

Opinion

Lip service, SG style

Throughout the semester, Student Government has claimed to advocate open communication with the student body. But in its Dec. 4 meeting, the Student Senate made a mockery of its much-lauded policy.

The Senate approved an increase of the student service fee for the fiscal year 1986-87. The bill raises the fee from \$54.50 to \$61, an increase of almost 12 percent.

The increase itself is not as disturbing as the manner in which it was passed. The bill was placed on emergency — meaning it was voted on immediately rather than being sent to committee for fine tuning.

The Senate passed it without giving the student body an adequate opportunity for input. No senators debated the emergency status or the increase.

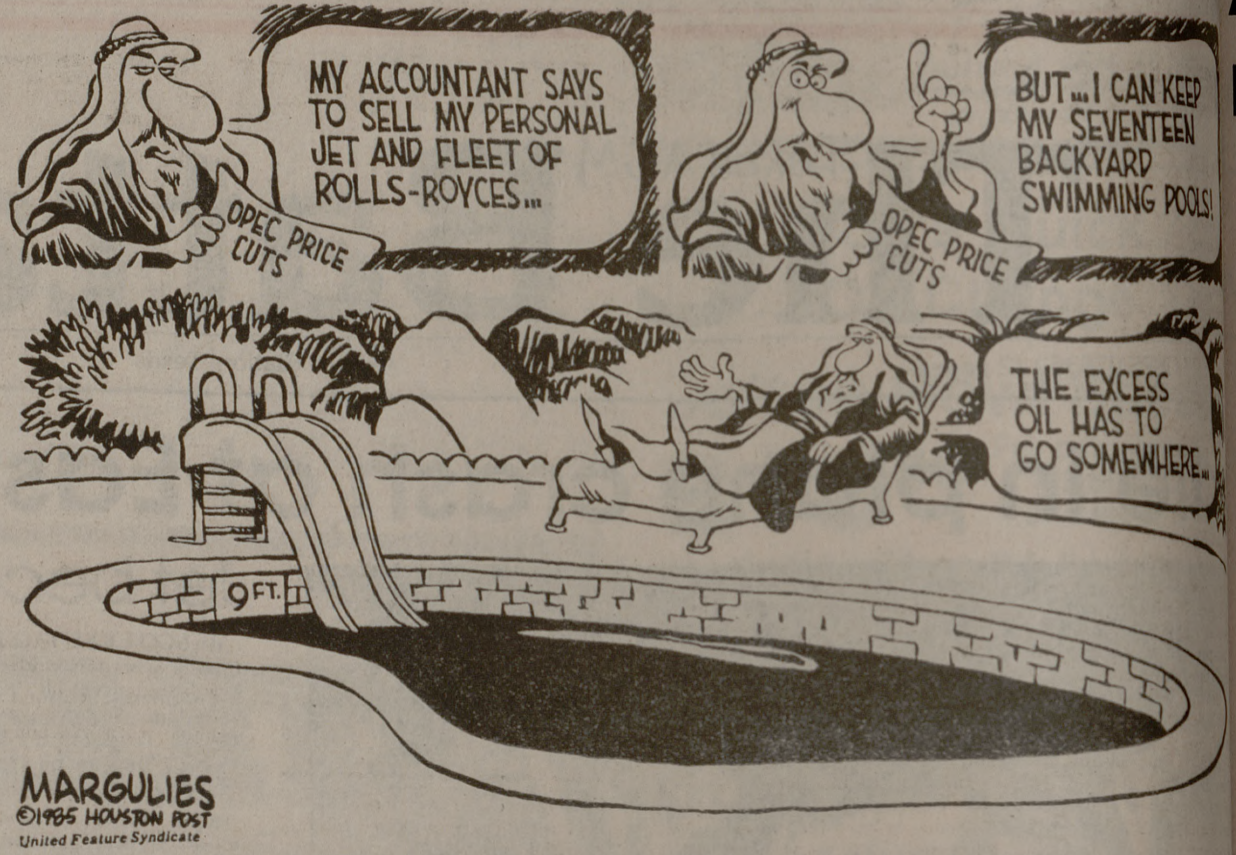
The Senate should have better informed its constituents that the student service fee would be raised.

