

**OPINION**

Editorials from around the state

**TSTA opposition biggest obstacle**

In one of the less surprising developments of late on the education front, the Texas State Teachers Association went to court in an effort to head off mandatory competency tests for public school teachers who already hold Texas teaching certificates.

The TSTA's opposition to the testing represents one more obstacle in the way of a much-needed upgrading of public education in Texas.

The feeling among some teachers seems to be that the very notion of competency testing is an affront, an insult.

Competency testing, far from being a slap in the face, is simply a means of determining who is, and who is not, equipped to perform well in the classroom, where so many small but crucial engagements in the battle for literacy and civility are fought. Like it or not, society's commitment to that battle must take precedence over concern about hurt feelings in the educational community.

Corpus Christi Caller

**Make 'em pay!**

The Internal Revenue Service has announced plans to withhold tax refunds from 1 million students who defaulted on government college loans.

Good!  
Students (or anyone else) who take out loans and refuse to pay them back are cheats, pure and simple. They agreed to pay the money back when they got the loan, and now they are screaming when the government tries to get the money back.

We believe every means available should be used to make these deadbeats pay up.

The Galveston Daily News

**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.

**Put a gate in the wall**

EDITOR:  
Regarding Sally Taylor's article on Kenny Bob Parson's building the Great Wall of Texas:

Mr. Parson, please, please, be so kind as to leave a gate in the Wall so those of us who have no love for Texas and your attitude can get the hell out of here when we finish our education. Too bad A&M was located in Texas.

California is not located north of Texas.

Anne Stancavage  
accompanied by 8 signatures

**Moore's dorm run not meant to offend**

EDITOR:  
In response to Mr. Rob Farrell, Crocker Hall President, and his letter in the Tuesday, September 10 issue of The Battalion: we resent Crocker Hall's attempt to climb socially by dragging the Moore Hall name through the mud. Moore has just as much right to have a "publicity" run through the girls' dorms as Crocker does.

However, I question Mr. Farrell's defi-

inition of "publicity." What is he publicizing by allowing the boys of Crocker Hall to run through girls' dorms in bikini underwear anyway? Surely not Girl Scout Cookies!

Truthfully, Moore Hall was fairly wild; however, I have talked with several females from Leggett, Haas, Clements, Keathley, and the Commons where those ladies have fully approved of our actions. I do realize that it was in poor taste in some girls' opinions, but what in life pleases all of the people all of the time? Surely not Crocker Hall!

Furthermore, our "obscene" chants are no worse than the implications of the Crocker Cocks mascot compared to that of Moore Hall Truckers. While on the topic of chants, we realize your letter to the editor was only a result of your turning green with envy as you heard the Keathley-Fowler-Hughes girls' quad rise up in a chant of "We want Moore! We want Moore..."

Finally, we do not approve of Crocker Hall putting on the act of playing "gentlemen on campus" and apologizing to the girls' dorms for us when we are capable of doing so ourselves. Moore Hall wishes to extend a formal apology to those ladies who were offended by our actions and to those ladies who enjoyed them, we're glad you appreciated our



**Reagan fumbling to regain upper hand from Congress**

President Reagan looked 10 feet tall when he began his second term nine months ago, yet now he is scrambling to regain the initiative from a newly aggressive Congress.

Donald M. Rothberg  
Guest Columnist

It's quite a reversal from his first term, when Reagan steamrolled congressional opponents in repeated confrontations over taxes and the budget.

As he began his second term, the president and his allies were confident he'd set the agenda for the next four years and solidify his "Second American Revolution."

It hasn't worked out that way. Suddenly, Congress is setting the agenda and Reagan is forced to react to initiatives from Capitol Hill.

First on trade and then on South Africa, the president was forced in recent days to backpedal in an effort to head off embarrassing votes.

And he's hearing tough talk from within his own party about the prospects for tax reform and the need to change his position on farm legislation.

The dramatic shift in mood may be only temporary or it could be that Reagan is proving as vulnerable as most of his predecessors to the second-term blues.

