

OPINION

# No school Friday

Gov. Mark White has given most of us a long Easter weekend this year. He signed legislation Wednesday which declared Friday an official holiday.

Because school will not be in session, there will no Battalion published Friday.

Have a good holiday. If you're going out of town, drive carefully.

The Battalion Editorial Board

# An open letter to A&M student body

An open letter to the student body:

Two days ago I became an involved participant in the GSS open forum held outside Rudder. Let me state at this point that I am a straight, married mother of two. I also consider myself fairly open minded when it comes to most issues.

I asked several rather severe questions which addressed my concerns as a parent and received prompt, clear answers from several GSS members. After a short period of time, I found myself involved in an extremely heated discussion with members of the Corps, several fraternity members and other students. By and large, these people gave me a chance to speak my mind whether or not they agreed with my views. Only one person was threatening me and I had a feeling that had not a GSS member stepped in, the rest of the mob would have allowed this poor excuse for a man to beat me to a pulp.

It was during this discussion that I suddenly found a microphone from a TV station shoved in my face. Finding myself on the news at 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. the next day surprised me. Especially when what was broadcast was only one-third of a sentence that, had the whole sentence been broadcast would have meant something entirely different. As a result of this, the last twelve hours of my life have been a living hell!

My husband was confronted all day at his place of employment. No one asked what my whole statement was. They automatically assumed they heard the whole thing. Reactions were very strong.

Later in the day, I attempted to attend an afternoon class. I never made it. I was accosted numerous times on my way to class by very angry students who

recognized me. It surprised me to find the number of students who watch the local news. It surprised me even more to discover that vigilante justice roams the pavement of TAMU. No one gave me a chance. I was screamed at, fingers and fists were waved in my face and a few people threatened me. Rather than try to walk more than half the campus and take what I felt was a major risk to my health, I left the campus. But it didn't stop there. It continued in town at the bank, the grocery store and my children's school.

I never realized that supposedly intelligent, fair-minded, educated people could try, convict and sentence someone without benefit of hearing the other side. The reactions to my partial quote both scare and anger me. In my opinion, the GSS is no longer the issue. My issue has become one of unfair condemnation and unjust persecution.

I would welcome the chance to clarify myself to anyone who would listen openly. However, when I am jumped on and threatened as I have been, trying to speak to these individuals is like reasoning with a dead man — it gets you nowhere.

Everyone has a right to their own opinion. You do not have the right to tell someone else what his or her opinion is until you have all the facts. If you recognize me on campus or in town and you want the truth, then ask me nicely and I will be more than happy to clarify the misquote. If you have already credited me with what amounts to a lie, then leave me alone, if that is what you choose to believe.

