A Texas Blue Law repeal is overdue

The House voted Wednesday to repeal the Blue Law, a 24year-old restriction which prohibited the sale of 42 items on consecutive weekends. Rep. David Cain, D-Dallas, appropriately compared the out-of-date law to "Leave It to Beaver."

As Cain pointed out, stores are no longer as specialized as they were in 1961, when the law was first enacted. A Safeway or a Kroger can find it difficult to keep track of what items can and cannot be sold on Sundays.

Opponents of the repeal are claiming a need to have a day reserved for the family, but having stores open on Sunday would not prevent a "family day" for those who desired it.

The Blue Law is a relic from a different age which has lingered in our society long enough. Many families, and, for that matter, college students, have no choice but to shop on Sundays. And as more and more households have both husband and wife working, June simply doesn't have all day to shop before Ward and the Beaver get home.

The Senate has not yet voted on the repeal, but we hope they will follow the example of their neighbors in the House and bring an end to this archaic and seemingly random restriction on the sale of certain items of merchandise.

In 1985, the idea of not being able to purchase certain things on Sunday is ridiculous at best, and grocery and department stores having to rope off aisles containing "prohibited" items is even more absurd.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Handicapped are more than ballast

created equal,"is not just a dramatic phrase penned by an idealistic partriot who had no concept of life in the 20th Century. It is one of the foundations of our country. Apparently the Texas Commission on

Loren Steffy

Human Rights has forgotten the signifigance of these words.

Bill Hale, the commission's executive director, said Wednesday the agency will not prosecute complaints of job discrimination filed by handicapped people. Hale said because of lack of funds, the agency had to concentrate its small

Not only is such a decree in direct violation of state law, it completely ignores the commission's primary purpose. Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, one of the sponsors of the bill that created the agency, said the commission was specifically ordered by the Legislature to handle complaints of the handicapped because the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission does not deal

Hale claims the agency lost \$40,000 handling handicapped complaints.

"I just can't afford to do that anymo-

What a business-like approach to human rights. Defending social injustice is a heroic thing as long as the budget stays afloat, but the minute the ship begins to sink, it's time to throw that handicapped ballast overboard. Hale is saying handicapped people have to sacrifice their Graduating se-basic human rights for the sake of a niors escape from

I'm sure their employers won't mind Hale's decision, knowing that their chances of prosecution for job discrimination are almost nil.

Maybe enough handicapped people will get together and sue the commission for its blatant abuse of the law. But the two worlds: how ironic to have to sue an agency to what to do with **Dainah Bullard** tion requirement: get them to to stop discriminating your graduation against you so that they can protect you cap and gown. from discrimination.

men are created equal when it is economically feasible.

Loren Steffy is a sophomore journalism major and the editorial page editor for The Battalion.

LETTERS:

Exposing a magician

What a magician Mike Coad is with numbers and statistics. In the first place, his statement, "last semester a student who earned a 78 in Chemistry 101 got the same 'C' as a student who earned a 56," is really imaginative. If you ask any Chem 101 student who earned a 78 last semester, he'll tell you that he got a "B.' On the other hand, a student with a 61 or below unfortunately only got a "D." However, in stretching a range of 15 points to a range of 22 points only involves a less than 50 percent error. Not

Secondly, he provided The Battalion staff writer with the following numbers about the Chem 102 grade averages from three exams: 6 percent "A," percent "B," 20.5 percent "C," 26.5 percent "D" and 31.5 percent "F." He also repetitively talked about 58 percent "Ds" and "Fs" in his letter to the editor. However, on page 4 of the "first day hand-out" which we presented to all the Chem 102 students, we specifically stated, "The ranges of the letter grades will be determined at the end of the semester." None of us teaching in Chem 102 knows anything about the letter grade distribution invented by Mike. In fact, none of us know any letter grade distribution of Chem 102 at this stage.

Since Mike is so creative about numbers and statistics related to events

do not know what percentage of truth I should believe in our great Magician when he quotes some numbers and statistics related to events which are either two years ago (the O'Connor data) or one hundred miles away (the UT data). Since there is doubt about the solid numbers he quotes, how can we trust the subjective opinions he expresses?

Journalist and TV commentators: if you want to do any responsible reporting, be very quick with your eyes and ears. Be sure that you can distinguish whether the great Magician is idling or performing. If I were you, anything he says I would ask him to identify the source, or to back up statements with unmistakable facts.