The bill has a significant effect on every A&M student. Though the increase is only \$6.50, any bill concerning students' pocketbooks should not be taken as lightly as this obviously was.

No justification was offered for the hurried treatment of the bill. Urgency can't be used as an excuse. Last year the student service fee recommendations were passed in the spring.

If Student Government is going to reach out to the student body, it must do more than merely pay lip service to its goal of better communication.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Why is the Corps different from other minorities?

Anti-Corps sentiment exists on this campus. Many students think of the Corps of Cadets as a group of egotistical, self-righteous, intolerant, neo-Nazi types who consider themselves as the only "true" A&M. I used to accept most anti-Corps sentiment without much question until I thought, what makes the Corps different from other minorities on campus? How is the stereotype of the Corps different from, for example, the gay, fraternity and sorority or black stereotypes?

Glenn Murtha
Columnist

active encounters with the Corps. While walking by Rudder Tower near the auditorium entrance, I spotted a horde of cadets stampeding my way. Before I could humbly smile and scream "Howdy," I was forcibly coerced off of the sidewalk and into the grass. If this were not enough, they preceded to lambast me for walking on the grass.

This incident did little to improve my impression of the Corps.

Is the grass around Rudder part of the MSC Memorial? Please tell me if it is so if I am ever in the same situation, I will dutifully let myself be trampled.

To begin to answer this question, I must first describe one of my most negative

So what makes the Corps different from other minority stereotypes? I can't

say that the gays I know wear dresses and high heels on weekends, speak more softly than Teddy Roosevelt or need slings to hold up their limp wrists.

I can't say that the fraternity members I know wear deck shoes without socks, mousse in their hair and a half of a bottle of Polo cologne everyday.

Nor can I say that the sorority members I know have unnaturally blonde hair, wear more layers of make-up than a television has channels or have obnoxious personalities.

I have not found any of these stereotypes to be true.

So what about the egotistical, self-righteous, intolerant, neo-Nazi Corps stereotype?

On an individual basis, I have not met many cadets who I did not like. Many seem to be subject to the same subtle misunderstanding and dislike that other minorities encounter and consequently, try hard to be accepted.

Differences do exist. Cadets are more visible than gays or those in fraternities or sororities. Unlike gays or blacks, individual cadets can disassociate themselves with the stereotype by simply dropping out of the Corps, though I am not suggesting that they should.

The Corps of Cadets is a part of Texas A&M, like it or not. Prejudices die hard. I still have a tendency to think that the cadets who I know are the exception to the rule, the stereotype. But

until proven otherwise, I refuse to prejudge anyone because of a stereotype.

We must lay prejudices aside when we encounter someone with a shaved head and uniform and realize that the stereotypical cadet is a person, an individual whose values and opinions must be discovered before a judgment is made.

So the next time you are about to be trampled by a horde of stereotypical cadets, think again, you are about to be trampled by a horde of individuals.

Glenn Murtha is a senior political science major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Stealing Xmas spirit

EDITOR:

I am writing to you in hopes that the people, who have had the need to steal and destroy the Christmas decorations outside my doorway, will read this. I live in Krueger and for the second time in less than a week, someone has stolen decorations and ruined a display in the hallway outside my door. The people in my suite and the suite across the hall have invested a considerable amount of time, effort and money to get our wing ready for Christmas. I always thought that people "catch" the Christmas spirit not "steal" it!

Amy Moore
453 Krueger

Where to draw the line

EDITOR:

The Battalion in its Dec. 11 editorial admonished the Faculty Senate on its vote not to examine the question of whether it should recommend that the University divest itself of investments in South Africa. The editorial assumes what seems to be obvious. Namely, "each responsible organization should do its duty and help get rid of apartheid by supporting divestiture." It accused the Faculty Senate, an elected body representing all of the Texas A&M University faculty, of apathy for not doing the "obvious."