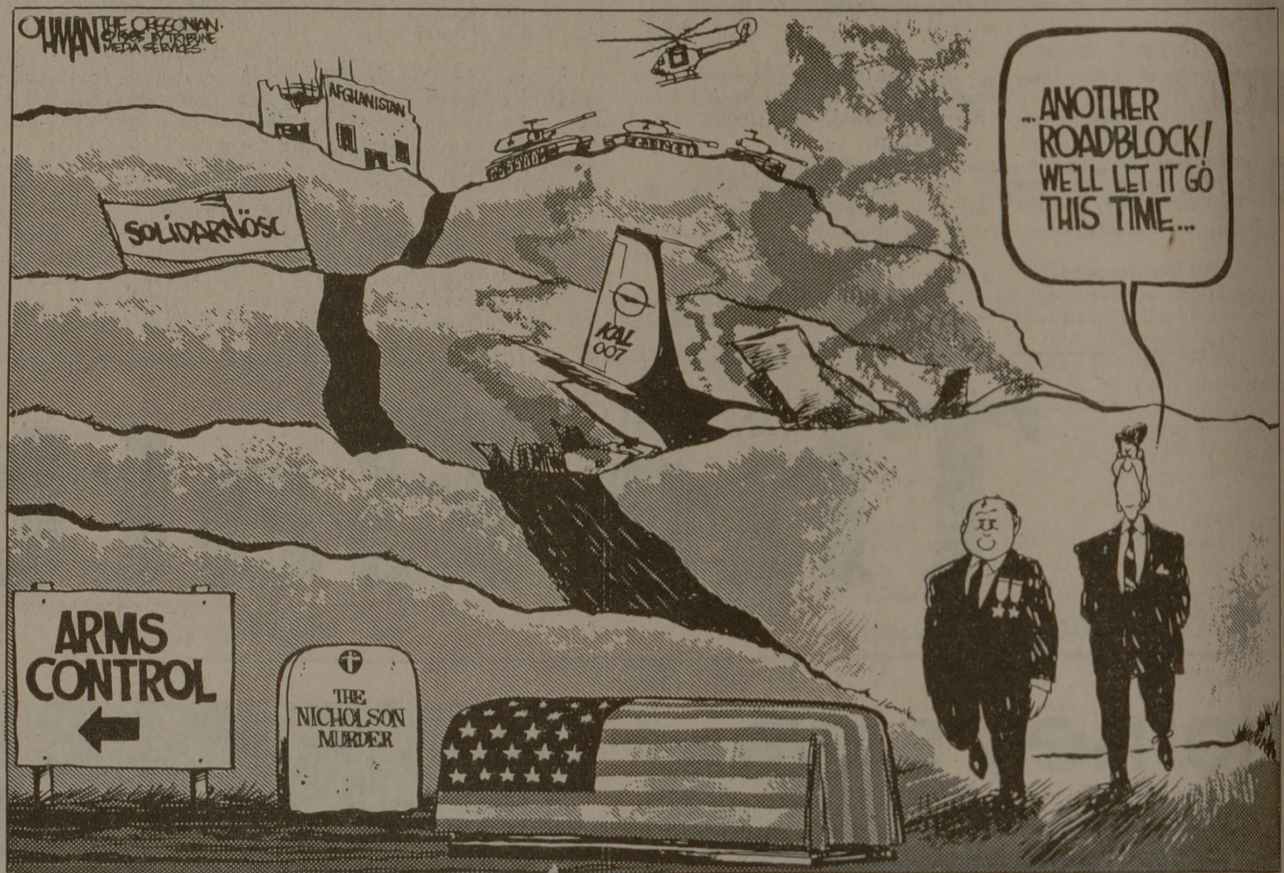
It saddens me to think that a school I have loved and supported for the better part of my 30 years can be so unjustly cruel and vicious.

I love TAMU more than I could possibly explain, but in the last day many of my "fellow ags" have made it awfully hard.

Thank you, Battalion, for giving me this chance to tell my side of the story.

Nancy Harvey, Class of '87

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



# Texas stereotypes widely held

There's nothing like a bunch of misdirected insults at Texas to make my usual lily-white neck flaming red.

Jan Perry

And I'm not your slap-'em-on-the-back-cigar-chomping-good-'ol-boy Texan. But even the most tolerant people — like me — have a breaking point.

I was, and am, determined never to fit that stereotype of the Texan. However, my many "foreign" roommates over the past four years have broken my willpower many a time.

They ganged up on me. They criticized everything from Texas terrain to Texas people. Unfortunately, most of what they said was true. But who can take all that criticism in one heap?

Two of my roommates were genuine foreigners. One was South African, the other a German who was raised in England. But they were undivided in their hatred of Texas and Texans.

The South African's opinions probably should be disqualified because of her background. She's a pretty mixed-up person. As an Indian living in the racially upset South Africa, she was caught in the middle of everything. She wasn't considered white, nor was she considered black. To compensate for her South African non-personhood, she flashed her daddy's money everywhere. She fit the stereotype of the Texan she so hated.

She denounced everything Texan. She hated our beaches — not as clean as Sun City's. She hated our cities — not enough shopping facilities. She hated

the people — too power hungry. Nothing was as good as South Africa.

She was really giving me a complex, so I developed a "Texas — love it or leave it" attitude with her. This only confirmed her opinion that Texans are rednecks.

