

Minorities

Reader: No 'dorm racism'

Editor:

Dear President Vandiver:
We, the council of McInnis Hall, feel it is our obligation to give you our response to the article in the Jan. 21 Battalion, based on a study released from your office concerning the underrecruitment of minority students here at Texas A&M. It is the opinion of our council that comments found in the article regarding racism and discrimination in the dorms are in general inaccurate and misleading. While we understand that there is a large problem with the percentage of minority students here at Texas A&M, we do not feel that your committee's implications of dorm "racism" were justified in their attempt to draw support to their recommendations.

While some acts of discrimination may have occurred in one form or another on campus, these were merely localized mis-

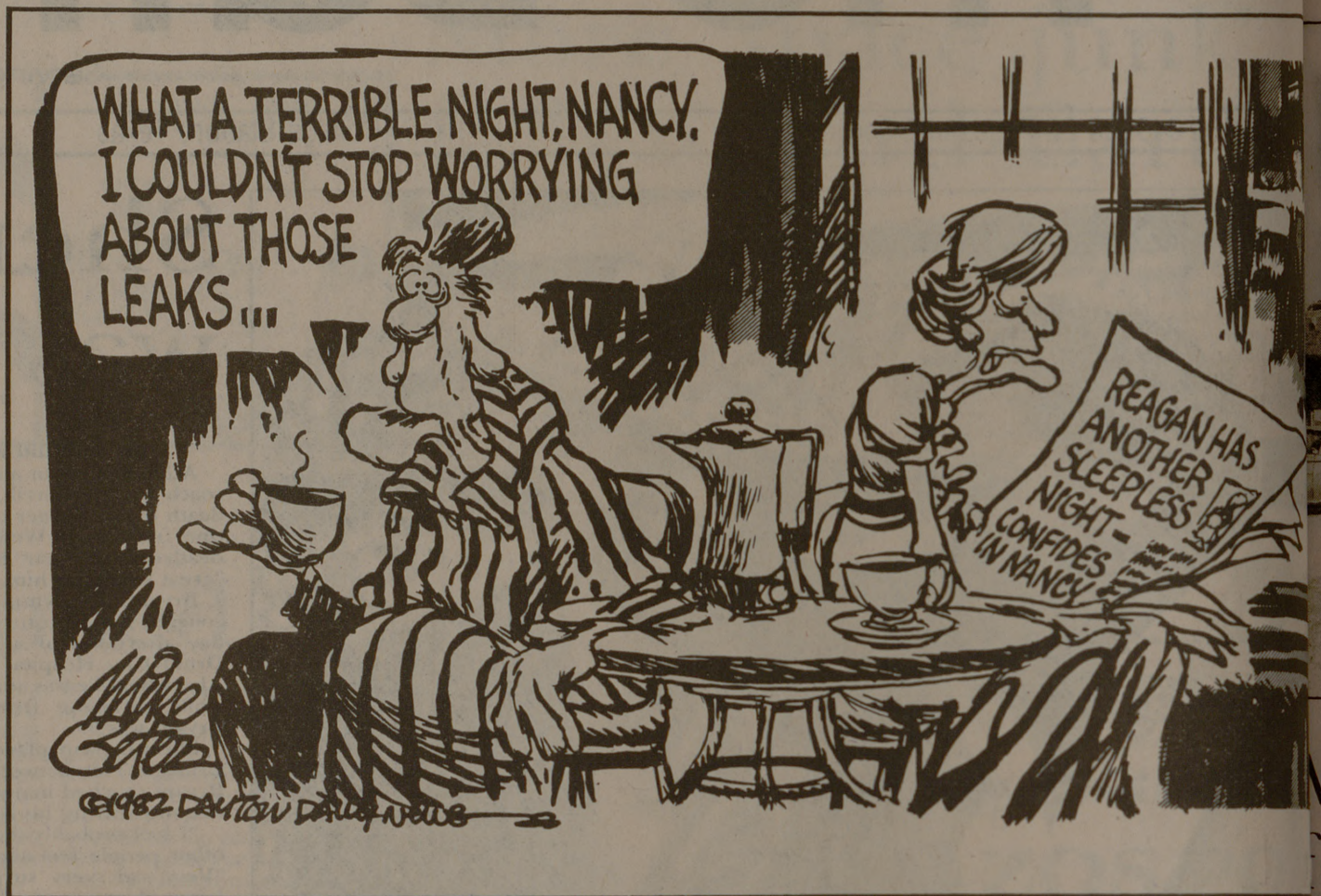
haps, and in no way reflect the general attitude of the residence hall council, staff, and residents of McInnis, as the article leads readers to believe. We can guarantee you that we are not aware of anyone here who is "living with constant fear" for reasons of racism, and it is unfortunate that your committee is disillusioned into believing that this is so.

