

Simple precautions stop campus crime

Women living on campus have been a little jumpy lately.

Sudden footsteps in the hall, a loud cry in the room upstairs, loud voices in the parking lot — all bring a sudden, momentary surge of fear.

But they have reason to be afraid. Last week, two Fowler residents were assaulted in their dorm rooms. And a few days before that, a Keathley Hall resident saw a man with a knife on the stairs in the early morning hours. Monday, several women saw a man loitering in the hall on the fourth floor of Mosher Hall after curfew.

As much as we would like to believe

that this campus is safe, it is not immune to violent crime. The easiest targets are students — men and women — lulled into a sense of false security who don't take adequate safety precautions.

The simplest, and most obvious, measures can be the most effective means of protecting yourself.

Lock your doors and windows. Don't walk alone on campus at night. Report any suspicious person or incident to the University Police.

It may be an added inconvenience, but why take the chance of becoming a victim?

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Advertisers stoop to 'sexploitation'

America, land of the advertisement. Where else could you see a photo of a scantily-clad woman leering at a male torso under the bold headline: "Can you find the meat? In this Ad?"

Yes, someone from EEP, Inc. paid \$289 for a 3/4 page ad in Monday's Battalion to try and sell their 'FUN, SEXY, CUTE!' T-shirts and running shorts.

And the EEPs gave the prospective buyer a choice of three slogans to be affixed to their clothing — all with highly sexual explicit overtones: 1. I found the beef. 2. Where's the pork? 3. Here's the pork.

Sure, Wendy's "Where's the Beef" advertisements were funny when they first appeared on the tube, and yes, many of us will admit that we chuckled when Walter Mondale asked where the beef was in Gary Hart's political rhetoric.

It even was funny when University of Houston fans displayed banners at the Southwest Conference basketball tournament that asked the Arkansas Razorbacks: "Where's the pork?"

But this advertisement isn't cute. It isn't even funny in a raunchy manner.

It's exploitative. And it's not alone. Many other ads employ similar exploitative themes.

In America, newspapers have the right to take advertisements for almost any legitimate product — and they do. After all, that's how newspapers make money.

So responsibility falls on the consumer. If you don't like the repugnant manner in which a product is advertised, don't buy it.

Caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

H. Ross Perot's ideas raise important issues

On June 16, 1981, Gov. Mark White brought together 21 people to take a look at the failing Texas educational system. What resulted from that meeting may have changed the fate of public education in Texas — for better or worse.

The Select Committee on Public Education was given the task of setting in motion educational reformation in Texas. The group's appointed leader was H. Ross Perot.

Perot wasted no time in raising eyebrows around teachers' lounges across the state with blatant attacks on extracurricular activities, vocational education, classroom discipline, teacher certification and a myriad of other areas that many educators across the state say are the backbone of the educational system.

Perot was criticized for having no "method to his madness" — and it's true that some of his recommendations have been absurd. Take for instance his statement in which he advocated "driving a stake through the heart" of vocational education. Pretty strong stuff.

He has succeeded in making enemies in every corner of the state and headlines across the nation.

If nothing else, Perot is sensational.

But this is not the first time he has made headlines. Remember the Iranian hostage incident? While the Carter administration twiddled thumbs and scratched heads wondering what to do about the abducted state department personnel, Perot hired an international SWAT team to rescue members of his computer firm and return them safely to the U.S.

Typical Perot style.

The way he has tackled the education problem is no exception. Take a look at Perot's accomplishments. Public awareness of the problems in education are at an all-time high. Priorities in education are finally being put back into perspective. Texas educators are at last being held accountable for the students they turn out.

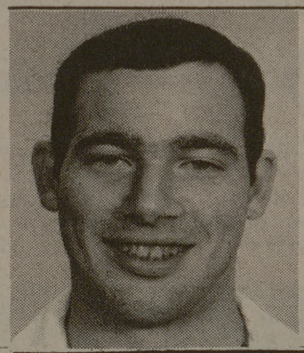
And what topped the committee's list of recommendations to the legislature last Thursday? Not the abolition of vocational education or football programs. Not 11-month school years, either.

