

OPINION

Literary censorship is unconstitutional

Litmus, a new literary arts magazine at Texas A&M, won approval Monday from the Memorial Student Center Council to publish a poem with the adjective "fucking" in it.

After a lengthy debate — including charges that the poem is in poor taste and doesn't represent what A&M stands for — the MSC Council approved the poem by a narrow 6-5 vote, with one member abstaining.

The Battalion Editorial Board is relieved the council had enough sense — barely — not to censor the poem. But the real question is what was the council doing voting on the issue in the first place?

The council was trying to act as Litmus' publisher. That would be fine if Litmus was a private business, but it's not. It is a student magazine in a state institution, and no governmental body has any business deciding what poems we can and cannot read.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution forbids governmental intrusion into peoples' constitutionally protected rights of freedom of expression.

Every individual has the right to decide what he wants to read, what he wants to think.

When a handful of people think they can take it upon themselves to decide what's in the best interests of others, that's censorship. And that is unconstitutional.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Student candidate responds to article

Concerning the recent articles on Student Government expenditures and our role in the questioning of Sean Royall's campaign budget, we would like to clarify several gross misrepresentations and inaccuracies.

Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum

reasons:

a. We had to spend a great deal of time on our own campaign.

b. We felt that issues should dominate the presidential campaigns. We agreed that a candidate who filed an official complaint would distract the main focus of the campaign — the candidates' plans and ideas.

We would further like to clarify that many of Mr. Brock's statements were incorrect and misleading. Neither Mr. Brock nor Mr. Centilla were offered positions in our administration in exchange for sponsorship of the complaint. Secondly, we established the fact that we had indeed obtained the bids on Mr. Royall's campaign literature and we did not need to be identified by photographs to verify this fact. Thirdly, we would like to make it clear that we harbor no malice toward Mr. Royall. He is a fine gentleman and a fine candidate. However, there are rules to which we must adhere and ethics by which we must abide. Fourth, Mr. Shine never stated that the purpose of his visit to The Battalion was "to raise hell and get

Student election comical

I usually don't laugh or chuckle much on Monday. But this Monday was different. An article in The Battalion deserved a chuckle. And then, on Tuesday, another article appeared. The chuckle grew into a guffaw. The articles reaffirmed my belief that politics is for ego-builders who will do, say, or claim anything to win. But, I did find it reassuring to find out that even in this fairyland of nicety, our so-called student leaders and junior politicians can be nasty when they want to be.



Kevin Inda

The controversy began Thursday when Karl Brock and Terry Leeper filed a complaint with the Student Government's election commission accusing Sean Royall, a candidate for student body president, of "exceeding the limit for campaign expenditures." Royall was accused of going over the \$300 spending limit set by the election commission. Brock said he suspected Royall of over-

spending because his materials were printed with "exceptional" quality.

Well, I've seen Sean's brochure and it is printed with exceptional quality. But, evidently that's not the real reason Brock filed the complaint. On Tuesday, Brock told The Battalion that Brett Shine, another candidate for student body president, had asked Jeff Centilla and Brock to sign the complaint and give it to the election commission. Centilla, a Texas A&M student not associated with Shine's campaign, and Brock said they were both promised positions in Student Government if Shine won the election. Centilla never did get to sign the complaint because he overslept, so Brock got Terry Leeper to sign it.

In addition to Shine, Brock, Centilla, and Leeper looking like bozos, Jeff Danzinger apparently had the urge to join the circus. Danzinger, a former candidate for student body president and now a Shine supporter, was also behind the apparent plot to get Royall disqualified from the election.

Shine is now on campaign probation for passing out flyers in the Corps dorms at an unauthorized time. If he's

