

Opinion

Date of election unfair to Aggies

Disenfranchise Aggie voters? Those Texas A&M students who have taken the time to register to vote in Brazos County — their homes for over nine months per year — will have a choice during Spring Break. Either they can stay in College Station and vote, go through the tangle of absentee voting or just not vote at all.

The last alternative seems to be what Gov. Mark White has in mind. The special election to fill the position vacated by state representative Bill Prenal has been scheduled March 10, Aggies, during your spring break.

Texas Republican Chairman George Strake thinks that White set the election date during the spring break in order to combat the conservative voting block of the Texas A&M campus. And he thinks White did it maliciously.

Strake has strongly protested the governor's action.

"Mark White, probably in consultation with the Democratic candidate in Brazos County, undoubtedly looked at the high Republican vote totals in Texas A&M precincts and decided to give an edge to his candidate over Republican Richard Smith, a former Bryan mayor,"

he said. Strake also said that White's action was a continuation of the Democratic Party's attack on Texas A&M.

Remember last week's attack by the Texas Democratic party on the Texas A&M economics department, or no, wasn't it the agricultural economics department? Most people outside the Texas A&M University System don't realize the distinction. The Harte Hanks news bureau out of Austin didn't. They reported that the attack was against the Economics Department and had to retract their story the next day.

The Texas A&M Economics Department. The department that bred Democrat, turned Republican, U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm.

There are murmurs around campus that the first attack was actually meant for Gramm.

But the scheduling of the election dates is an attack on Texas A&M students, staff and faculty members.

And all voters deserve a fair and equitable chance to reach the ballot box.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Corps policy is logical thinking

Congratulations to Col. Burton and the Corps of Cadets on their clear thinking. The Corps has finally come to the realization that not all traditions are good. If you're looking for a touch of sarcasm in that statement, there isn't one. We're serious.

The practice of wearing combat boots complete with metal taps on the toes for outfit runs was obviously archaic. So what if that's the way "they" always did it? The mythical group "they" probably didn't have x-rays that could diagnose shin splints. Who could possibly defend a practice that's hazardous to feet and legs when running in tennis shoes is infinitely more comfortable?

And "fish bites" — those tiny mouthfuls that freshmen were required to take while the upperclassmen tormented them with questions — have probably resulted in plenty of emaciated cadets who are never given a

chance to really eat.

As for quadding, it always seemed to be a rather barbaric practice. Kirk Joseph, public relations officer for the Corps, mentioned the bad publicity the Corps received due to parents and visitors noticing these naked, screaming male students having trashcans full of cold water being poured on their bodies from second- and third-story windows.

Definitely bad publicity. To say nothing of physical pain.

Corps Commandant Col. Donald L. Burton has outlawed quadding of upperclassmen by lowerclassmen. He's hoping the "hands off" policy will increase the respect of the subordinates for their superiors.

The corps is on the right track. To paraphrase Corps Commander Preston Abbot, if a tradition isn't worthwhile or productive, why bother?

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Decision only fair

As expected, the Student Senate passed a resolution Wednesday recommending that the funds from student service fees budgeted for the International Student Services be cut in half.

The fees have been supporting administrative costs of the organization as well as the costs of maintaining records on international students for the immigration office. Membership dues for foreign students' organizations nationwide were also being paid from the fees.