Topping the agenda was teacher pay — a recommended \$350 million package that would increase the minimum starting teacher salary 36 percent, from \$11,000 to \$15,000 per year. The com-

mittee also proposed 10 percent pay raises for experienced teachers.

The committee also included in its recommendations competency testing for teachers and administrators. The issue of teacher pay and teacher competence go hand-in-hand — quality is directly related to pay.

The key element in any educational system is the teacher and Texas currently ranks 44th in the nation in the quality of teachers coming out of its col-



bob
caster

leges of education. That ought to tell us something.

The only way to recruit outstanding teachers and keep them in the classroom is to provide incentive, something the Legislature keeps forgetting.

If Texas lawmakers once again renege on raising teachers' salaries, the state will wind up with a lot of vacant teaching slots to fill. It's true that teaching standards must be raised, but if incentive isn't increased, the teaching profession won't be able to attract anybody to meet those standards.

It's true that Perot has had some off-the-wall ideas concerning education. But the push for teacher pay raises and stricter certification requirements clearly shows that he has his priorities in line.

However, the final decision on public education in Texas really rests on the people of the state, not Perot or the legislators.

It is the people who must stand up for education, so that education can finally stand up on its own.

Bob Caster is a senior agricultural journalism major and a sports writer for The Battalion.



Letters:

Conservative saviors

Editor: You're right Woodrow! I'm glad someone else in this world sees the truth.

It's people like these liberal commies at The Battalion that are ruining this great land of the free and home of the brave. They're just trying to put all the abortion stuff and Gay Students Service stuff in our mind so we won't see what they're really doing.

But we know the truth, don't we Woodrow? First they want to take our guns away. Then they want us to back down to those freedom killing renegades in Moscow.

Well it's about time the eagle rose up to stop the bear and we'll begin by getting all these pinkos outta College Station. We will swamp The Battalion with letters and then everyone in the University will think twice and maybe they'll see the light, too.

And we'll be conservative! Then we'll rise up and convince the whole Bryan-College Station area. And they'll hear our voice.

And then we'll take the state. We'll make Texas the conservative bastion of America. Then everyone can see the truth, like you and me, Woodrow.

Then the big change will come. First will be the press. Then the law. They'll call psychologists and finally will come the sociologists to study the last of the great mind closers — those people who just seem to have forgotten that people are people, that one man should treat another as he would want to be treated — with understanding and respect.

And everyone will wonder, "Did these guys fall asleep in 1884 and wake up in 1984?"

Kyle Michel
Class of '85

No gripes about gift

Editor: I am tired of hearing all those complaints about the Albritton Bell Tower. I would like to know how many of those who are complaining about it have ever returned all their Christmas gifts with the reply, "I need the money instead."

Albritton made a generous gift, and he has every right to choose what he would like to give.

The gripes say, "Why didn't he give money for academics?"

If all the money in this University were used for academics there would be no Kyle Field, All Faiths Chapel, Memorial Student Center, or several other campus beautifiers and pleasantries. Many things go into creating a pleasant learning atmosphere, and I think the bell tower will enhance it.

There might have been a better location for it, but I am not the one that spends time researching locations and discussing possibilities. The Board of Regents was assigned this task, which they did, according to reports in The Battalion, over a period of several weeks.

Jon Loud
Class of '87

Editor's note: this letter was accompanied by six signatures.

Leave the gays alone

Editor: After reading the advertisement, "The Myth of the Eighties," I finally

reached a stand on the much-talked-about subject of gays and the gay lifestyle.

First of all, I want to stress the fact that I am not homosexual. I have simply decided how I think that homosexuals should be treated in a society of heterosexuals.

Homosexuals should be left to be what they have chosen to be — as long as I am not bothered or affected by their lifestyles.

I get sick and tired of hearing

reading that same old talk that goes going to hell because they're sinners.

Whatever is right, don't you think that homosexuality will remain a matter of safety?

And yet religious groups com-

spending time trying to help

uals (or rather, "stop" them). I

not obvious that the gay commu-

not request it?

Slouch

by Jim Egan



"What else? It's my laundry mark!"

The Battalion

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