

Opinion

Mind over materialism

The American Council on Education's annual report, released Jan. 13, found that 71.8 percent of 1985 college freshmen agreed that "the chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one's earning power," rather than increasing one's knowledge or social awareness. In 1973, only 55.8 percent held this view. Fortunately, a program is being developed to combat this rising selfishness and materialism on college campuses.

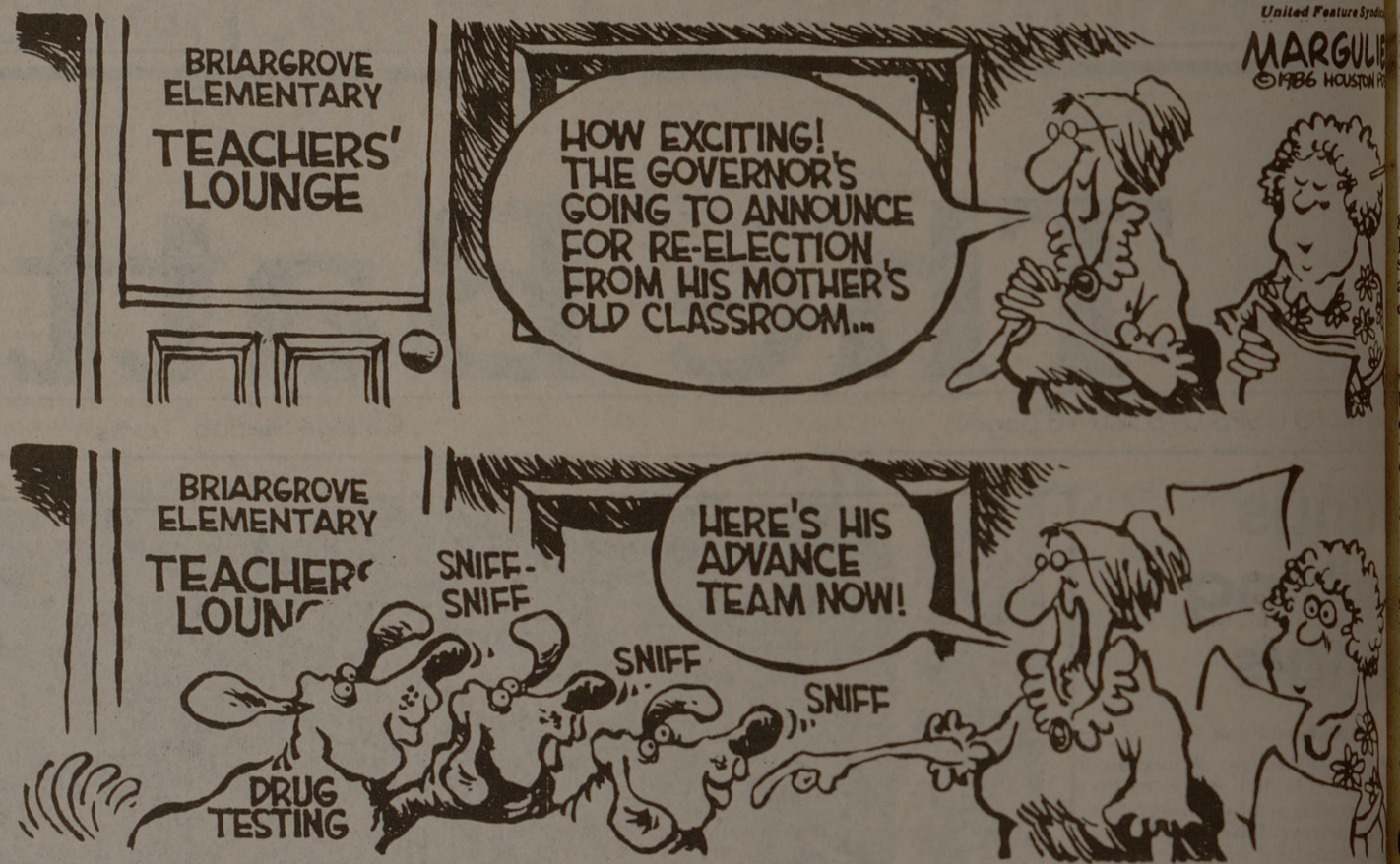
The Project for Public and Community Service, created by 40 college presidents in January, is designed to encourage college students to spend some of their time and energy helping others.

