

OPINION

Texas A&M must not forget hazing

Punishments were handed out Monday to the former Texas A&M cadets involved in the hazing death of a fellow cadet last year. No matter what the outcome of the trial had been, there could be no happy ending to this unfortunate chapter in Texas A&M's history.

Whether or not the punishments fit the crime should not be what A&M remembers about Bruce Goodrich's death. Whether or not the cadets have been made the "scapegoats for 108 years of tradition," as one of the cadet's mothers said, is not what should be remembered.

What should be remembered — and what must be changed — is how this tragedy was ever allowed to happen.

The University and the Corps of Cadets, by their keep-quiet-and-look-the-other-way policy, allowed and even encouraged this incident to happen.

If hazing continues, undeterred, in the Corps then Bruce Dean Goodrich will have died in vain, and that is the real tragedy.

The Battalion Editorial Board

SG filing process should be open

Student Government's election committee has come up with a ludicrous new twist for student elections. Government by the people, for the people as long as the election committee deems the student running to be a "serious" candidate.

The Battalion attempted to obtain the names of all the candidates who have filed for student government offices. The Battalion's request was turned down. Student Government does not consider that list public information — until the candidates' filing date is over.

Laura Madla, election committee co-commissioner said releasing the information to all the students would be harmful to the election process.

"Say for example there is one person well-suited for a position but he discovers that there are five people running for the position," Madla said. "We don't want him to be discouraged from running."

Madla went on to argue if everyone, meaning you the student, had access to filing records then anyone could run.

We thought that was the idea behind a free election.

Madla insisted that the election committee's aim is to make the election as professional as possible, and they wish to have only "qualified" candidates run.

The Battalion Editorial Board feels the reasoning behind this decision is faulty.

A democratic election is, for all its flaws, open to everyone. Deciding and evaluating the motives of a student's candidacy, plus what offices he or she can run for before an election is censorship — plain and simple.

Closing filing records is illegal in public elections. But because Student Government is a state advisory organization, whether the Open Records Act applies here is still unclear.

Students should question the motives, no matter how well-intentioned, of a student government which seeks to filter and exclude certain individuals from running for office.

The Battalion Editorial Board

LETTERS:

Visitor upset with campus parking

EDITOR:

Recently I left my car in a parking space on a TAMU campus street. Returning twenty minutes later, I found a notice stating that my car did not display a valid TAMU permit.

I explained to three nearby officers that I was a visitor who had parked in what appeared to be a legal parking space with no painted curbs or signs indicating restricted parking.

An officer testily remarked that visitors should stop at the visitor information center for parking instructions. I replied that if such procedure is required, signs so stating should be placed at campus entrances.

Adding that on past occasions I had parked in similar spaces with no reprisals, I was informed that my car had most likely been ticketed several times and was undoubtedly the object of an outstanding tow-away order. My declaration that I had received no tickets was dismissed with the explanation that students had removed the tickets (before I

saw them) to put them on other vehicles.

