

Regents willing to shell out for a larger Corps of Cadets

Members of the Corps of Cadets may be raking in the bucks next year, if a committee formed by the Board of Regents gets its way.

Remember the old law of supply and demand? When students who want to join the Corps are numerous, they come cheap. When there's an over-supply, the administration can do things like raise housing fees and uniform fees for drill and ceremony cadets who don't accept a military contract.

But when there's a slump in Corps enrollment, some regents start throwing the money around.

The Corps of Cadets Enhancement Committee of the Board of Regents met

with Corps Commandant Col. Donald C. Burton Friday to discuss goals for the Corps.

Burton said even though there's been an upswing in ROTC enrollment nationwide, he expects a slump in Corps enrollment. To attract more cadets, he wants to give 100 Sul Ross scholarships to cadets during the 1984-85 school year. The scholarships will be worth \$600 per semester during a cadet's freshman and sophomore years.

But the committee thinks 1,000 scholarships would be a realistic goal.

Other aspects of Burton's proposal: a \$500,000 endowment for the Corps; elimination of the \$100-per-semester

uniform rental fee for drill and ceremony cadets; a "small scholarship" to be awarded to all seniors in honor of completion of three years in the Corps of Cadets.

Add that up, Ags, and it comes to quite a bundle.

But the Corps makes up less than five percent of the student body.

How can the regents justify contributing and raising so much money for such a small minority — and one that isn't even underprivileged? Is the Corps of Cadets dying so rapidly that Texas A&M has to buy members?

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Walking in the shoes of handicapped students

Did you ever stop to think how big the Texas A&M campus really is?

It is a campus dotted with multi-storied buildings. What's more, it is one of the few universities anywhere that requires students to cross busy streets and railroad tracks to get to classes.

Sure, it's nothing that the average person can't handle with a little effort. But stop and really think for a moment.

Think about facing all of those multi-storied buildings or crossing that highway or those railroad tracks on this large campus with some form of physical handicap.

When it comes right down to it, you don't really have any idea how difficult getting around on the Texas A&M campus really is for the handicapped.

You don't realize how much of an effort, even a triumph, it is for the handicapped to go to school at all.

Just about everyone would be quick to say that it's difficult, but in saying that they would be speaking from stereotyped images, not from any real idea of the difficulty.

Until you have had to ride in a wheelchair or use crutches to get wherever you go — wherever anyone else could walk with ease — it is not possible to know.

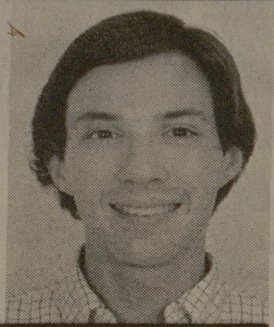
Being handicapped is one of those things that the average person just cannot comprehend because it's not a part of their life.

Don't get me wrong, though. I'm not trying to be critical of students or fac-

ulty. I didn't realize how great the trials and tribulations of the handicapped were myself until I had to walk (or more appropriately, ride) in their shoes.

When I broke my hip in an accident a few weeks ago I really gained an understanding of the problem. And it is a problem the University administration needs to take notice of and take corrective action on.

bill robinson



There are places on this campus that are dangerous — if not impossible — for the handicapped to reach. As a result, handicapped students are being systematically excluded from wide areas of Texas A&M life.

Take The Battalion as an example.

In order to reach the offices of this newspaper in a wheelchair it is necessary to cross through the construction area for the Halbouty Geosciences building expansion, some of which is unpaved and ungrated.

If you make it that far, you can then roll up a long, steep ramp to the loading

dock and gain access to the elevator — if the custodial crew doesn't have it locked on some upper floor, a common occurrence at night.

At least I've got it a little better than some. Thanks to a pair of crutches, I can maneuver up the staircase if I am forced to. The wheelchair-bound cannot.

For the handicapped, Reed McDonald and The Battalion are just one example of many places and situations that limit access to facilities and services.

Just think how depressing it would be to find out you couldn't participate in some areas of University life, that you couldn't go by some professors' offices or that you couldn't attend some classes you need or want.

Think how depressing it would be to face a campus this size. Think of the many hardships the handicapped student faces.

The limitations my injury place upon me are depressing even though I know what it's like to walk or run across this campus like the average student.