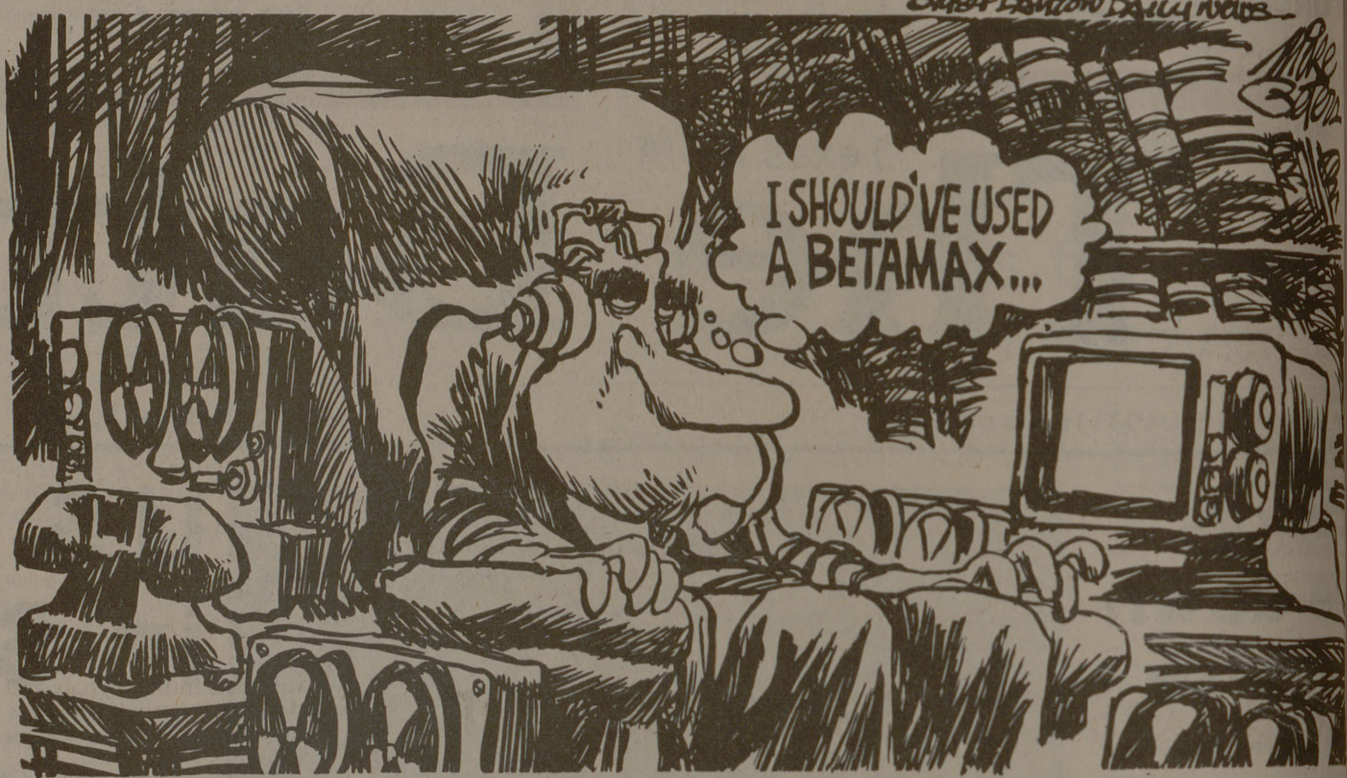
Those fees are paid by all Texas A&M students. You've been subsidizing the ISS and you probably didn't even realize it. The Student Government has been asking whether it's fair for the ma-

jority of students to fund services which benefit only a small minority.

The chief irony of the situation is that if Texas A&M pays for only the organization's administrative costs, the state of Texas will pay for the other services. Everyone is willing to shell out for the international students. So what's the big deal? They won't be losing any money because of the recent decision, and Texas A&M students will no longer be paying for a service that they never receive.

The Student Government came to a logical, and obvious, conclusion. A service which does not benefit all students should not be funded by all students.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Jackson: a legacy of jive

Michael Jackson is right when he says that he is not like other guys, acting more like a bad penny: you just can't get rid of him.

In a land where Trans Ams and Cabbage Patch Dolls are the stuff of dreams, Michael Jackson makes them all look woefully inadequate by comparison. Any person who will, no doubt, be the deciding factor in the naming of countless future children has my vote to be included in The 100 Most Influential People of the Last 200 Years. Freud hasn't got a prayer.

So what if Abe supposedly scratched arithmetic problems on the back of a shovel? Michael gave the world the Moon Walk. Darwin, who is having a tough enough time with the Moral Majority, never even mentioned music in his quaint world of evolution.

But this is not mere wistful speculation on my part. Look at the facts. This man is packing people back into the music stores. Primal man at his very worst,

shoves and elbows battling for supremacy in the funk/pop record aisle.

Jackson, described as "the whirling dervish of the 80's" by sensitive Music Television video jockey J.J. Jackson, has even ventured successfully into the world of videos. Who could fail to be moved by

has such a high-pitched voice, wanted originally to film on local Mt. Vesuvius but settled for Studio City.

I have to give credit to Michael for showing another facet of his prism-like psyche: fashion design. Who else forgets to wear one of his when receiving a recent music award and starts a new fashion trend? No, to say, glove manufacturers are aware about the turn of events.

The Russians, fearing another dow of vulnerability, are said to be giving their own batch of futuristic artists. Yuri is watching the whole very closely, even suggesting his favorites.

The Reagan Administration has uncharacteristically mum on these developments. It seems Ronald Reagan has been briefed on the video war, and whatever everyone recommended, President Reagan hadn't even realized that Jesse Jackson could sing

ed cassavoy

the bittersweet statement on society expressed in "Billie Jean"? And as for the epic \$1.2 million "Thriller," some music industry insiders are hailing it as a modern day "Birth of A Nation."

