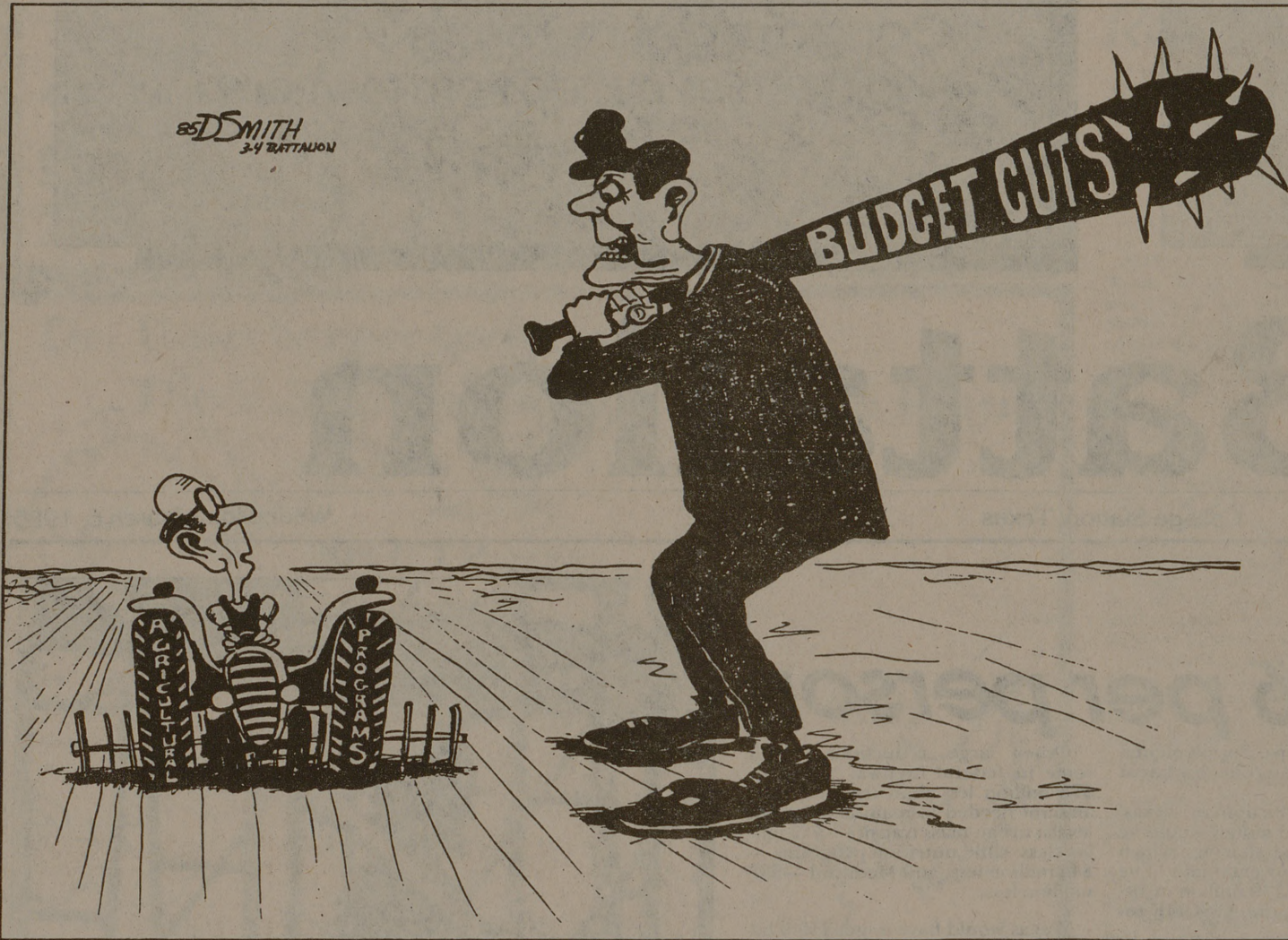


OPINION



Job hunting at A&M not embarrassing, yet

It hasn't been a particularly good year for Texas A&M.

Michael Crawford

Bruce Goodrich is dead following "motivational exercises." Texas A&M Regents are trying to overstep Attorney General Jim Mattox to appeal the Big Student Services' case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Women still aren't encouraged to march in the band.

Our university has gotten — and deserved — reams of bad publicity. But as we go into the job market are we going to be interviewed by someone saying, "Hey, didn't you go to that school where they're afraid of homosexuals and women?" Probably not. At least not yet.

It's true that Texas A&M has made the news lately with alarming regularity. A friend's father heard about the Goodrich death within 24 hours after it occurred. Nothing unusual about that, except he was stationed in the jungles of Peru at the time. If a death in College Station, Texas was reported in Peru, it was certainly reported elsewhere.

