

# opinion

## Letters: Graduation delay could help seniors

Editor:

Well I finally made it! Saturday I'll join the ranks of the lucky ones who have managed to graduate from Texas A&M, although last week I wasn't feeling so lucky. With senior grades due the week before graduation, it was a living nightmare. With projects, papers, a computer program and other assignments due early plus regularly scheduled exams and assignments, I was beginning to wonder just where I had gone wrong for the semester to be ending this way.

It turns out, however, that I'm not the only one. After reading the Battalion's Tuesday article on Dr. Murray Milford, an instructor concerned about his students, I realized that most other graduating seniors must have been going wild at the same time I was. I agree with Milford's suggestion that graduation be delayed a week to take off some of the pressure.

Is it fair that students who have been expected to follow the same course requirements as non-graduating students all semester, are suddenly expected to turn in what normally would not be due until the next week? Added to this is the fact that these are end of semester projects and usually affect the grade more than earlier ones.

That situation applies especially for those graduating since they aren't even allowed to take final exams — except by special board approval. Talking to the professor helps in some instances, but usually ends in frustration or even chastisement for irresponsibility.

One professor did give me an extension and actually trusted me to turn in an important paper this week. I won't mention his name, because it would probably incriminate him.

Besides the academic side of it, these students are also trying to get records cleared and other things settled amidst all the confusion so they can graduate. I know this rule affected at least two of my classes by a letter grade. Isn't this University supposed to be organized to help students, not hinder them? What can a mere student do?

Darlene L. Janik  
Class of '83

### Team earns coverage

Editor:

This letter is in response to the one from Mr. Plietsch on the quality of and publicity for the women's volleyball team.

Your letter to the editor was at best irrational. What does the publicity the volleyball team got this year have to do with last year's team? You seem to be very bitter for some reason. This team deserved all the publicity it got. They played a much tougher schedule this year.

Maybe last year's team did not get enough publicity, but is this a good reason for you to want this team not to get any recognition? I hope you are not losing sleep over this gross injustice. Many people worked hard to see that this recognition came about and hopefully next year's team will get even more publicity. If you think they get too much publicity

and support, don't come to the game next year. They don't need you.  
As for you comments on their mental preparation, armchair coaches are cheap. Go get a doctorate in sports psychology and then pop off!  
Frank Thomas  
Jo Beth Greebon

### Speakers defended

Editor:

Before we put limitations on open-air speakers we should at least take a good, stiff look at our reasons for doing so.

After all, when they wanted Jesus to shut up all his talk about hell and human wickedness, even the Pharisees came up with some concrete reasons. Mainly they claimed that Jesus was blaspheming and in the league with the devil.

Maybe the outdoor speakers interrupt a lot of important inner struggles individuals have on their way to classes. Many could be concerning themselves with the truth, righteousness, how to live a life that rises above that of an elaborate tick, or how to avoid indifference toward the one who holds the keys to death and hades — only to have an outdoor speaker make them lose their train of thought. Think so?

At any rate, we need to come up with good reasons, because even the Pharisees know that a charge of offensiveness against a speaker or speaker was an insubstantial one at best. They knew the true issues. They knew that there were high stakes involved in being a human being: eternal life versus eternal death. And if a speaker were to be hushed or restricted, he needed to be charged with some thing less flimsy than offensiveness.

Maybe we need to study the Pharisees more closely; their problem was very similar to ours. They revered the prophets, but wanted to stifle Jesus, who was saying much of what the prophets had said. We celebrate Christmas, and supposedly the birth of Christ. Yet we want to restrict one's form saying the exact same things as come out of Christ's mouth.

We may even need beefier arguments than the Pharisees had. With hideous, wicked, infernal rock music vomiting its soul into everyone's night on special occasions, and with the outbreak of herpes, and with the obscenities and filth, our deep concern at Texas A&M over righteousness being preached too much might smell a bit fishy.

