

## Student Government GSS resolution sets excellent precedent

Wednesday the Texas A&M Student Senate passed a resolution in favor of recognizing Gay Student Services as an official university organization. The resolution is long overdue.

But the resulting resolution isn't as important as the precedent it should set for the Student Senate.

In the same way that the Faculty Senate's resolution against hazing showed that it could act as the conscience of the Faculty, this Student Senate resolution shows that the Student Senate can tackle controversial issues.

It is something our University has been lacking for some time.

It takes a heroic person to stand up and say: "I believe that when you vote, you vote to represent your constituents' best interests," as Diane Baumbach said after she cast the tie-breaking vote to pass the controversial resolution.

It takes a heroic person to say: "By recognizing a minority group, they are not enforcing their rule on you," as Senator Brian Hay said.

It takes people with guts to take stands on issues where no matter which side you choose a large number of people will chide you for the stand you take.

The people who will take a stand — stands we agree with and stands we disagree with — are the kind of people who should lead our governments and councils. That kind of people should control both the Student and Faculty Senates. The people who are willing to take the challenge John Milton described in Areopagitica:

"And though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so TRUTH be in the field we do injuriously, by licensing and prohibiting, to misdoubt her strength. Let her and FALSEHOOD grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter?"

## An important vote

When the Student Senate passed a resolution in support of recognition of the Gay Student Services Wednesday, it took only one vote to sway the decision.

One vote.

This should be an indication to student senators and the student body of the importance of each vote. It should indicate to the students the power each of their senators possesses.

Even though the Senate has only the power to recommend, its recommendations contain the force of 36,000 voices — a great potential.

Chances are many people will be upset by the recent decision. But how many will be upset enough to tell their senator how they feel?

It is not too late to find your senator and let him or her know your feelings on this and other issues.

Monday, members of Student Government will hold the first meeting of the Issues and Grievances Committee at 7:30 p.m. in 230 MSC.

It will be an open forum. That means they want to tell you how they stand on issues; but more importantly, they want to know what you think. It's time all students took a responsible part in campus politics. Aid your student senators' decision making. Participation is essential to democracy.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

## Everyone makes mistakes, some pay

## Every day: a potential mistake

Johnny's life fell apart when he was 16.

He'd had his driver's license for less than a month when it happened. He and a few of his friends went to a beer bust over at Jackson's Pond. Johnny knew better than to drink and drive. And though he was under the legal limit when he finally headed home, and though this was the result of a conscious effort, he still knew better.

They say he was speeding when it happened, and he probably was — but by no more than five or 10 miles per hour.

He was in a good mood on that trip back. The girl he'd been chasing had finally decided to catch him; he was to be the starting quarterback in tomorrow's game against the cross-town rivals; and it was beginning to look like he'd finally make the honor roll.

He was in love with life. He had no warning.

He was driving safely, he thought, even though he was speeding. He knew that almost everyone else sped at times — some most of the time — so he really didn't consider that a factor in safe driving.

But the car ahead of him, for no reason, broke. Its brakes locked. Johnny wasn't able to stop in time. Johnny and his friends weren't injured in the crash, but their friend, who was



Robert McGlohon

driving the other car, died when the gas tank exploded.

And it was then that Johnny's life fell apart. The police found out he was speeding, mostly because Johnny didn't deny it, and he was charged with negligent homicide and brought to trial.

It was years before his life was whole again, and the scars still remain.

It doesn't matter what the outcome of that trial was, because this isn't a true story. Johnny doesn't really exist. He made him up.

But his story is universal.

We all make mistakes everyday, each and every one of us. And though those mistakes don't always end in tragedy, a potential is there.

I almost burned down a forest once. I've driven drunk more than once. Anyone of those four cadets involved in the recent hazing death could easily be me but for the turning fate. More than likely, it could easily be you as well.

I've been lucky so far; I've been able to learn from my mistakes. They are undoubtedly learning from theirs as well. But what a price.

Bob McGlohon is a weekly columnist for The Battalion. His column appears on Fridays.

## Finance committee represents students

The Student Government finance committee, one of Student Government's most effective groups, was created several years ago to . . . (produce) legislation of Student Fees, Student Government Funds, and all monies of student interest." In the past, the Finance Committee has not lived up to the true potential conferred to it by this sweeping charge.

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

In light of a number of important financial issues facing the students of Texas A&M, it is clear that the Finance committee must fulfill and expand this potential throughout 1984-85. However, this cannot happen without the involvement of a concerned and informed student body.

One very visible financial issue this year has been the University's new check-cashing policy. Over the summer, the University stopped cashing personal checks for more than \$25 and also suspended the cashing of all University payroll checks, citing a shortage of space in the Coke Building Fiscal Office. Students who had previously not needed to have local bank accounts were forced to open one, as they found that local banks would generally not cash University payroll checks either (unless, of course, one has an account with the bank in question). Such students soon discover the nearly-piratical policies of the local banks and thus, find themselves in a Catch-22 situation.

Currently, the Finance Committee is examining a number of solutions to this problem. Working with the Student Services Committee, it is hoped that a compromise agreement may be reached with the University that will at least partially restore check-cashing services (particularly for payroll checks) if not on-campus, at least at nearby banks. If

such a compromise does not restore the desired level of service, options are under consideration under which Student Government, a local financial institution or even a hypothetical student-faculty credit union would be used to fully restore the services.

It's important to note that student input alerted us to this issue, and student input will help to resolve it to the satisfaction of the A&M Student Body.

