

OPINION

'Beneficial' has nicer ring than 'egotistical'

There is a great tradition at this school. The tradition says that once you graduate you should become rich and successful. Once you're rich and successful you should donate lots of money to Texas A&M.



Karl Pallmeyer

Most Aggies, once they become former students, usually donate certain amounts to the University. Some former students are happy to send \$100 and become members of the Century Club. Some former students contribute to the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center building fund. Some former students donate enough money to have buildings named after them. One former student, Ford Albritton, even had a bell tower built in his name.

The Albritton Tower, the Clayton Williams Alumni Center and the Century Club are fine symbols showing the former students' support for Texas A&M but they do little to benefit the students currently going to school here. That's why I propose the Karl Pallmeyer Commemorative Bell Tower.

I plan to graduate one of these days and I would also like to become rich and successful. I would like to give Texas A&M something that would both benefit the student body and be an monument to myself.

The Karl Pallmeyer Commemorative Bell Tower will house the following features:

- A digital clock. Most people can't tell time on a real clock so this will be an advantage over most bell towers
- A synthesized noise maker. Instead of having a boring set of bells the synthesized noise maker will make a different noise each hour. The synthesizer can sound like cars, animals, sirens, gongs, and just about anything else. Every hour will have a surprise sound.
- A 10,000-car parking garage. If there is one thing this campus really needs it's more parking spaces.

•An electronic scarecrow to scare off the birds and keep them from messing up the sidewalks around the Academic Building.

•A students' bank. This bank will be open 24 hours a day and will not require a minimum deposit on checking accounts. You will be able to cash any check from any bank, even if you don't have a local account.

•A satellite dish. With this dish we can offer free cable service to the student body so that they won't have to be screwed by McCaw.

•The Aggie Student Pub. This pub will give A&M students and faculty a nice, quiet place to have a few beers. This pub could do wonders for student-teacher relationships.

•An ice cream store. This ice cream store will serve good quality ice cream like the creamery used to until it was shut down due to budget cuts.

•KARL-FM. A radio station that will offer real rock 'n' roll instead of the junior high school pop music that the other local stations offer. KARL-FM will have a new department that is structured to teach broadcast journalism students as well as deliver the news.

•KARL-TV. A TV station that will offer quality programming and will be used to give practical experience to those looking for a career in television, just like Channel 15 used to do until their budget was cut.

•Dr. K's. A club that offers good beer and good live music at low prices, just like Dr. G's used to until they had to close down.

The bell tower should be built right in the middle of campus so that everyone can benefit from it. It should be built over Sully so that he won't have to suffer the weather and the freshmen who want to polish him.

I hope the Karl Pallmeyer Commemorative Bell Tower will show the Former Students, Regents and Administration that generosity can be beneficial as well as egotistical.

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



The Mailman is comin' to town

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

(Whilst Art Buchwald is on vacation we reprint some columns from the past.)

POST OFFICE THREATENS TO CUT DOWN DELIVERIES TO THREE TIMES A WEEK — newspaper headline.

It had to happen. In the year 1990 the postmaster general went on television and announced to the country that because of a \$900 billion deficit and Congress' refusal to permit him to charge \$5 for a first-class stamp, the American people would receive their mail only one day of the year. This would be known as Mail Day and would be considered a national holiday. He regretted the decision but assured the American people that they would still receive the best service of any postal system in the world, and he promised that with only a few exceptions no one would be inconvenienced by it.

At first people were angered by the news, but pretty soon they accepted it as they have everything else the U.S. Postal Service has done to them.

In a few years Mail Day became as popular as Christmas, and the excitement built up as the day came near.

Little children were told that if they were bad the Mailman (he was pictured as a man in a blue uniform with a long white beard) wouldn't bring them any Records-of-the-Month. Department stores hired men to play the role of

Mailman, and men and women and children would sit on his knee and tell him what they wanted for Mail Day.

People decorated their doors and windows with old birthday and get-well cards and put colored lights on their mailboxes.

There was a great spirit of goodwill associated with the holiday. Doormen and elevator operators and building superintendents became kinder and more attentive. People greeted each other by saying, "Have a Merry Mail Day." Charity organizations raised funds on the streets for poor people who had no one to share their mail with.

Fraternal groups got together and walked through the streets singing Mail Carols. The churches and synagogues stayed open on Mail Day Eve so people could pray for letters from their children.

When youngsters asked where the Mailman lived, their parents told them he lived at the North Pole and he spent the entire year canceling stamps on letters and packages so he could leave them on Mail Day morning for them. When they asked how he delivered the mail, they were told he put it in bags and came down the chimney when everyone was sleeping. But if there were a dog in the house, he would pass it by. Everyone locked up their dogs on Mail Day Eve.

On the morning of Mail Day the entire family came downstairs and opened their bags of mail. Mothers got all the bills; fathers got all the newspapers and magazines that had piled up for the year. There were letters and postcards and birthday cards and Christmas cards

for everyone. Grandmothers, grandfathers opened their Social Security checks. Children gleefully opened the junk mail with four-color logos and appeals from Indian reservations that didn't exist. There were packages from stores and mailboxes and tax returns and alumni appeals.

It took all day for people to open mail. In the evening relatives came, exchange canceled stamps and had a Mail Day dinner. Every TV network on a televised football game, and Comco had a special Mail Day TV gram.

For 10 years Mail Day was the exciting day of the year. But the January, 2000, the postmaster general appeared on television and said the cause of rising costs and a \$17 billion deficit the post office would be unable to deliver mail once a year as it had in the past.

In the future, he said, mail would be delivered only one day during the year. He felt that in this way the post office could operate with more efficiency, still provide the services that so many people depend on. But he warned that if Congress did not raise the price of a first-class stamp to \$49 a letter, the office would have to take more drastic measures, which included only delivering the mail once every 200 years.

