

Shattering the student leader stereotype

Perusing the editorial columns of the Battalion a few weeks back, I was interested to learn that I am occupationally superfluous — that means unnecessary, Ed Cassavoy.

Student Government at Texas A&M, I learned, is composed almost exclusively of self-serving, incompetent ninies whose apathy is equalled only by their conceit. Presently associated with the former, and never having considered myself the latter, I plotted a scathing retort that was nipped in the bud by that unnecessary evil — MIDTERMS.

Today, with more time on my hands, and perhaps less vindictive intent, I'm going to try to clear up some misconceptions and maybe — (gasp) — shatter a few stereotypes.

Given that my target audience is students, I am making a few, perhaps presumptuous premises:

1. Most Texas A&M students graduated from high school. That means they possess at least twelfth grade reading skills. If you don't feel you have the reading comprehension of a high school senior, don't bother to read any further.

2. The majority of students at A&M care about the University, and would like to stay at least vaguely informed about issues affecting it and themselves.

3. The concept of personally exploring an issue, even at the cost of sacrificing a few comfortable stereotypes, is one not entirely alien to TAMU students.

It seems that no one, in any pursuit, appreciates the work put into a project like the worker himself. This rule of thumb applies to everything from term papers to the policies of presidential incumbents.

I have several friends, for instance, who consistently bend my ear with the deficiencies (as they see them) of The Battalion. One fellow in particular maintains that he sees more innovative behavior exhibited by his pet rock.

Loyal journalist that I am, I valiantly defend my former employer, occasionally even escorting the hard-core doubters through Reed McDonald — enough to convert the staunchest non-believer.

The Batt staff works hard. If you don't believe it, go see. If you don't like it, get involved and change it.

Student government is another much criticized, little understood student entity. The students who control student government do so because they were willing to put in the time when the job needed to be done. Equally, anyone who doesn't like the directions student government is heading can put in the time and change them. I don't believe it's possible to talk one-on-one with any student government leader now in office and come away doubting his or her sincerity in wanting to serve A&M. Quite honestly, the perks involved are not worth the work, if perks and recognition are your motivation.

This past August I was forced, simply for lack of time, to choose between accepting a position as staff writer for the Battalion or an executive position in Student Government. Because I DO have "political aspirations", I chose to work with student government in a position, like Batt staff writers, that will help prepare me for a career in law — the difference being that student government workers are unpaid.

As a law school aspirant I am a minority in the ranks of student government leaders. A quick look at the present professions of the past three student body presidents bears this out — one is an insurance salesman in California, one works for IBM in San Antonio, and one, (what a sneaky way into politics), is pursuing a degree at Dallas Theological Seminary. If I am, in fact, a politician-in-training, what are Batt reporters but journalists-in-training, education majors teachers-in-training, and business majors businessmen-in-training?

Student government leaders work hard. If you don't believe it, go see. If you don't like it, get involved and change it.

— Kim Norris,
director of administration for Student Government.

Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum
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A warped look at women in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band

EDITOR'S NOTE: These cartoons were originally run in Fall 1982 as part of The Battalion's daily cartoon "WARPED".

Warped

by Scott McCullar



LETTERS:

Thanks Aggies says Cub Scout pack

EDITOR:

This letter goes out to Jim Parrack (O&M Building), Senior Cadet Matt Holley, Beth Risien, and the whole staff at the Information Center in Rudder Tower. We also want to include Coach Jackie Sherrill and Reveille and a bunch of good sports in the Corps.

On Friday, October 12, Cub Scout Pack 1861, Den 3 got a tour of A&M. We had a wonderful day! We ate hot dogs at the stand and saw lots of old buildings and met lots of nice people. Everyone was so friendly to us and they all said "Howdy" when we said "Howdy." We even learned how to "W-hoop!"

Parrack showed us lots of interesting things about weather and fish and marine life. We saw a neat movie about the history of A&M at Rudder Tower, too!

Then Matt Holley took us on a tour of the Corps. We saw lots of freshmen who do funny things when you ask them what company they are in. They even did their yell when we asked them. They sure yell loud! We even got our picture taken with Reveille and the man who takes care of her.

We know there is lots more to see, so we will try to come up again and see the rest.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our day so special! Some of us want to go to A&M when we are old enough and the friendly people sure make it a good school! Thank you again for everything!

Den 3, Pack 1861
Sam Houston Council

Judgment of God, man not the same

EDITOR:

I would like to clarify the misinterpretations of Mr. Becker in regard to my usage of scripture in protest of homosexuality recognition (and its subsequent justification) on the A&M campus. This letter is not written in defense of my judgment. But alternatively its purpose is to delineate the distinction between the judgment of sinful man and that of a just God. The intent of my previous letter (quoting Romans 1:27, 32) was to address a specific issue with the word of God - not with my own ineffectual opinions.

In reply to your first question Mr. Becker, I do deserve eternal condemnation for the countless transgressions I have committed during these first 18 years of my life. However, if you have a chance to turn a few pages over to the eighth chapter of Romans in your Bible, perhaps when your wife is cooking breakfast, you will find in verse 1 the reason why many people, including myself, will escape this fate. I, being the "very religious" person that I am, understand that homosexuality is not the only sin worthy of death: but on the same token I hope you, as well as anyone else with similar misapprehensions realize that the judgment presented in my aforementioned letter is not of my own origin, but that of God's.

Thank you for pointing out the fault of my inadequate presentation of the

whole story. It seems I only presented God's judgment and not his solution. Jesus Christ came into this world not to condemn us, but to free those who do seek to acknowledge him as their lord from the dominion of the law of sin and death. If Christians on this campus worried about judging others every time they quoted a Bible verse, the word of God would be useless.

Daniel Holland
Class of '88

Reagan too old to be U.S. leader

EDITOR:

The emperor has no clothes... Nobody is saying it because it's a little delicate. But after the debate it should be clear to everyone that President Reagan, at 73, is too old for the most difficult job in the world.

He was not at ease without his trainer's cue cards and teleprompter.

The President of the United States must be alert for our own safety. His is the finger on the button that could cause a nuclear holocaust. We cannot begin a first strike through accident or mistake.

The job of president is a killing job and will get even harder.

It should be clear to everyone that if President Reagan is reelected he will be 77 on the job.

I am sure his trainers wish they had

been successful in obtaining Mondale's briefing book as they did Carter's That way, he would have been better prepared.

Houston Thompson
Silsbee, Texas

Seeing the 'old' through new eyes

EDITOR:

In response to Patrice Koranek's article "Growing from Tadpole to Another Old Aggie," there are three juniors at Texas A&M who remember what it was like to be an freshman. In fact, we remember it very fondly. Unfortunately you can only be a freshman once.

However, this year we have the opportunity to experience it again in a sort of second-hand way. We have the pleasure of having a freshman as our fourth roommate. Everyday we have the opportunity to see the "old" things through her "new" eyes.

Of course there are vast differences in attitudes between freshmen and seniors, even between freshmen and juniors. But look how much more we've had the chance to experience and learn. Patrice, look back at yourself about three years ago. I think you'll find — like the rest of us — that the freshman you described in your article bares a mighty close resemblance.

Lori Canon, '86
Liz Heard, '86
Stacy Jarratt, '86
Chris David, '88

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses 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 preserve the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the author.
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