

Opinion

Let's be open with opinions

Expression of opinion comes in myriad forms. Newspapers, magazines, film, pamphlets and flyers are efficient means of making opinions available to the public. Usually, these opinions are presented in an open manner by people who aren't ashamed to stand behind their views. But sometimes an expression of opinion is distributed by a more cowardly means.

A quick look Wednesday through the books on the sixth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library, which pertain to Jewish persecution, revealed a copy of the National Vanguard stuck inside.

The National Vanguard is a "newsletter" published by the National Alliance, a national anti-Jewish, Aryan supremacist organization. The publication makes such claims as President Reagan is grovelling "shamelessly at the feet of Jews."

No matter how objectionable such material may be, in a society that strives for racial equality, the members of the National Alliance have just as much right to express their opinion as anyone else.

But the manner in which their literature is distributed seems inappropriate and cowardly. If the Alliance wanted to spread its propaganda, why not set up a table in the Memorial Student Center and hand out its "newsletters." Instead it contaminates historical accounts of Jewish persecution with its paranoid propaganda.

If a group believes strongly in a certain view, it shouldn't be ashamed to state its opinion, regardless of how unpopular its views are and regardless of the criticism it may receive.

If a group believes strongly in a certain view it should come out and state the opinion, rather than sneaking its twisted views on an unsuspecting public.

Ironically, the National Alliance frequently condemns the Jews by claiming that the Jews use the same tactics.

The Battalion Editorial Board

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.

Which cup do rock stars drink from?

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to Loren Steffy's article concerning the "evils" of rock and roll in the Sept. 16 issue of The Batt. In it, we were allowed the honor of hearing his opinion of the latest attempts to rate rock music in the same manner as movies. He claimed that these ratings were an attempt to "censor" the various groups' "artistic expression."

I agree the ratings could be defined as censoring, but of what? I have trouble believing that songs concerning lust, war, rape-murders, drugs, immorality and sex are an "artistic expression." They are evidently the creations of sick, lost minds and I pray the artists might see what kind of wrong they are doing.

He went on to mention the groups trying to rate music were narrow-minded. Put the shoe on the other foot, Loren. You wrote yourself of what kind of lyrics are being sung, but refuse to look at them open-minded. Has it ever occurred to you that these songs have melted your sense of right and wrong?

Corinthians 10:21 states that people will either drink of the cup of God or the cup of the devil — not both. Since these songs definitely aren't of God, from which cup do you think the writers have been indulging?

David Ross

There he goes again

EDITOR:

In reference to Karl Pallmeyer's column of condemnation in Monday's Battalion, I am glad to see that he has once again gone out of his way to check the validity of his information. Since he seems to be so dearly concerned with the well-being of Stacy (did he know that is her name?) I wonder where he was that night when this very unfortunate incident occurred?

Had he been there beside her he would have realized that the young girl was in fact trampled upon by the other

young children running out on the field. And certainly he would have noticed that the first persons to come to her aid were members of the Corps and that they were the ones holding her hand and constantly reassuring her that she was okay until she was taken away on the gurney.

And of course one of such genuine concern would have gone out of his way to visit Stacy at the hospital and would have been relieved to hear that she was okay and would be back in school on Monday. But no, I imagine Pallmeyer was too busy pointing his finger and distorting the truth to have done such.

I'm surprised that Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major because as such he must have heard several times about ethics in journalism. The press is a powerful instrument that is capable of greatly influencing public opinion and attitudes. As such it should only be operated by those who have the maturity and wisdom to use it ethically.

Pallmeyer should be the last person to write to the public about responsibility and the rights of others when he cannot exercise it himself and cannot respect that of others. I would imagine that Pallmeyer is the type of journalist that would try and cover the story of someone attempting to commit suicide rather than prevent it.