The other genuine foreigner — the German — was a pseudo-communist/socialist. She even subscribed to "Moscow Today." Although a self-proclaimed socialist, I think she was just a throwback to the 60s.

Her problem was that her ultra-liberal opinions didn't jive with my typical Texan's conservative views. More than once we "debated" politics. My political opinions confirmed her belief that all Texans are just backwards buffoons.

Two of my other foreign roommates were from Florida and New York.

The Florida girl believes Texas is a cultural and social pit. The night life just wasn't to her liking. Of course she went out of her way to seek out the sleaziest honky-tonks in every backwoods town. The kind of clubs no Texan with any sense for self-preservation would dream of entering. Now she thinks all Texans carry broken beer bottles around with them as fashion accessories.

The New Yorker was the other extreme of the Floridian. She wanted to be a Texan. So, she took her banker-daddy's gold card to Saks Fifth Avenue and bought out their western-wear department. She came back with the tightest Gloria Vanderbilt jeans, the pointiest-toed lizard skin boots, and the broadest beaver-fur cowboy hat available. She was The Urban Cowgirl.

Now, she's back in New York speaking Texan with a Yankee accent, making everyone think Texans are rolling in dough and driving Cadillacs with steer horns on the hood. Her image of Texas is tarnishing everyone's good reputation.

But, of all my anti-Texas roommates the most vocal one is from Colorado. As a ski-resort groupie, she's been exposed to the "elite" group of beautiful Texans, the ones who wear Gucci parkas and use \$500 skis and fall down all over the slopes. She thinks we're all brash and rowdy, and like to flaunt our oil dollars. Her biggest complaint about Texans is that we can't ski. But she hates all weekend skiers. She's into the sport for the "art."

All these foreigners who come to Texas for four years to attend college—I don't know why since Texas is such a bad place to live — go back to their home states and countries and half-mouth Texas and exaggerate their experiences to their friends and neighbors.

My reactions to their various attitude problems have mislabeled me as a redneck and have put the burden of fault on my shoulders. I am, along with every other Texan, responsible in part for the misconceptions of Texans that are floating around the world.

And the tall tales these "foreigners" are generating — coupled with television's views of what Texas is supposed to be — just accentuate the misconceptions about Texas and Texans.

Jan Perry is a senior journalism major and a copy editor for The Battalion.

# LETTERS:

## Isn't intolerance, hate a sin, too?

EDITOR:

This letter is in reference to the gay rights issue and Christian involvement. The fact civil rights and not religion is the issue has not stopped some of A&M's "christians" from voicing their beliefs.

I suppose it shouldn't in our society, but the "christian" arguments I have heard are a voice that is illogical, discriminating, hateful and unfortunately common. It not only angers, but nauseates me to hear "christians" damning others to hell with quote upon quote from the Bible, screaming about christian morality while quoting Jewish law. In their search for the literal interpretation of the Bible they have found words and lost its essence — Love. It sickens me to see people discriminated against in the name of Jesus Christ, who preached of an unconditional love and associated with outcasts of society; beggars, criminals and prostitutes alike.

Do these "christians" feel that they are God's select? Would Jesus have condemned Buddha or Gandhi because of their religion despite their goodness? "Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3) The gay people whom I have come to know are good, kind and loving. I ask you, is hate a lesser sin than any other?

Lionel Cantu

## Poem about moslems insulting to some

EDITOR:

We resent and deplore the type of irresponsible journalism exhibited in an article appearing in the "At Ease" section of Battalion on March 29.

The article and the so-called "poem," supposedly an account of the experiences of a teenager in a moslem country, is an insult to the character and dignity of moslems, especially moslem women. What was printed was neither a factual representation of events nor an artistic expression of creative thinking — only a set of short-sighted inferences.

Let us assume her experience is genuine. Can general conclusions be made about the religion that one-fourth of humanity adheres to, based on the observations of a sixteen-year-old girl staying in a distant country for four months? Can we assume that christianity is symbolized by Jim Jones and the incident in Guyana? Or that christian values can be seen in the growing statistics of teenage pregnancies, drug addictions and child molestations in this country?