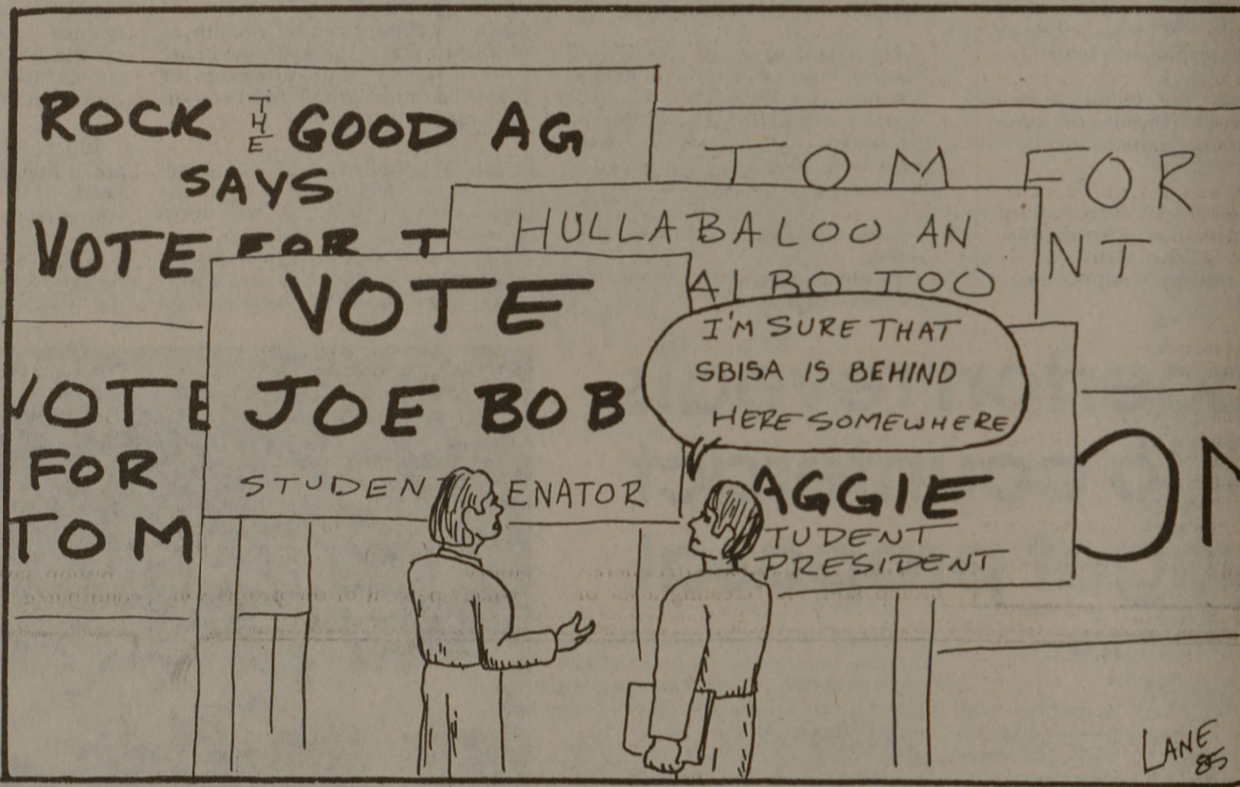
caught with his hand in the cookie jar again, he'll be forced to quit the Scouts — he'll be disqualified from the race.

Enough of the facts. Now for some of the hearsay. No, just kidding. I would attempt to elaborate on any of the things I've heard — and I've heard plenty. There have been so many candidates for student body president in and out of the newsroom we've had to install revolving doors.

Student Government elections, so-called. I'm sick of hearing about something so miniscule. The only time I ever hear about our pseudo-student leaders during election time or when they speak at Sully's Symposium, and no one comes to listen. Who cares!

As for those involved in this little controversy, how do you think your mothers would feel if they found out the way you guys have acted. If I was them, I take you guys home, paddle your ass around you for a week, and send you to your rooms without dinner!

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



them off their butts to do something."

Unfortunately we were not at home when The Battalion's reporter Jerry Oslin tried to contact us so we could give our side of the story. Had we had this opportunity, we feel that the article would not be so negative and biased.

Again, we feel that we were correct in attempting to protect an "issue-oriented" campaign and also in adhering very

strictly to the election regulations. We certainly hope that these recent articles will not taint your view of the election process, the Election Commission and the candidacy of a student who wishes to represent and work for you.

Brett Shine is a candidate for student body president. Jeffrey Danzinger is a former candidate and now a supporter of Shine.

LETTERS:

Cook endorsed for presidency

EDITOR:

During this year's presidential campaign, students have been deluged with flashy literature and grand promises. One candidate, however, has stood out from the crowd. Mike Cook has run a positive campaign based on straight talk and past performance, as well as a sound plan for the future. Mike's record is exemplary — he has been a vice-president of the Senate for the past two years. He was elected VP of Finance his sophomore year, and in this capacity he was named outstanding vice president of the year. This year, Mike has served both as Vice President of Rules and Regulations and as MSC Director of Budgets and Planning. He was the only person to serve on both MSC Council and as an officer of the Senate.

With the budget crisis facing A&M, many of the responsibilities of student government will involve coordinating student input into financial areas. These areas are precisely where Mike's strength and experience lie. As officers of the Senate, we have both had the opportunity to work with Mike and we are proud to join The Battalion in offering our unreserved support and endorsement to Mike Cook for Student Body President.

Michael Kelley '85
V.P. Finance
Tom Urban '85
V.P. Academic Affairs

A&M pedestrians don't obey laws

EDITOR:

Although TAMU is a school noted for its fine traditions, there is one "tradi-

tion" that is anything but fine — that of the constant jaywalking on and around campus by inconsiderate pedestrians. Just drive by the Blocker Bldg. where University Drive and Ireland intersect to see what I mean. To the pedestrians there: "DON'T WALK" means "DON'T DWADLE." One block down University, by Zachry, crazed engineering students, showing all the wisdom of their profession, play "Frogger" for real.

