

LETTERS:

Board of Regents too narrow-minded

EDITOR:
As an incoming freshman to A&M, I have read avidly all the news in The Battalion and other papers about my new school. All I have read, however, has not been pretty. Two items are of particular concern to me. These are: recognition of the Gay Student Services by the school and allowing women into the Aggie Band.

Both of these situations are nearing resolution, so it may seem a bit late to write. However, I think the actions the Regents and the administration of A&M have taken are deplorable and require a reply.

By fighting vigorously to prevent both of these things, the Regents have shown a narrow-mindedness surprising for a university striving for excellence as A&M is. Change is essential to becoming a "world" university. The old-line schools such as Harvard and Stanford seem to be slow to change, and A&M could use that to its advantage, and become the world leader it should be. But not with a bunch of dinosaurs dictating, and I mean dictating, policy.

Those who adapt best, live longest. It is the law of survival. A&M does not need a reputation for refusing to accept new ideas.

It is time to change the policy, or the regents, whichever is necessary, to get A&M moving in the right direction.

I came here hoping to find a university with the resources of a big school, but the flexibility of a small one. At least that was the impression I got from all the pamphlets and telephone calls I received in my senior year of high school.

That's not what I found. Some of the policies around here seem more suited to a small regional college called TAMC, not a potential world leader called TAMU.

I am not against the whole university. I like it here, and I think I will stick it out until I get my degree.

However, I cannot, and will not, recommend it to others until I see a substantial change in the attitudes and actions of our regents and administrators.

Such bigotry and sexism went out with cross-burning, lynching, and the Ku Klux Klan.

Rex Baldazo
College Station

Regents out of touch with 20th century

EDITOR:
Some 100 years ago a school, which was more like a military academy, was formed in this part of Texas. This military school has produced many outstanding men of spirit and education.

Of course I'm talking about Texas A&M, and many things have changed since the school began.

We are now a full-fledged University with both male and female students. But the addition of women on campus began only some 20 years ago.

So right now, we have an alumni and Board of Regents that consist of old c.t.'s who remember things as they used to be. The Corps may be a worthy experience to go through, but as far as Texas A&M is concerned, they are just an ROTC outfit.

All students should have a right to all activities, and this includes the Aggie Band. Being in the Corps does not give you priority over other students. Therefore, all students should be allowed to be in the band — c.t.'s, non-regs, male and female.

But the old-timers who run the University and the Corps will cry out for their "traditions." Maybe we should ask Bruce Goodrich what he thinks about tradition.

Kevin Thomas
Junior

LSG tackles important issues

EDITOR:
As Directors in the Legislative Study Group (A&M's student lobby), we would like to address Ed Cassavoy's misconceptions about Student Government.

Although Mr. Cassavoy might have visited the Student Government office once, he obviously missed several examples of Student Government tackling important issues.

We would have loved to have escorted Cassavoy to Austin over the summer where LSG successfully fought

against an increase in in-state student's tuition.

We would have loved to have had Cassavoy with LSG when we organized the state-wide student support for Proposition 2.

We would have loved to have had Cassavoy attend meetings between the Coordinating Board staff and LSG concerning minority recruitment funding from the State of Texas.

We would have loved to have had Cassavoy attend the State Committees on Higher Education, Appropriations, or Liquor Regulations where LSG testified successfully on every issue represented.

Moreover, we would love to have had Cassavoy attend our press conference on October 16 with state and university officials concerning Proposition 2, or when we confront the issues of tuition, minority recruitment appropriations, or the drinking age in Austin this spring.

The Legislative Study Group was clearly the most effective student lobby two years ago and will further this during the next legislative session.

These are just a few of the issues we have worked on or hope to address before the end of the session.

You see, Student Government does do some things for the student body that even the editors of The Battalion cannot accomplish.

John Hatch, '86
Director
Michael G. O'Quinn, '86
Administrative Director

Ban everything; realism out of place

EDITOR:
I agree with Mr. Hanus and Mr. Crawford's letter (printed in the Oct. 9 Battalion). Hazing and harassment do mean the same thing, even if their definitions don't quite match.

Hanus and Crawford, though, are too modest. I think we should realize the full potential of their logic by banning the Faculty Senate for causing trouble, professors for making us worry and Letters to the Editor for tormenting us with irrational and irrelevant arguments.

I too am outraged by Commander Rollin's audacity in admitting that there will always be violations of Corps regulations. Hanus and Crawford, being trained in the exemplary ethics of their respective fields (Business and Journalism), are rightly insulted. It's that kind of realism that has no place in America, Commander Rollins.

That's why Hanus and Crawford do their best to ignore it.

Bill Heye
Mechanical Engineering

Women in Band: attack on tradition

EDITOR:
Women are going too far!

I have sat quietly and watched while portions of the female population maneuvered themselves into traditional male roles. Women are now engineers, doctors, pilots, and even sportscasters.

Wonderful, but joining the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band" is going too far, not to mention being ridiculous, selfish, and self-righteous.

The Aggie Band is an entity.

Band members have an unspoken brotherhood that is both admirable, and effective. The band is a group of men who live, eat, study, party, and practice together and should not be invaded by female band members.

