

Opinion

An amateur job

A new organization is trying to unionize college athletes, claiming that the players are exploited by their schools. To help draw attention to this "problem," the Revenue Producing Major College Player's Association is calling for a strike of next year's bowl games. The RPMCPA's goals are a good idea for professional athletes, but on a collegiate level they are absurd.

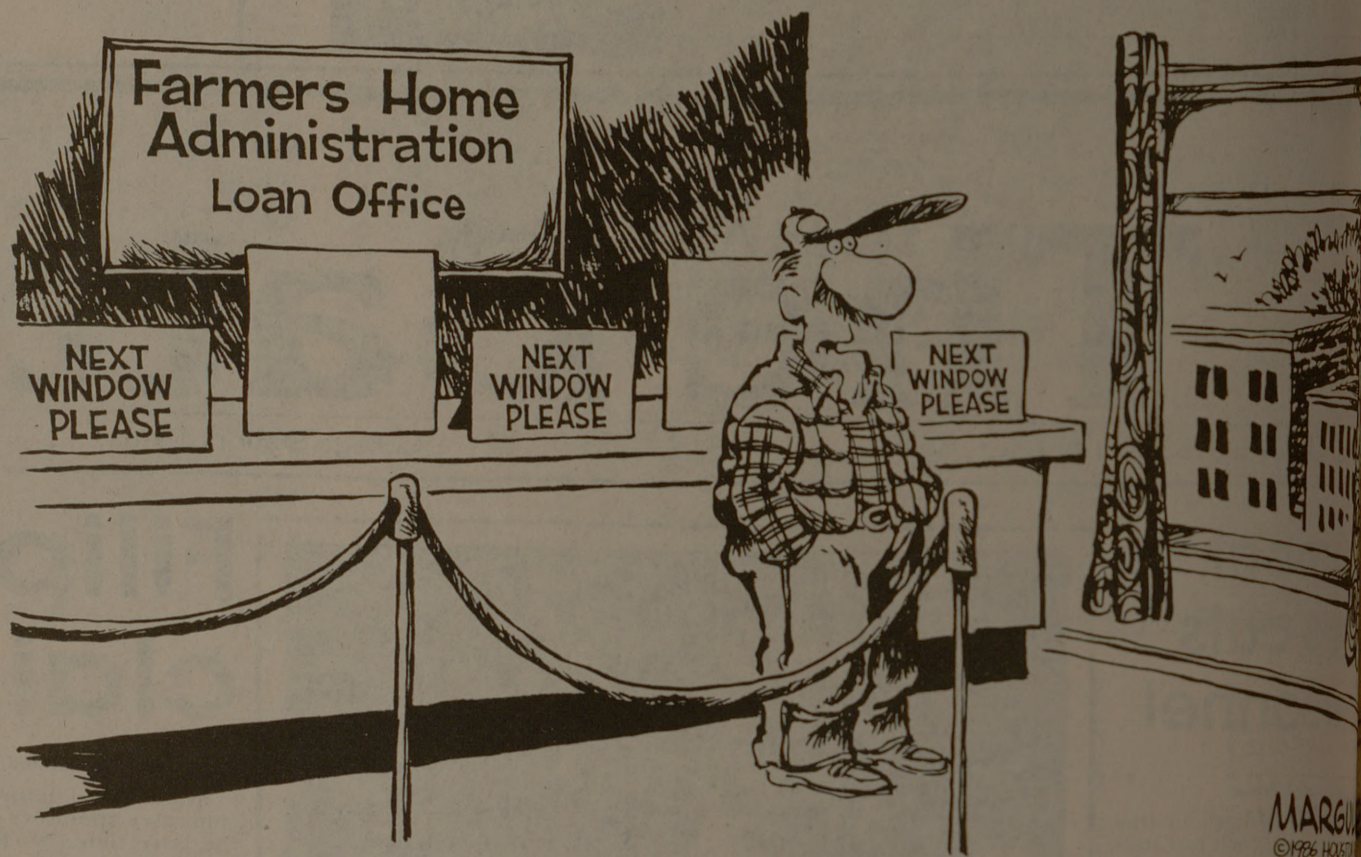
The RPMCPA is proposing medical plans, legal representation, career advice, travel allowances and money for emergencies for college athletes. The organization also wants college athletes to be able to receive benefits which are currently prohibited by NCAA regulations.

