

OPINION

Sully's Symposium predictably boring

Controversy, the stuff of great debates. Here at Texas A&M, Sully's Symposium has been one forum for campus leaders and people of campus interest to address the students of A&M.

Last semester the student body president, the editor of The Battalion and other important student leaders gave their views on their particular organizations and the philosophies behind those organizations.

This year, the honeymoon is over. The Battalion Editorial Board feels too little thought is being taken in the selection of Sully's Symposium speakers. This forum serves a unique and necessary service and should not follow the path of least resistance.

This semester the selection of Miss Texas A&M, four A&M basketball players, and the usual crop of student government people show what Sully's Symposium shouldn't be — predictable and boring.

Lambda Sigma must be commended for creating the symposium. But the novelty factor is over.

The students of A&M deserve to hear more than public relations speeches. They must get the views of the people who do affect students' lives.

Why not get H.R. "Bum" Bright or one of the other regents to discuss their sizable contribution to University affairs?

Why not get President Vandiver to discuss the ever-threatening budget cuts? Or the president of the MSC Council to discuss why the student body is not involved in the council's elections? Or the president of the MSC Black Awareness Committee to discuss A&M's minority recruitment policy?

Sully's Symposium is supposed to give ordinary students a chance to talk to the true "powers" of Texas A&M who are not readily accessible to ordinary students. So far this semester it has failed to do this.

Why not anticipate what the student's real questions are, rather than give them pat answers?

The Battalion Editorial Board

LETTERS:

Any implications in Batt unintentional

EDITOR: I would like to apologize to Dr. Alvin Prause and Mr. Gary Anderson for statements made in an article entitled "A&M Student Considers Council Seat" in the Feb. 18 Battalion. I would also like to apologize to The Battalion's writer Jerry Oslin for not making myself more clear. I by no means intended to decide that Anderson and Prause were not running for reelection. What I intended to say was that rumors had it that they might not run and that they had not made their intentions known yet. If they did not run then I might be considered the closest thing to an incumbent. Again I apologize to all concerned and hope this statement clears up some questions.

Mike Hachtman
Class of '86

Aggies working for world peace

EDITOR: We were very pleased to read about the influence that the Texas A&M Village of Hope has had on students in Lafayette, Louisiana, and in Austin and Lubbock (Battalion, Feb. 8, 1985). It's wonderful to know that other universities are following our lead in this kind of international work.

Now that the University of Texas and Texas Tech have joined us, we can foresee many other universities around the nation reaching out to their neighbors the way Aggies have done.

We are a long way from world peace, but this seems to be a very good start in that direction. And it's nice to know that Texas Aggies have started it all.

The Village of Hope project is one more example of the many good things coming out of this school. Let's continue to work together to keep the Texas A&M Village of Hope an example for the rest of the nation.

Louis D. Driver
accompanied by 15 signatures

Non-A&M students discriminated against

EDITOR: Why are non-A&M students being discriminated against? I am referring to the restriction of MSC movies to students, faculty and staff. There are classic movies being shown that can only be

seen on campus that all of us would like to be able to enjoy.

You don't see the "local" theaters closing their doors to A&M students because they have their own films on campus. Just because one has already graduated doesn't mean they are any less interested in campus activities.

Phillip Sulak, '83

Student lost without prescription glasses

EDITOR: I need some urgent help! I lost my prescription glasses (gray-colored plastic-rimmed frames with untinted lenses) on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the G. Rollie White nautilus gym after my 8 o'clock P.E. class. I am in dire need of these specs as my sight is 20/400 (compared to the normal 20/20 vision). If found, please call Kuta at 260-2360 or hand them over at the MSC main desk.