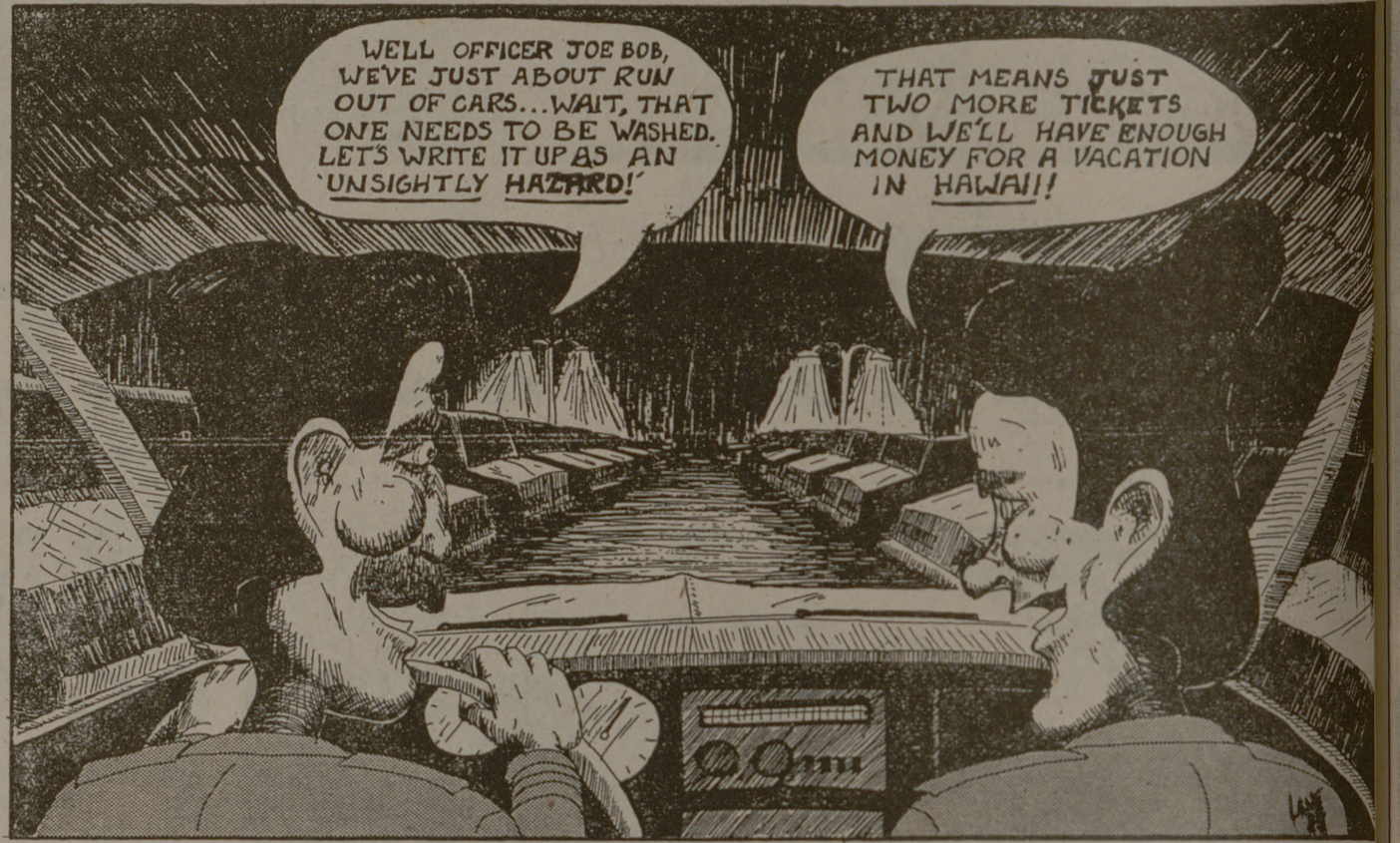
At my incredulous look, one officer lamely mumbled that it was the responsibility of my hosts to inform me of parking regulations when they invited me to the campus.

It escaped notice that had I intended to violate rules for my convenience, I would have parked closer to my destination.

Refusing to accept injustice, I left to go to the police office to complain; however, searching the ticket revealed neither the location nor address other than a zip code. Not having time to mail myself to the office and failing to locate a suitable space in which to park long enough to obtain directions, I left campus.

A university should strive for excellence in all areas. Unwitting parking violations can be reduced by use of painted curbs and informative, strategically placed signs. Reducing employee bad manners and improving communications require suitable motivation.

**Diana Schliesing
Houston**



Read any good books lately?

He didn't read in grade school, junior high or high school, and he doesn't read now because he doesn't want anybody else's thoughts to influence his life.



Brigid Brockman

The man is Marvin Zindler, Houston's infamous muckraking journalist. Zindler is the man many love to hate, and now I know why.

I cannot understand how anyone, even Marvin, can go through life believing that reading is something to be avoided, like the plague.

We all need to seek out and read books because reading is the key to a healthy mind. We live in a world today with so much emphasis on having healthy fit bodies that our minds have atrophied to the point where they no longer have the strength to tackle the great classics.

