

OPINION

NEW!
TAX DOLLAR GROW★BOTS

SEE YOUR INNOCENT TAX DOLLARS...
TRANSFORM INTO A COSTLY GALACTIC WEAPONS SYSTEM! BUT, WATCH OUT FOR THE DEFICIT MONSTER! (SOLD SEPARATELY) SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS CAN'T KILL IT. AND IGNORING IT ONLY MAKES IT GROW. AND GROW. AND GROW...
 A **MB** MUTANT BRADLEY TOY

*NOTE: THIS PRODUCT IS NOT GUARANTEED OR WARRANTED IN ANY WAY.

Student senators cool under fire



Ed Cassavoy

I've been doing more than my share of mingling this week and it has proven to be quite a valuable experience. The proverbial rubbing of shoulders with other A&M students.

One experience that proved especially pleasant was the Student Senate Grievance Committee hearing I sat in on Tuesday.

Democracy in action. The wheels of government turning. America at its best.

That's always the way it's pictured in the history books. Well, sitting in a half empty room, with a dozen or so other students, I experienced what it must be like in the trenches.

I quickly discovered a distinct cross-section of the student population represented at the meeting. Usually most public meetings draw the usual quota of malcontents, people with an axe to grind, with a vested interest in the topics or the just plain curious.

The Student Senate meeting was no different. There were a half dozen students at the meeting who seemed to know each other quite well. I felt like I was crashing the party.

Keeping the campus "moral" cropped up in one gentleman's arguments time and time again. Another girl argued against an experimental coed dorm.

But the part about the whole process that came as the most pleasant surprise was the role that the Student Senators played.

Dealing with "Joe Public" can be a difficult task at the best of times. And the Student Senators I watched in action were quite cool under fire.

I have to admit feeling a sort of kinship or shared secret in watching the senators deal with the same sort of arguments I have had.

Everyone has an opinion I have dis-

covered, but only the really angry or crazy ones ever show up at my desk. Feedback, good or bad, is the name of the game.

So I had to smile as I watched four or five senators deal professionally and respectfully with some rather thorny arguments.

There was a definite desire to hear the voice of the students on the part of the senators present. Unfortunately, most A&M students seem to have gone mute.

High-profile items like the GSSO and allowing women in the band resolutions are the only type of activity that create any sort of interest in the student body at large.

Most of the important issues to students are quietly resolved away from public scrutiny. More change machines or better check cashing privileges are not the stuff of controversy.

Despite the kinship I now feel with the senators, I still have some reservations about the upcoming Student Senate elections. Certain senators plan to use the GSSO resolution as a future campaign issue.

I have heard of a few who did vote with their hearts, and in doing so may have risked their political future. Taking an unpopular stand on a subject that you truly believe in shows true character.

Still it seems somewhat a lost cause to a certain extent. Most of the time the senators will work in quiet obscurity until another GSSO resolution rears its ugly head. Then the fur flies.

Just like working for The Battalion the only time you will ever hear from someone is when you make a mistake.

Don't go into journalism for the glory.

And though the senators continue to search and plea for more student feedback, they are still shackled by the fact they can only recommend items to the University administration.

Let them eat checks.

Ed Cassavoy is the city editor and weekly columnist for The Battalion.

What did Frank Sinatra really mean?

Inaugural words pondered

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Now that the inauguration is over, historians can ponder some of the great words spoken during the weekend by statesmen who participated in the events.

Probably the most memorable were not uttered by President Reagan in his inaugural address but by Frank Sinatra, who told "Entertainment Tonight's" Barbara Howar, "You're all dead, every one of you. You're all dead."

At the time it was believed Mr. Sinatra was reacting to a piece about him in the Washington Post concerning his association with Hollywood's so-called "Rat Pack," and he was addressing the media in general when he made the remark.

But after giving it a lot of thought, Washington historians are now divided on the meaning of the singer's outburst.