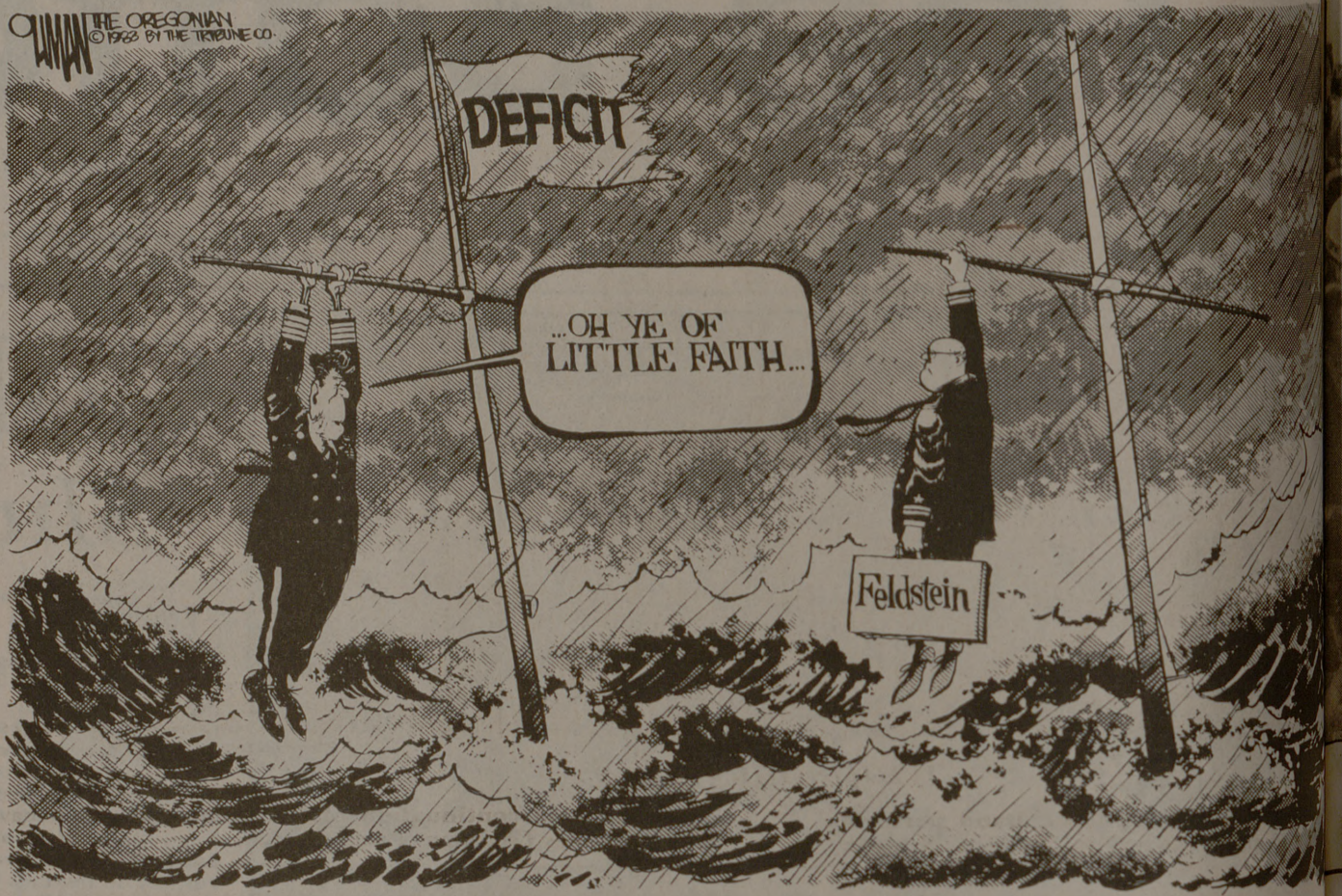
To borrow from William Buckley, we don't want such a deep concern as this to resemble the concern one might have about bedbugs in a brothel.

Danny England

### Religious talks needed

Editor:

In response to the front page article of



The Battalion about the meeting of the religious council, it seems that they are following suit with the Pharisees (the so-called religious leaders) who were also the biggest enemies of Jesus. But, the real issue that I would like to address is the freedom of speech that everyone here in the United States is guaranteed.

To the best of my understanding, limits can be restricted as long as it is private property. Texas A&M University, from what I understand, is public owned so as I see it there can be no restrictions. The Texas A&M administrators, in my opinion, have showed their World Class Status by not putting any restrictions on the outdoor evangelist. Again, I would like to applaud our administrators for not restricting these messengers of good news and good will available to anyone who is willing to hear and receive it.

I know of some people personally who were originally opposed to hearing these men's messages but after having the opportunity available continuously changed their minds. They stopped and listened and as a result their lives were changed for the better. I think the religious council should strongly evaluate: Do they want to see lives changed for the better? Less lives will be affected if restrictions are put on the evangelist.

Rusty Lowman '83

### Silver Taps praised

Editor:

For the past few years this section of the Battalion has been loaded with letters about the traditions here at Texas A&M. I think many of those complaining are hung on the traditions and never see the values they represent.

