

A campus divided by tracks can stand

The Regents are talking about moving the railroad tracks that divide the Texas A&M campus in two.

The Battalion Editorial Board thinks the regents are trying to kill an ant with an atomic bomb. The trains aren't causing a problem severe enough to warrant such a drastic — and expensive — measure.

Dodging trains isn't a major concern of students. Instead, complaints about the divided campus seem to center on the inconvenience to students who have classes on both ends of the campus.

The main problem is the distance between the extreme ends of the campus. It's unreasonable for a student to be scheduled for a 9 a.m. class at the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center on the west campus and a 10 a.m. class at Zachry Engineering Center. It's next to impossible to dash across campus in the 10 minutes between the back-to-back classes and make it to class in a good frame of mind for absorbing knowledge.

But that's just what has happened to students in past semesters. They didn't complain about the trains. Most students manage to cross the railroad tracks without getting hit.

Since the train tracks are busiest during the late night, most of Texas A&M is not adversely affected by their presence — except for a few light sleepers in dormitories on the north

side of campus who may be awakened by the rumble of the trains.

Actually, the cars on Wellborn Road pose a greater danger to students.

One possible remedy that deserves serious consideration is increased intra-campus shuttle service. Perhaps even closing the main campus to traffic and restricting parking to the outer (and larger) lots around campus should be considered. This solution would kill two birds with one stone — alleviating the congested parking situation and allowing easier and safer pedestrian traffic.

The only substantiated reason for moving the tracks has to do with the possibility of a train derailment. If a train carrying toxic materials derailed, Aggies as well as College Station residents would be injured.

The possibility isn't as remote as it seems. A little over a year ago a train derailed, dumping a load of beer rather than dangerous chemicals.

If the tracks are to stay here, they must be maintained so derailments don't occur. But changing the location of the tracks just to create an illusion of a central non-divided campus is a waste of money.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Paperback romances: Porn, smut or fantasy?

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

I am always leery of anyone who starts messing around with the First Amendment, whether it be textbook censors in Texas, or militant women libbers in Minnesota.

Recently some women in Minneapolis managed to get a city ordinance passed banning "pornography" and making those who sold it or exhibited it subject to lawsuits. Their argument was that pornography degrades women and deprives them of their civil rights.

Fortunately the bill was vetoed by the mayor.

I say fortunately because once you start down the road of making booksellers liable for what they sell, you run into the problem of where degradation stops and mind-boggling romance takes over. (For further evidence see your favorite soap opera).

The hottest item in the publishing business these days is the paperback "romance novel." They sell in the millions, and purveyors of these kinds of books will tell you they are almost all bought by women.

I don't know if these degrade women or not, but all of the romance novels require men to "sweep women off their feet" and aggressively persuade the heroine, against her better judgement, to allow her blood to say "yes" when her head says "no."

A recent paperback published by Putnam's titled "The Romance Writers' Phrase Book," by Jean Kent and Candace Shelton, arrived on my desk while I was thinking about the Minneapolis ordinance.

It provides 3,000 descriptive "tags" that people writing romance novels could use to jazz up their writing.

Here are a few examples that could be considered degrading to women, but

are very helpful in appealing to that large female audience which eats the romance novel up like peanuts. I couldn't include the ones that are inappropriate for a family newspaper.

"It was flesh against flesh, man against woman."

"She shattered into a million glowing stars."

"She lay drowned in a floodtide of the liberation of her mind and body."

"While he would merely be filling a moment of physical desire, she would be allowing him to tear apart her soul."

"She yielded to the searing need which had been building for months."

"Her body began to vibrate with liquid fire."

"She kissed him with a hunger that belied her outward calm."

"She buried her face against the corded muscles of his chest."

"Her knees were weakened by the quivering of her limbs."

"In her haste to reassure him she went too far."

I guess you have the idea.