The members of the project expressed concern that America's future leaders "are becoming increasingly isolated and their vision increasingly narrow as their purpose in life has become the fulfillment of self-centered materialism and career aspirations."

In this day of BMWs, big business and Madonna, it's easy to forget about others and focus solely on our own needs and achievements.

We need concerned groups like the Project for Public and Community Service to remind us that a college education comes with a responsibility to use it not only for our own advancement but also for the advancement of society.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Grand Dragon-for-governor campaign full of hot air

Each election year usually holds a number of surprises. This year's race for governor of Texas is not an exception.



Karl Pallmeyer

Last Monday, the day set aside to honor Martin Luther King Jr., *Houstonian* Charles Lee announced that he would run for governor. Lee made his announcement on the steps of the state capitol in Austin wearing white robes and a hood. Lee is the Grand Dragon of the Texas Ku Klux Klan.

For those of you who don't know about the Ku Klux Klan, they are a group of grown men who like to run around the South dressed like ghosts wearing dunce caps. These men like to stand around flaming crosses and talk about how the South is going to do it again. What is the "it" that the South is going to do again? Lose?

For some reason the Klan has taken it upon themselves to purge America of several "undesirable" elements. These elements include blacks, Orientals, Jews, Catholics, communists, homosexuals and liberals. The Klan believes in the good ol' Red, White and Blue — Red necks, White bread and Blue Ribbon Beer. The Klan wants to return to the

good ol' days, a time when men were men, women were pregnant and our darker-skinned brothers and sisters spent their time pickin' cotton and screaming "I's don't know nuthin' 'bout birthin' no babies!" Not a big step forward for America.

Lee doesn't claim affiliation with any major political party saying that the leadership of both parties cares more about the interests of minorities instead of the rights of the white majority. The only "right" the white majority has lost is the right to own members of the non-white minority.

It's doubtful that any party would want Lee as a candidate. The Democratic Party of the 1880's might have

supported him but the Democratic Party of the 1980's certainly won't. Even the Republican Party, under the leadership of civil rights champion Ronald Reagan, would cringe at the sight to Lee at their next convention. The only party that might endorse Lee would be the American Nazi Party.

Lee said some of his major concerns are education and illegal aliens. Lee said that Texas public education is worthless because of integration. Lee must be right — Texas education must be pretty bad if a person can get through school and think like he does. Maybe if our schools were better intergrated, people would lose some of their prejudices. Lee must not have learned much history in

school either. About 200 years ago whites were the illegal aliens that were invading Texas.

Lee said another one of his major concerns is the "large build-up of homosexuals" in Texas. A Klansman should appreciate that what a person does under a sheet is his own business.

Texas is a great state. Where else do you drink while driving as long as you wear a seatbelt? I doubt that Texas is stupid enough to elect a governor who holds the beliefs of the Ku Klux Klan. After all, Texas needs to be around another 150 years.

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

Mail Call

Much improvement

EDITOR:

We have inherited the consequences of centuries of racial bigotry and may expect to struggle to remove the scars for the rest of our lives. But does a generation of whites owe a generation of blacks special treatment as redemption for wrongs committed by generations past?

On a grand historic scale, the policy appears just to some. But because it is carried out among individuals, it should come as no surprise to hear cries of "reverse discrimination."

Thanks to Martin Luther King Jr. and others, we as a nation became aware that the correction of the racial problem is to come not only by way of civil law, but by a change of attitude within ourselves. With an awakened conscience, the country is found today willing to correct past wrongs, but not to proceed as if two wrongs make a right.

Cathie Anderson's story (Tuesday's Opinion Page) of a young graduate failing to find a job because he isn't looking in the right places is not unique to any race or social class. And although equal opportunity ("contact") is all Anderson calls for — and present laws attempt to provide — quotas are protested because they go beyond this to mandate, on an ethnic basis, who is hired.

Anderson cites the current disparity of family income and employment between blacks and whites. But please inform us of the trend. To tell us "black joblessness reached nearly 15 percent last year" sounds awful, but doesn't that represent a decrease?