Ags blessed with a-door-able personalities

Doors really are interesting. Most of us encounter them daily, but we pay little attention to them.

Trent Leopold
Guest Columnist

There are sliding doors, electronic doors, revolving doors, double doors, trap doors and plain old everyday normal doors. There is even a band called The Doors.

Every door has a personality — a lot like people do.

At Texas A&M we Aggies should consider ourselves privileged to be able to encounter a variety of doors. Where else in the entire world can you find Aggie doors except here?

My favorite doors were the heavy doors leading into Rudder Tower. But they replaced those this past summer.

Those doors were substantial. They

had real character and true substance. They were a lot like an older person who was full of significance.

It was fun to watch people going through those doors. They would grab the handle with one hand and give a little yank — expecting the door to swing wide. But the door wouldn't budge until they gave it a genuine pull.

I suppose people got tired of having to give those doors a genuine pull so

that's why they were replaced with flimsier doors that only needed a slight jerk.

In a lot of places you have to go through two or three doors before you finally get where you are going.

Consider the Blocker Building. If you go in the front door you take about three steps and then have to go through another door. Then, if you are going to class you have to go through one more door.

But let's suppose you have to go upstairs and visit your professor. Then you have to go through at least five doors, and that's counting the elevator doors only once.

The designer the Blocker Building must have owned stock in a door company.

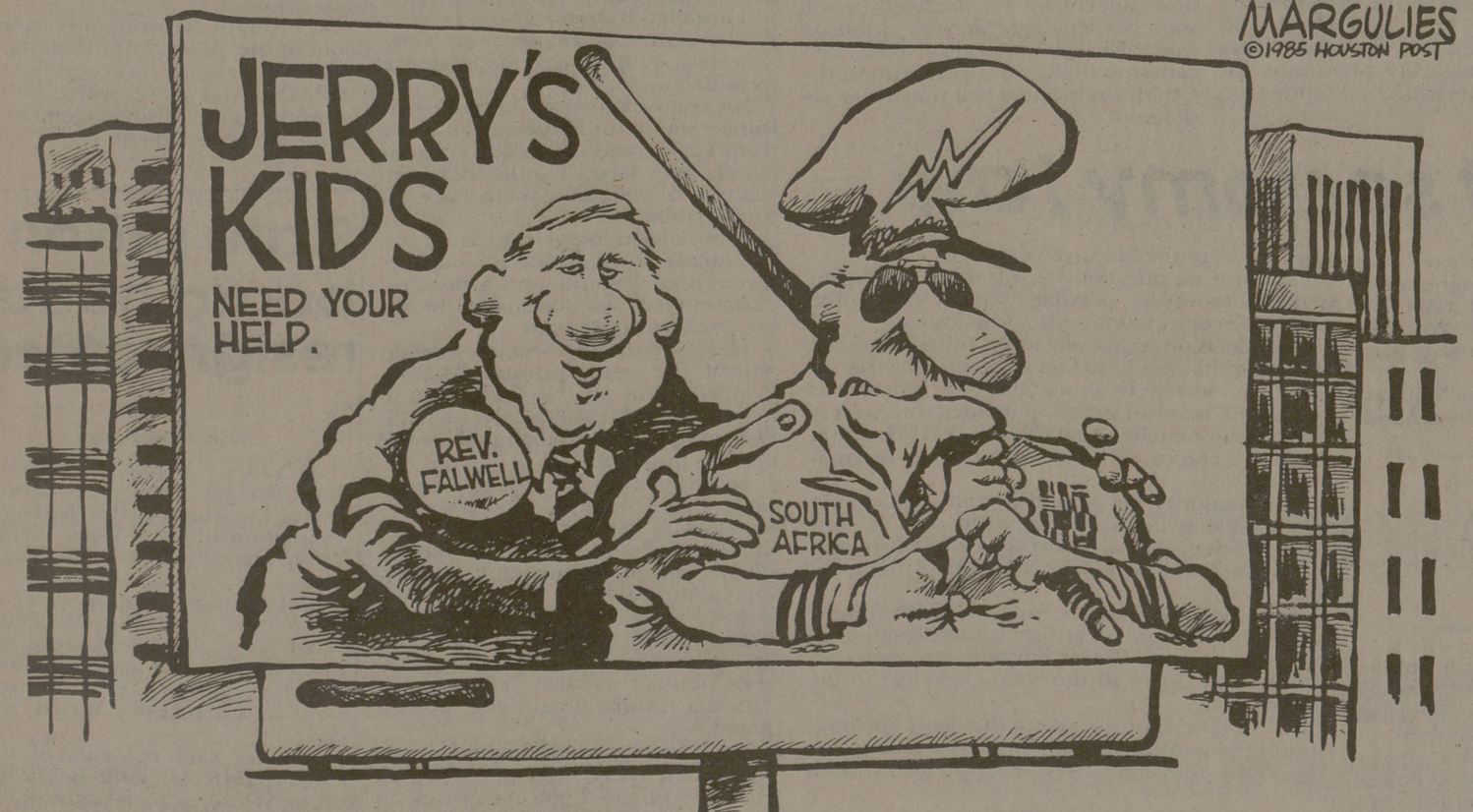
By far the doors that get the most use are the doors at the Memorial Student Center. On a busy day the doors never really close. One person holds the door while two or three others follow and when he finally lets go of the door it never really shuts all the way until someone else holds it for two or three more people.

Usually the guys hold the door for the girls and that's kind of nice.

Someone one day decided to invent revolving doors. Those doors really aren't popular. The Blocker Building has some of them, too — further proof that the building's designer was a door company stock holder.

Revolving doors are too complicated. You have to be able to get in and out at just the right time or you could get into real trouble.

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