

OPINION

TDC building on unstable ground

Joint Endeavor, a Texas Department of Corrections inmate-produced publication, has been canceled. TDC officials claim they killed the quarterly magazine because of rising costs.

Mark Vines, one of the editors of Joint Endeavor, wrote several articles for Joint Endeavor and other publications outside of the TDC which are critical of the prison system. He wrote a letter which indicated the magazine was killed because prison officials did not like what he and other inmates were reporting.

Joint Endeavor circulated inside and outside the prison system and carried advertising from merchants across the state.

TDC officials claim the cancellation has nothing to do with editorial content, citing publication costs and overcrowding of the print shop as the primary reasons.

But the TDC's reasoning is built on shaky ground. In recent prison press cases, the courts have said inmates do not forfeit the First Amendment right to freedom of the press. Although there has been no Supreme Court ruling on the matter, close legal analogies have been established between the college press and the prison press.

Of course, lack of finances is a valid reason for shutting down private publications. However, court cases make a distinction between private publications and those created by the state.

Courts have ruled in college cases that once the state creates an avenue of expression, such as a campus newspaper, it cannot cease publication because of disagreement with editorial content or financial shortcomings.

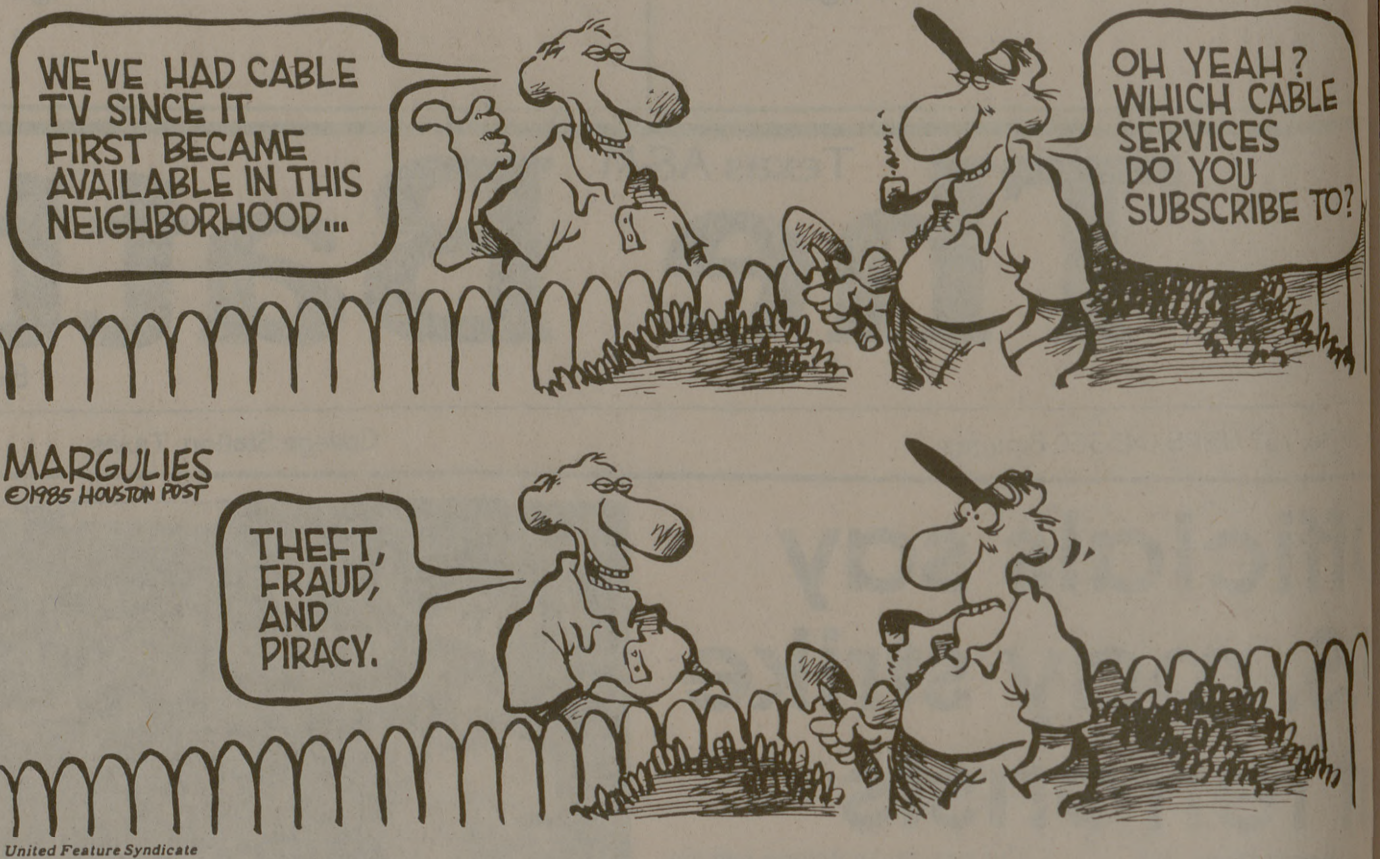
In *Joyer v. Whiting* the court ruled: "Censorship of constitutionally protected expression cannot be imposed by suspending the editors, suppressing circulation . . . excising repugnant materials, withdrawing financial support, or asserting any other form of censorial oversight based on the institution's power of the purse."

