

Editorials

Committee's actions step in right direction

The recent report on minority conditions at Texas A&M was seen as an embarrassment by many faculty and students — one that won't go away overnight.

One possible solution for the charges of racism is to increase the number of scholarships and financial aid to minority students.

Some students and faculty have argued that this will result in reverse discrimination. The possibility does exist. Admissions personnel will have to be very careful when distributing financial aid to ensure that qualified majority students are not disqualified.

University President Frank E. Vandiver evidently thinks it can be done. He recently allocated money for 15 graduate minority fellowships, each worth \$7,800, to be awarded for 1983-84.

Even with that allocation, Texas A&M still spends a mere pittance to attract minority students.

But money won't make the problem go away. Attitudes, from those of the Board of Regents to students, also must be changed.

The Black Awareness Committee is taking a leadership position in trying to air some of the problems related to minority conditions. Through its programs this month, the committee is presenting a variety of programs related to minorities and racism — topics that are especially relevant to Texas A&M.

The minority report was the first step in presenting the problems faced by minorities at Texas A&M. The Black Awareness Committee is taking the next step. Momentum is building — let's make sure it continues.

Players' help required for Super Bowl victory

by Art Buchwald

It's hard to imagine what happens to a person who lives in a town that has won the Super Bowl. For Washington, D.C., a city that never gets any respect, you have to be very careful so all the adulation doesn't go to your head.

I am happy to report as a Redskin fan I've kept the greatest football victory in modern history in its proper perspective.

It hasn't been easy, because ever since the final whistle of Super Bowl XVII blew I've been taking calls from all over the country from friends congratulating me on the championship.

On Monday, when the first one came in, I resorted to what I now realize was false modesty. When the caller said, "Congratulations, you were magnificent," I responded, "I had nothing to do with the win, though of course I am happy with the results."

"What do you mean you had nothing to do with it? You've been a Redskin fan for years. Jack Kent Cooke, the owner, and Joe Gibbs, the coach, said on nationwide television they couldn't have won the championship without the fans."

"We were always there when they needed us," I admitted. "But just because you root for a team doesn't mean you can take any credit when it wins."

"It's typical of someone like you to play down your role," he said. "But I want you to know I am proud I have a friend in Washington who never lost faith that his team would win all the Super Bowl marbles."

The calls kept coming in — from Oklahoma City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and even Dallas, congratulating me on the magnificent victory I had achieved.

By early afternoon I decided to drop the pose that I had nothing to do with the Redskin triumph.

When a call came in from an old college schoolmate in San Francisco, I changed my tune.

"I never thought when we roomed together that someday you would be a Super Bowl champion," he said.

"I couldn't do it alone," I told him. "There were 49 other guys on the field

that I have to share the triumph with. The thing that did it for us is that we played together as a team."

"But you were a believer from the beginning. It was your inspiration that defeated the Miami Dolphins."

"I only did what any Redskin fan would do under the circumstances. I yelled my heart out."

"I know you're just saying that, but I'm sure you had a lot more to do with it than that."

"Let's just say it was a team effort and let it go at that. I don't want any of the other Redskins to think I'm getting more than my share of the credit."

By late afternoon I decided I had been protesting too much.

When Bob Markay, a Jet fan from Long Island, called to say if anyone had to win the Super Bowl he was glad it was me, I told him, "After my game against Dallas, I was sure I could beat the Dolphins. Their defense was overrated and I knew if I could open a hole for John Riggins, he would do what he was paid to do. In the fourth quarter when we were down 17 to 13, I told Joe Theismann, my quarterback, 'The game isn't over until the fat lady sings.' It gave him new life, and the kid took it from there."

Bob said, "Nobody deserves a Super Bowl ring more than you."

"The ring is important," I told him. "But what really counts is that I'm finally going to get some respect."

That night when I got home I asked my wife if there were any calls.

"Why? Were you expecting any?"

