

Chamber dispute not good for B-CS

Texas A&M students sometimes are too wrapped up in their own worlds to think about the community they live in, and that's understandable. After all, Brazos Valley is just a part-time home for many Aggies. But a major battle has been going on between Bryan and College Station, and perhaps we should be aware of it.

What started out as a simple relocation of the Chamber of Commerce building has turned into a war. A vote among the Chamber members Monday fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to amend the Chamber's charter to allow moving the main office to College Station.

The College Station City Council already had voted to contribute \$400,000 toward purchase of the proposed site for the new building. Now that the Chamber office will not be moved to College Station, some City Council members are unwilling to put up that much money unless Bryan contributes half of the costs.

Here's the tricky part. College Station allocates \$100,000 a year from ho-

tel-motel tax revenues to the chamber. Bryan allocates \$30,000.

Travis Bryan Jr., a chamber member and Bryan resident who opposed the move, said he didn't feel his actions have rekindled old rivalries.

Hogwash. College Station Mayor Gary Halter referred to College Station as "the minority partner" in the chamber. He's right. College Station contributes more money to the chamber — and based on both cities' growth patterns, will continue to do so — but that didn't seem to matter in the final vote.

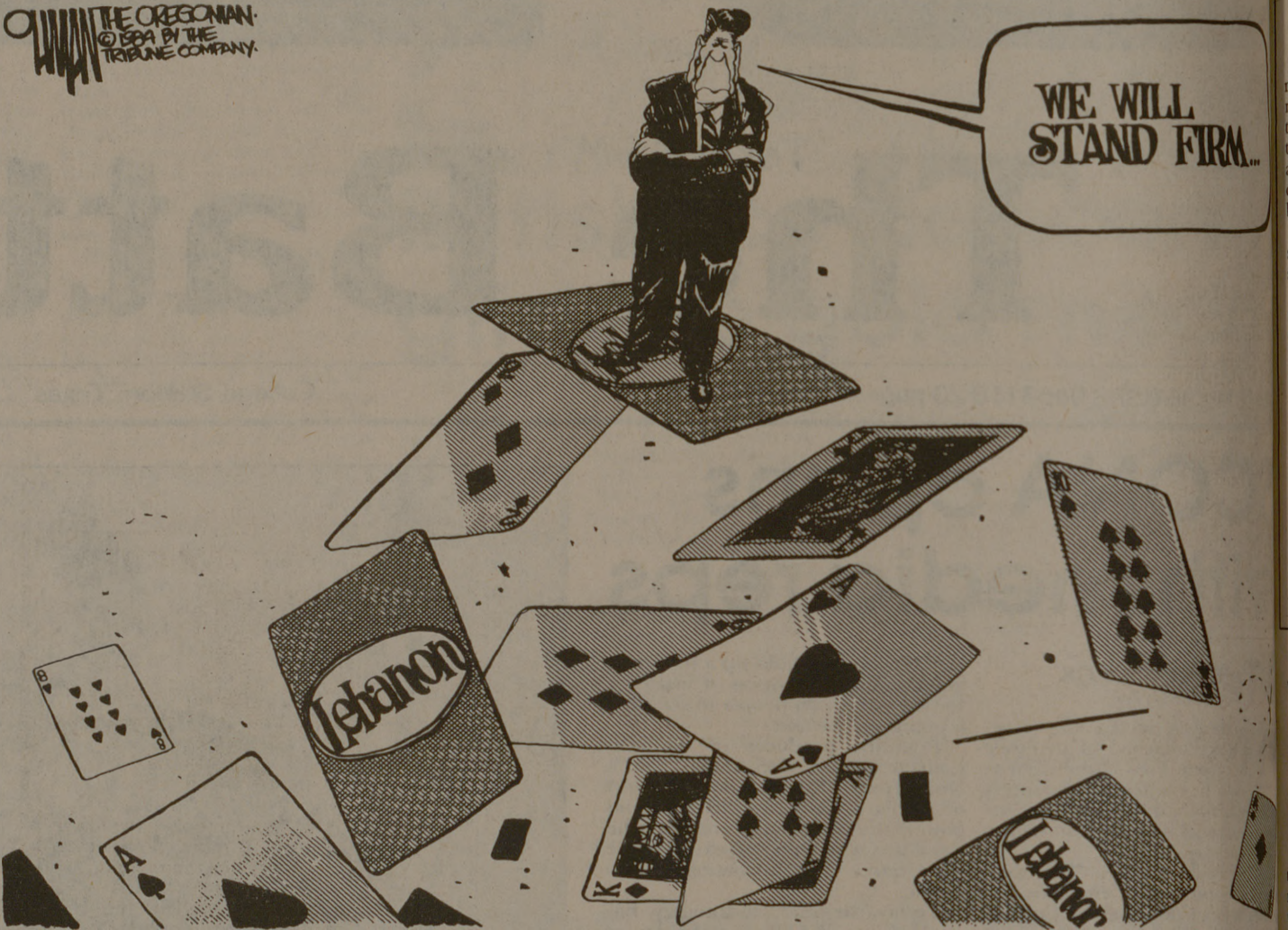
Not every Bryan official was against the move. Mayor Ron Blatchley favored the move, but now that the vote is over he has expressed hope that everyone can "go on from here."