Some lucky souls were probably fortunate enough to catch a behind the scenes look at the video process in "The Making of Thriller." It is rumored that PBS probably will produce a Cosmos segment with Carl Sagan, no video slouch himself, trying to explain why Michael

Letters:

Meese defended

Editor:

I was very disappointed with the stand taken by The Battalion's Editorial Board on Edwin Meese's nomination for U. S. Attorney General ("Meese is not fit for Cabinet slot," Tuesday, January 24).

I've always thought that nominees for Attorney General were judged on their legal competency, on their knowledge and experience with the judicial system. It only makes sense that our President would nominate someone for the position only after carefully evaluating his/her experience and ability. You can see then why I was so surprised to read the article in The Battalion without finding a single argument about Meese's ability to do a good job as our Attorney General. After all, isn't that the final question we ask before appointing someone to the position?

What disturbed me most was the fact that The Battalion didn't address the issue of poverty in America realistically, looking at both sides objectively. It seems to me Meese makes sense when he says that we live in a country in which we can pick ourselves up and stand accountable for ourselves. I find it hard to believe that all of the poor in this country have absolutely nowhere to turn and can do nothing at all about their situation in life.

How many of them are highly-motivated go-getters that have given it their best shot and come up empty-handed? How many of them frequent libraries to better their minds?

Just exactly who makes up the "homeless in the street"? How many are young run-aways who would be there regardless of the economic condition of the nation? What portion of the poor are unfortunate souls who never got a chance to make something of themselves?

What about all the high school drop-outs who chose to get drunk and stoned instead of getting an education? Now that many of them are older, without an education or skill, and in many cases lacking a good attitude toward work, would you give them jobs?

This is in no way a generalization of poor people as a whole. Nor is it my intent to condemn them. Indeed, there are many people who are elderly, handicapped, sick, ect., who need help. My point is that the issue of poverty is a very complex

one, and that to say a man is not compassionate because he questions America's "poverty stricken" is not fair. I think there is merit to Meese's views, and their ramifications deserves closer attention than the Editorial Board of The Battalion has given.

Peter Wingate
Class of '86

Murder for murder

Editor:

Let's play a quick game of "what if." Imagine that someone in your family has been a victim of a homicide. Assume that the person responsible for this act is caught and tried. Guilt is proven beyond doubt.

There are several things that may happen to this person:

- 1) The convicted person may be returned directly to society. This is unacceptable.
- 2) The person may be sent to an institution for the purpose of rehabilitation. I have doubts a killer could be rehabilitated. This, too, is unacceptable.
- 3) This person may be sentenced to life imprisonment. This is almost tolerable, but I refuse to support someone who has killed someone dear to me. Mark this unacceptable, too.
- 4) This person may receive the death sentence. This seems cruel, but I have a hard time being nice to a murderer. This is unacceptable to some, for a variety of reasons.

I have two questions:
1) Is murder an acceptable crime?
2) What is the proper punishment for a convicted killer?

I hope that the first answer is obvious. As for the second, I fear that I am too emotional to give this fair thought.

Does anyone have a magic answer?
John Bruce
Class of '86

Whose right to life?

Editor:

While walking past Rudder Tower yesterday I could not help noticing the "right to life" demonstration taking place. Stopping to listen for a few minutes I began to think about what was wrong with what was being said. Actually there was nothing wrong with what was said, but there was, and is, something wrong with who was saying it.

It struck me funny, as it does now, that the "right to life" movement is headed by

conservative Republicans. The sample who keep voting for more and defense spending and nuclear war.

How can a group of people promote movement with the title "right to life" and at the same time promote a movement that could be titled "the beginning of the end"? I think that they should title their movements "our right to control your life" and "our right to when the end will be for you."

Stephen
Class of '86

Symbol of death

Editor:

After reading the Kelley Smith story I was convinced that she spent her time at the protest. She stated that the rally should have "focused more alternatives to abortion." However, very questions she asked in her were covered by a spokeswoman. The Answer.

The casket at the rally symbolized death, and it was indeed used as a draw attention to the fact that the dying, I am saddened when I think of thought of people being sickened by of a mere casket, as opposed to how people react to an actual abortion. I seen two actual abortions on film. I am convinced that abortion is murder.

Jim
Class of '86

Slouch

by Jim



"When I came back from the... that's all that was left of my bicycle decided to mount it."

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes 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 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 are also 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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