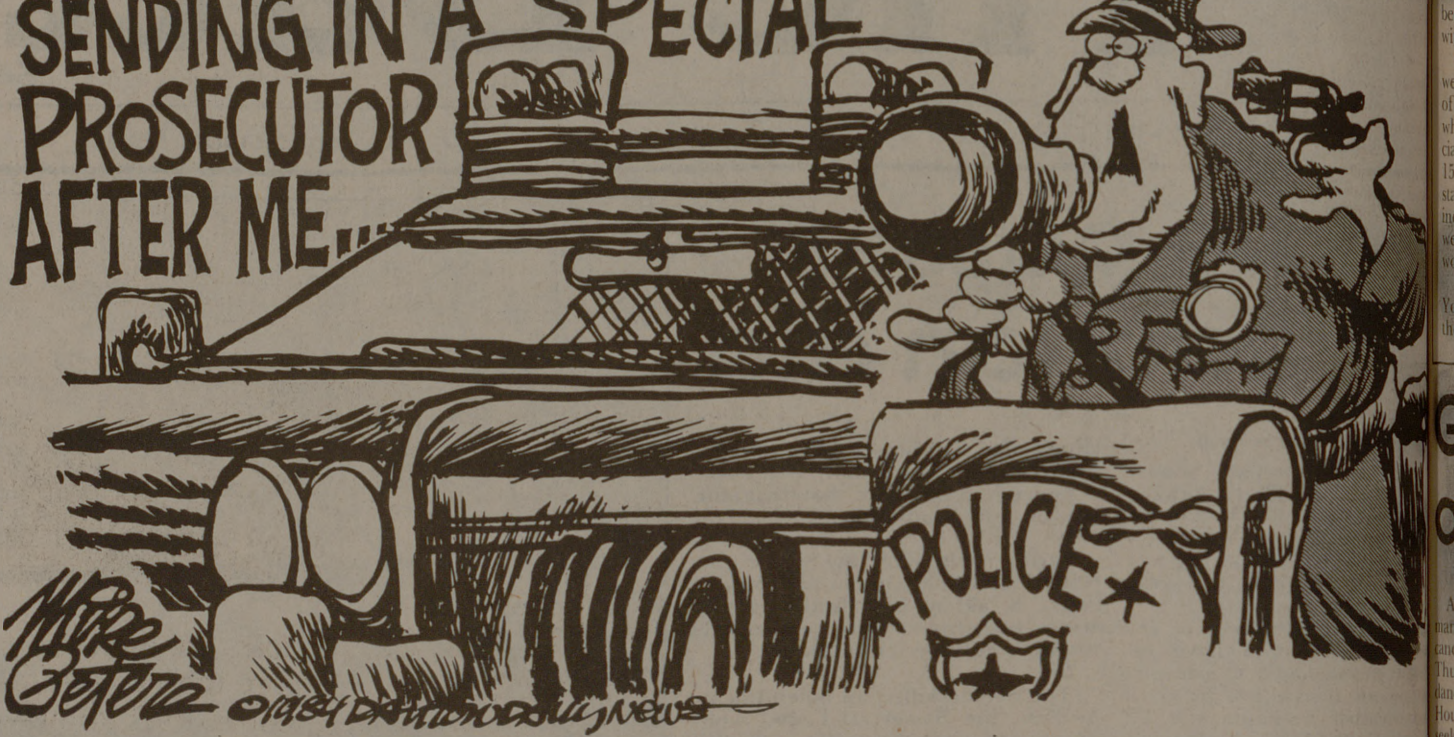
If the Minneapolis ordinance had gone into effect, the sellers of romance novels would be in the same jeopardy as those who handle the raunchy magazines and books usually sealed in cellophane.

No matter how noble their cause, the women of Minneapolis can't use civil rights as a reason for stopping someone from publishing books about sex.

The reason is quite simple. One woman's pornography is another woman's fantasy.

I am absolutely against degrading the American woman. At the same time, as a First Amendment buff, I feel her civil rights are far more threatened by city ordinance than by "degrading" books that could possibly help her have a nice day.

THIS IS ATTORNEY GENERAL DESIGNATE MEESE I KNOW I'M IN HERE AND I'VE GOT ME SURROUNDED IF I DON'T COME OUT WITH MY HANDS UP, I'M SENDING IN A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AFTER ME...



Letters

Reasons for restrictions

Editor:

This letter is in response to Kevin Klein's letter in the April 5 Battalion concerning visitation restrictions. As a resident adviser I would like to try to explain why there are rules restricting visitation.

The Housing Office did not make visitation rules just to make dorm life a little more unbearable. The rules are there, in fact, to make dorm life more bearable as a whole. Without these rules, too many people would take advantage of the situation by locking their roommates out for the night, or at least keeping them up late.

These rules were not set for moral reasons but in consideration for students' privacy. Maybe you or I would not cause any problems, but you can bet that many would. Even with visitation restrictions this is a problem. I'm not saying that you are wrong in your opinion, Mr. Klein, only that the rules were set for good reasons.

I would also like to suggest that you take a look around at more colleges and universities and their visitation restrictions. You will find that ours are quite lax. Many dorms require that visitors be signed in and out and many allow no visitors at all. In fact, it is a small minority that have no restrictions at all.

On a final note, Texas A&M is striving to be a world class university academically. Dorm visitation has nothing to do with academics. Isn't it about time we quit using this phrase out of context?

John Roark
Class of '85

I do not want to be a mediocre teacher, nor merely an adequate one. Rather, I wish to be an excellent teacher with imagination and insight.

Leslie M. Brinkman
Class of '85

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 24 signatures.

Former students also deserve recognition

Editor:

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Miss Lashawn Wardlaw for being chosen Miss Rodeo Texas. I am very happy for her and proud that a student from Texas A&M has been chosen to serve in such an honored capacity.

The purpose of this letter is to point out an error in the article which appeared in The Battalion March 29 pertaining to Miss Wardlaw. The article proclaimed her to be "the first Aggie to win the Miss Rodeo Texas title."