But what occurs on our campus is of little more than passing national interest, and employers look for academic qualifications and personal initiative. Texas A&M is not the center of the world, the nation or even the state. It is, however, the center of Brazos County — thus the media covers it accordingly. That intensive coverage makes us hypersensitive and unrealistic. It's easy to think that other cities' media cover A&M to the extent that channels 3 and 15, the Eagle and The Battalion do. Not so.

A&M is only one of dozens of higher education institutions in Texas. Add to that the schools in other states and this university gets lost in the forest. The

world doesn't wait for us to make another mistake, especially when other schools, businesses and politicians are making them at the same time.

Watch a newscast from Austin some time and try to catch a story about what's happening here. You may have to wait quite a while. There, the big news is the University of Texas. In McAllen, it's Pan American University.

In short, we are interesting only ourselves and the paranoia we are experiencing should be put to good use.

A&M should be glad the collective memory of the general public is short. The negative coverage hasn't yet harmed the school's reputation. More than anything, the nightly pictures of the Cuadra trial, the Zentgraf suit and the GSS case should cause us to examine ourselves. Beyond the specifics in each of the cases, there's the question of who we can't seem to adapt. It's been argued that if we were to change, we would be come just like any other school. Berkeley, MIT and the University of Texas roll with the changes, and they are just any other school. They are among the best, and A&M should and could be among them.

We have the money, facilities and personnel that other schools wish for. But incorporated in the idea of a world university, there must be flexibility. Flexibility to accept change and others with different styles and tastes. If University officials remain rigid in their battle to keep the status quo, the lasting effect could eventually be on the students and their search for jobs. Bad reputations are much easier to create and harder to shake than good ones.

Michael Crawford is a junior journalism major and a staff writer for The Battalion.

Success is in eye of the beholder

On my way to school last week a garbage truck pulled in front of my car. Because I was in a hurry, it didn't make me too happy.



Kevin Inda

Look at these people, I thought, hanging on the back of a garbage truck for a living. Don't they have any ambition? Why don't they want to be successful?

And then my conscience confronted me.

Kevin, you're a jerk. You have no right to judge people.

My conscience was right. It made me think about what I had done. And then I thought, just what is success? What symbolizes success?

A business student might say, "Success is that \$65,000-a-year job on Wall Street," or "just look in the garage at my new Beamer — that's success."

Moreover, an engineer might equate success with going to work for NASA or

General Dynamics. He, too, will be the first to show you his new Beamer in the garage.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying people aren't successful if they have a nice car in the garage. But does every considered "successful" have everything to do with material demonstrations? Can you have one without the other?

Being classified as a "successful" person has something, but not everything, to do with money, prestige and material things. A successful individual is one who carries out a specific task to the best of his abilities and is happy with his accomplishments. Sure, success can also bring about wealth and fame, but that facet of being considered "successful" shouldn't be regarded as the standard.

As college students we all have goals and plans for the future. Some of us may go into business or politics, it really doesn't matter. Nevertheless, one shouldn't have to go to the bank or look in the garage to measure the amount of his, or anyone else's, success.

People can be considered "successful" no matter what they do.

Now, take garbage men for example.

They aren't likely to get their name mentioned in the Who's News section of The Wall Street Journal but that doesn't mean they can't be successful at what they do. You might wonder how people who take out trash can be considered "successful." Well, a successful garbage man is satisfied with his work and with his life. If he's happy with his life that's all that matters; he shouldn't be put down for it.

As thinking human beings we have the ability to reason and perform judgments. But this process sometimes provides us with biased conclusions. These hand-me-down biases are gifts from past generations. Generations that erected barriers between the "right way" and the "wrong way." But, as thinking individuals, we control our thoughts and actions. We can alter or reverse our biases and eliminate barriers.

I admit it. I'm just as guilty as the next person when it comes to being judgmental. But, it's not right to deem others "unsuccessful" because they don't meet your standards.

You never know when you might find yourself taking the trash out for a living.

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

LETTERS:

All the king's horses and all the king's men...

EDITOR:

There was once a great construction company. In fear of cost overrun, the brainy company president or any company president decided to cut the fund for cement purchase by more than 20 percent. The building collapsed, and the company went bankrupt happily ever after.

There was once a great farm in the country. In fear of cash shortage, the canny farmer or fanny farmer decided to cut the fund for watering by more than 20 percent. The plants became dried and dead, and the farmer went starved happily ever after.

There was once a great state in the Union. In fear of revenue shortage, the shrewd state government or screwed state government proposed to cut the funding to the universities by more than 20 percent. The people... and the state... happily ever after.

Liem C. Du
Class of '85

Unitedbank committed to A&M community

EDITOR:

We would like to clarify some misconceptions concerning the banking services Unitedbank-College Station offers as reported in the Feb. 28 issue of The Battalion.

A Student Government study reported that a \$500 minimum balance is required for free checking privileges at Unitedbank. This figure is incorrect; the figure should state \$250, one-half the amount reported by the Student Government.

