

**OPINION**

# Freedom to choose must not be denied

There were rallies held Tuesday both supporting and protesting the 1973 Supreme Court ruling which legalized abortion in this country.

In Washington, D.C., President Reagan spoke at a pro-life rally. On the Texas A&M campus, pro-life supporters marched to Rudder Tower carrying a small casket in protest of the Roe vs. Wade decision.

In the 12 years since that monumental decision was handed down, the issue of abortion has not become any less emotional or explosive.

There is no middle ground with abortion, no gray area. Anyone with an opinion — and there are many — stands firmly, with the highest of convictions, on one side or the other. It is a personal, moral issue and trying to change someone else's mind about it is like trying to part the Red Sea.

But as emotional as the issue is, personal feelings about abortion must be put aside.

It is important to remember that the decision legalizing abortion was not a pro-abortion decision, but a pro-choice decision. Many pro-choice advocates are personally opposed to abortion, but they are firmly committed to keeping the government from intruding in its citizens' personal lives.

The Supreme Court justices who made the controversial decision recognized that allowing the government to interfere in such intimate decisions as whether or not to have an abortion would set a dangerous precedent. In their majority opinion, they stated:

"We recognize the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted government intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child. That right necessarily includes the right of a woman to decide whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." — The U.S. Supreme Court, January 22, 1973.

It is interesting that the Reagan administration, which claims to be trying to get the federal government out of our private lives, is attempting to impose governmental restrictions on such personal issues as religion and abortion.

No matter what any of our personal feelings about abortion are, it is essential that as Americans we fight to protect such fundamental rights as controlling our own bodies.

When the federal government can dictate our private lives, then the United States will no longer be a democratic, free nation.

The Battalion Editorial Board

# LETTERS:

## Spirit of Houston discriminatory

EDITOR:

"A common passion or interest will, in almost every case, be felt by a majority of the whole; a communication and concert result from the form of government itself; and there is nothing to check the inducements to sacrifice the weaker the party..." From James Madison's The Federalist No. 10.

The failure of the Houston sex discrimination resolution Saturday (Jan. 19) bodes badly for gays and non-gays alike. For gays it means the continued legality of discrimination against adults for practicing in acts of consent or more exactly for simply being different. For non-gays the damage is more complex. It is quite clear that the progress made for racial minorities and women has come about only because of our progressive system, excluding of course such deviations as the municipal referendum, and not because of our progressive people. It's morning again in America and suddenly discrimination is no longer taboo. And so today I am grateful for our forefathers, Madison especially, for recognizing the necessity for representative democracy, representation for the greater good, no just the greater. If the spirit of Houston were allowed to rule this country, Jesse Jackson could not have run for president and Eddie Murphy would be displaying his talents among only his own race. By today's Houston spirit, the future Michelangelo and Tennessee Williams', both homosexuals, will not be wanted. As much as we change we stay the same.

Garry Young  
Class of '83

## Campus two-car policy unfair

EDITOR:

For those of you who do not know what a duplicate parking sticker is, the TAMU police department will give an extra sticker and put a "D" on both stickers. This is for students who for some reason or another may at times

drive different cars to school. The student also receives with the extra sticker, a rectangular piece of cardboard with a big "D" on it. The "D" is to be displayed on the dashboard of the car driven to school; otherwise, a ticket will be issued.

In order to receive a duplicate sticker one must pay \$12.00 per semester. What is the \$12.00 for? Surely the combined cost of the additional sticker and the piece of cardboard is not more than one dollar. The student service charge has already been paid with the rest of the fees. If the extra money is for parking improvements, I do not believe it is fair to those who may drive two different cars to school, when only one car, occupying only one parking space can be on campus at any one time.

Joe Brown  
Class of '86

## Corps membership can twist people

EDITOR:

After reading so much nonsense in The Battalion in recent months about the very small fraction of Texas A&M's population called the Corps, I have finally gotten annoyed enough to write a letter. The "last straw" was Don Powell's warped opinion as expressed in Friday's Battalion. Attributing the success of former students to being "treated like dirt when they were freshman" and experiencing "adverse conditions, poor conditions where you've been treated badly" is absolute crap. The clear result of such misguided behavior is a desire by those who have experienced it to "get even" by treating lower classmen just as badly. Strong character is the product of such positive influences as a caring and supportive family, fine teachers, coaches, leaders, etc. as examples and good friends. As has been demonstrated countless times throughout history, the sickest and most malicious human beings almost invariably have had negative experiences in their early years which have twisted their lives.