For the record, it is important to note the following:

- At the October 1985 Faculty Senate meeting the Committee of the Whole, which comprises all Senators, unanimously approved a motion condemning apartheid.
- The Faculty Senate has on several occasions during its 32 month existence reiterated its opposition to racial discrimination and its support of affirmative action in University matters.
- The Faculty Senate Constitution dictates that the Senate's role is to advise the University President on 12 specific topics and on other matters of vital concern to the University.

The question debated at the Senate meeting this past Monday (following several extensive discussions at individual college caucuses) was not whether we like apartheid (clearly we do not), but whether the scope of topics appropriate for Senate action includes the question of divestiture.

Where do we draw the line? Should we as a body express our views on trade sanctions, abortion and the federal deficit? It must be realized that a responsible body can not look superficially at a question, but must study it in detail if it is to make a meaningful recommendation. If divestiture were to be considered, the following questions would have to be researched and answered:

- What would be the political ramifications to the populace, both black and white, of South Africa?

- What would be the political ramifications?

- Are there other countries with poor human rights policies which should be singled out for economic sanctions? If so, which countries? What types of sanctions?

The Faculty Senate, I believe, wisely recognized that it could not possibly do justice to considering these questions adequately, even if that were its role. We just do not have the thousands of hours to do the job. We would, however, endorse a thorough study of human rights violations throughout the world by groups with the resources to do so effectively.

I hope these comments have helped demonstrate that what is "obvious" is not quite so obvious when more thought is given to the matter.

Jaan Laane
Speaker, Faculty Senate

Copy machine explained

EDITOR:

In reference to our previous letter concerning the non-functioning copy machine in the A-1 lounge, Ron Sasse, Associate Director of Student Affairs arranged a meeting with us on Dec. 10.

He informed us that the copy machine in the A-1 lounge is the only one on campus owned and operated by Student Affairs. All other copy machines, including the one in the Commons are owned and operated by the University. The old copy machine that was in this location simply wore out after five years of use.

Student Affairs was trying to accommodate the North Area residents by leasing what appeared to be a more updated higher quality machine, to replace the old one. Unfortunately, the particular machine chosen quite frankly turned out to be a lemon.

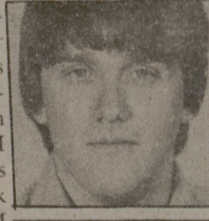
Student Affairs since that time has broken the contract and is presently researching a suitable replacement for next semester. To those concerned about the television in the same lounge, the problem can be addressed to your resident advisor, the North Area Office or the Department of Student Affairs in that order. Special thanks to Ron Sasse for his concern and active effort in solving the problem.

Katrina Miesch '86
Becki Achee '88
Karen Majors '88

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.

Student pleads guilty to accepting free 'gifts'

It had to happen sooner or later. The Dallas Times Herald, after their exposé on the Texas A&M football team, has decided to attack the Texas A&M journalism department.



Karl Pallmeyer

By now everyone should know that the Times Herald has printed a story which said certain former Texas A&M football players had been getting money and gifts from certain former students. But only a few of us know that the Times Herald has also discovered that certain Texas A&M journalism students have been getting money from certain former students.

Because I am one of those students, I have decided to confess my sins in hope that I will be forgiven by my peers and that I will scoop the Times Herald.

It all started during the spring of 1982. I was about to graduate from high school and had chosen to go to Texas A&M. I wanted to live on campus, but the University required a \$100 deposit to reserve a dorm room.

When a certain former student found

out about this he gave me a check for the amount. Thanks to that certain former student I was assured of a space on campus.

When it came time to pay fees for the first semester, that certain former student was ready with his checkbook and took care of my fees. He also took care of expenses of Freshman Orientation and Fish Camp.

During the summer before I started college I wrecked my car in a fit of post-high school immaturity. I needed a car for college, so a certain former student purchased one for me to use during my college career.

For the past four years, that certain former student has paid for my tuition fees, rent, books, food, bills and various other entertainment expenses. That certain former student has stood by with his trusty checkbook to take care of my financial needs.

I feel that it's time to reveal the names of that certain former student before the Times Herald gets a hold of the information. That certain former student is William C. Pallmeyer, my father.

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

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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.

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