

OPINION

Watch out for liberals

Colleges and universities should be a forum for free expression and innovative thought. Groups such as Accuracy in Academia find this type of expression dangerous. AIA is an organization which has taken upon itself the responsibility of making people aware of liberal bias in college classrooms.

AIA doesn't plan an immediate attack on Texas A&M. They do plan to observe classes at the University of Texas.

AIA uses groups such as the Young Conservatives of Texas at UT to audit classes and report liberal bias. Professors are supposed to keep an eye on one another and take note of liberal classroom behavior.

The liberal monitoring system could be headed our way faster than a swarm of killer bees — and twice as deadly.

Luckily, A&M President Frank Vandiver said this week he strongly defends keeping our classrooms free of such "monitors." Vandiver compared the observers to George Orwell's Thought Police and infamous commie-hunter Joseph McCarthy.

"It turns colleagues against each other," Vandiver said.

AIA believes many university faculty members are Marxists, communists, leftists or liberals. This is a sweeping generalization. The organization is imposing its definition of "liberal" on campuses.

Expressing different thoughts, attitudes and values does not constitute liberal bias. It puts people in touch with the way others think — an important part of the educational process and the living process.

Students decide what classroom presentations, if any, they adopt as personal philosophies.

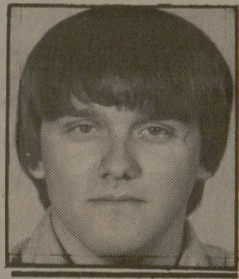
Monitoring by the AIA represents hypocrisy. By "protecting" us from the horrors of liberalism, it is imposing a bias of its own.

Bias monitoring, liberal or conservative, should be repulsive to anyone believing in the democratic ideals of this country.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Now is the time for revolution!

Students of Texas A&M unite! How much longer are you going to let this atrocity be perpetrated?



Karl Pallmeyer

I am talking about the most horrible and inhuman practice ever to be condoned by this University.

I am talking about eight o'clock classes — eight in the morning!

When I was a freshman I was sentenced to two semesters of eight o'clock classes. Every day I was forced to wake up at an ungodly hour and walk to some classroom clear across campus.

If I wanted to shower and eat breakfast before class I would have to get up even earlier.

I would often ask why and for what was I being punished, but I never got an answer. I could have protested this unreasonable practice by boycotting these classes but my professors/wardens made sure I "payed my dues" by taking attendance.

For two entire semesters I suffered through this mindless oppression; getting up around 6:30 a.m., taking a cold shower to help wake up, pouring enough coffee down my throat to keep a heard of elephants on the run for 29 years, walking to class and promptly falling asleep once I got to my desk.

The rest of the day was spent dozing off in other classes because I hadn't gotten much sleep the night before.

Back then I lived in a dorm and it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle (or for Jerry Falwell to enter the gates of heaven) than to get some sleep before midnight in the dorm.

As I grew older I freed myself from this oppression. When I would work out my schedule I would make sure that my classes didn't start until after ten o'clock.

For the next two years I could stay up late and make sure that everyone else didn't get to sleep until after midnight. I grew to enjoy the freedom of not waking up until I was good and ready.

But now, my senior year, for some sin, real or imagined, I was forced to take another eight o'clock class. There was no way around it, there was only one section. It couldn't wait until another semester because this class is a prerequisite for another class and my plans to graduate would be screwed up if I waited.

So now I must get up at the god-forsaken hour of 6 a.m. so that I can shower, eat breakfast, catch the shuttle bus (I live off campus now) and run off to a class that I am not able to cope with at such an early hour.

After two weeks of this cruel and unusual punishment, I am tired and I am mad. I propose to end this atrocity. But I need your help.

Students of Texas A&M, I ask you to join me in my fight to end the most unspeakable horror to be thrust upon us since we became Aggies.

There are many of you who, like me, are forced to wake up at an unnatural hour and go to a class that you are not mentally, physically or emotionally prepared for.

Faculty of Texas A&M, I ask you to join us also. I am sure that you have not enjoyed waking up early in the morning to teach a class of near-zombies.

The rights of all students and faculty are on the line here. If we all stand as one our voices will be heard and we will be delivered from our oppression.

Here's the plan:

Step one: Petition. Circulate petitions throughout the entire student body. If we get enough signatures the administration will know how we feel and may meet our demands.

Step two: Boycott. Don't go to your eight o'clock class. If enough students boycott their classes, the administration will realize that we are serious about our cause and give into our demands. If that doesn't work, we're going to have to get tough.

Step three: Protest. We will all meet at President Frank Vandiver's house at 6 a.m. We will sing "Good Morning to You" until Frank wakes up. This will show Frank how much of a pain getting up early can be.

Step four: Revolution. When an administration no longer represents the needs and desires of its peoples, it becomes necessary to dissolve the bonds which have connected one body to another. A revolution is a drastic measure, but if civil disobedience doesn't work we may have to resort to violence to insure our liberty.

