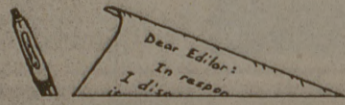


Opinion

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.

Attitude adjustments for campus police

EDITOR:
Thursday's Mail Call was rather interesting. Dale Baum's letter pointed out a situation he perceived as being potentially dangerous — the riding of motorcycles and mopeds on the sidewalks. In the same issue, Robert E. Wiatt, Director of Security and Traffic replied.

In his letter, Wiatt begins by bragging about the amount of money his department could cost a person caught riding a motorized vehicle on the sidewalks or lawns. The \$59 in fines he lists is indeed impressive. Moral: Don't ride on the sidewalks.

He then continues, in a condescending manner befitting his office, to complain about the lack of cooperation on the part of an offender when a campus officer signals them to stop. Darn it, they just aren't stopping. The sarcasm in this letter is ingenious, with references to "Starsky and Hutch" chase scenes, and catchy phrases, like, "... that blithe spirit goes to jail." Moral: The University Police don't like us, so if you get spotted riding on the sidewalks, just ride away.

Wiatt complains that people who wouldn't act so in a public park become "illegal and neanderthal" on campus. His solution is simple: "An attitudinal revision on the part of all who offend." The attitude problem implied by this statement is the same one which has given the Campus Police names such as "KK" and "Rent-a-pig."

I don't mean to be cruel, but why is it that the University Police cannot seem to command even a fraction of the respect extended to municipal police departments? I suspect that it's because so many people feel that the Campus Police are working against them rather than with them, and this feeling is acute among students. The problem goes beyond registration lines and parking tickets, and seems to boil down to things like Wiatt's letter. Are the Campus Police here for us or in spite of us?

My solution is this: An attitudinal revision on the part of the University Police Department. I can assure Wiatt that an appeal to the campus would have been more appropriate and effective than a few paragraphs of condescending crap. Perhaps a few more crime prevention and safety programs sponsored by the department would be nice. Maybe officers should be encouraged to be more amiable toward staff and students. It can't be so hard to do. There are universities that don't seem to have these attitudinal problems.

Brian Massey '87

Ag clarification

EDITOR:
The article by Cynthia Gay in the Sept. 27 issue of The Battalion on enrollments in agriculture places an important issue in perspective: The United States faces a serious shortage of people educated in certain areas of the food and agricultural sciences. Two points relative to the situation at Texas A&M, however, need clarification.

The fact that the Placement Center recorded one-fourth less job offers for agricultural majors in 1985 than in the preceding year is not due to a decrease in the number of jobs, but is the result of the fact that Placement Center places only a fraction of the graduates in agriculture and does not have an accurate count of job offers.

The numerous smaller, entrepreneurial firms and agencies that employ graduates of the College of Agriculture increasingly work more directly with contacts facilitated by departmental networks and such programs as PCPA Day which is jointly sponsored by the Placement Center.

Secondly, the fact that the College sends only about 10-12 percent of its graduates into production agriculture management is a historical characteristic of the College, not just the result of the current economic pressure on crop farming. The bulk of the opportunities has always been in areas other than farming and ranching; they are in agribusiness, agroindustry, science, educa-

tion and service. But an increasing demand is forecast for skilled persons in agricultural production management, as commercial production units grow increasingly larger and more complex.

**H.O. Hunkel
Dean
College of Agriculture**

Mail can go through more ways than one

EDITOR:
Contrary to the view expressed in your Sept. 18 editorial, I think privatization of the U.S. Postal Service is a good idea.

In arguing your case you state, "In the early 1800s, before the U.S. Mail offered service to what is now the western United States, independent companies tried unsuccessfully to manage mail distribution. Without the government's organization and funding, the mail could not go through."

But that was the early 1800s. This is the latter part of the 20th century. A lot has changed in the meantime.

