

Looking beyond our tunnel vision

Americans tend to have tunnel vision where other cultures are concerned.

The international language, we insist, should be English. The best form of government, of course, is democracy. We still refuse to incorporate the metric system in our day to day living. Our way — the American way — is the best way.

But we need to push our personal preferences aside and realize that the American way is not the only way. To be a part of the world community, we're going to have to educate ourselves. To work with people of other nations toward international goals, we must have an understanding of and appreciation for other cultures.

That's the goal of International Week '84 at Texas A&M. The International Students Association has brought together 2,500 students from 100 foreign countries to share their

varied backgrounds with us.

This week international students have converted the main hallway of the Memorial Student Center into an international walkway. They've worked hard to create elaborate displays to bring a part of their countries to Texas A&M.

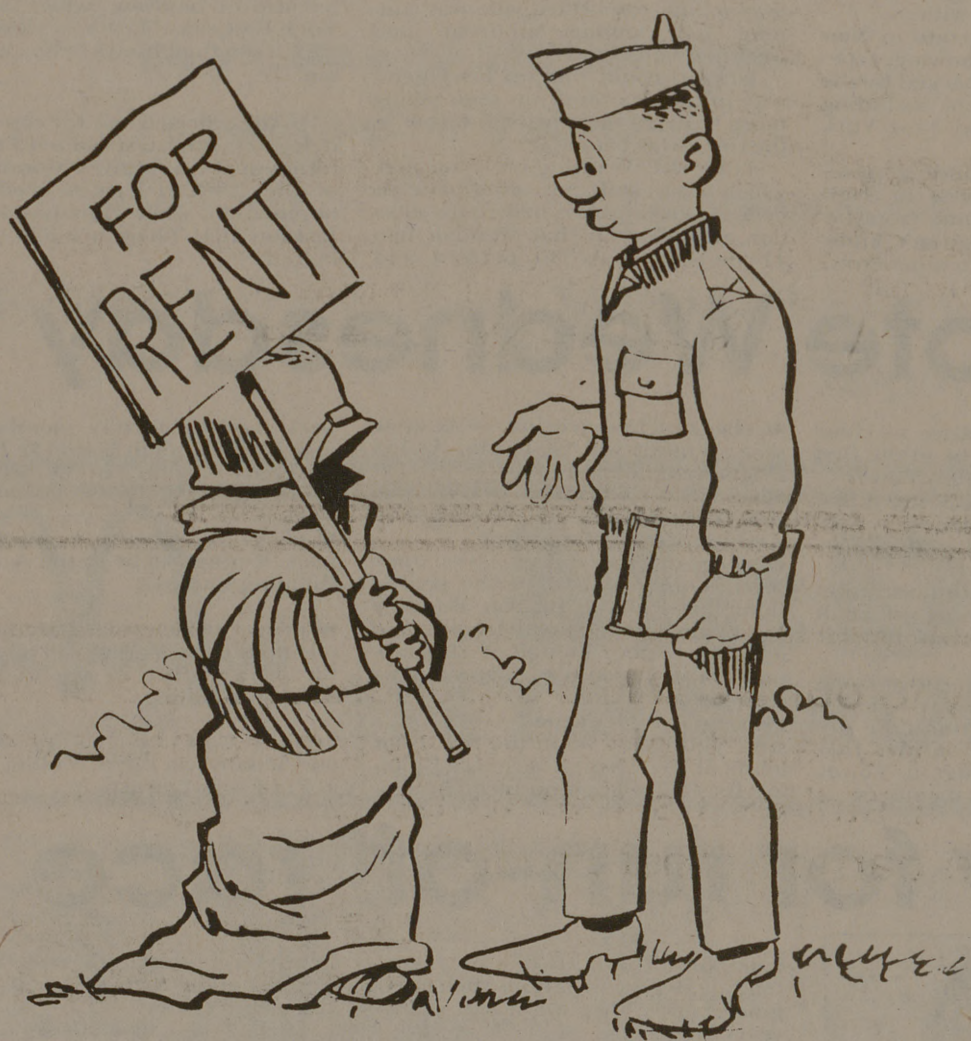
Other opportunities to learn from the visitors include a film festival, a dinner featuring international cuisine and a talent show.

Take the time to be a part of some of these activities. At the very least, spend some time at the displays. See what other countries have to offer.

The ISA is making it easy for you to learn. Take off your red, white and blue blinders and take advantage of it.
— The Battalion Editorial Board

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"All I need is a cause."



Scholarships: Donors say how their money's spent

When money talks, people listen. It's an old cliché, but somehow it always rings true. At a college campus, the money that talks is often scholarship money.

Scholarships come in all dollar amounts and with all sorts of stipulations on them. Usually, only the recipients know what strings are attached. Some scholarships, however, are often in the public eye. Two that come to the front of my mind are athletic scholarships and those "earmarked" for minorities.

Why should someone get money just because they can run fast or handle a ball well, and why should someone get money just because of the color of their skin? Those are the questions often asked — and they're usually asked by those who don't qualify for those scholarships.

My question is, why should someone get money just because they are intelligent? Intelligence, like athletic ability, is something people are born with. They have to train their minds, as opposed to their bodies, to excel.

Many will argue that a child's environment has quite a bit of influence on his intelligence. The same holds true for athletes. Many students probably never developed to their full athletic potential because their schools didn't have outstanding athletic programs or their parents didn't emphasize athletic ability. How are we to know?

And what about scholarships set out for minorities or ethnic groups? In 1980, a scholarship was available specifically to someone of Scottish descent who was planning to do graduate work

in Scotland — that's a scholarship with a few qualifiers. There are also scholarships offered to people of Armenian, Polish, Indian, Japanese, Latin American and Dutch backgrounds.