Anyone receiving the treatment given in the article and the accompanying piece would be astonished and outraged. Astonished at the insolence of people who make such derogatory remarks and those who print them. Were such offensive remarks made about the Jews or Christians, one can be sure that

The Battalion would have never dared to print them. But when it comes to moslems, standards change and anything is permissible, presumably because those who have the audacity to insult other people's values consider themselves "civilized" and the rest of the world "uncivilized." This self-centered, egotistic mentality is at the root of the problem, and will not be corrected unless and until people bury their prejudices and write responsibly.

Saeid and Elahab Minaei  
EDITOR'S NOTE: At Ease published the poem "Kabul, 1974" because of its literary merit as judged by the English Honor Society — it was the winner of the 1985 Texas A&M Writing Contest. This contest could not have been covered accurately without printing the winner and the views presented in it, and the related article, by author Therese Norris in no way reflect the views of the At Ease staff.

## C.S. city council race non-partisan

EDITOR:

Last time, I heard the city council races in College Station were non-partisan. Evidently I was misinformed judging from Aggie GOP's actions of the last week.

Their table at Political Awareness Day looked like a site for a Mike Hachtman pep rally, in addition to the candidate's own table. Also, and even more disgraceful, when Hachtman spoke to their organization Tuesday night, one of his

opponents, Terri Tongco, was also present and was refused the opportunity to speak.

Conversely, Aggie Democrats on March 28 invited all three candidates, Tongco, Hachtman and Roy Hann, to speak and answer questions from the group. The Democratic group declined to make an endorsement in the non-partisan race and allowed each candidate to speak equally. Ask Mike, I'm sure he'd agree. The meeting was even rescheduled to accommodate Hachtman's schedule.

I hope that the students at A&M will vote for the most qualified, and not most partisan, candidate in this important, yet non-partisan race.

Derek Blakeley

## Argument for gay rights 'a sham'

EDITOR:

The gays are charlatans as "rights" activists. The essence of the civil/worker/women rights movements is totally different from the gay's struggle. Progressives smash genetic/class prejudice to obtain representational rights of nativity and gain compensatory rights in enterprises. But promoting willful, changeable, disease-ridden behavior is a sham. The gays should go fly their banner with drunks, drug addicts and prostitutes.

Long live true freedom.  
Frank Jowdy

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

**The Battalion Editorial Board**

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

**The Battalion Staff**

Assistant City Editors  
Dainah Bullard, Kari Fluegel  
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, Mary Basile  
Tamara Bell, Brandon Berry  
Jeff Brady, Ann Cervenka  
Michael Crawford, Mary Cox  
Kirsten Dietz, Cindy Gay  
Pete Herndon, Trent Leopold  
Sarah Oates, Jerry Odum  
June Pang, Tricia Parker  
Cathy Riely, Marybeth Rohsner  
Walter Smith

**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 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 fall 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) 845-2830. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77801.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77801

STAT  
Award  
expo  
to di  
By LESLI  
Rep  
"Flouride af  
teeth." "We wa  
sciousness." "H  
be improved  
not enough."  
What sound  
arena at the stat  
ally Political Av  
Wednesday at the  
Center.  
Amnesty Inte  
peace, the Stu  
Legislative Study  
Advocate, Aggie  
Drivers, Safewa  
the Brazos Val  
League were am  
which participat  
Most of the  
agreed that the a  
sored by Political  
idea for Texas A  
Martha Bebis,  
the Safewater Fo  
litical Awareness  
thing for student  
them to the vari  
they may encou  
Exposure now c  
head start, she sa  
Three A&M  
Voic  
A  
PORT ARTI  
van is taking T  
the world, beam  
hind the Iron C  
The van is a  
wheels belongi  
international sl  
ated by the U  
speaks in 38 lar  
wide, primarily  
"Cur  
fav  
\$3  
Chicke  
• Cream  
• Your C  
• Texas T  
WEST  
STE  
1701  
Next to