Unfortunately, it's not going to be that easy. Too many feelings have been hurt and too many principles have been violated.

The Battalion Editorial Board fervently hopes the two cities don't tear themselves apart forever over this issue, but it seems that may be unavoidable.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

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Letters

Save the memorial

Editor: Thanks to the Physical Plant the memorial at west gate no longer exists in its original form at the west gate entrance; thanks to a gift by a former student — the "Albritton Bell Tower." What is the significance of the carillon tower? To peal at Aggie victories? Not a bad idea, but one which I believe does not have the right to supercede the importance of the memorial it is replacing. The memorial is to commemorate those brave sons of Texas A&M who died in World War I, a much nobler cause than announcing Aggie victories.

It's not the bell tower or its ideas I dislike, again, I think it's a marvelous idea. It's the lack of respect and thought given to a gift of former students which predates the graduation date of the new gift's sponsor by 17 years. There was — as usual — no planning by the Planning and Facilities construction department as to the disposition of the monument.

These are the same people who are allowing the destruction of A&M's architectural Heritage:

1) the gutting of all terra cotta art work of the Civil Engineering Building to be replaced by gypsum board.

2) the soon to be started "renovation" of the Halbouty and Animal Industries Buildings. Again, both buildings to be gutted and the artwork destroyed.

As of today there is no permanent site for the monument that has been removed. It now lies in storage at the Physical Plant until a new site can be decided upon.

In order to restore the monument to a position of notoriety, may I suggest two sites for its placement? It will then no longer be in storage but again viewed by the public. Funds for its placement should come out of the Albritton tower

project and not state tax payer funds for the University.

1) Locate the monument in the circular flower bed which is on the axis of Old Main drive and the old military walk (between the Coke Building and the YMCA Building). The floral star representing Texas could still be landscaped as the size of the monument is small. The is the first site proposed for the carillon.

2) Put it back in its original space under the arches of the bell tower.

Don't let the Physical Plant or Planning and Faculty's construction dictate the outcome. Traditions such as those deserve a better fate.

Jim Vandenberg
Class of 83

Memorial should stay

Editor: "In recognition of the splendid participation ..." For years there was a Memorial Day ceremony at this reminder of man's sacrifices in the Great War; a holly wreath, desiring peace for the future generations of Texas Aggies.

The Great War was the first mass commitment of A&M Cadets to serve their flag. The citizen-soldiers left College Station (the class of 1917 enlisted en masse) and 55 did not come home. After the Armistice the world made many memorials; from the Arc de Triumphe to Westminster Abbey to Arlington National Cemetery. In Texas there are like memorials; from the Texas Memorial Stadium of the University of Texas to our 55 flags over Kyle Field, the name plates on the oaks around the Main Drill Field, and the granite marker on what was then the very front gate of the campus.