Henry Wercham '86
Deputy Corps Commander

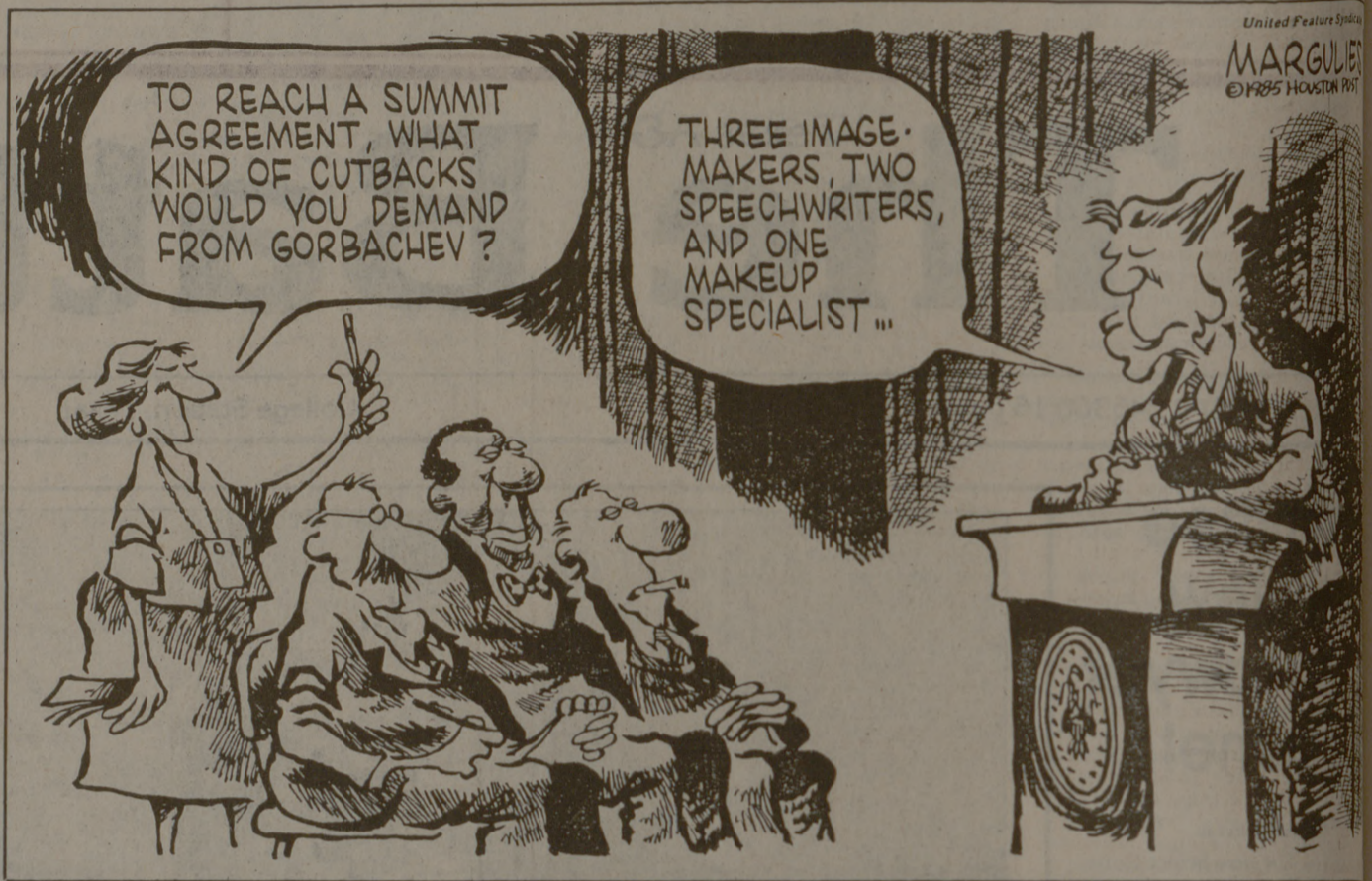
Bad bull, Ags

EDITOR:

This letter is directed to our head yell leader Thomas Bufford and Tom Kelly, a junior yell leader.

I have never been so embarrassed for us Ags than I was Friday night at yell practice. The Rock stories were just BAD BULL, AGS. You are supposed to be the guys that lead our student body in the spirit of Aggieland and should be an example of what a good Ag is.

There were a number of visitors at the first yell practice and this is not the image that we would want people to think of when they think of Texas A&M. And what about the guys with



Putting the national debt in easy to understand terms

Two Trillion Dollars — our national debt. Can you imagine an amount that large? No?