Another serious error was made in reporting that Unitedbank does not cash checks from the University. The fact is Unitedbank has always and will continue to cash checks from Texas A&M. The tellers at Unitedbank inform us that they cash anywhere from 600 to 1,000 A&M checks each month, requiring only positive proof of identification (typically a valid driver's license) and that the person cashing the check be the person that the check is made payable to. This service is provided as a courtesy to the University.

Unitedbank-College Station has long been committed to servicing the banking needs of the A&M community. Witness to this is the bank's Student Advisory Director Program, in which A&M students are selected to serve as advisory directors on the bank's Board of Direc-

tors. Only Unitedbank is committed enough to the student to place two of them in the boardroom.

Steve Schwarzbach, '85
Ren Carter, '85
Student Advisory Directors
Unitedbank-College Station

Big Brother may be moving to Texas A&M

EDITOR:

Big brother seems to be at it again. Under the guise of cost reduction, Texas A&M University is proposing to consolidate university travel by use of an approved travel agent. I have two objections to such a policy.

First, the decision to consolidate travel has been undertaken without any public discussion of the alternatives. Only a call to a local travel agent by a colleague to book travel brought the proposed policy change to my attention. In some respects this lack of a public forum was not surprising to me as bureaucrats are often jealous of their discretionary powers. However, such an infringement on personal freedoms is personally very objectionable.

My second concern is a bit more scholarly. As any Economics 203 or 204 student realizes, monopolies tend to be inefficient. Obviously the University Central Purchasing Organization could use an economics lesson. To illustrate the inefficiency of Government run programs one only needs to point to the Grace Commission survey which compared the Government monopoly to private enterprise. This report made 2,478 recommendations to eliminate waste that could save the Government and taxpayers \$424 billion over a three-year period.

In contrast, the advantage of the market system is its decentralization. By many travel agents competing with one another for each consumers business there is an incentive to keep costs low or lose potential customers. I for one cannot see how the creation of a University Cartel that will fix the price of services for a year will maintain the incentives to keep costs low. In fact, I would expect exactly the opposite to occur.

Time is running out on the free market at Texas A&M. The University is moving quickly to consolidate travel and increase its power in the marketplace; a RFP has been distributed for bids and a decision will most likely be made in the near future. Perhaps an outpour of support for a more efficient system could still stem the tide.

Larry Rose

Say 'uncle,' or else

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

When President Reagan was asked last week if he intended to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, the president replied he wouldn't if they said "uncle."

"What does he mean by that?" I asked my reliable State Department source.

"Remember when you were a boy and you wrestled another kid to the ground? The first one who cried 'uncle' lost. Then the winner got up without breaking the loser's arm."

"What has that got to do with Nicaragua?"

"It's our new foreign policy. We're willing to let any country exist as long as it cries 'uncle!'"

"How do you get Nicaragua to cry 'uncle!'"

"The very best way is to support the 'freedom fighters' who are trying to overthrow the government there. Since Congress is reluctant to put up the money to make the Sandinistas scream 'uncle,' the president is taking his case to the American people. He and Secretary of State George Schultz have warned that if Congress won't support this country's Uncle Doctrine then we may wind up in an endless darkness of Communist tyranny."

"If our policy is to make totalitarian countries cry 'uncle,' why don't we overthrow the government of Chile?"

"We can't go into Chile because the military regime there is on our side. Nicaragua, on the other hand, fits the ideological profile and is just the right size, provided we give their freedom fighters the strength to wrestle the present government to the ground."

"Why don't we make South Korea cry 'uncle!'"

"Because our 'Uncle' policy is only aimed at (ital) Communist (unital) totalitarian governments that are not chosen by the people."

"What's the legal basis for making a government cry 'uncle' if we don't like what they're doing?"

"The present policy is not predicated on legal grounds but moral ones. The president believes we have a moral duty to help people bring about freedom in their country and overthrow the tyranny from the left by covert force."

"What about tyranny from the right?"

"We only deal with tyranny from the right by quiet diplomacy. If we made a right-wing government say 'uncle' publicly it might be replaced by a left-wing government, and that is something we have to avoid at all costs."

"How much will it take to make the Nicaraguans cry 'uncle!'"

"The president wants \$14 million to help the freedom fighters make the Sandinistas throw in the towel."

"That doesn't sound like a lot of money. Does he really believe the Nicaraguans will cry 'uncle' if we give the opposition \$14 million?"

"No, but it will get our feet wet. Once they use it up then the president can go back to Congress and ask for some (ital) real (unital) money to overthrow the Managua government. If money doesn't do it, then we may have to send in American boys to do the job right. It won't be the first time American troops made the Nicaraguans say 'uncle.'"

"If we're going to go to that much trouble to overthrow a Communist regime in our hemisphere, why don't we knock off Cuba?"

"Because if we tried to overthrow Castro it might bring in the Soviets. Then the question of who cries 'uncle' first might be superfluous."

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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.
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