But now times have changed. Wars are memories (usually bad), and there

are more pressing things — like a Freudian monument to vanity. Arguments of "everyone else has one" (so why not buy a chair and get a Nobel laureate to sit in it?) and "the bells will have our university seal on them" (at 140 feet who is tall enough to read them?) don't hold. You who fought for the Memorial Student Center (that splendid memorial to our "soldier dead" of the Second World War) grass should start yelling again; before it's too late. Just think, some day if the bucks are there, Lawrence Sullivan Ross could disappear and some man with a big wallet be in his place. The tower is one such praise of the mighty buck, but this is not an issue of vanity ("vanity of vanity, all is vanity") this is an issue of the memorial to 55 Americans. What do we tell them in their Aggie Vahalla? "Sorry, but this achievement in business is more important than your dying." To all those involved in this abomination I have just one thing to say: "Shame on you; shame on the lot of you."

Matthew E. Raney
Class of 1980

Fight for justice

Editor: Although personal freedom and justice were established as a basic part of this society, there are always those willing to abridge justice and fair treatment of others. As a student in one of the largest engineering colleges at this University, I've become increasingly aware of this reality and the fact that this institution is no sanctuary from "real world" problems.

After going through the official ranks for the past 13 months on the matter of a grade appeal, my feelings are bordering on contempt for those individuals who privately admitted the existence of an injustice, but publicly turned their

heads the other way. Without pointing any fingers, this ordeal pertained to one section of a sophomore engineering course in the fall of 1982 in which 42 out of 59 students received failing grades. These figures revealed a 71 percent failure rate as compared to 26 percent failure of all other sections of the same course. Even though these figures were way out of line, the responsible, or may I say "irresponsible" department officials chose to sweep the affair under the rug. As a final resort, after many letters and conversations of appeal falling on deaf ears, I brought my case before the University Academic Appeals Panel. At last, my appeal for a grade change was upheld by a receptive panel of conscientious, responsible individuals.

Now, it's not healthy to have a bad attitude, but being naive or eternally optimistic will not always feed the bulldog. As a result of this episode I have been educated on a few things which I would like to pass on to others free of charge.

It seems that the larger the college or department, the less accommodating they tend to be, especially when they are trying to shrink their swelling ranks. When dealing with the masses, those who make decisions do not always act with a conscience. There are no student advocates, per se, at this institution to look out for the good will of each student. And finally, justice is neither free nor an automatic process. As a result, there is often no check exercised over unfair circumstances unless you stand up for yourself.

It would be nice if no one ever fell victim to such injustice as encountered by myself and many others, but in the event that you do, I encourage you not to be reluctant in opening your mouth and pursuing fair treatment. We may have to submit to higher authorities to get an education here, but we need not bow silently to their abuse and indignation.

Alan Edwards
Class of '84

Congress ducks issues

Editor: We are seeing the established system determine that important policy-making

decisions are too sensitive to bring for debate in this election year. The major parties have determined that the issues are too volatile for formal discussion, the political arena would be better policy molder than taking on the position of being responsible in the representative roles. Congress is sitting once again upon the "lame duck" position at our expense. This time strikes into our future.

In Congress' decision to stand by from establishing substantial measures for controlling the problems of the budget and its deficits, they fail to grasp the urgency of the situation. To take on the stance of spectators instead of policymakers, Congress assures that the current economic recovery would be stifled by a potential recession which would claim valuable election-year jobs for a much longer period than the recession of 1981-82.

Current interest rates have been high at alarmingly high levels by the force of increasing deficits without a constructive policy towards controlling the problem through 1989. Against all advice from government regulatory agencies as well as private industry and economic analysts — Congress and the President seem prepared to wait on the issue until after the elections. Meanwhile, the high interest rates keep the dollar at its strongest level in decades, causing the foreign trade deficit to grow.

My intent is to inform you, the average apathetic voter, of the need to understand the situation at hand. Take this initiative this election year and resolve to make an impression on your future.

We are all here at Texas A&M in order that we may be able to live in the manner in which we choose. To do so and see what is offered would be up to our part.

A postcard, phone call, telegram or letter to your President, your congressman, your senators, or your state representative would, today, involve you in determining the world in which you will live in. We no longer can afford to wait and see what the government will do for us. Break away from the tradition and become involved.

Charles M. Stegemoeller
Class of '84



The Battalion

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