Even one woman could disrupt the system.

Not only does allowing women into the band cause boarding problems, but what about tradition? Would you want female yell leaders? OR would you want to change bonfire, midnight yell practice, or what about the kiss after the football team scores? These are all sacred traditions, and it would be a sad day in Aggieland if any of them were to change.

Tradition brings many students to A&M, along with alumni support so why jeopardize one of the best traditions of all. Keep the girls out of the band.

Many of the remarks made in this paper can be termed sexist, and if they are, so be it.

After all I (we) am a girl, a little old-fashioned, but still a girl. I'm not looking for equality with men, just happy coexistence. So while I can't



Move TAMU to California

I have two ambitions at the present. The first is to graduate from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering and then find a job.

The second ambition is a little larger. I wish to propose that, at their next scheduled meeting, the Board of Regents consider moving the University.

Much noise has been made recently regarding having the railroad tracks moved further west of their present location. We could solve the problem of moving the tracks by just moving the University further west.

I'm not talking about moving Texas A&M University just west of Easterwood Airport, I'm talking of moving Texas A&M University to the beach in Santa Barbara, California.

We would alleviate some of the problems facing both, the Texas A&M University Board of Regents and the Texas Legislature.

The Board of Regents wouldn't have to worry about the railroad tracks any longer, the GSS (their members could go to San Francisco and blend in), or parking fees (a lot of people park illegally in California and besides, there is plenty of parking at East Beach in Santa Barbara). The Texas Legislature wouldn't have to worry about the P.U.F.; we could get Jerry Brown to give speeches and Linda Ronstadt to give concerts in our behalf. I'm sure that they could bring in as much money as the P.U.F. does. If they don't, well, we'll just raise taxes. No one in California will notice a little more tax, taxes are pretty high anyway.

The Legislature wouldn't have to worry about the political implications of raising the drinking age to 21, at least to those of us who were here in Aggieland. The drinking age in California is already 21. There would be 36,000 less potential drunks in College Station.

So College Station and Bryan would lose a bit of revenue — it'll survive.

Will Hay
Class of '85
accompanied by 91 signatures.

Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum

... more letters

change many of the "innovations" already made by my fellow women, which have caused tension, lack of respect, and sometimes bitterness between the sexes. I can hope and pray that women will leave the band to its sacred sanctitude.

Kirstin Haas, Industrial Engineering
Kelli Thomerson, Journalism
Analisa Vinson, Journalism

EDITOR'S NOTE: Any court order regarding the band would allow women the opportunity to join the Band, it would not require women to join. Yell leaders are male only by tradition; no rule exists at Texas A&M that denies women the opportunity to be elected as a yell leader.

Constitution doesn't advocate wealth for all

EDITOR:
I am tired of listening to the politicians and political advertisements talk about MONEY.

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were written to insure that the citizens of the United States act civilly toward each other and the rest of the world. These documents do not advocate monetary wealth for all. I hope the citizens of the United States realize this before they go to the polls to vote.

Rowan Glidden
College Station

Hissing at speakers indefensible

EDITOR:
I attended a guest lecture sponsored by the MSC Great Issue Committee on Tuesday at the Rudder Theatre. The lecturer was Admiral Bobby Inman of MCC, an Austin based computer technology development corporation. One of the things I heard that night surprised me.

As the representative, whose name I do not recall, gave a short synopsis of Inman's background, he mentioned that Inman was member of UT's class of 1950. At that moment, a low, but audible, hiss came from the crowd.

Yes, I know of the hatred between TAMU and the other university; however, with a man of such distinguished traits and accomplishments, I can hardly see how those people could have

done something that low.

Admiral Inman has accomplished much more than most people ever think about doing in their lifetimes. (Yes, even most Aggies).

Come on Aggies, hissing your professors for giving unannounced quizzes is one thing, but when guests of this university come here, the situation is entirely different — especially when they are ASKED to come here.

I am glad the Admiral Inman was not on the stage at the time.

Frankly, I would have walked out on the that small crowd of people if I had been in his shoes and heard something that facetious. I am reasonably sure that not only being Aggies, but as people attending an institution of HIGHER learning, all of us should have a little more respect for visitors regardless of where they come from.

Jeff A. Finney
Class of '88

Gramm not asking gay Republicans to vote for Doggett

EDITOR:
Having read the October 9th article "Gramm Rebutts Doggett," in which he does just that and adds a few attacks of his own, I find myself eagerly awaiting an article presenting Doggett's side of the story.

It seems that some people dislike Doggett because he supports gay rights. If they followed the candidates at all, they would realize that Gramm, too, denounces discrimination against homosexuals. At least, he was against it during the debate. The difference, then, between the candidates with respect to homosexual issues is that some gays have pledged their support for Doggett. Surely no one would deny their right as American citizens to support the candidate of their choice.

Furthermore, a candidate seriously seeking election would not be stupid enough to ask people not to vote for him. Is Gramm asking gay Republicans to vote for Doggett? Of course he is not.

Find out what stands both candidates take before blindly casting aspersions on either.

Dana M. Garcia
Class of '86

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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 or the Board of Regents.

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

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length but will make every effort to retain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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