Case in point: Take a look sometime at some of the books that have been on the best-seller list, and you'll find such frivolous works as:

- "The Body Principal," this is Victoria Principal's fool-proof guide to beauty and fitness.

- "Hollywood Wives," the exciting book recently made into a miniseries which was about as exciting as taking out the garbage.

- "Truly Tasteless Jokes," this book is just what it says it is — truly tasteless.

These are just a few of the popular books that have made up the bulk of our reading, and they're not exactly "Moby Dick." However, these books do have a place on our reading list, just so long as they aren't the only books we're reading.

Reading in itself is an education, and that means there are prerequisites and electives. The prerequisites should be the core of the reading curriculum which include the great classics. The electives of this reading education should be all other books we like to read — the fun ones, the trashy ones and even the tasteless ones.

Reading truly can be a total education — and an enjoyable one.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, during his years in Hollywood without his wife Zelda, devised a complete curriculum for a companion of his. Many years after Fitz-

gerald's death, his companion wrote book on this self-paced curriculum called "College of One."

Reading can be a total education in the case of my mother it makes her entire education. My mother went to college, but she is one of the most well-educated people I know.

She has read just about every book, novel and short story that my father, brother and I have brought home from school. I remember bringing home Melville's "Moby Dick" and thinking to myself, surely she isn't going to read this one.

Wrong. Not only did she read it, she read it without the Cliff Notes (which I found very handy.) Obviously my mother enjoys to read, but I think she also realizes that every book she reads is another step towards enhancing her education.

She never graduated from college and she does not have a diploma. I'm proud to say she has graduated from her own self-paced education — her College of One.

Brigid Brockman is a senior journalism major and the editor of The Battalion.

Affirmative action policy at Texas A&M questioned

Does the fact that Texas A&M University is nearly all-white constitute discrimination? Yes? No? Maybe? Let's look at the numbers.



Kevin Inda

A survey recently released by The Chronicle of Higher Education listed enrollment for the 1982 fall semester at A&M as follows: 89 percent whites, 6.4 percent minorities and 4.6 percent foreign students. The majority of the minorities were Hispanic, with 3.8 percent. Blacks made up only 1.2 percent while American Indians consisted of 0.1 percent.

But, that same year, universities of comparable size didn't differ much from A&M. For example, take the University of Texas. In 1982, whites made up 81.1 percent of the student body while American minority groups made up 12.8 percent. Some were even higher than A&M. Pennsylvania State University was 92.6 percent white and 4.3 percent minority. The University of Minnesota's main campus was 91.8 percent white and only 4.7 percent minority.

A&M has improved its record slightly since 1982. In the fall of 1984 enrollment figures showed 87.6 percent of the Aggies were white and 8.1 percent were from American minority groups. Even though the racial imbalance is improving — which is good — there is still a problem. This problem stems from the way the University is going about correcting this unevenness.

The University is currently spending millions of dollars to attract more mi-

nority students and faculty members. But why? University officials have been whining about a possible shortage of funds. These minority students and faculty know that A&M exists. Maybe they don't want to come here. They also know that they can't be discriminated against if they try to enroll or apply to teach. All they have to do is meet the entry requirements and whammo! They're in.

But what happens when a white and a minority are competing for a scholarship or a teaching position they're both equally qualified for? Well, we all know the answer to that question.

Remember, the University is in the process of image building. Not taking anything away from the minority, if he's qualified, this isn't quite fair to the white. Remember, equal opportunity works both ways.

Lets examine another fact. The Aggie football and basketball team has more minorities than whites. You don't see coaches recruiting an equal proportion of white and minority students just to improve the team's image. It's a simple and fair theory: A person has to make the team before he can play ball. What A&M is doing to recruit minorities is equivalent to every sports team having a coach's son on it.

Equally qualified whites and minorities should have the same opportunity to do the same things. But, neither group should be discriminated against to provide racial balance in any given situation.

Discrimination. Yes? No? Maybe? If so, who's getting screwed?

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USPS 045 360
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Texas Press Association
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The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M at Bryan-College Station.
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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 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 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$16.41 per 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) 845-2631; 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.