This situation doesn't surprise me, though, for two reasons. First, the pedestrian has nothing to lose by jaywalking: if he isn't run over, he saves time; if he is, and lives (and chances are he will), then it's on to civil court and big money, while the bewildered motorist wonders how someone can legally wipe him out by blatantly disregarding the law! In other words, the motorist is in a no-win situation, and the jaywalkers are well aware of it.

The second reason is that mockery of law enforcement called the University Police Department. These guys are cops? Right — and I'm Eleanor Roosevelt. The incident which prompted this letter occurred last week. I was on Ireland, approaching the light at University, when I noticed a UPD cruiser waiting at the light ahead of me. At the intersection, it was business as usual. In plain view were jaywalkers holding up right-turn traffic. I pulled up beside the officer and drew his attention to the matter. He just shrugged and rolled up his window. I should have known better — the UPD has its hands full with much more dangerous, heinous crimes — like illegal parking. Why enforce jaywalking laws? No one could ever get hurt.

C'mon Ags! The rules were made for everybody — let's all play by them!
Mike Eastburn, '85

Vet school attempting to keep high standards

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the article of Wednesday, March 20, 1985 concerning ex-veterinary student Bonny Jo Eason. We feel, as health professionals, that one must realize the rigors of such a program before entering into it.

High expectations are set for health professionals, be they M.D.'s or D.V.M.'s and this is as it should be. We are to care for living beings, and gross mistakes cannot be and are not tolerated in these fields.

This person failed to meet the requirements set and was obviously given more than a fair chance to rectify the problem. We know of no individual professional student who doesn't have at some time extraordinarily stressful situations while in school. However, the ability to deal with this stress and still perform satisfactorily is indicative of future ability to cope in practice when stressful situations are certain to arise. Can one offer the excuse "I lost the patient because I am having trouble at home?"

There is no excuse for incompetence, and we feel that the School of Veterinary Medicine acted fairly to Betty Jo Eason and in the best interest of the rest of the veterinary students by eliminating a potentially incompetent peer.

In conclusion, the public view of health care has steadily declined over the past few years. One of the reasons for this decline is the inability of the health care fields to sufficiently ensure the competence of its members. The Veterinary school should be commended for its attempt to maintain the high standard necessary to guarantee a high quality of health care delivery.

Rex Medford accompanied by 5 signatures

'SBs' not happy with columnist's views

EDITOR:

We, as "SBs" would like to respond to Trent Leopold's article entitled, "What Does 'S.B.' Mean?"

According to Leopold an SB is a member of a sorority, which "is a clique of girls who tell each other their secrets, know each other's innermost feelings, maintain confidential test files and share big mansions." How is this different from any other group of close friends, with the exception of the comforts of a "big mansion."

As far as sorority girls associating exclusively with one another, Leopold is wrong. Many sorority girls have friends outside of her sorority, and date guys outside of a fraternity.

Leopold thinks the typical sorority girl wears the latest fashions, carries a Gucci purse, and proudly wears her sorority drop. Let us add that the typical sorority girl contributes greatly to her community. We would like to know when Leopold last painted curbs for the community, conducted a major fund raiser for a specific philanthropy, visited neighborhood nursing homes and participated in a telethon — just to name a few.

We as "SBs" spend our time on these projects for the community and with university activities.

P.S. If you haven't noticed, bowling hasn't been considered the ideal date since "Happy Days."

Katy Lindsay, Delta Zeta
Caroline Worth, Delta Zeta
Eleanor Key, Zeta Tau Alpha

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

The Battalion Editorial Board
Brigid Brockman, Managing 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 Cami Brown, John Hallett, Kay Mallett
Assistant Sports Editor Charean Williams

Entertainment Editors Shawn Behlen, Leigh-Ellen Clark
Staff Writers Rebecca Adair, Cathie Anderson, Marcy Basile, Tamara Bell, Brandon Berry, Jeff Brady, Dainah Bullard, Ann Cervenka, Michael Crawford, Mary Cox, Kirsten Dietz, Cindy Gay, Pete Herndon, Trent Leopold, Sarah Oates, Jerry Oslin, June Pang, Tricia Parker, Cathy Riehl, Marybeth Rohsner, Walter Smith
Copy Editors Jan Perry, Kelley Smith
Make-up Editors Karen Bloch, Karla Martin
Columnists Ed Cassavoy, Kevin Inda, Loren Steffy

Editorial Cartoonist Mike Lane
Sports Cartoonist Dale Smith
Copy Writer Cathy Bennett
Photo Editor Katherine Hurt
Photographers Anthony Casper, Wayne Grabein, Bill Hughes, Frank Irwin, 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 holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 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