The country is much more urbanized and populated than it was in the 19th century. This makes for a higher volume of mail delivered over shorter distances relative to the days of the Pony Express. With the partially deregulated jet aircraft and trucking industries (with resulting lower long distance transport costs), and with the omnipresent automobile (or "horseless carriage" as the old timers called it), the delivery of mail over great distances is less costly, at least in terms of time, relative to the 1800s. And don't forget the rapid development of electronic mail services.

If we don't want to privatize the Postal Service, let's at least make the Postal Service face the same efficiency-producing force that those in the business world face: competition. Why not eliminate any legal barriers that may exist which prevent entrepreneurs from delivering first-class mail? After all, DHL, UPS, Emery, and Federal Express wouldn't be making megabucks delivering packages (which are essentially big letters) if the Postal Service gave consumers a significantly better deal.

The Postal Service is running advertisements on TV for its package delivery service. The advertisement's theme is "We deliver excellence for less." To the Postal Service I say, let the free market work, and prove it!

Richard Braastad

The Batt falls in line

EDITOR:
With reference to your editorial of Sept. 27, it is absurd to compare the SDI with the Sgt. York Gun. The Sgt. York was not doomed by a flawed concept but by the quality of the contracting and the quality of the military overview of the project. (I could be specific but the prospect of a civil suit would ruin my already slim chance of appearing in print.)

I am not qualified to offer an assessment of SDI's technical merits but I respect many of the voices on the affirmative side and I respect Soviet opposition. (I also have a variety of partly economic arguments for SDI but they also are beyond the scope of this letter.) What impresses me the most is that every strategic proposal by the United States in the last 20 years has met opposition often liberally speared with deliberate misinformation.

Having worked in the military aerospace industry for six years I have seen the incompetence and corruption. Why is it that so many put such faith in the study by the Office of Technology Assessment which is itself just another (politicized) government organ? It is disappointing that despite being in such a knee-jerk conservative area, The Battalion fell into line like just another little duck in the KGB-nourished bandwagon of anti-defense lobbyists.

Jim Cargal

Corps not alone

EDITOR:
"At the Core of A&M," which ap-



Junk instead of junk mail

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



Art Buchwald

A lot of people are being shaken up these days by receiving unsolicited plastic credit cards. In the past the consumer had the option whether to ask for credit. But now, in the great battle for the hearts and dollars of the American customer, the banks, oil companies and hotel chains are shoving their credit cards at you whether you want them or not.

It isn't just the specter of a spouse or teen-ager receiving a credit card and going berserk that bothers most American breadwinners. It's the principle of the thing, and where will it all end? What is to prevent a company that sends unsolicited credit cards to your home from sending merchandise instead?

I don't believe it is too far-fetched to see this happening in a few years.

You come home, and there on your front lawn is a complete dining room set with table, 12 chairs and cabinet. Attached to a leg of the table is a note:

Greetings: We are happy to inform

you that we consider you an excellent credit risk, and, to show our faith in you we are leaving this dining room set on your lawn. Our credit reports on you indicate that you favor Colonial furniture, and we have chosen this particular mahogany wood which we know will go well with the rest of your furnishings. If for some reason this particular dining room set does not meet your requirements, you may return it to our warehouse within 10 days, and you will not be charged for it. If it is not returned, we will assume that we made the right choice, and we shall start billing you monthly.

Or you could wake up in the morning and find parked outside your door a new "Fire Eater," with the following letter taped to the windshield:

Congratulations:

You are now the owner of a new "Fire Eater," the fastest, most comfortable, economical automobile on the road. Because of your high credit rating, we have taken the liberty of registering this car in your name with the State Vehicle Bureau.

If for any reason you change your mind and decide you don't want to be one of the with-it people, please call this number and we will have the car taken away, at no cost to you, except for the towing charges.

Also, if you do not accept this conditional buy, you must go down to the State Vehicle Bureau and inform them of this decision. Otherwise we will be charging you interest beginning next week.