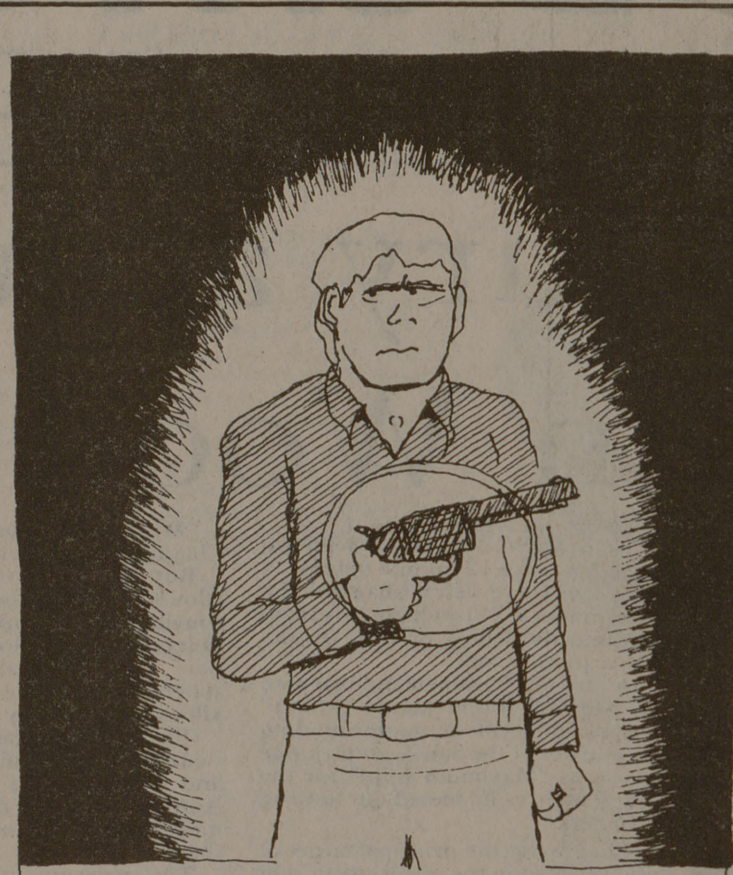
"I thought President Reagan might call to congratulate me on my victory."

"Why would he call you?"

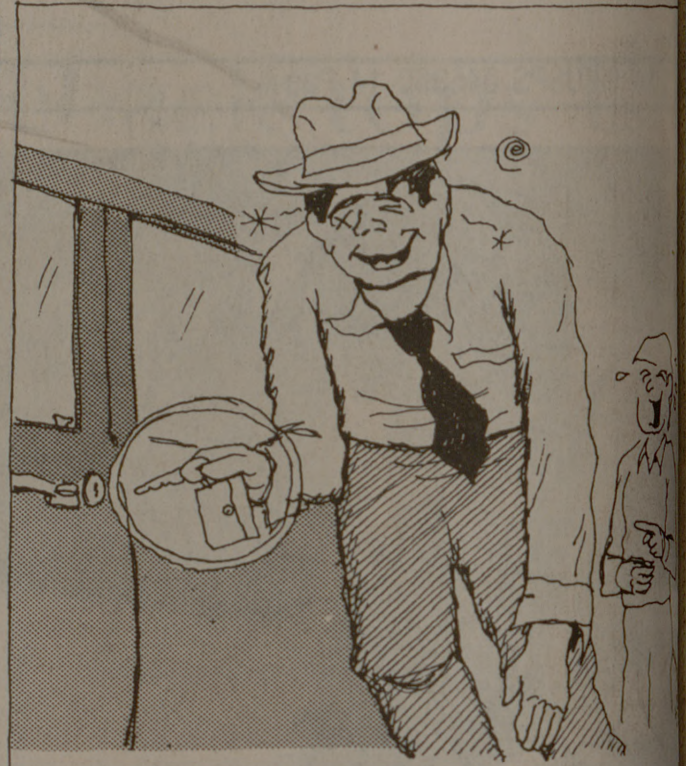
"Well, he telephoned the Redskin coach, Joe Gibbs, after the game. The least he could have done is call me."

"It's still early," she said. "Maybe he'll ring you after he gets a reaction to his budget."

"It really doesn't matter," I said. "I know I'm number one and he knows I'm number one, and that's the only thing that really counts."



THIS MAN IS ARMED WITH A LOADED WEAPON. WE'D CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.



THIS MAN IS ALSO ARMED WITH A WEAPON, BUT HE'S THE ONE THAT'S LOADED. FOR SOME REASON WE DON'T CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.

The art of sleeping in classes

All of us are aware of its existence. It cuts through every major, from agronomy to zoology, and all the rest in between. Surprisingly enough, the less said about it, the better, seems to be the axiom. But let me drag it out from under the carpet and spare a few thoughts on it, if you will.

