

## The Constitution is safe — for now

"The Constitution is safe for one more day."  
 Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., made that statement Tuesday after the Senate defeated a constitutional amendment allowing children to pray aloud in school.

The Battalion Editorial Board adds a heartfelt "amen" to that statement. Conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., has already announced that the fight will continue.

It's ironic that moves to tamper with the Constitution, which already guarantees freedom of religion in the First Amendment, are largely being made by conservatives — the same conservatives who support a laissez faire government that keeps its hands out of big business' business. It's OK to leave business alone — but apparently gov-

ernment should be involved in religion in schools.

President Reagan claims the vote hasn't killed the issue of free religious speech.

He's right. Religious freedom never died in the first place. It's guaranteed in the First Amendment — always has been.

The fact that all 100 members of the Senate showed up for the vote, a rarity, shows how important the issue is.

The vote reaffirms the belief that the Constitution shouldn't be amended haphazardly. Its strength lies in its ability to adapt to our changing society with a minimum of additions or deletions.

Freedom of religion is already etched into the Constitution. For once, the government is following the adage: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

— The Battalion Editorial Board

## Letters

### Faculty and students should work together

**Editor:**  
 As Texas A&M strives to improve as an institution of higher learning, there is a need for greater student influence in the evaluation of courses offered by the University.

The two sectors of Texas A&M population — the student body and the faculty — are probably in the best position to determine curriculum needs. It would greatly improve education at Texas A&M if students and faculty worked together to this end.

Perhaps the student and faculty senate would do well to address this need.

M. Brown  
 Class of '84

### Aggies Men's Club purposes explained

**Editor:**  
 On March 8 an article in The Battalion described a newly formed organization, the Aggie Men's Club. As a charter member of the club I am concerned with the image the article might have portrayed and what I consider to be a nonintentional misrepresentation of the goals upon which the club was founded.

The Aggie Men's Club is a social service organization which is primarily concerned with instilling and reinforcing what we consider to be good values through our social functions and service projects.

All of the goals of the organization are centered around the full development of each member through group fellowship and through promoting and maintaining a strong allegiance to our school. We are a group of students who have come together for two reasons: our similar values and our common devotion to Texas A&M.

We are in no way attempting to compete with any other organizations. We consider ourselves to be unique in many ways and we hope that anyone who is attracted by what our organization has to offer will make an attempt to get involved with us in the future.

The Aggie Men's Club is not a group of moralists concerned with making a statement about values. The fact that we have agreed not to have drinking at our functions is not to say that drinking is wrong or that we ourselves disapprove of it. The decision was made because we are determined to enhance the fellowship between our members through eliminating all possible barriers to communication.