The final indignity would be to receive a registered letter from a development company which read:

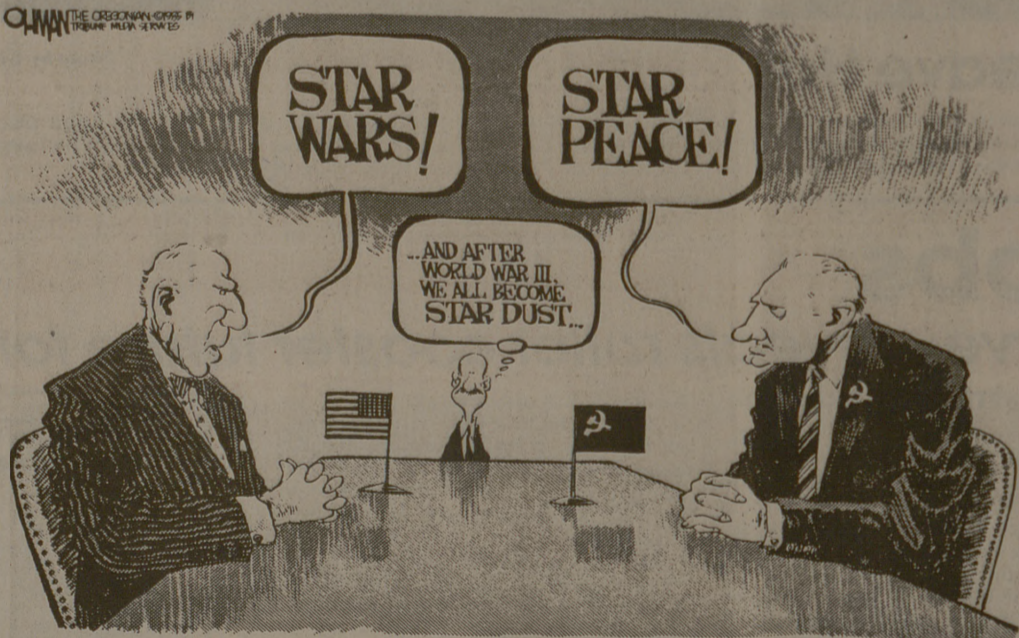
Dear Sir:
We're happy to inform you that you are now the proud owner of a ranch house in Paradise Acres. This extraordinary home (the deed is enclosed) has three bedrooms, two and a half baths, a playroom, a complete equipped kitchen and will be ready for you to move into within two weeks.

A check on your credit rating shows that you can easily afford this remarkable buy, and we have taken the liberty of deducting from your bank account a small down payment.

If we don't hear from you by registered mail within the next 36 hours, we will assume that you will be joining us in Paradise Acres. On the other hand, if you return the deed, then we ask you to contact our lawyers so some equitable arrangement can be worked out for your time and inconvenience.

Cheers.

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



Mail Call

peared in At Ease Sept. 27, was an interesting review of Texas A&M's renowned Corps of Cadets. However, the article comparing A&M with the service academies incorrectly describes A&M's Corps as "the only other seven-day military institution in the nation."

In your next article on the Corps at A&M please give honorable mention to two outstanding military colleges, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) of Lexington, Va., and The Citadel of Charleston, S.C. These institutions are state-supported, full-time, all-male military colleges with proud traditions established long before the War Between the States.

They have carefully maintained these

traditions, remained exclusively military and produced a distinguished roll of career officers and citizen-soldiers. The VMI Corps was committed as a unit during one of the most critical battles in the Civil War; one of VMI's most famous graduates is Army Gen. George C. Marshall.

As a member of the Texas A&M Corps (Class of '49) and a father of a member of the Corps (Class of '89), I am proud of the Corps, which always has been and will continue to be an essential part of Texas A&M. However, regional myopia should not prevent us from acknowledging our brothers in arms.

William R. Thomas

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