Of course I'm referring to the "condition" widely prevalent in early morning and late afternoon classes: sleeping in class. The reactions of instructors often vary over a wide spectrum. A few may find such behavior mildly distracting (luckily their numbers are decreasing in the manner of a radioactive sample) while the seasoned ones realize it as a perfectly harmless exercise. Many of the fellow students, on the other hand, will assume the position that is the poor fella's business.

Some profs who are sympathetic with the student may try to be helpful by cracking a few jokes every now and then, in a vain attempt to keep him on his toes. Still others may expend sane advice, like — concentrating on holding the breath for a few seconds or thinking about last night's party. A host of other remedies like dabbing the face with cold water, can also be had. But you know as well as I do that once you are in the sleepy mood, you are past redemption, unless of course something dramatic happens, like an earthquake.

If and when you find yourself in such a precarious situation, try to keep your cool and use your head. Firstly, realize the futility of all the above suggestions (I should know for I have tried 'em all.) and then settle down in the most comfortable position you can and give yourself a break. Every once in a while you see conscientious students, fiddling with their eyelids trying to stay awake.

Needless to say, you don't have to feel

guilty about missing out anything in class, for more often than not, you are not (unless it's a major exam with no makeups). If you know beforehand (intuitively, like you've been up late last night) that you are not going to make it through the lecture, you can be better prepared. Find

Now students from all over the nation have banded together to form the ERDS (Equal Rights for Dozing Scholars), headquartered in Austin.

yourself a comfortable seat in one of the back rows (preferably close to the wall, so you can rest your head if you wish) and enjoy your little siesta. For Pete's sake, don't choose the front rows for there are too many distractions going on up there (like the prof's booming voice).

Here's a tip to those anticipating problems waking up after the lecture. Either set your watch alarm at the time the lecture ends or if you don't mind making things a bit more involved, ask a friend (mind you a trusted one), to give you a thorough shake when he is about to leave. This will ensure that you don't sleep into the next lecture. Every now and then, depending on personal finances, treat that friend to a six-pack.

Over the years the style of dozing has undergone dramatic changes. Nowadays, rarely will you see executors of the once popular vertical pendulum motion or undiplomatic guys with their mouths wide open. The snoring types are also a threatened species. The current rave among college students is the upright holding of the head with the arms cross-

sing each other.

Until recently, students who do sleeping in class, were an unorganizing group, with everyone on his own, being off the ridicules and derogatory marks directed against them by approving fellow students and instructors. But not anymore. Now students from all over the nation have banded together to form the ERDS (Equal Rights for Dozing Scholars), headquartered in Austin. This is undoubtedly a far cry from when teachers regularly would chase out students suspected of sleeping during lectures.

One of the first actions of the ERDS was to institute a class action suit on behalf of 22 students, against a University of Texas Sociology professor, who lawyers claim, caused their clients anguish and deep embarrassment awakening them from their peaceful slumber in his 314 Sociology class. Lawyers are demanding a written apology from the prof. This should serve as a warning to all concerned that the ERDS mean business!

Among the organization's past activities include slide presentations, guest speakers, in their effort to draw support for the recognition of dozing scholars' rights. A chapter has not yet formed at Texas A&M so you guys just have to wait!

Indeed dramatic progress has been made by the ERDS in their fight for the rights of the dozing scholars, considering how pathetic the situation was just a couple of years back. But still a lot remains to be done before they can be in the limelight of their success.

Won't you lend your wholehearted support to this worthy cause?

Biju Mathew is a junior electrical engineering major from Galveston.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"It sort of smarted when I got under the press, but I thought it was worth trying."

PLATO can't replace prof in computing

Editor:

I am writing in reference to your article "A&M installs computer instruction programs" which appeared in the Feb. 7 issue. I am a student in Computing Science 203H and am currently using the PLATO system. Your article stated that "students ...learn from the computer rather than from the instructor." I believe that this statement is inaccurate because the PLATO system in no way fulfills the place of my professor, Dr. Shepard. It is merely an aid and a supplement to the lecture. PLATO is very good, but the University should be wary of giving the machine too much power over control of my grades!

Robert Woeger
Law Hall

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion is published daily during Texas fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per year, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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