Last Friday night the issue was discussed at the "I Did It My Way Bar and Grill."

A reporter from the National Review said, "I can't believe Frank was talking about the press. No one let him finish his sentence. What he was trying to tell us was that we were all dead if we didn't support President Reagan's 'Star Wars' program."

"Then why didn't he say that?" the New York Times man asked.

"Because he just assumed that anyone with intelligence knew where he was coming from."

A columnist from the Washington Post disagreed. "I ran the tape of his remarks over and over again and he was talking about the media. The only thing I still haven't decided is whether he meant it figuratively or literally."

"I'm sure he didn't mean it literally," a lady from Women's Wear Daily said. "Even Frank Sinatra couldn't put out a contract on every person covering the inauguration. My interpretation of his remarks is that we were all dead as far as talking to him was concerned."

"But we've all been dead for years in Frank's mind," a CBS reporter protested. "That's not news."

"It was only news," I said, "because Frank was in charge of the inaugural gala. I'm inclined to go along with my colleague from the National Review that Sinatra's words were misinterpreted. I have it from a high source in the Surgeon General's office that what Frank was really trying to say is that we'd all be dead if we had to cover the inaugural parade in minus-20-degree weather. His main concern was that we would bundle up and keep warm."

Miss Howar, the only one who had been there, said, "He didn't sound as if he was worried about me getting pneumonia."

"Frank never likes to show his true

feelings," I told her. "Every time a sparrow falls he cries."

The Washington Post reporter refused to be persuaded. "I still believe he wanted us all dead. Maybe not dead dead, but enough so we would never write about him again."

A photographer from People Magazine said, "Is it possible Frank was saying we'd all be dead if we bet on the Miami Dolphins in the Super Bowl?"

"Could be," I agreed. "Now that you mention it, Frank was always a big '49ers fan."

The Wall Street Journal man said, "The big question is, if Sinatra was referring only to the media, was he speaking for the administration or just himself?"

"Ronald Reagan doesn't want us all dead," Sam Donaldson said. "I talk to him every day."

"What about the CIA?"

"No one knows who they want dead, and who they don't," a reporter from Jack Anderson's office mused.

I insisted on having the last word. "I don't believe we're in a position to judge what Frank meant by his remarks. The important thing is they will be remembered long after all the other 1985 inaugural utterances are forgotten, and will be an inspiration to generations of inaugural gala chairmen for years to come."

LETTERS:

Corps helps cadets prepare for life

EDITOR:

In response to Stephen Berkowitz's comments concerning the Corps of Cadets, we'd like to reply with the accuracy of first-hand experience. The Corps may be difficult to endure mentally, and is physically trying at times, but there are reasons for these obstacles. The guidelines and conditions under which "fish" must live are character-building and prepare cadets for most obstacles that lie ahead in life. All cadets are subject to involvement that helps develop self-confidence, discipline, discretion, alertness, physical and mental endurance, tolerance and comradery.

To you, Stephen, the experiences that we endure may be negative, but we struggle through them knowing that the outcome will be well worth the effort. And as upperclassmen, ideals that are instilled as freshmen are practiced through direct involvement in leadership and command positions. An upperclassman's objective is not to seek revenge for what he has been through as a freshman, but rather to enhance the character of incoming freshmen so that they too will develop inner strength.

It gets very difficult at times, and as have most cadets, we have considered quitting. But if a cadet quits now, what stops him from quitting in the future?

It's this attitude that we develop in

the Corps, and it is this attitude that will be instilled within us for the rest of our lives. For these reasons, we consider ourselves to be part of a unique group that ultimately serves for the betterment of individuals.

Although the Corps is not for everyone, those who choose to stay of their own volition feel that the benefits far outweigh the sacrifices.

