

Lectures: Learning from the leaders

Tonight the MSC Endowed Lecture Series brings two men to Rudder Theatre who shaped the course of American history: former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig.

Whether you agree with their politics, diplomacy or philosophy, this is a valuable opportunity to get a first-hand perspective on our diplomatic history. Although the close view of American diplomacy both secretaries had may have made them somewhat myopic, the knowledge and experience they have gained from their positions will make for an interesting evening.

Security has been beefed up on campus to protect both speakers. Kissinger, in particular, has run into a great

deal of protest on the college lecture circuit recently.

The Battalion Editorial Board hopes the Texas A&M student body is mature enough to treat this as a learning experience. If you disagree with Kissinger and Haig, fine. But first, see what you can learn from them.

If you feel you have to protest, that's fine, too. It's within your constitutional rights as long as it's done peacefully.

But the fact that men of the stature of Haig and Kissinger are on campus is reason enough to cheer, whether you agree or disagree with their policies. Members of the MSC ELS Committee are to be commended for the excellent program, including student involvement in seminars, that they have organized.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Setting right the bell tower wrong

I am sorry to say that the student body has sat back and allowed a tragedy to occur. I am referring to the relocation of a war memorial to storage in a warehouse and the destruction of a living memorial for the ego of a "good Ag."

But it is not too late. We can correct a wrong. I'm not advocating violence, but a peaceful return to right.

There are several options available to us. The end result we should try to achieve is the return of the World War I War Memorial to its original location and the planting and dedication of a new tree to replace the one that was destroyed.

Here are a few remedies I can think of.

First, Saturday is Muster. I feel the end of formal Muster should be the start of a march to the construction site and a silent vigil (say 30 minutes).

Secondly, three petitions should be circulated around campus. The first should be addressed to Gov. Mark White requesting he put a stop to the present construction of the bell tower. The second should be addressed to the Board of Regents requesting they return the construction site to its original condition and also requesting their res-

ignations since they do not concern themselves with the best interests of the University.

The third petition should be addressed to Albritton requesting he put a stop to the present construction of the bell tower and that he use his funds to restore the site to its original condition. The petition should encourage him to pursue building the tower elsewhere on

struction of a monument to oneself, as is the intent of Mr. Albritton. Furthermore, the bell tower serves no useful purpose and should not be allowed to replace monuments to war heroes.

I encourage all Ags to actively stop this injustice. Hold nonviolent protests if needed. Don't expect the Student Government to help much. After all, our new president was at the ground breaking ceremonies.

At the very least, get the petitions circulating. Return completed petitions to The Battalion for safekeeping until someone with the time can step forward and push this effort. I regret to say I do not have the time but will help in the effort. What we need is national publicity to inform Former Students across the U.S. what injustice is being done.

The Class of '84 established a fund for bonfire, hoping to stabilize it. What hope can bonfire have if a memorial to war heroes can so easily be desecrated?

How much money will it take to have Sul Ross removed to storage and a statue of Mr. Good Ag Egotist erected in its place?

Don't sit on this one, Ags. Act now before it is too late.

John Kubenka
Class of '83

reader's forum

campus, preferably in conjunction with the five-acre site set aside for the new Former Students Association building.

Finally, the petition should demand that the bell tower be named after the veteran whose tree was destroyed, that Albritton have the 55 bells in the tower inscribed with the names of the 55 Ags killed in World War I and that the tower contain plaques naming all Ags killed in war.

Our campus is no place for the con-

'Cold feet' strikes seniors

Get through college and you're ready for anything.

I've heard that somewhere before. Can there actually be life after college? Yes.

But getting through college — those last months and days — often means facing one thing — cold feet.

You'd think college kids couldn't wait to enter the "real world". Some days I'm anxious to graduate and step out into the world. But then there are those days when the deadly disease strikes — cold feet.

Oh, those pressures we face. Career decisions. Money decisions. Breaking-away-from-home decisions. College life — a jigsaw puzzle.

We're in one of the most stressful times of our lives. A part of me plans out my career strategy and life goals, while another side of me fears being uprooted from comfortable surroundings.

College prepares us for life, we hope. But what world lies beyond the campus? Pay days ... bills ... freedoms ... pressures?

Cold feet. Landing that first job can be tricky. After you put that sharp-looking resume in the mail, you've got to hang loose and wait ... wait ... wait.

What if I can't find a job after four years of college? I hate those horror stories of college graduates who wind up working at fast food joints or X-rated movie theaters. Surely I'll find work.

Work? I prefer to think I'm preparing for a career.

Three weeks ... flush letters ... cold feet.

So, I look forward to the future, when I'm fresh out of college and ready to make my contribution to society. Sound silly?

Well, many people say graduates should sober up because they're too ide-

alistic about life. I disagree. It's better to be optimistic and enjoy life than to get caught up in the old rat race.

College graduates are survivors. Why shouldn't we go for the gusto?

Life isn't easy, but who said it was? Change and growth bring pain, but without them, life loses its spice.

Change ... culture shock. Expect it.



wanda
winkler

For now, I'm content living in this safe microcosm, better known as the college scene. But I worry about stepping out into the real world.

It'll be tough without "instant friends." We live in an ideal environment that's ripe for meeting people. Name, major, classification, home town. The beginnings of a friendship. College — the smorgasbord of America — swirls a rainbow of people together.

I'm scared about moving to a town where I won't know anyone, and starting all over again with new friends. I'll be the new kid on the block at work — until the next new kid comes along.

Life in the real world doesn't fit into nice, neat textbook formulas and theories. So we have to count on our guardian angels — work and school experi-

ence — to pull us through the culture shock.

Experience has got to be the key. Working on my college newspaper has given me a taste of the world of communications. This helps me know a little bit about everything — the qualities of a good journalist.

People say employers are on the lookout for the well-rounded person ... your basic B student, with gobs of friends and stacks of membership cards.

I guess grades are important, but they're not everything in the eyes of employers.

The acceptance letter ... success. Look out — interview time. Sure came sooner than I thought. Cold feet.

What if the boss throws out some off-the-wall question? Then what? — pray? Mother never told me there would be days like these.

I want a job offer, sure, but that'll mean making a career decision. It sounds so permanent.

I hear you should stick with a job for at least a year or two, so future employers will know you're the "stable type."

What if my job doesn't turn out to be what I thought it would be? Chunk it? Who knows?

For now, I'll just kick back and enjoy the rest of my college days. Sooner or later, (sooner, I hope), this cold feet will bite the dust.

Wanda Winkler is a senior journalism major.

Letters: Minority programs a farce

Editor:

Minority recruitment at Texas A&M University is a farce. Compensating for the mistakes of the past by pumping money into an archaic system will not solve the prevalent bigotry on this campus.

A solution to this problem will come from within individuals and not from check books. Changes in attitudes, not mere student numbers and fiscal policies, are needed.

The interest in minority recruitment does not stem from a sympathetic administration, nor from a desire to prove the educational quality, nor a wish to cleanse this campus of its past, but rather from a fear of federal funds and lawsuits that would tarnish Texas A&M's reputation.

Stephen

Slouch

by Jim E...



The Battalion

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

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