At this point, it is clear that Reagan announced sanctions against South Africa on Monday only because he knew that Congress would move ahead without him and with stronger action if he didn't head them off. He had said repeatedly that he opposed sanctions, that he felt the best way to get the South African government to moderate apartheid was through quiet pressure.

Democrats still are fighting to force a vote on sanctions, but Reagan's action has enabled Republicans to counter that the move is motivated more by politics than apartheid.

On trade, Reagan's announcement

that he planned to move against selected trading partners in an effort to force them to give greater access to American products, did little to head off congressional action.

"I am very pessimistic that we're going to work anything out with the administration," said Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., chairman of the Senate subcommittee on international trade.

When he was running for president in 1980, Reagan often was asked if he thought he could deal with Democrats who then controlled both the House and Senate.

He said he would handle them the same way he did when he was governor of California, that he would appeal to the public and when legislators "felt the heat, they saw the light."

Now it's Reagan who is feeling the heat and may be seeing the light.

Donald M. Rothberg is the chief political writer of The Associated Press.

**Mail Call**

efforts. Thank you.  
Chris Murzin  
Public Relations, Moore Hall

**Wreck info needed**

EDITOR:  
On Friday, Sept. 6, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., someone ran into my car, which was parked on the 700 block of University Oaks. It might not be so bad if the person had not driven off without stopping.

There is over \$1,000 worth of damage to my car. I cannot afford to have it fixed, nor will my insurance cover it. I'm pretty much screwed, unless I can get some help. That's why I'm calling on you, A&M. If anyone has any information concerning this accident I would greatly appreciate it if you would contact me. Thank you.

Tal Harris  
696-9445

**'Commie busters' spreads hatred**

EDITOR:  
In Monday's Battalion there is an advertisement for an Alpha Tau Omega party which will have a "catch a commie" and Soviet "busters" theme. First, I want to say that I realize that the ad had to be run since it was protected against the state's (Battalion's) editors by the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Second, I would like to ask if ATO gave any thought to what image their theme and their ad brings to mind. I would hope that they were only thinking of a meaningless theme for the party. However, in a world threatened by hatred and lack of understanding between the super powers, ATO has managed to add one tiny stick of hatred to the dangerously raging fire. The Soviet flag-busting symbol was particularly disturbing.

The U.S.S.R. is a sovereign nation and communism is a political and economic philosophy accepted by millions. To realize the offensiveness of this ad one need only think of the effect such a "busters" symbol placed over the Ameri-

can flag would have among the students of A&M.

I should hope that the student body of my University would realize the danger of having such attitudes, even if they are not seriously thought out. When I phoned ATO, the representative said that it was just a party theme but that he found nothing wrong with it. He advised me to watch "Red Dawn" and hung up on me.

I phoned back and was informed that he was "born in the (expletive deleted) U.S.A." and that he did "not give a damn about the Soviet Union." He did confirm that he was a Christian but apparently found his attitudes perfectly harmonious. Such attitudes are what give many people the incorrect impression that A&M is a place for bigots and intolerant fanatics. We as a student body face the problems this stigma causes. Let's work to overcome the problem by ridding ourselves of such attitudes instead of accepting it as part of the cost of attending this fine school.

Brendan Wylie  
Junior M.E.

**A lot to think about**

EDITOR:  
In reference to the article "Why Lot 71 is Empty," I think David Baca just likes to hear his mouth flap.

I was embarrassed for Mr. Baca. The reasons why I was embarrassed for David are as follows:

First, David should know if our school buses were air conditioned, he would be complaining about his tuition being raised. Secondly, regarding the long trip described to be 20 minutes from Kleberg to Blocker or Zachry, let's presume the trip is 20 minutes. David, if you dislike riding the hot bus for the trip across campus, why don't you hike it to the other end of campus in the hot sun, or hike across campus when the cold and rain get here. Mr. Baca, I don't think you have any reason to complain. I feel the bus service more than accommodates your needs. And if you think it doesn't, stop and think for a minute.

Michael Weaver '86



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