I realize that it is exciting when one of our fellow students makes a breakthrough for Texas A&M and becomes the first from our ranks to receive a cer-

tain honor. It also makes a very news item for The Battalion.

However, by making an erroneous statement like the one previously mentioned we take away all the credit those students who have received same honor in the past.

Offhand, I can think of three women from Texas A&M — Leslie Wardlaw, Kelly McElhanon, and Lisa Henshaw — who served as Miss Rodeo Texas years past and were students here when they were chosen.

I once again extend my congratulations to Miss Wardlaw.

John Ragle
Class of '85

Belgians multi-lingual

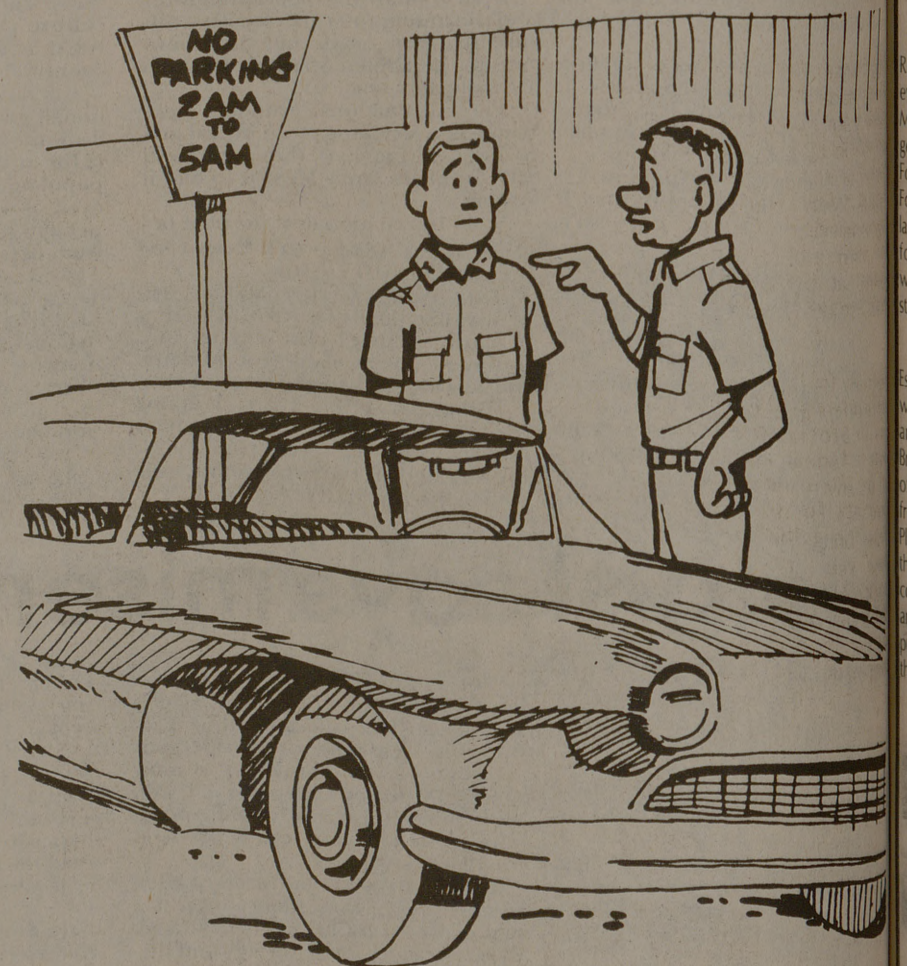
Editor:

It seems incredible that anyone go to Belgium and see nothing there except the problems — real as they are — caused by the bilingualism of the country, especially since so many Belgians can communicate not only in French and Flemish, but in English as well.

Jeannine Las
Bry

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"It's not much, but it is an option."

Educators dedicated

Editor:

I have observed a phenomenon on the Texas A&M campus with which I should like to take issue. Specifically, I refer to the way in which the field of education as an area of serious study is denigrated and automatically relegated to a state just above illiteracy.

Though it may come as something of a shock to some, business acumen is not the exclusive property of business majors, nor is the ability to plan with foresight a trait found only in engineers.

Incredibly, it is possible for an individual to possess the aforementioned traits as well as a few others, such as creativity and idealism, and decide to become a teacher.

In our society, we have become inured to the crassness of materialism, and many of us have fallen into a trap of thinking that a person who doesn't opt for a money-making career is a failure, i.e. "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach."

I heartily disagree with this narrow concept of teaching, and I am absolutely convinced that the field of education can offer the most rewarding and stimulating careers possible. It is an opportunity to explore human potential.

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor.....Rebeca 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,
Brigid Brockman, Michelle Powe, Kelley Smith
Editorial Page Editor.....Kathy Wiesepape
Sports Editor.....Donn Friedman
Assistant Sports Editor.....Bill Robinson
Entertainment Editor.....Shelley Hoekstra
Assistant Entertainment Editor.....Angel Stokes

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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

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

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

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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.