Dr. Yi-Noo Tang **Lecturer Freshman Chemistry**

Defending Freshman **Chemistry Program**

A note to the students of Chem 101

I have several short remarks to make in response to Mike Coad's assessment of the present Freshman Chemistry Department Program at TAMU

The questionaires for the recent (4/26/85) student poll were handled personally by Dr. Tang and myself; the chemistry department was not involved. The information was collected in the which are both recent and local, I really Friday noon class when many students ture doctors veterinarians, engineers,

Editors defend The Battalions

There are about as many misconceptions about The Battalion around here as there are Aggies — a whole bunch.

Rhonda Snider

This week The Battalion ran a three-part series about, guess what, The Battalion.

The writer of the articles interviewed many people about their feelings toward Texas A&M's student newspaper. The comments ranged from complimentary to downright derogatory.

Michelle Powe

It seems a favorite pastime in Aggieland is ragging on 'that liberal rag,' The Battalion. Of the criticisms directed at The Battalion, some were valid and

The charge that too many mistakes consistently appear in the paper is valid. Even one mistake is too many. We try to be as accurate as possible, but even the best reporters make mistakes now and

That our reporters delve into unfahave to cover events or issues they know

The root of both of these problems is the same: Batt reporters are students.

The entire staff of The Battalion is made up of students - students who do

Because The Battalion relies on student workers, it has a high turnover rate. Reporters aren't around long enough to become experts on particular areas. By the time editors become proficient at editing and management, it's time to hire a new staff.

In other words, we don't have the ad-

vantage that non-collegiate newspapers lished lots of articles that reflecting have of honing reporter-analysts and on, for example, the Corpsthe wise old souls who work at copy

So we work with what we have. Sometimes we send inexperienced reporters out, admonishing them to do loads of background research, to question anything they don't understand and to dou-

The choice is either to send less-experienced reporters out or to not cover the event at all. We choose to cover the

And we make some mistakes. But we're not afraid to correct those mistakes, remembering that a published correction is a sign that we're doing everything we can to be accurate and ob-

While these criticisms about The Battalion are valid, some of the complaints in the series were without merit. They reflected gross misconceptions of the purpose of The Battalion.

A common complaint about the paper is that the editorial board does not reflect the opinions of A&M students. The editorial board is not supposed to miliar areas to cover a story is also a represent student body opinion, but to valid criticism. At times, Batt reporters reflect our own opinions. Our goal is not to be a mirror of the student body, but a light to the student body. The editorials are to make people think.

> Even so, we give other opinions equal time: columns, letters, reader's forums.

We're accused of covering controvertheir Battalion work in between going to sial topics just to kick up dirt, and of classes, studying for exams and working covering only bad news. We're accused of being anti-Corps, anti-Student Government, anti-A&M, anti-American, anti-anything.

> The Battalion does not try to be controversial; we just try to present the news. And we do cover good news; people usually just remember or notice the

We're not anti-anything. We've pub- aging editor.

tion of the new Corps comma appointment of the first won Corps staff, the Corps awards, "Inform just a few — that ran on page of don't manufacture news. Anythin ative we reported about the Cohev dial light that — reported. We don't ber and bad things happen.

We're not a bunch of liberal eive info At least not most of us.

When you have as large and ob future a group as we have working sweeping generalizations don't month b

This semester, we have had coordinated on The Battalion two cadets, have pureign students, out-of-state substation and gay student, black students, souther fraternity members, students with the students of country music, rock music, to the numusic and gospel music. People placement staff are married, others are significant. a few are engaged. We have proceers, say go to various religious services a elephone who go to no religious services. Occupation

It's hard to be biased in any mittee. way with such a myriad of people provide

But probably the most poccupation charge waved in our faces is know about Battalion does not accurately ref A&M student body. The job of "We wi paper is not to mirror its reader that peof to report accurately and fairly vite for

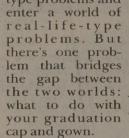
To only print pretty little "We al which say what Aggies want inancial would be to deny the stimulation ensed oc intelligence and curiousity of stud

College students are adults amployer to absorb differing opinions and cupation their own decisions. They are mill to co pressionable as one former body president seems to think. Inform have to spoon-feed them the lipout fut upations of the world. We don't have setz says down to them.