Because of the close analogy between the campus press and the prison press, the TDC may have its legal hands full. Previous cases of similar nature have been ruled in favor of the inmates.

If the TDC wanted to stop publication of Joint Endeavor, it could have found better, more legally sound ways of doing so. Relocating the inmates in charge or placing them in programs which allow them little time to put out a magazine have been found constitutional by the courts.

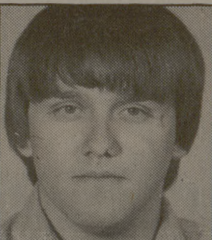
The next time the TDC wants to kill an inmate publication, perhaps it should consult some law books before taking action. At least then they could find some legally firm ground to support their case.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Channel 15 News victim of brutal budget-axe murder

An axe murder is a horrible thing.



Karl Pallmeyer

The victim is KAMU Channel 15's news department. The murder weapon is the budget "axe." The fatal blow was struck two weeks ago when KAMU was told they had to cut their budget by \$140,000. KAMU had no choice, 15 News had to go. Friday night will be the last broadcast of 15 News.

For 15 years KAMU has been broadcasting 15 News. For 15 years 15 News has been serving the Brazos Valley with news, weather, sports and special interest features. Being one of the few PBS stations in the nation with a news program, KAMU's 15 News would concentrate mainly on coverage of local events, leaving national news to PBS and the other networks. 15 News received many awards from local community organizations and schools for its outstanding coverage of local news events.

Besides the news program, KAMU's news department also served as the lab for three journalism classes. When a student takes a course in chemistry, that

student should get to work with chemicals. When a student takes a course in zoology that student should get to work with animals. When a student takes a course in journalism that student should get to work with the news.

Students taking courses in broadcast journalism used Channel 15's newsroom to get "real world" experience. In the "real world" a television station's newsroom is a semi-organized form of chaos, with phones ringing, televisions blaring, clocks ticking, scanners beeping, typewriters typing, reporters running around like decapitated chickens and editors screaming about deadlines.

By using Channel 15's newsroom as a lab, broadcast journalism students would get to write a news story for class in an environment similar to what they would be writing in when they graduated. The students would write real news stories that, if they were good enough, would be used on 15 News.

Broadcast journalism students would also get to use KAMU's equipment. These students would learn how to make a television program by making a television program. Students would get to use lights, microphones, cameras, videotape machines, recording facilities and editing benches to put together a program. These students would learn

almost every aspect of television production by using the tools of the trade.

The death of Channel 15 News will affect many people. It will affect those who enjoyed the in-depth local coverage that 15 News provided. It will affect those students who are majoring in broadcast journalism. But maybe those effects will not all be bad.

The Department of Communication will still be teaching classes in broadcast journalism. The department is in the process of purchasing the necessary equipment so that students will be able to learn what they need to know about broadcast journalism. As of yet, no plan is in place for broadcast journalism students to have their work put on the air but the department is looking into the possibility of cable access. There will be changes made in the way broadcast journalism is taught at Texas A&M. But change is often the way of the world.

KAMU's production of 15 News has been expensive. Now KAMU will be able to concentrate on more profitable productions. With more revenue, KAMU will be able to offer an even higher quality of programming than they have been in the past.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

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.

Heard the one about the parking space?

EDITOR:

Recently, there have been a series of letters — both pro and con — relating to the University Police Department and the parking problems at Texas A&M.

I have spent my four years here as a north side dorm resident, and I feel this qualifies me to express my opinions on the present parking situation.

In short, the parking situation is a joke. As freshmen and sophomores, we were told to expect a huge, multi-level parking garage. What have we gotten? A 300 percent increase in parking sticker fees.

Blaming the Police Department for the lack of parking spaces is like blaming the weatherman for rain.

The real problem lies with a Board of Regents who would rather promote a building for former students than solve the present parking problems.

However, the University Police must accept some responsibility. Mr. Bob Wiatt, Director of Security, has referred to students with parking tickets as "dead meat."