Let me help. Let's have some fun with numbers.

Two trillion dollars, or \$2,000,000,000,000. Two trillion dollars equals two thousand-billion dollars. Two trillion dollars equals two million-million dollars. Two trillion dollars equals two billion-thousand dollars. Two trillion dollars equals too much money.



Karl Pallmeyer

Just imagine you wanted two trillion dollars for yourself. If you went to cash a check at the Memorial Student Center you could only write one check for \$50 each day. You would have to get in line on 40,000,000,000 different days. 40,000,000,000 days equals 109,514,003 years, two months and a few days extra if you want to take off for a long lunch.

Our earth is only 4,500,000,000 years old. Does that mean we have been spending about \$444.44 a year? No. It's a national debt and we have only been a nation for 209 years. That averages out to \$21,531,100 a year for the United States.

According to certain scientists, our sun will explode in about 10 billion years. We could pay off our \$2 trillion national debt before then at a rate of only \$200 a year.

There are about 4,762,000,000 people on the earth. That means we could give every body on earth \$419.99. Every

body on earth could buy a pretty good TV set for that amount.

There are about 226,650,000 people in the United States. Since it's our national debt maybe we should keep the money in our country. Everybody in America could buy a nice Japanese car with the \$8,824.18 they would get from the national debt.

According to Carl Sagan of "Cosmos" fame, there are about 100 billion stars in our galaxy. If we were to invest our \$2 trillion in the stars we could spend \$20 on every star. But Carl Sagan only talks about "billions and billions," Ronald Reagan gets into the trillions.

President Reagan has trouble with numbers. Out of a \$253,800,000,000 defense budget, Reagan has designated that \$2,300,000,000 be spent on research for Star Wars. Reagan has also appropriated \$250,000 for AIDS research. Considering that no Americans have ever died in a nuclear war and that 6,830 Americans have died of AIDS in the past five years alone, there seems to be some confusion of priorities.

Reagan has often displayed his numbers non-sense. The 22nd Amendment says that a person can only serve two terms as president. Recently Reagan told a group of people that he thought the public should be allowed to re-elect a president a second time if they wanted. If a president is elected, re-elected and then re-re-elected, he would have served three terms. Three terms is one more than allowed by the Constitution. When Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for his third term, 11 years before the 22nd Amendment was ratified, the opposing party used the slogan "No Third Termes." I hope we don't have to hear that slogan in 1988.

Recently a group of scientists discovered that you could get the world's largest prime number by multiplying two by itself 216,000 times and subtracting one. The number contains 65,050 digits and would cover two whole pages if we were to print it in The Battalion. A prime number is a number that is not divisible by anything except for one and itself. Our national debt is a number that can't be divided by anything either. Now Reagan has something to shoot for.

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

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Rhonda Snider, Editor
Michelle Powe, Managing Editor
Loren Steffy, Opinion Page Editor
Karen Bloch, City Editor
John Hallett, Kay Mallett, News Editors
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff

Assistant City Editors Kirsten Dietz, Jerry Odlin
Assistant News Editors Cathie Anderson, Jan Perry
Assistant Sports Editor Charean Williams
Entertainment Editors Cathy Riely, Walter Smith
Art Director Wayne Grabert
Copy Editors Rebecca Adair, Mike Davis, Sarah Oates, Brad Whitten
Make-up Editor Ed Cassavoy
Staff Writers Tamara Bell, Meg Cadigan, Ed Cassavoy, Cindy Gay, Doug Hall, Paul Herndon, Wendy Johnson, Tammy Kirk, Jens Koepke, Trent Leopold, Mary McWhorter, June Pang, Tricia Parker, Brian Pearson, Lynn Rae Povey, Marybeth Rohsner, Gigi Shamsi, Frank Smith, Kenneth Suty, Scott Sutherland
Cartoonists Mike Lantz, Scott McCullar, Kevin Thomas
Columnists Camille Brown, John Hallett, Karl Pallmeyer
Photographers Greg Bailey, Anthony Casper, Frank Hada, Jaime Lopez, Michael Sanchez

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-3316. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843