It is a fair assessment to say that much has improved since Martin Luther King's time. As the country continues to go color blind, distinctions on the basis of skin color will occur not so much in the way people view each other as in analyses engineered to promote a particular racial interest. Meanwhile, we eagerly await the day when the evidence of past prejudices fades into obscurity.

Paul R. Koch
Graduate Student
Dept. of Agricultural Engineering

Praise from Jackie

EDITOR:

As the new semester gets underway, I wanted to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the players and coaches of the football team, our deep appreciation to you for your great support during the 1985 football season and also during the 1986 Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas. Your fantastic enthusiasm and support is always one of the highlights of our year.

The Texas A&M student body is recognized far and wide, not only for their outstanding dedication to Texas A&M, but also to its athletic teams, as well. Our players and coaches also feel the great pride you have for your school. I can assure you that the fans of Auburn will never forget you.

We will look forward to having you with us again this fall when we open our 1986 season against LSU in Baton Rouge. Again,

thanks for everything. We appreciate you.

Jackie Sherrill
Athletic Director and Head Football Coach

Were they transfer students?

EDITOR:

I have been attending Aggie basketball games for 20 years, both at home and away. I have always been proud of the way Aggies conducted themselves at the games.

They've yelled whether the team was behind or ahead. They've yelled to discourage the other team and they've yelled to let the refs know they'd blown a call. They've yelled enough to give G. Rollie the name "Holler House on the Brazos."

Never have I seen Aggies throw things at the opposing players or at the refs, never, that is, until the Jan. 15 game against the University of Texas.

During that game, paper and ice were thrown at the opposing team and at the refs. I can only hope that whoever did the throwing was a transfer student from Arkansas or Texas Tech who didn't know any better.

Have Aggies joined the ranks of those who throw things at refs and players and who yell only when their team is ahead? I hope not. I would hate to lose my pride in Aggies.

Mary Alice Beachy

A special message

EDITOR:

There are some special members of my Aggie family that have recently suffered a great loss. With the near impossibility of getting them all together at once and then facing the task of telling them what I feel in my heart that I surely could not accomplish well, I would like to ask you to print this instead. I will not mention them by name to keep possible unwanted attention away from them, but they will know it is of them I write.

Sitting by myself one time, thinking of my Uncle John who passed away with cancer some years back, I was at a loss to understand how he could face what he knew was coming. I recalled my grandfather saying after his return from the funeral that the past always haunts you — it's not what you can do that's important in the end, it's what you failed to accomplish while you had the time.

In a year filled with loss, the last of which touching home very hard, I have realized there is something I have failed to do. I can never be more proud to know anyone that I am now. Never before have I seen such courage and strength from a place where there must surely be dismay. Never before have I seen such devotion between friends, to be with one another in a time of need in heart and spirit, when it is understandably unexpected. I did not want to fail any longer to tell you so.

A friend of mine that I lost this last summer would have told me that this is what this place is all about. He wouldn't have told me but would have expected me to know that it is people like you that make

it so. God grant that I should have that strength when I must someday find it.

God bless you all.

Mike Pryor

Save it for high school

EDITOR:

Let me start by saying that I am a Karl Pallmeyer fan. His columns are normally a welcome relief from the slightly backward attitudes and politics which pervade the area in which we live. That's why I find it so hard to believe that the utter tripe contained in Wednesday column concerning his Christmas vacation came from the same person.

Karl, the days of the macho man are over. We really don't care how much beer you can drink or whether you are able to leave a party of your own volition.

While stories such as those contained in your column may have been quite impressive to your pre-pubescent friends at the Monday lunch table back in high school, frankly, they have no place in a nationally-respected college newspaper.

So Karl, in the future please stick to the informative, well-written columns that we've come to expect from you and leave your holiday and weekend exploits to your diary.

Derek Bercher '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 retain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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

The Battalion Editorial Board

Editor.....Michelle Pore
Managing Editor.....Kay Miller
Opinion Page Editor.....Loren Steg
City Editor.....Jerry O'Neil
News Editor.....Cathie Anderson
Sports Editor.....Travis Tingle

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 year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.