It's time we all join together. Once we do away with eight o'clock classes we can go on to solve the rest of the world's problems. We can change our world and make it a better place for the generations to come.

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



Nearing point of no return

Is Star Wars the answer?

When Gen. George S. Patton was leading the U.S. Third Army on its extraordinary end run around the German flank in 1944, he suddenly found himself facing an unsuspected obstacle.

Ironically, the resistance came not from the Wehrmacht of the Third Reich, but from Patton's own military superiors. Gen. Omar Bradley informed Patton that he was temporarily cutting off gasoline supplies needed by Patton's tanks.

Patton was livid. "Right now, the weak spot is here," he thundered to Bradley. "... Today I have precisely the right instrument at precisely the right moment in exactly the right place. With a few miserable gallons of gasoline, we could be in Berlin in ten days."

Bradley replied, "What about the German fortifications at Metz and Verdun?"

Patton then pounced. "Fixed fortifications," he replied, "are monuments to the stupidity of man. When mountain ranges and oceans could be overcome."

The course of military history provides ample evidence to support Patton's assertion. For every wall, humans have built a battering ram. And, despite what some of the brightest military minds in America are telling us today, there is no reason to think that things will be any different with the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative — better known as Star Wars.

Few of us in Washington took great notice in March 1983 when the president announced his dream of making nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete." After all, the U.S. government had once considered and dismissed the possibility of defenses against nuclear weapons and in fact turned toward forging with the Soviet Union the 1972 ABM Treaty. The treaty stands today as one of the few steps away from our species' slow descent into what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called "a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear destruction."

But the Reagan magic held on Star Wars, and we now find ourselves dangerously close to a point of no return on another questionable weapons system. However, Star Wars is more than just another missile or tank or aircraft carrier. It represents nothing less than a fundamental reversal in geopolitical strategy, an evolutionary journey into the next — and perhaps last — arena of human conflict.

If the arms race is to ascend toward the stars, it would be only proper in the world's greatest democracy if that decision was the result of a reasoned public policy debate. Unfortunately, I see no evidence that this has occurred. The people, in general, have little idea of what Star Wars really means. Until the president announced his vision, the Pentagon had no idea what Star Wars meant. And they've been scrambling to make it up as they go along, without "torturing the facts too badly," as one of my colleagues has noted.

One thing that Star Wars means is money. This immutable fact has hardly escaped the notice of the nation's leading defense contractors, who not only

are falling over each other to jump aboard the Star Wars bandwagon but also are being asked by the Pentagon to assess its chances for success. Talk about the foxes guarding the henhouse...

... learn what role your school may be playing in changing Star Wars from popular science-fiction celluloid to orbiting battle stations, supercomputers and laser beams — all of which will function without the "bother" of a human being at the controls.

The financial aspects of Star Wars also have not gone unnoticed by the nation's leading research universities. In these times, research money is scarce. Now the Pentagon is dangling buckets of it in front of our universities.

The result of this financial bonanza would have been predictable except for the eccentricities of the human conscience. It seems that, after getting a good, hard look at Star Wars, some of those entrusted with making Star Wars a reality are deciding that they will fight it.

The first blows came almost simultaneously. First, David Parnas of the University of Victoria, British Columbia offered his resignation from the government panel overseeing the computer aspects of Star Wars. Parnas, who took pains to point out that he had no objections to defense efforts or defense research, and who had previously acted as a consultant to the Pentagon, had a simple explanation: Star Wars won't work. "I am willing to stake my professional reputation on my conclusions," he asserted.

Next, Larry Smarr, the director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois spoke for a group of 47 physicists at the school who stated they would not apply for or accept Star Wars grants. His reasons were equally simple: "... It will not do what it was meant to do, and it will not anticipate everything the enemy might throw at it."

Pity that Patton is not alive to give his thoughts.

Those of us who came of age in the 1960s may have different ideas about the authority of government and the ability to promote change than today's college students. That was then, this is now.

But as the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War protests and the environmental re-awakening of America showed, the students of the earlier era did not back down from a challenge. Often, the results they realized bordered on the amazing.

In the Strategic Defense Initiative, those of you looking for an issue for the 1980s have just been handed one on a silver platter. Perhaps you will come to totally different conclusions about Star Wars than those I have reached. But you owe it to yourselves and to future generations to familiarize yourselves with the issue and to learn what role your school may be playing in changing Star Wars from

popular science-fiction celluloid to orbiting battle stations, supercomputers and laser beams — all of which will function without the "bother" of a human being at the controls.

In the days of reassessment following Hiroshima, Albert Einstein offered two thoughts for the ages. "If nuclear weapons, he said, "... there is no defense, there is no possibility of control except through the arduous understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world."

He also said, "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking."

Now, President Reagan has offered his version of changed thinking. Is it the right way? Can we afford not to know?

U.S. Rep. Robert J. Mrazek, from Long Island's Third Congressional District serves on the House Appropriations Committee.

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