Obviously, none of your committee has ever lived in McInnis Hall, much less any other dorm on campus. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Bruce C. Moore, president, McInnis Hall

J. Colin Kirkham, vice president

Editors Note: This letter was also signed by the dorm treasurer, secretary and intramural chairman.



Report called forceful ruse

Editor:

The spate of articles and editorials concerning the recently issued minority report that have appeared in The Battalion is the biggest collection of sophistry and non sequiturs I've encountered in quite a while. The main conclusion of the report, as summarized in The Battalion, was that since the University of Texas has more minority students and faculty than A&M, then UT is a better school than A&M.

I totally disagree with this conclusion and submit that the quality of a university is related to the moral and intellectual character of those associated with it, not their race. One point overlooked in the comparison is the substantially higher minority population in Austin thus implying that, other things equal, UT should have more minorities.

Another specious conclusion the report comes to is that setting aside money for minority student scholarships promotes equal opportunity, in fact the opposite is true. Reserving scholarships for minorities only is discrimination against non-minority students and no amount of rationalization can change that fact. The minority report is in general a collection

of special privileges for minorities and as such is inherently in conflict with Texas A&M's stated goal of equal opportunity for all.

Instead of facilitating the ascendancy of A&M, as Dr. Vandiver claims, the implementation of the actions the report recommends will have the opposite effect. The increased emphasis that will be placed on a prospective student or professor's ethnic background will inevitably cause the academic qualifications of the applicant to be de-emphasized and thereby lower the overall quality of the faculty and student body.

Support for this argument is provided in the minority report itself. At UT they spend several times as much money on minority scholarships as A&M does; however, their minority student retention rate is lower than ours. In short, a good portion of their minority scholarship money is wasted.

In summary, the minority report is nothing but a ruse designed by those in positions of authority at A&M to force their oppressive socio-political philosophy on others while having the taxpayers pick up the tab.

Richard H. Fosberg '78

Radio's homogenized future

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Often described by New Yorkers as a city lacking cultural and spiritual depth, Washington learned recently that it would lose a local institution that suggests an opposite impression.

A progressive radio station long recognized as a national pioneer in promoting new sounds and fledgling musicians, WHFS-FM, announced that it will be sold to a Rhode Island media conglomerate and would assume a newswier format. Many people in this city, particularly its younger residents, were heartbroken.

Like many FM stations spawned during the late 1960s, WHFS challenged the top-40 predictability of AM radio. Its programming dodged commercials for album play, introducing Washingtonians to artists such as Bruce Springsteen, David Bromberg and, more recently, the Go-Go's and Human League.

Unlike most other "progressive" FM stations, however, WHFS refused to go mainstream during the 1970s. Its programming remained too eclectic to classify: In a single hour, it has been known to mix rock, new wave, jazz, Texas swing, latin, English folk, fusion, rock-a-billy, R&B, and reggae. The station's disc jockies, many of whom have been broadcasting for a dozen years from the studios in suburban Bethesda, Md., possess a knowledge of contemporary music that goes beyond simply knowing what sells.

For many Washingtonians, life without WHFS will be akin to confinement in a cell fed continuously with top-40 hits. Weekly "play lists," based on record sales, already dictate what most FM stations air here and in other markets.

Indeed, as economics pinch budget-conscious stations, many owners have

found that outside companies can select, tape and supply "music packages" more efficiently than an in-house music director. As a result, radio preprogramming is a booming business.

In little more than a year, for example, 200 stations have begun to pay a Dallas-based firm \$1,000 a month to provide 24-hour music via satellite. Subscribers to the Satellite Music Network (SMN) rebroadcast to local audiences live programs which originate in Chicago. SMN programs include station IDs, news and commercial breaks and generic time

"It's a Catch-22. You can't sell records unless you get air time, but you can't get air time unless you sell records." — WHFS DJ John "Weasel" Gilbert.

checks, and come in either rock, country or "beautiful music" formats. Music by satellite isn't exactly free-spirited: Satellite Music officials told our reporter, Michael Duffy, that their rock DJs stick to a 30-song play list when spinning records.

Meanwhile, hundreds of stations routinely purchase reel-to-reel tapes from "music consultants." Tapes produced by TM Productions, of Dallas, can provide continuous play on standard studio equipment for days on end. Station managers can flip a switch and walk away. The technique is about as spontaneous as Muzak.

"It's the McDonald's of radio," admitted Bernie O'Brien, manager of WWWW-FM, a Warrenton, Va., station which once resembled WHFS in format but now takes its music via satellite. "They cook out everything but what they

know is going to be absolutely successful."

