

Regent actions making joke of Texas A&M

Let's hear it for the Board of Regents.



Ed Cassavoy

Its latest actions are probably the best thing that ever happened to Texas A&M. Now, 35,000 students have tangible proof that power and wealth can go along with narrow-mindedness and ignorance.

Within the past few weeks we have been reminded how the world works. Or doesn't work.

Old men, thirty years behind the times, make decisions that affect thousands of young people. The next generation. You and me.

I refer to the recognizing of the Gay Student Services and the question of allowing women into the Aggie Band. The Regents have chosen the usual methods of dealing with something the power elite can't understand, or are unwilling to face.

Block it, obstruct it, fight to the death.

And I can't even give the Regents credit for being subtle or devious in their campaign to stop the inevitable. Instead we have heavy-handed, stubborn attempts to stop something at all costs.

In the case of the GSS, the Regents are still fighting a losing battle against the court decision that forces A&M to formally recognize the GSS on campus. They want to take it to the Supreme Court.

Wisely, Texas Attorney General Jim Maddox has chosen to stop the Regents

before they make Texas A&M the laughing stock of the entire country.

So a student group, which wished only to have a place to meet and the right to advertise on campus, is the center of a controversy totally out of proportion with the group's original wants.

Of course this is an emotional issue, but why make the University look so foolish?

The mess does not end there. We have the case of Melanie Zentgraf and her request that all elements of the Corps be open to women as well as men. Sounds fair enough. The equal right to participate in all campus events.

But then you get the usual idiotic remarks that always spout from somewhere on any subject dealing with Texas A&M. Unfortunately, the words came from the mouths of A&M Alumni who were in the Band. They claimed that letting women play in the Aggie Band would weaken the nation's defense.

Fortunately, these kind of ludicrous remarks are exceptions to the rule. And funny as they sound to some, it just makes Texas A&M look bad.

I just wonder what the Regents think of the world we live in. Maybe to them it is a struggle to build a nice shiny new building. Or grab more money for A&M. But I have the suspicious feeling they have forgotten about the most important element in this University — the students.

Believe it or not, students are people. They have rights; they have as much right to make decisions on campus issues as the Regents lord over us do.

Blocking the GSS and women's participation in any campus event is supporting the status quo. Granted, the rul-

ing class of any society wishes things to remain the same. But the University is supposed to be separated, or somewhat sheltered, from some of the realities of life.

At Texas A&M, you can't escape it.

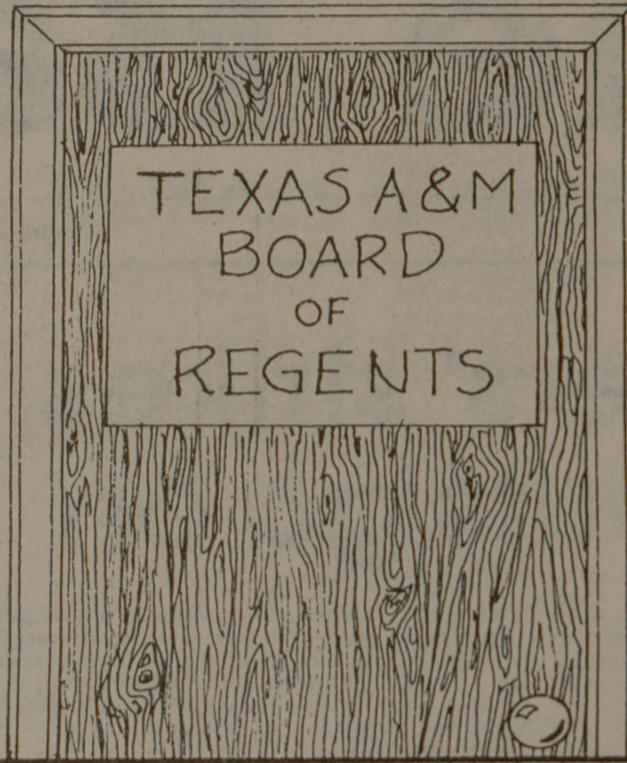
Instead of fighting together to expand and test what society says is right and wrong, we have a University admin-

istration telling us that our voice (feeble and isolated as it is on this campus) means nothing.

Why not remove the facade the Regents hide behind and just incorporate the whole University. The Board of Regents would become the Board of Directors. They could even sell stock.

The ancient Greeks even allowed

IT'S AGREED THEN GENTLEMAN; WE WILL ALLOW WOMEN INTO THE BAND AS LONG AS THEY CONFORM TO THE JUST PASSED NEW "BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT" CLAUSE!