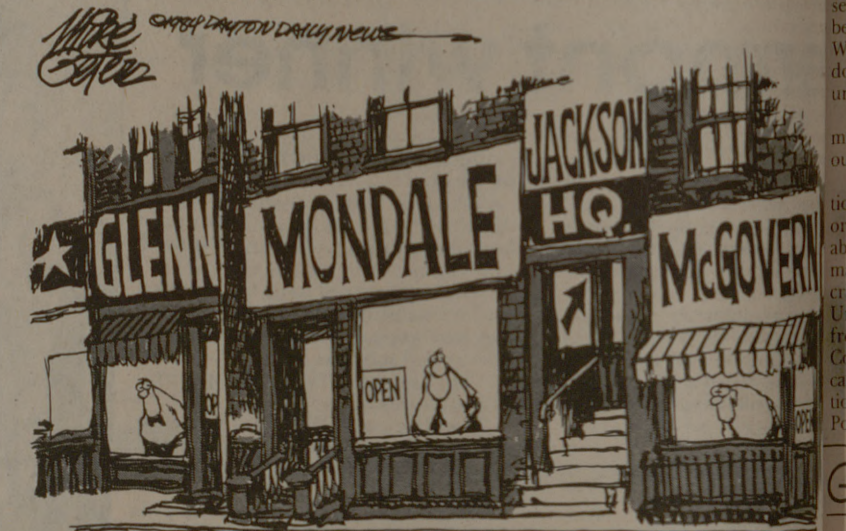
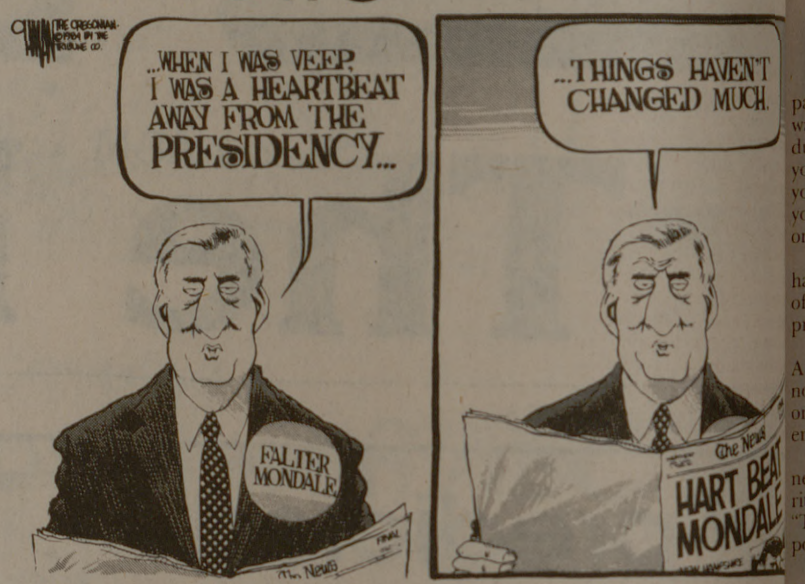
It's depressing even though I know that I will be able to walk again in a few months.

Just think what it must be like.

A little thought, a little reflection deep into ourselves is the first step to change ... a first step for the handicapped at Texas A&M.

Bill Robinson is a senior journalism major and assistant sports editor for The Battalion.

Portfolio



Letters

Who won the game?

Editor:
It was good to hear that the Aggie softball team opened its 1984 season with a win on Monday. Since they are the only championship team Texas A&M had last year, it is nice to see that they haven't lost their form.

The un-named Battalion reporter did an excellent job detailing the Aggie victory. It sounds like the Ags have some excellent pitchers and hitters on their squad — as evidenced by the 8-0 score.

Just one quick question, though — who did we beat?

Erol Morey
Frank Irwin
Graduate Students

Orange phobia valid

Editor:
In the editorial of March 5 entitled "Orange paranoia a petty complaint," your thesis is that "it's so incredibly petty to consider everything orange in poor

taste because it's the school color of UT Longhorns."

Bull.
Orange is the symbol of U.T. as "hook 'em horns" and their symbol they call "The Tower," orange on the front page of The Battalion was like saying the paper supports U.T. and all it stands for.

Besides, Texas A&M has good reason to think they are out to get us.

When the establishment of a being debated in the Texas Legislature one representative called Texas "cancer on the Brazos" and proposed that it be turned into a prison.

It was then that the Governor, Texas, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the representative outside and behind him. The next day, Ross was offered position of president of Texas A&M.

The use of orange on the front of The Battalion makes it look like published by Rupert Murdoch and orange boxes were highlighting a murder.

Michael S. Class

Barbie keeping up with the times

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

I was terribly shocked to read the other day that Barbie Doll was celebrating her 25th anniversary. You can't call it a birthday because when Barbie was first born she was a full grown lady with a beautiful body and all the curves in the right places.

I mentioned the anniversary to my daughter who is now 29. "Bring Barbie down from the attic and we'll have a birthday party for her."

"How many candles should we put on the cake?" my wife asked.

"Let's assume that she was 21 years old when we got her, so she must be 46 by now."



by Jim Earle

That evening we all sat around the table and Connie brought Barbie down. The years had been very good to her.

"Barbie, you look wonderful. Your skin is just as smooth now as it was 25 years ago," I said.

Barbie blushed. "I use Oil of Olay every day. No one can guess my age."

"So tell us," my wife said. "What's been going on with you since we saw you last? How's Ken?"

"Didn't you hear? Ken and I split 15 years ago."

"I'm sorry to hear that," I said. "What happened?"

"Irreconcilable differences. He said I spent too much money on clothes. I guess I was a spoiled brat, but in those days before my consciousness was raised I thought clothes were everything."

"What happened to Ken?"

"He found a doll that was into jeans and tank tops, and married her. They seem very happy."

"What did you do?"

"I married a G. I. Joe."

"You're married to a soldier?"

"He was a soldier. He got out of the Army and he's now a defense spare parts contractor. I couldn't afford many outfits when he was in the service. But now I can buy anything I want to, I just don't seem to be as interested in clothes as I used to be."

"But what do you do with yourself?" my wife asked.

"I went to law school six years ago. I'm in practice with Covington and Burling. I never dreamed 25 years ago that I would want a career at this stage in life. But what choice does a woman have? You can't stay home all day long doing what you want to or people think you're worthless."

"Is there anything you want now that you don't have?"

"I hear Mattel is putting out a jacuzzi this Christmas. But with the hours I have to put in at the law firm, I don't know when I'd get the time to use it."

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