**Fightin' Texas Aggie
F-1 Fish of '88
and Damn Proud of it!**

Prejudice is too prevalent at A&M

EDITOR:

This afternoon I witnessed a scene that ruined my day. A foreign student walked into one of my classes, not behaving in any peculiar manner, but immediately became the object of ridicule of another student. The only apparent reason for the outburst was the fact that the foreign student wasn't "one of us." Unfortunately, this isn't first such incidence that I've seen. Hopefully, it will be the last.

C'mon, folks, these aren't the good ol' high school days when every type of outlandish stereotype was used just for the sake of being "cool." Every individual at A&M should have enough intelligence to realize that cultural and social backgrounds make people different,

but not better or worse. Instead of welcoming our foreign students, or at least tolerating them, too many Aggies laugh at them and call them eccentric. Personally, I hate to think what kind of people they must think we are.

Most Aggies I know will swear endlessly that A&M is the best university — anywhere. But what is it that makes it so good? The people? I'd like to think so but I see too much prejudice and open belligerence here to truly believe that.

It takes just as much effort to be unfriendly as it does to be friendly. Besides, is something significantly wrong if someone doesn't speak with a Texas accent or possibly doesn't go to every home football game? A&M is my school and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else, but that doesn't mean, for example, that I've alienated all of my burnt orange friends.

**Kevin Henderson
Class of '88**

Columnist missed the point about vigilante

EDITOR:

Kevin, you must have missed a few of the details of the Goetz case. Goetz, who you claim was "justified" in shooting four black youths, in fact shot two of them in the back as they attempted to flee. How can you truly believe Goetz was justified in shooting two human be-

ings, armed with only screw drivers, in the back?

The two were obviously not a threat to Goetz anymore. Yet he chose to shoot them anyway. Maybe the thing that upsets me most about Goetz and people such as yourself is that you adopted the same value of human life that the so-called "knife-wielding hoodlums" have.

Bill Brookman, '85

P.S. Have you read the latest news out of Houston? It seems a vigilante shot and killed an innocent bystander. He probably had it coming, huh Kevin?

Clearing things up for confused reporter

EDITOR:

Someone has not done their homework, specifically, Gigi Shamsy. By definition a hacker is not "a person who illegally invades a computer system and alters data within the computer memory." This misleading idea has been created by the media, for lack of a better term. A hacker is, in fact, someone who is unusually proficient in programming and using computers. If they turn to breaking into systems the correct term is "criminal," since this activity is illegal. Hope that straightens things out for you.

**Jeffrey C. Lockledge
Grad Student, C.S.
Aspiring Hacker**

The American Sound

The American Hard of Hearing

DEFICIT!

FAIR TAXES!

DEFENSE WASTE!

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Brigid Brockman, Editor
Shelley Hoekstra, Managing Editor
Ed Cassavoy, City Editor
Kellie Dworaczky, News Editor
Michelle Powe, Editorial Page Editor
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff

Assistant City Editors Kari Fluegel, Rhonda Snider
Assistant News Editors Tammy Bell, Cami Brown, John Hallett
Assistant Sports Editor Charean Williams

Entertainment Editors

Shawn Behlen, Leigh-Ellen Clark
Staff Writers Cathie Anderson,
Brandon Berry, Dannah Bullard,
Ann Cervenka, Tony Cornetti,
Michael Crawford, Kirsten Dietz,
Patti Flint, Patrice Koranek,
Trent Leopold, Sarah Oates,
Jerry Oslin, Tricia Parker,
Lynn Rae Powe

Copy Editor Kay Mallett

Make-up Editors Karen Bloch,
Karla Martin

Columnists Kevin Inda, Loren Steffy

Editorial Cartoonist Mike Lane

Sports Cartoonist Dale Smith

Copy Writer Cathy Bennett

Photo Editor Katherine Hunt

Photographers Anthony Casper,
Wayne Graben, Frank Lewis,
John Makely, Peter Rocha, Dean Saito

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper, operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

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, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes 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 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 holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$10.75 per semester, \$23.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald 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.