Thanks.
K.T. Manyukui
Class of '87

Everyone not happy with Aggie recruiting

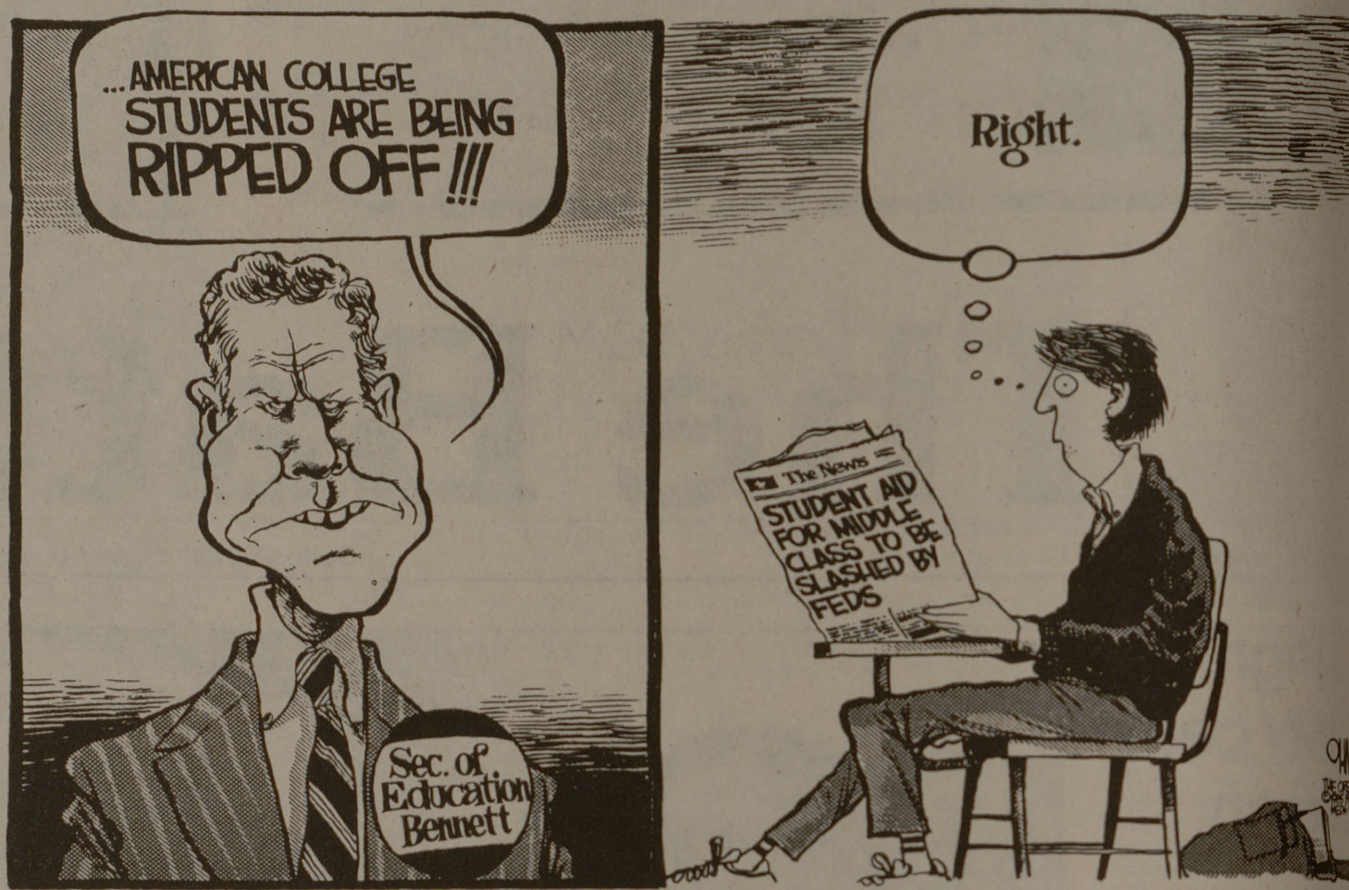
EDITOR: Well, Jackie, after having shown repeatedly over the past three years that you can't coach, you now have demonstrated your incompetence as a recruiter as well. It's obvious now that Jerry Pettibone was the recruiter on the staff and you just stepped in to claim the credit for his work.

Jackie, you've set our football program back 10 years both on and off the field. You managed to do this year what hadn't been done since 1974 — fail to sign a single blue-chipper.

It's obvious that the high school players and coaches of Texas now know what Aggies have known for a couple of years: Jackie is a loser.

Not only are you a disaster as a coach and recruiter but your lack of personal integrity is astounding. Anyone who can call this a "very, very good" year in recruiting should be a used car salesman and not a representative of Texas A&M.

Richard H. Fosberg, '78



Most A&M students don't look past own materialistic desires

Many A&M students one day hope to be world leaders. I don't believe they are receiving the education necessary to lead: students here aren't encouraged to think, nor do they seem to want to.

Patti
Flint

Everything here is judged by money. If a class teaches you a skill that will make you money, it's good. If not, it's worthless. Because of this attitude, I think most students are incapable of making thoughtful, responsible decisions.

Students lack an understanding of history, literature, philosophy, the arts, and even the sciences. And what could be more valuable to an employer than someone who can reason and think? — something these disciplines encourage, as well as encouraging sensitivity.

These things also are necessary for leading a fuller life. There's so much more out there than most people ever see, even if it's just noticing the movement of light on the sidewalk as the light through the trees shifts when the sun nears setting.

Esoteric garbage? Maybe, but I don't think so. For me, these things are the very essence of life. You, on the other hand, might enjoy being nebulous.

For example (and I have no scientific data to support this), students here believe in God not because He's a concept they've thought over and accepted, but out of blind obedience for what they've been taught. Students raised in families for whom religion is unimportant usually don't believe in God. Not because they've thought it over and rejected the idea, but because they haven't thought about it at all.