LANE 24

their gods to come down from Mt. Olympus and walk among their people.

Maybe Bum Bright and Co. could learn a lesson from history. But you must learn to crawl before you can walk. You must learn to think before you talk.

Ed Cassavoy is The Battalion Sports Editor.

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

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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 writer.
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LETTERS:

Women cadets: Ags not radical feminists

EDITOR:
During my four years in the Corps, I sat back quietly as the men and women of Texas A&M kept trying to decide for me what women in the Corps wanted or should be allowed to do. That is, what organizations should they be part of. I am out of the Corps now, and have decided it's high time that I express what is on my mind.
Let me try and tell you what the "real" intent of Melanie Zentgraf's lawsuit was.
First off, we must consider the time period in which she decided to file the suit. She was in the Corps from 1976-1980 and filed the suit in 1979. Prior to 1980, women were not allowed to wear senior boots (that one hard earned prized distinction) nor were their uniforms similar to the rest of the Corps. The only class distinction they had was the color of braid around their shirt collar.
When Melanie first entered the Corps, women had only been there for two years. Yes, they had to deal with discrimination and the physical and mental harassment by their peers. The women had not been allowed to become a true part of the Corps.

Melanie saw this and after her use of the proper chain of command failed, she decided a lawsuit was the only way to be heard.
Also, her initial filing of charges were due to being turned down for a position on the color guard because she was female. It was evident to her and others that a definite problem did exist in ALL aspects of the Corps.
You know what, after she filed her lawsuit remarkable things began to happen. Women were granted the privilege of wearing senior boots. A bootskirt was designed and their uniforms were updated so that you could tell from a distance what classification they were. Then, a woman was accepted in the Parson's Mounted Cavalry and in the Color Guard.
Women began feeling more comfortable with trying to achieve all they could in the Corps just as their male counterparts.
Melanie has already achieved what she was after! Therefore, when we start talking bad about her intentions let's consider the time frame it all started and what the women had then and have now. They've come a long way in the past decade!
I, and all the other women, never joined the Corps to prove a feminist point or to cause an upheaval at A&M. We joined because we aspire a military career, it is a family tradition, or just to be at the heart of Aggieland. You know, the same reasons the

Donna Heinz Class of '84 A&M to fall just like Rome

EDITOR:
The Fall of A&M: Does our Senate represent the voice of Aggieland?
Just recently "our" Senate passed a resolution to recognize GSS. I am ashamed to hear that "our" Senate voted for such a resolution without bothering to ask their constituents how they felt about the issue. As a former Senator, I am appalled that the students voice was ignored and furious that such an organization shall now exist.
Some people — such as a Tom Urban — believe "that the fact so many students are against University recognition of the GSS shows that we need to recognize it. The GSS exists to inform people." If Urban and others truly believe this then I personally will take them down to Montrose in Houston or Cedar Springs in Dallas and purchase for them an education — perhaps then we would appreciate their desire to learn.
Students of Aggieland, "our" Senate may have disregarded our voice and established a

new fangled "dating service" but we don't have to appropriate them any money. The Fifth Circuit Court never said we had to fund but only recognize this form of malignant immorality.
Yes Aggies it truly is a dark day at A&M — and A&M is now officially going downhill.
Edward Mallou accompanied by seven signatures
EDITOR'S NOTE: If the Student Senate doesn't represent the student body, it's the students' own fault; less than 20 percent of the student body voted in the last general student government election.

A&M administrators creating little Russia

EDITOR:
Welcome to the U.S.S.R.
This University makes a travesty of individual rights. The first amendment guarantees the freedom to express one's ideas regardless of their popularity, and to peaceably associate to proffer these ideas.
The Texas A&M Board of Regents believes that the University can circumvent these rights with the power of recognition. They abuse recognition by choosing and regulating who may speak or meet on cam-

pus, or distribute fliers. Our archaic Board of Regents can decide that a group is in the best interest of Texas A&M and deny recognition. In order for its ideas to be heard, for members to speak on campus, a group must be sponsored by another "recognized" organization. Members cannot express the views of their group by distributing fliers, for the group is not recognized and has no freedom of expression?
Too many people presume that recognition to an organization which they oppose is appropriate. This is not appropriate, it is criminal. America is founded on the premise that every individual or group has the right to freely express his views. Freedom of expression and advances society. The Board of Regents seems to have forgotten that Texas is within the United States of America and not the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
"Recognition" seems to be an excuse to disguise for allowing the University to suppress ideas. I challenge the constitutionality of the concept of University recognition.
Glenn Murtha Class of '86