Tuesday night Silver Taps was held in front of the Academic building and in spite of the cold, scores of Ags went to pay their last respects to a fallen classmate. I'm a fifth year senior and I've attended my share of Silver Taps. Tuesday night's Silver Taps has a special meaning to me though; this time that fallen Aggie was a

dear friend. It was a strange feeling standing there in that silent crowd listening to Taps being played for someone you've known and loved. I stood there knowing that most of the people in that crowd hadn't known Jolie Mailhos and yet they were there.

That is what A&M is about; not the traditions, but what they represent, Aggie's care. We care about God, we care about our nation, we care about our school. Texas A&M is what it is today because its students and faculty cared. All the traditions we have are just expressions of that caring. I'm proud to be an Aggie, this school has given me alot. I just hope that Texas A&M in its race to become a "World Class University" doesn't lose sight of those values that have brought it this far.

Gig 'em, Aggies!

Patrick Kelly '83

### No rapes justified

Editor:

Over the weekend some friends and I discussed rape. To my disgust, all four of these men somehow believed in a thing called "justifiable rape." This was a phrase I had heard in the past, but I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Is this a joke? I recently purchased a mace key chain for my girlfriend, and I am beginning to realize how inadequate this is. I have a colt .45 in layaway now. You see, I have never heard of justifiable rape, but I have heard of justifiable murder.

Another incongruous term I heard was "rapists' rights." What kind of insanity is this? Obviously only men without any sexual or emotional drives could think this way. They are completely anesthetized to the needs of the opposite sex. How many men do you know that meet this description, girls?

These full blooded males who think it's perfectly acceptable to rape will meet an equally full blooded weapon in my apartment. I love my girlfriend very much, and will stop at nothing to protect her.

I can only hope laws, entities and the general public will become conscious of the threat, the crime, punishment for rape.  
William Thomas

### Slavery ideas oppo

Editor:

Forgive me for adding my letter to the stack of comments on the Confederacy but my conscience can only tolerate much nonsense before it produces writing.

Obviously the words "Confederacy" and "slavery" are not synonymous by no stretch of the imagination to be separated. While the Confederacy may represent to some the self-determination and freedom of excessive government, it cannot be divorced from its adamant defense of most oppressive, demoralizing, immoral institutions in history.

That fact alone is enough to cause to abandon any pride I may have in the Confederacy, even though it was raised in the South, honored by ancestors for nearly 200 years.

How can anyone imagine the "Freedom" and "Confederacy" same breath? A full third of the population experienced not a social liberty, being owned by slaves. The Confederacy existed for

The ghastly results of its policies were over 600,000 killed and destruction of the southern economy over 10 times the number killed in Vietnam and more Americans killed than all other United States wars.

This is the Confederate legacy to fellow southerners, let's not ourselves with romantic and unrealistic delusions of the moral and shameful period in American history. I love the South — but the Confederate flag is not my heritage.

## Sloppy eaters better avoid gravy for this year's Christmas feast

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — Turkey gravy may make an acceptable adornment for the male chin, but it's unsightly on the end of a Christmas necktie.

For this reason, guests at holiday dinners this month are advised to wear polyester bibs.

According to Dmitry Gagarine, research director of Milliken and Co. and an award-winning textile chemist, synthetic fibers shape up as the most stain-resistant fabric you can buy.

Milliken and Co., not surprisingly, sells synthetic fabric, and Gagarine, again not surprisingly, is the inventor of Visa polyester. But if you can swallow the parochial angle, their research has a message for all mess-makers.

What they did was expose various fabrics — wool, linen, cotton, acrylic, nylon, etc. — to stains left by dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, beets, green peas, cherry pie and other trappings of a holiday feast.

"Synthetic fibers came out cleaner after ordinary machine washing," Gagarine reports. "Of the natural fibers, cotton came out cleaner than wool and linen."

"Turkey dressing and gravy stains were the most difficult to remove from both natural fabrics and fabric blends be-

cause of their high fat molecular structure."

These findings blend right in with my own experience. Gravy molecules, I've noticed, not only are hard on cotton shirts, wool ties and other apparel; they also

can gunk up a linen tablecloth good.

As for gravy on the chin, holiday meals will be pretty much over the recommend pretending to be a beard.

### Slouch by Jim Earle



"I keep having the same dream! A guy goes across the stage and gets a diploma and a handshake, another goes across and gets a diploma and a handshake, and I go across and get a handshake!"

### GOODBYE CLASS OF '83



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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. 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 show the address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, and 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 (409) 845-2611.

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