Yet another important financial issue deals with a major student organization — the Memorial Student Center and its programming. In the Spring of 1984, the Student body expressed its concern for the long-term financial well-being of the buildings in the University Center by voting by a 2-1 margin to double the University Center fee. While the maintenance and future expansion of the MSC building seems assured, the financial future of the programming offered by the MSC committees remains in jeopardy.

The origin of the underlying problem is quite complex, but essentially it stems from a leveling-off and decline of revenues from the MSC's traditional income sources over the past two-three years. At the same time, as the programming needs of the A&M Student Body have changed and grown, the MSC has grown with it, resulting in a steady climb in expenditures. The difference between the rise in expenses and the decline in income has been allocated from Student Service Fees — resulting in large increases in the MSC's Student Service Fee allocation (15.8 percent last year). It has become a priority in both the MSC Council and Student Government to stabilize and eventually decrease the MSC's share of Student Service Fee allocations.

In an effort to solve this problem, the MSC and Student Government have formed a joint committee, the Long-Term Financial Planning Committee. The purpose of this group is to research

and recommend the implementation of solutions to the very fundamental financial problems facing the MSC. The long term goal of this committee is to eliminate the need for Student Service Fee allocations to the MSC at some date in the future. Thus, what is now nearly 25% of the \$4 million yearly Student Service Fee budget would be freed for other uses (including a possible reduction in Student Service Fees).

These and many other important issues will confront your student leaders in the upcoming year. To make proper decisions and take appropriate actions on these issues, it is important that we hear from the students. Become involved with Student Government, MSC, RHA, OCA, and other student organizations who are working to represent your interests. We can't do without your input.

(These issues and others will be addressed at the next open meeting of the Student Government Finance Committee, which will be Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in Room 203 MSC. All are encouraged to attend.)

Michael Kelley Student Government Vice-President for Finance

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Bill Robinson, 1962-1984, Editor

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## LETTERS:

### Luther crossing still a 'death trap'

EDITOR:

Several weeks have passed since the tragic car-train collisions. Two Texas A&M students were killed, Katherine Hossley and Lynn McDonald, and another badly injured. What has been done since these tragic incidents? NOTHING!!

The Southern Pacific trains have not even attempted to slow down, and College Station City officials have not even bothered to close the road temporarily until the issue is solved.

How many more lives have to end before people realize that the intersection at Luther and Wellborn is a "DEATH TRAP?"

I lost my friend Kathy at that intersection. Do you know how it feels to listen to the train go by everyday and everytime from your dorm room? Waiting in fear for it to pass, hoping no one else will be injured or killed, but most of all praying to God that no more families and friends have to suffer such a sad and painful experience.

Yes, Kathy is happy where she is; however, God is showing us a sign of danger and it must be dealt with! Is it too much to ask to require the trains to slow down and to place gates and lights for the safety of the people?

We cannot ignore this problem and solve it in a few weeks, months or years; it needs to be resolved now! So I leave to the College Station City officials, Southern Pacific Rail-

road Company, and the people of Bryan/College Station this thought: I hope none of you have to wake up in the middle of the night and discover one of your family members or friends has died or was injured in another car-train collision. So let's work to save lives, not kill more!!

Cindy A. Schlette  
Class of '88

### Women in the Band: a matter of law

EDITOR:

In regard to Monday's "sexist" letter, I think the only women who are "going too far" are Miss Haas, Miss Thomerson, and Miss Vinson. I too am female and I also agree that women shouldn't be in the band for my own personal reasons. It is traditional, yes, for the band to be all male, BUT IS IT ALSO AGAINST THE LAW to deny women the privilege of participating if they want to.

And what about tradition? It used to be traditional for the Mormon's to practice polygamy, but that's against the law. It used to be traditional for everyone who came to this fine university to be male and in the Corps of Cadets. If that tradition hadn't been contested you three ladies could not have even written your letter in the first place.

I also strongly object to your use of the word "manuevered" in describing women's

entrance into the professional world. Haas, do you consider yourself "manuevering" like some opportunistic martyr trying to prove some kind of point in your chosen field of industrial engineering? Do you Thomerson? Or perhaps you do, Vinson? Women have made great strides in the past decade to get where they are, and you bitter traditionalists seem to object to it.

Fine, be my guest. Forget about your degrees. Find a rich man, get married, have babies, and leave those of us who want to move into so called "traditional" male roles alone.

And as for the band issue, let women have the opportunity to be in the band. Any female with enough guts to join and live through all the B.S. she will undoubtedly receive deserves to march on Kyle Field.

Claire McCracken  
Environmental Design  
accompanied by 16 signatures

### Jesus will save even in nuclear war

EDITOR:

In response to the Editorial Board of the Battalion concerning their fear of nuclear war:

It will not happen. That is, one in which all mankind are killed.

As an Air Force veteran, I see the views that most people have about nuclear war are

too simplistic (although I claim no expertise on the subject). However, most have a reasonable idea about the outcome — great devastation.

As a Christian, let me give some comfort to those who have fears concerning this issue. Given that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh (1 John 5:20) and that God never lies (Hebrews 6:18), let us consider what Jesus said.

Jesus is sovereign over human affairs. "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth." Matthew 28:18

Jesus will return . . . "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne." Matthew 25:31

... To a populated planet. "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goat; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left." Matthew 25:32,33

Therefore, let us lay aside these fears of nuclear war, and let us fear God.

"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.

Greg Gleason  
Bryan