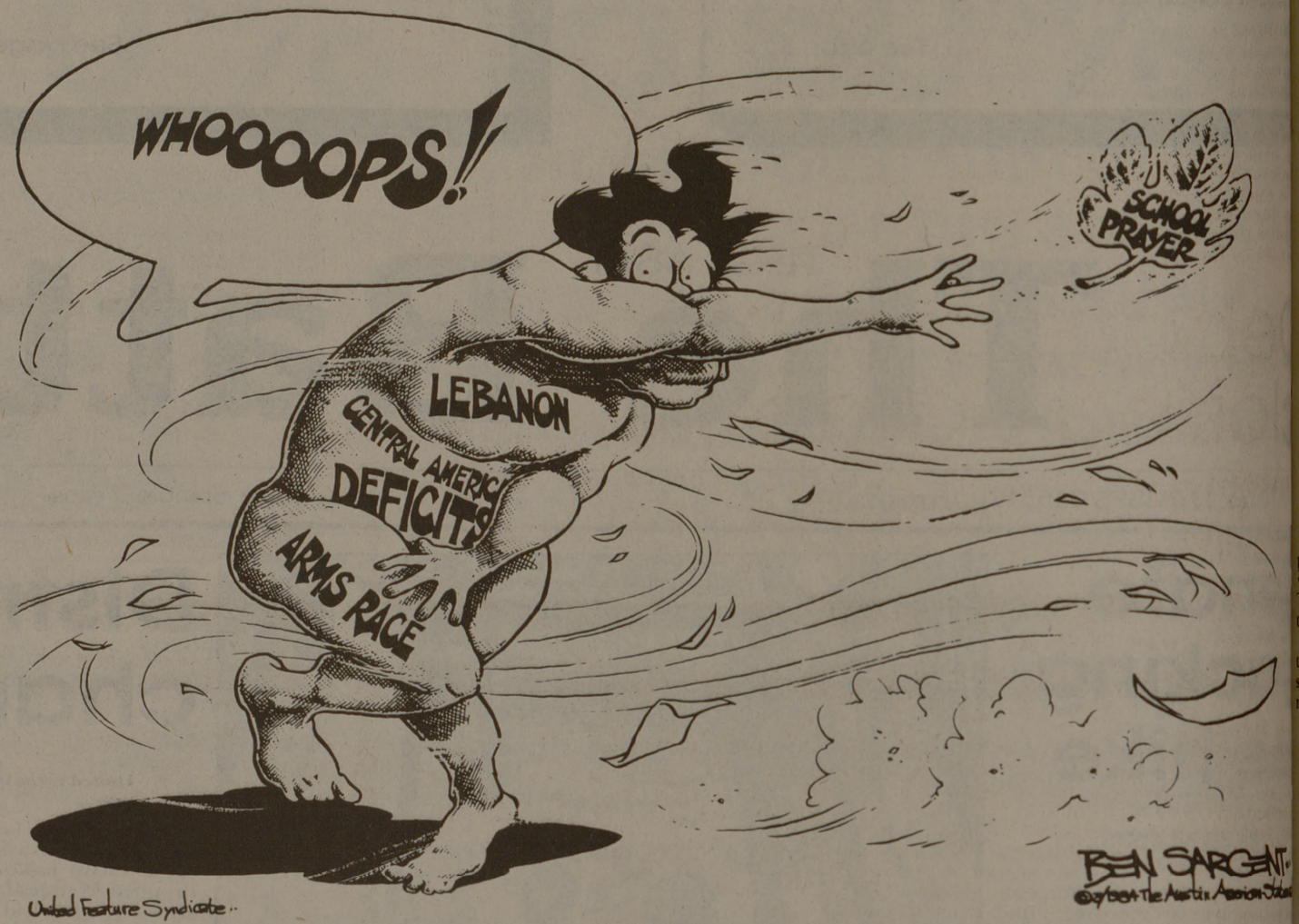
Sean Royall  
 AMC Treasurer

## Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I think the time has come for us to discuss our room."



## Regents make dreams come true at Texas A&M

Reality, it seems, is what you make of it.

Alice did fine in Wonderland, King Kong couldn't handle New York, and millions of tourists survive Disney World each year. Here at Texas A&M, it's The World According to the Regents.

The Albritton Tower fiasco is a perfect illustration of the strange twists of fate one can find in this Aggie Fantasy Land.

Albritton was generous enough to donate funds for a bell tower. Simple enough. He has every right to spend his money the way he sees fit. But the regents decided to put the \$1-million tower by the flagpole, facing the Academic Building.

A brilliant idea — except the steam tunnels were located underneath.

Consequently, more sites were proposed for the Albritton Tower — the monument in architectural limbo — than the MX missile. None seemed to fit Regent Plan X. This mind-numbing plan demanded that the bell tower be placed in the most implausible location, with the least amount of warning, with a minimum amount of thought.

H-Hour came when, without warning, the World War I Memorial was yanked unceremoniously from its resting place. The proud monument to fallen warriors was effectively erased in a matter of hours — progress in action.

How ironic that a memorial to honor sacrifice is torn down, and before the grave is cold, a second memorial honoring money will be constructed over it.

The sad truth is that our regents do big things well, the bigger the better.

### ed cassavoy

But when it comes to the ordinary events that touch most of the mere mortals at Texas A&M, there is a definite power vacuum.

Like a bunch of aging super-heroes, these protectors of Texas A&M huddle in the Regents' Room waiting for their next caper. When the red phone lights up, their collective pulse quickens. A new stadium? A USFL franchise for Texas A&M? Or maybe Texas A&M will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The regents have proven that nothing is too bizarre if you just keep plugging away.

That's why I'm waiting to be appointed regent in the next once-in-a-blue-moon selection. I like the job description. As a regent, I would be ac-

countable to no one and would get excellent parking for the football games.

So here are my policy aims:

- Install a dance floor in the library and offer two-for-one kamikazes Tuesday and Thursday nights. Many of the students might actually check out books while they're there.

- Make Jackie Sherrill coach of women's softball team. That way, we would finally get a winning record, and the team might get the attention it deserves.

- Demolish the YMCA Building.
- Build the bell tower on top of the Academic Building, so the University has something the Eastern schools don't have.

- Re-build the YMCA Building.
- Re-name Texas A&M the Technical Vocational School and Sports Center.

- Close down the English department because business majors don't need to be literate.

- Start a new tradition that says you can't wear MSC grass on your feet while in Kyle Field.

- Make it mandatory for professors to change their outfits at least once a semester.

- Abolish students from the campus they're always getting in the way things anyway.

Ed Cassavoy is a junior journalism major.

## Vote no longer a private matter

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

A person's vote used to be the most sacred thing in his life, and the one thing he was permitted to do in privacy. Not any more.

When Joe Proctor walked out of the voting booth the other day he was surrounded by six people with clipboards.

"What's your religion?" one person asked.

"How old are you?" another demanded.

"How much money do you make?" someone else wanted to know.

"Hey, what's going on?" Proctor said. "We're conducting an exit poll," one of the clipboard people replied. "We want to know who you voted for."

"I don't think that's any of your business," Proctor said. "What do you mean it isn't any of our business? We have to know so we can report it on television."

"I don't want my vote shown on television," Proctor said.

"We'll report you for interfering with the electoral process," someone said.

"Says who?" Proctor demanded. "The public has a right to know. How else can we tell who won the primary?"

"Why don't you wait until the ballots are counted?" Proctor asked.

"We can't do that or the other networks will scoop us. Americans don't have time to sit around until the ballots are tabulated."

"Well, they're going to have to," Proctor said.

"If you won't tell us who you voted for, will you tell us who you voted against?" asked one clipboard holder.

"Not on your life."

"Does that mean you voted against Mondale?"

"I've got to go home to lunch."

"We're not going to use your name. If you didn't vote for Hart, just tell us why."

"I'm going to call a cop."

"Does that mean you voted for Glenn because you think he's stronger for law and order?"

"Hold it. There are two things in my life that I can do in privacy — and one of them is vote secretly for the candidate of my choice."

"What's the other?"

"Go to the bathroom, which is what I've got to do right now."

One of the pollsters shouted, "You're threatening the sanctity of exit polls!"

"Well, then you'll have to poll somebody else."

"If you're not talking, that means you voted for Jackson."

"Why don't you all buzz off?"

"You can hang tough if you want, but Tom Brokaw is going to hear about this. If you won't play the game, then ever ask Dan Rather for a favor."

## The Battalion

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