The reason that other great Ameri-

can diety, "the teflon president," much power is because he says what people want to hear and people bother to put any thought into the racy of his words. Students support Reagan in the election because his parents did, or supported Mondale the same reason, using little of their thought.

Intellectual sloth is a steady force in most students' education. What they learn in the classroom or in textbooks they leave there when the class ends, the books closed. Students don't relate this knowledge into their lives, their minds are bound to stagnate.

If people could think, interpret, understand, and reason, there wouldn't be so much fear and hatred for the different — people and ideas. Maybe, a college education would be something.

Patti Flint is a senior journalism major and a staff writer for At Ease.

\$600 for toilet seat going a bit too far

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate
It's amazing, but all the cost overrun scandals at the Pentagon have to do with small items, and not big ones. First it was the \$400 hammer, then the \$7,900 coffee-maker, followed by the \$16,400 refrigerator — and now, the \$640 flying toilet seat.

That's what Lockheed Aircraft charged the Navy for each one it installed in its P3 Orion submarine-hunting airplane. The press instantly dubbed it "Toiletgate," and the revelation couldn't have come at a worse time. When the seat was displayed by Senator Roth of Delaware, all hell broke loose in the Defense Department. Cap Weinberger was having enough trouble defending his budget on the Hill, and he was in no mood to justify the cost of plumbing fixtures on a Navy aircraft.

Two minutes after the list price for the seat surfaced, "general quarters" was sounded at the Pentagon, and everyone grabbed a phone.

Weinberger called the secretary of the Navy, who called the chief of naval operations, who called the admiral in charge of aircraft procurement, who called the captain who heads up the P3 submarine-hunter program, who called Lockheed Aircraft for an explanation.

"What the hell are you guys doing charging us \$640 for a toilet seat?" he yelled into the phone.

"We made a slight mistake," the Lockheed comode chief said. "We should have only billed you \$554 for each one. We'll send you a rebate in the morning."

"Do you know what's going on here in Washington? You've jeopardized the entire \$313 billion defense budget. You guys must be crazy."

"Now wait a minute. That seat is made of fiberglass and plastic and will withstand any combat situation that the P3 hunter is bound to encounter. We tested it in two crash landings and it didn't have a crack in it."

"That's not the point. If you over-

charge us for a Binuptial cruise digita- tor no one is going to question it. If you bury a few thousand bucks in the Gaf- fney flick switch, or a Dalmane synthe- sizer, Congress will never find it. And if you want to up the price on a Flange Dipthong Upsurge, we'll look the other way. But the American taxpayer knows what toilet covers cost. Besides, the reason this whole thing broke is a small contractor claims he could make the same seat for \$200."

"They all say that until they try to build one. It's not just the seat but the research and development that went into it. We had to build a special simulator to make sure it would hold up at 40,000 feet."

"Why didn't you add those costs on to the Septum Firth chronometer? We could have absorbed them there."

"Because \$640 is peanuts in a multi- million dollar airplane. Suppose we re- duce the price to \$500? We'll eat the dif- ference."

"It's too late. The Navy is thinking of canceling the order for the rest of the planes. If you don't come down on those seats, you can start closing the assembly line."

"Okay, give us a figure we can live with."

"We're not going to pay more than \$100 a seat."

"You have to be kidding. We gave you the plane at cost, but our understand- ing was we could charge anything we wanted for the optional equipment."

"Our agreement didn't include coffee pots and commodes. One hundred dol- lars or we take the whole program over to Grumman Aircraft."

"You have us over a barrel. We'll give it to you at that price but it will wipe out our entire profit margin. We only make \$540 on each plane."

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 ...
Assistant News Editors
Cami Brown, John Hallen, Kay ...
Assistant Sports Editor
Charean ...
Entertainment Editors
Shawn Behlen, Leigh-Elle ...
Staff Writers
Cathie Anderson
Brandon Berry, Dainah ...
Ann Cervena, Michael ...
Kirsten Dietz, Patti ...
Patrice Koranek, Trent ...
Sarah Oates, Jerry ...
Tricia Parker, Lynn ...
Copy Editors
Jan Perry, Kelley ...
Make-up Editors
Karen ...
Karia ...
Columnists
Kevin Ina, Loren ...
Editorial Cartoonist
Miles ...
Sports Cartoonist
Dale ...
Copy Writer
Cathy ...
Photo Editor
Katherine ...
Photographers
Anthony ...
Wayne Grabein, Bill Hughes, Frank ...
John Makely, Peter Rocha, Dean ...

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting organization operated as a community service to Texas A&M University-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 courses in 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 writer.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for the summer and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$2.00 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$51.00 per year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed Hall Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2611; advertising: (409) 845-2611.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.