Apparently, Mr. Wiatt has never driven in circles for 45 minutes searching for a parking spot.

Mr. Wiatt feels that his department has a "negative image," and he continually reminds us that the "Kampus Kops" are certified police officers.

This is difficult for students to accept. Let's face it, Mr. Wiatt, watching one of your seasoned professionals flag down and ticket a speeding bicyclist is very detrimental to your image.

If you are serious about improving your image, please take my advice and simply lighten up!

Slow down the number of parking tickets, place wheel locks on automobiles rather than towing them and, most importantly, pester those in charge to do something about our parking problems.

You'll find that most students con-

sider A&M home, and do their best to obey the rules.

If you will be a little more lenient and less judgemental, you will find that the students will do the same.

Robert D. Rausch

Simpson's memory may have failed him

EDITOR:

I was reading the article in The Battalion about General Simpson and considered it a good article until the part where Gen. Simpson gave his opinion about women in the Corps. He seems to think that a lawsuit filed by Melanie Zentgraf "set the cause of women in the corps back five years."

I can't think of a statement that is further from the truth.

Five years ago last May I finished my senior year in the Corps at Texas A&M. My freshman and sophomore years were like a nightmare in terms of relationships with male cadets. We were insulted, avoided and even spat upon by male upperclassmen, and our own male classmates were punished by their own upperclassmen for being friendly to us. When I complained to my upperclassmen (all women were confined to one company), I was told that I should just take it and try to understand that it was going to take a while for women to be accepted in the Corps.

When I became a junior, a freshman came to me in tears. A male cadet had called her obscene names and had spat on the ground beside her. I could still see some of it on her shoe. I will never forget the incident, because it changed my way of thinking forever. I couldn't give her the pat answer given to me. Women had been in the Corps almost five years! How much longer were we supposed to wait to be accepted?

Verbal and physical abuse of a person simply because that person is female should not be tolerated for any reason. Efforts to correct the situation through the chain of command were fruitless. Complaints to cadet officers, military advisors, University officials (including

Gen. Simpson) and even the president of the University brought little action.

Finally, Melanie filed the lawsuit and things began to change. Male cadets who openly harassed female cadets were strongly reprimanded. Uniform changes that had been requested for years such as A-line skirts, pants with belt loops, tucked-in shirts and senior boots were approved by the uniform committee. The University seemed to bend over backwards to show it was not discriminating against women.

There continued to be anonymous harassments (phone calls, etc.) but the Class of '80's efforts to improve treatment of women in the Corps, including the lawsuit, set the position of women in the Corps ahead five years, if anything. Perhaps your memory has failed you, Gen. Simpson. Do you think women would be wearing boots now if it weren't for the Class of '80? Would they be allowed to join the band? Women may still suffer from some discrimination, but at least they don't have to suffer abuse.

To pretend that things were hunky-dory and coming along just dandy before the lawsuit was filed is ridiculous. Why do you think it was filed?

Marjorie A. Nicholson '80

Students 'Coaded' into using tutor

EDITOR:

It is sad to see The Battalion so used. On June 28, 1985 you published yet another tirade against Chemistry 101-102 from Michael Coad released as a part of his business. Business apparently has been good for Mr. Coad. If he had 539 students (his figures) in the spring, he lifted nearly \$19,000 (\$539 x \$35) from

Aggie pockets. He conducts his classes on campus, rent free, and gets free advertising. What other private businesses are so privileged?

Chemistry 101 and 102 are university-level courses involving analytical thinking, problem analysis and are challenging. The failure rate runs from 12.5 percent to 15 percent, a rate typical of many university courses, certainly not a "weed-out" rate. Our students have satisfied Texas A&M University entrance requirements. To imply that they are incapable of doing university-level work is demeaning both to them and this university.

Also regrettable is Mr. Coad's implication that students get A's and B's because of attending his help classes. Students get their grade in Chemistry 101-102 the old fashioned way — they EARN it. That some A and some B students may also attend Mr. Coad's classes is because they are willing to use any tool that might help them.

We found that most of Mr. Coad's students in the spring were C and D students. This is understandable in that more of them are susceptible to solicitations of an alleged way to pass a course without having to work and study. Mr. Coad's creative book-keeping and "magic" with grades and averages have been the object of previous comments in these columns.

Mr. Coad's comments about how teaching should be done is just grandstanding and posturing. Mr. Coad enjoys an unusual relationship to Chemistry 101-102; if the courses weren't challenging, requiring study and effort, there wouldn't be clients for his hype and hustle.

Richard M. Hedges
Professor and Co-Coordinator of First Year Chemistry

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography class within the Department of Communications.

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