Centralized programming means that fewer people determine what Americans hear on their radios. Reliance on record sales assures time for the new and unhyphenated. "Musically, we've been pretty conservative up to now," said Satellite's programming chief George Williams. "We make sure that an artist is every part of the country prior with a particular record."

While bot consultants and promoters admit that preprogramming has overtaken the radio industry, say that little can be done to change the situation. The Federal Communications Commission, which has purged several years, has rejected a proposal would open the airwaves to radio stations. Meanwhile, cable radio channels have begun to sell programming further reducing demand for dial programming.

Losers in this centralization of the already-slumped music industry whose long-term profits depend on success of new artists, is sapping lifeblood. "It's a Catch-22," said WHFS DJ John "Weasel" Gilbert. "You can't sell records unless you get air time, but you can't get air time unless you sell records."

Cut off from the new and many listeners will also miss the depth and breadth of contemporary music. Whatever its technological ramming may be personified by a lerskater who, ears wrapped in man, listens unwittingly to music from a tape machine 3,000 miles

Course of evolution

Editor:

Readers of the article that discusses the minority report (Battalion, Jan. 21) should recognize that any effort to favor minorities at Texas A&M will create some problems while presumably alleviating others.

Certainly every group on the planet has a right to exist and to perpetuate itself and its culture. These rights cannot be pursued without the use of real estate which allows the practice and perpetuation of culture, and jobs, by the members.

The difficulty lies in the fact that the growth rate of most clusters of western man, as opposed to those of blacks, Latin Americans, and Asians, is zero or negative; that is, on the average, gendered pairs are not replacing themselves. The growth rate for western man in Austria, Western Germany, Eastern Germany, British Isles, Portugal, and almost certainly the United States and European Russia is zero or negative.

Add to this the high immigration rate of non-western man and it at once be-

comes obvious that with every passing hour western man constitutes a decreasing proportion of human beings in the United States.

High birth and immigration rates have diluted out both western man and western civilization in the coastal cities, leaving the midwest and south to perpetuate and develop western civilization. While it is true that both species and cultures evolve, no natural law that I am aware of rules that just any evolution has to be an improvement for future circumstances.

With his steadily-decreasing numbers, western man will have less and less to say about the course of his evolution. He should preserve the one he has until knowledge is such that he can direct his cultural evolution toward a higher plane. Who knows, with his identity intact, by deed or dissertation he may even be able to convince other groups to control their numbers before we all are destroyed by the consequences of overpopulation.

**Willard A. Taber
College Station**

Problem does exist

Editor:

Dear Student from Dorm 9:
It's nice to know that such bigotted, narrow-minded morons like you still exist in this world. It gives us minorities an opportunity to realize that people with your mentality still exist.

It is not that your reaction to the minority article is wrong, it just isn't right. To defend something on the basis of tradition and what might happen if ... is asinine.

I'm sorry if I offended you but that's too bad. A university's problems that invoke such magnitude as the minority issue can no longer be answered with, "Highway 6 runs both ways." "If you don't like it leave," or "But it's tradition."

If this University wants to compete with other universities then it is going to have to make changes. Some of those

changes will have to include "traditions" that no longer apply to this day and age. Especially ones that can be judged as offensive or degrading.

Answering the problems of prejudice with prejudice are not valid nor should they be applied. It is time for everyone that is in some way involved with Texas A&M to sit down and start coming up with some constructive reforms to solve some of this University's problems. Especially the problems that deal with prejudice.

It is nice to know, though, that there are thinking people on this campus. After all, who would have known that there was a minority problem on this campus. It must have been a real genius of a man with the intellect of ... anyone to figure it out.

Stephen Weiss '84

Traffic, parking in need of solutions

Editor:

Well it's the spring semester of '83, welcome back Ags!

I'll bet you're looking forward to all those good times here at A&M, like Aggie Asteroids, you know. It's where you deposit your hundreds in tuition and see if you can walk across campus without getting zapped by Zero on his ten-speed fighter.

Oh, and now there is a new twist to this well loved game. Same plot, but now you have to keep your senses on long range scan for your newest enemy, Ellie May on her Mitsubishi moped. Watch out Ags, she can come from anywhere, sidewalks, lawns or behind the fountains. And her arsenal includes 150 pedestrians per gallon. The only place you have for a safety zone is in a building.

I believe congratulations are in order for the designers of this traditional Aggie game, the Safety and Security office. Hey guys, I really gotta hand it to you, you've got it coming and going. I mean when you get your cut from the contestants tuition fees plus license the competitors with what you call parking permits, and then collect some \$18,000 more a semester from fines levied by your own parking lot paratroopers because you issue

20,000 permits for 10,000 personnel safety zones.

Since I have already tried talking with everyone connected with parking and

traffic on this campus all I can say is "Good Hunting Ags."

Chip B.

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and publishing within the Department of Communication.

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