Stephen P. Berkowitz  
Oceanography

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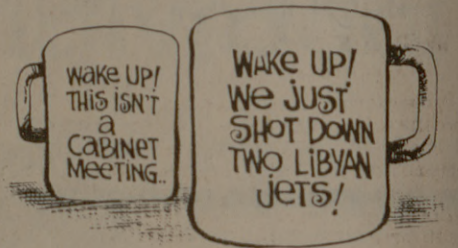
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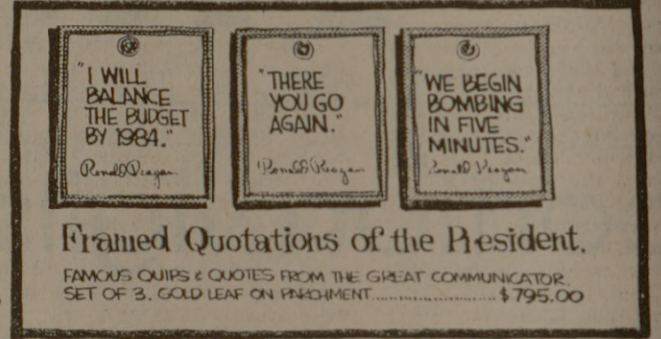
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## Enforcing campus rules could be a problem

# Do campus police need guns?

"Go ahead, make my day."

Toward the end of a Texas A&M Faculty Senate meeting January 15, during a meeting of the committee of the whole (a time for open forum), faculty senator Phanindra-mohan Das read a resolution that stated it is inappropriate for University police to carry guns on campus.



Kevin Inda

If the Faculty Senate does decide to consider Das' resolution, serious repercussions might develop.

A police officer without a weapon is like eating a hot dog without a bun — it's just not the same.

According to Das, a university and an open display of guns don't mix because of conflicting ideals. Students are supposed to do a "certain amount of self-policing." General supervision is still a must but guns are not needed in all aspects of police work.

Stripping these officers of their weapons would be a terrible mistake, result-

ing in an increased on-campus crime rate. Since A&M is already one of the most dangerous schools for students to attend, the resolution could only worsen things. It's tough enough now to walk across campus with out being beaten and robbed, just think how the situation will be if the faculty senate actually considers and passes the resolution.

In addition to keeping the crime rate down, how will University police deal with the everyday task of keeping students in check with the limitations of the law? Just think what might happen.

Those two-wheeled assassins who ride scooters and bicycles would be able to cruise freely around campus, not having to worry about University police threatening their mobility with heavy weaponry. Students now must traverse crosswalks carefully and reluctantly, only to proceed if it is clear in both directions. If a simple misjudgement or miscalculation has been made, one might find that one of these road warriors has fixed them in his sights and is rapidly approaching for the kill.

Undesirables wanting to nap or picnic on the MSC grass and sit down at football games would be able to do so without the fear of a police sharpshooter picking them off.

Students with unpaid fees and parking tickets would no longer face the wrath of the police firing squad if they don't settle their monetary obligations.

The resolution also forbids individuals from carrying guns on campus except for these three exceptions: for ceremonial purposes such as Silver Taps, Aggie Muster, for use during classroom instruction, and for display in museums on campus.

These three exceptions also prove troublesome students with more freedom and security.

If the "no guns" resolution is implemented, professors will no longer have control of their lectures. Students will be able to talk, cheat, sleep or eat in class without the worry of being selected for target practice. Probationary students can no longer be used for professorial between-class games of Russian roulette.

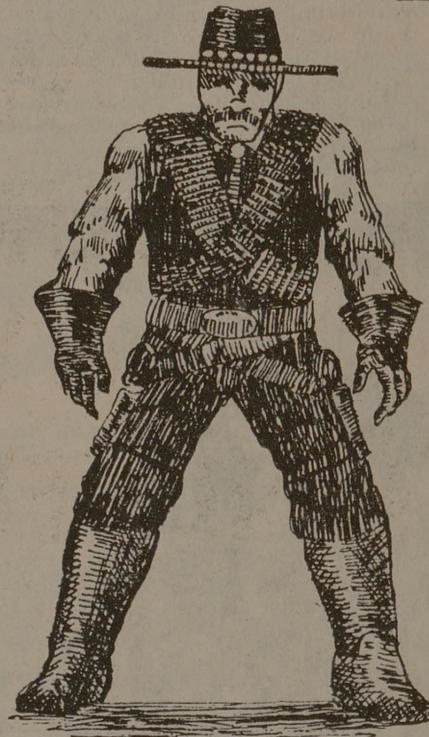
How will the University police control these problems?

Das is right. University police don't need weapons — they're dangerous enough with a pen and citation book.

Kevin S. Inda is a senior journalism major and a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

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### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.50 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2630. Advertising: (409) 845-2611. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.