Rhonda Snider is the fall editor wailable Battalion and Michelle Powers al Coor

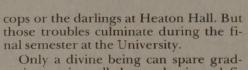
Some post-graduation uses for that lovely cap and gow

a world of collegetype problems and



This problem is difficult to catago-The phrase, after all, says "... all rize. Is it the last of the college-type men are created equal." Not "... all problems, or the first of the real-worldtype problems? Why are gowns for Texas A&M graduates black (as in funeral) instead of maroon (as in Aggie)? And what do you do with a \$13.67 robe composed of two yards of paperish material that smells like glue (is THAT what holds it together?), and a hat that looks like a retarded flying disk?

The problem of what to do with an ugly graduation gown after graduation is but one dilemma faced by graduating seniors. Few students cruise through their years at A&M without ever being hassled by their professors, the campus make a wigwam.



uating seniors all the academic and financial fiascoes of their final semester. However, with a little ingenuity, one graduation memory — the ugly, smelly black one — can be salvaged to live a life of usefulness. The following are some for a flying disk. (You may g pratical uses for an impractical gradua- than just a little exercise. Wh

• Wear the gown as bath robe — provided the paperish material holds up to cap for a serving tray, cake plant to cap for a serving tray. moisture and there is absolutely no one around to see you.

 Wear the gown as swim suit coverup — provided the paperish material holds up to moisture and you want to discourage everyone who might see you. • Wear the gown as a gown — if

you're really desperate. • Line a bird cage with the gown — if you want to depress the bird.

• Drape a bird cage with the gown if you want to kill the bird.

 Make a black mask, and play Zoro with the gown. • Stretch the gown over a frame to

• Use the cap and gown for rai — the perfect fashion accessory

• Use the cap and gown for an costume at Halloween. The caps form a pointed peak with just a

• Get a little exercise — use what direction that thing could by

 Dress up your kitchen – cutting board.

• Bronze the cap and gown and it to a marble slab — the campus more statues.

These are just a few of man tions to the problem of what to the graduate's garb. Every grad free to adopt one of these solut think up one of his or her own. thing: don't dump the costume Will or the Salvation Army. what did they ever do to you?

Dainah Bullard is a graduating a tural journalism major and for sistant city editor for The Battali

The Battalion

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Confer The Battalion Editorial Board

Rhonda Snider, Editor Michelle Powe, Managing Ed Kay Mallett, News Editor Loren Steffy, Editorial Page Ed Karen Bloch, City Editor

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in The Battalion a Editorial Board or the author, and do not resent the opinions of Texas A&M admini or the Board of Regents.

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exo
length. The editorial staff reserves the
for style and length but will make every
the author's intent. Each letter must b
include the address and telephone num

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had already started their weekend, thus biochemists, biologists, etc. We have an accounting for the lower response. The data were worked up by me, Dr. Tang and a Battalion representative. We are popular instructors, it is true, but our classes are only slightly above average. Even so, this survey was probably more representative of general student opinion than the comments of the students

Mike is tutoring. You are in university to learn, to think—to seek out all sides of a situation and make an independent decision based on facts. The fact is that the grade distribution for Chem 101 (Fall 84) was: A, 100-88; B, 87-78; C, 77-62; D, 61-50. This does not include the 2 points extra credit for attempting the homework problems. The fact is that the grade distribution for Chem 10 will not be set until after finals week. Mike misrepresented the data for the first three exams. The final grades will be curved. Curving is the norm for university courses (and yes, Mike, Dr. O'Connor did curve the grades in his administration).

We understand chemistry is a difficult subject and therefore unpopular for many of you who have to take it. But, remember — we are teaching fuobligation to give these students a solid, extensive grounding in basic chemistry. The tutorial help we have available is to help you understand the material in a course that is not your main love.

Any program can be improved to some extent — there is no doubt — con-structive criticism is a part of the process

but criticism is based on fact. As it stands, the Freshman Chemistry program is at least as good, as helpful, as willing to discuss and explain policy to its studentsas any program on campus. I am willing to discuss face-to-face the pros and cons of this program (including exams, homework, textbook etc.) with anyone.

Good luck on your finals.

Dr.Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt Lecturer in the Freshman Chemistry

Editor's note: Dr. Keeney-Kennicutt says the grade distribution statistics for the Fall Chemistry 101 classes (quoted above) were obtained from the end-ofthe-year computer grade sheets. However, the statistics quoted in Wednesday's Battalion were grades reported to Michael Coad by Chemistry 101 stu-