuals, and we are very disappointed with the behavior of some of our fellow residents.

Of Mr. Bill Booth, the apparent spokesman for the AAG, and who is resident of G-ramp of Hart, it can only be said that he is a very closed-minded individual who wished to impose his ideas upon all others. He has no concept of the right of free choice.

Again, we sincerely apologize for the actions of the AAG, and hope that our fellow Aggies will not look down upon us because of these past episodes.

Rickie J. Sala E-1

Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by 17 other signatures.

Correction

A cutline in Thursday's Battalion incorrectly identified the sponsors of The Imperials, a gospel music group which performed in Rudder Auditorium Wednesday night.

The Imperials were sponsored by the Methodist Student Movement and Aldersgate Concerts. The Battalion regrets the error.

The Battalion
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Slouch By Jim Earle

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