Many scholarships are given to students in specified majors. At least one scholarship is available in every major, usually because the donor requested

students attending colleges or universities that relate to the company's business. Gulf Oil, Inc. donates money for petroleum engineering majors. William donates money for veterinary students and Texas Garden Club donates money for horticulture. The list goes on.

This is good business for these corporations, because they are able to direct money to the future leaders of their fields.

Should we tell these people how to spend their money? I think not.

All in all, every scholarship has more qualifiers on it. After all, they can't decide who to give them to. Should we deny the recipient the right to go to college when that scholarship may be his only means of doing so?

The University needs some help deciding how to distribute scholarship money. It is when the distribution of scholarships becomes so unequal that it is unjust that we should get upset.

For now, we should be happy with the scholarship money — with or without the generosity of donors to even a number of students.

Stephanie Ross is a senior journalism major and assistant city editor for The Battalion.

stephanie ross



that his money be given to a student in that field.

The majority of scholarships available to Aggies come through the donations of former students and corporations. It's only natural for former students to donate scholarship money to funds in the colleges they graduated from or to organizations they belonged to.

The Corps of Cadets is one example. Recently, a goal was set by the Corps Enhancement Committee to solicit endowments for Sul Ross scholarships. Most of the donations already made towards that goal were given by former cadets — after all, the majority of old Ags were in the Corps.

Corporations often donate money for endowed scholarships earmarked for

Letters

Students aren't clones

Editor:

I would like to make a token response to the "Dave Spence Conveyor-Belt Theory."

Dave, Dave, Dave — did you get up on the wrong side of the bed this year?

I think your "iron mold" analogy can be discounted just by taking a look around one of my classes. I see unique individuals every day, not stereotyped "clones" struggling to find some inner individuality.

Perhaps if you viewed this institution of higher education as a provider rather than a producer, you wouldn't feel so trapped by a simple curriculum plan.

This school provides a quality education in numerous areas and the only way to maintain quality control and consistency is to have some form of centralized structure. But the structure is there for those who wish to follow it. You can always change majors, take classes out of your curriculum or drop out of school altogether.

This school isn't trying to "mold" you, Dave. It just provides some quality tools at a reasonable price that allow you to mold yourself.

Texas A&M has graduated some of the most diversified and unique (not to mention successful) people that Texas has seen and probably will continue to do so, but only as long as the students here use their college education as a

positive supplement to their individual personalities.

We don't come here as nothing and expect to be cast out as finished and marketable products. We come here as people who need some refinement in the basic skills that have been acquired over our lifetimes — a little specialization.

Texas A&M offers an excellent opportunity to acquire such specialization, but only if one will take the responsibility to reach out and grab it, not just sit back and follow the syllabus, class or general mood of everyone else.

Unfortunately, Dave, it seems you are a senior and still you have not realized this.

It is the responsibility of the student, not the school, to produce successful individual characteristics. This school offers ample opportunities to those who will take such a responsibility.

Doug Rogers
Class of '83

Quakers clarify views

Editor:

Donn Friedman's column described Quakers as "true pacifists (who) shun American society and the materialism it offers."

The Society of Friends considers its

members a part of our diverse society, who should participate in it, for example, through our political advocacy campaigns.

I invite Mr. Friedman and all others who would like to learn about the Society of Friends to attend our meetings.

Bob Mecum
The Society of Friends

Meese a GOP victim of Democratic tactics

Editor:

After reading all the recent articles in various newspapers and magazines about the alleged improprieties of presidential aide Ed Meese, I can remain silent no longer.

Obviously, this is another failed ploy by the tax-the-working, give-to-the-lazy, liberal Democrat fools on Capitol Hill, working in close conjunction with their cronies in the media, to "scandalize" the Reagan Administration. Why don't they lay it to rest? Because it's an election year, of course.

If the liberals in this country are so eager to go on witch hunts, why don't they investigate Tip O'Neill? Or better yet, how about looking into where Ted Kennedy (the Chappaquiddick Kid) learned how to swim?

Stripping away the grand facade, the real scheme the Democrats have in mind is to avert attention from the losers they have running against President

Reagan in the upcoming election. Let's get real! The brains of Walter Mondale, Gary Hartpence and Jesse Jackson (what a joke) combined couldn't equal that of a Jersey cow.

With zeros like that as opponents,

Ronald Reagan can start making a guest list for his inaugural celebration Reagan/Bush '84. Whoop!

John C. Class

The Battalion USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor.....Rebecca Zimmermann
Managing Editor.....John Wagner
City Editor.....Patrice Koranek
Assistant City Editors.....Kathleen Hart, Stephanie Ross
News Editor.....Tracey Taylor
Assistant News Editors.....Susan Talbot, Bridget Brockman, Michelle Powe, Kelley Smith
Editorial Page Editor.....Kathy Wieseppape
Sports Editor.....Donn Friedman
Assistant Sports Editor.....Bill Robinson
Entertainment Editor.....Shelley Hoekstra
Assistant Entertainment Editor.....Angel Stokes
Staff writers.....Ed Alanis, Robin Black, Dainah Bullard, Bob Caster, Bonnie Langford, Christine Mallon, Sarah Oates, Tricia Parker, Lauri Reese, Dave Scott, Travis Tingle, Karen Wallace
Photographers.....Bill Hughes, Katherine Hurt, John Ryan, Dean Saito

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory paper for students in reporting, editing, photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials are welcome. Address all inquiries to the Editorial Page Editor.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M registration, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per lifetime. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Ross Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled to the use for reproduction of all news items credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.