While the RPMCPA's ideas would appeal to any athlete, amateur or professional, they could not be instigated unless the NCAA rules — which define the amateur status of college athletes — were revamped.

In essence, college players would no longer be amateurs. The benefits the RPMCPA is hoping to procure for college players exceed those received by many full-time professionals.

If the RPMCPA had its way, college athletes would turn professional. But until the NCAA decides to alter its regulations, they will — and should — remain amateurs.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Don't be afraid to set off some verbal fireworks

We're losing, Ags. Time out.



Cynthia Gay

What? Just when we tucked the Cotton Bowl in our back pocket and the Southwest Conference basketball championship is within our grasp?

But those aren't the only games in town. Instead of *Sports Illustrated*, my professors have informed me that the results of this game can be better understood in Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and a philosophy book titled *Applying Moral Theories*, to name a few.

I'm talking about the game of life, academically speaking.

I can see my prof now, one arm grabbing the front edge of the podium, his eyes flashing behind those translucent glasses — translucent because I never completely comprehend where he's coming from, or what he's driving at.

He makes a point. He hesitates half a breath for a response. He gets none. He continues...

I'm still back on that point of his that I'm not quite sure about. He might mean something I totally disagree with. But what do I know? I'm just a student.

Just a student! We students are "the best," "the brightest," "the hopes for America," "the leaders of tomorrow."

It sounds like a con man's introduction at a circus side show. "Step right up and take a gander at the students who'll shape the world someday!"

I know that's ridiculous, but it seems a lot of "grown-up people" are waiting for us to clue them in on our motives, our ideals, our dreams. Their dreams washed away years ago, and their ideals were swept along with them. They want to see someone whose face still flushes and eyes still burn; to hear someone who will run down the dorm hall shouting in ecstasy because the inscrutable physics problem has just been solved; to know someone who can down a pizza at midnight, type a paper until 3 a.m.,

sleep until 6 a.m., read two chapters before class and then doze off for 45 minutes of a 50-minute lecture.

Yes, this is your life! But you're wondering what my point is in all this. I'm simply trying to wake you up for the last five minutes of that lecture class, and if you hear one thing from that prof that leaves you a bit confused, let him know — then and there if possible. Especially if the class is a species of liberal arts — these classes are to teach us to use our minds, not simply to learn what someone else thinks. They are most fun when you disagree, when you argue, when you so personally involve yourself with the subject matter that you're willing to risk your subjective dignity to stir things up a bit.

Professors like controversy themselves, and the college class room is the world's sanctuary for verbal fireworks. So why not ignite a few? We all inherited some pearls of wisdom from home, and we did have to reel in a few bits of savvy to get to the Big U. In the first place, so we all have something to contribute — even to that class you've walked into 10 times and walked out

later without saying a word for the past fuzzy 50 minutes.

So what if the other students think you're a bit off-beat, or your "ignorant" statements reveal that, heaven forbid, you have not read the ubiquitous "material?"

I love to tell my friends some of the crazy things my profs said in a class. (I'm a liberal arts major, so I receive a large daily dosage of proverbial wonders). They'd usually ask me what I replied to the prof's questionable remark.

Nothing. Nothing? They'd give me a look of disappointment, especially friends from other colleges. Invariably, a professor in one of their classes had made a similar statement, and it had provoked a heated discussion that kept students thinking long after class was over. Whereas, in that stagnant room in the Blocker Building there was only silence.

Then I'd say the professor could tell from the look on my face that he wasn't slipping one by me. All the while I was kicking myself for cowardice, or even worse, apathy. At the time it just didn't seem to matter whether I agreed or not.

But WHEN does it start to... Maybe we're so busy avoiding... with other human beings we... ning scared and don't even know...

Then there's that last, attractive... cause for not raising the verbal... ture of a class: What if that guy... translucent glasses starts to... And what if he grades my essay... with exceptionally bloody results...

He probably will secretly love... put. Besides, a grade is a... standard that we as students... glorify into the be-all, end-all... lege existence. And just as the... momentary, so are we. We do... little each day, improving or reg... Who and what we are can't be... mined by some grade. We ma... made some Cs, but no one is... And we've all failed a lot more... have Fs to show for it.

If we try to avoid conflict... game of life, we'll be playing... bounds. Time in.

Cynthia Gay is a junior journalist and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Consider the source

EDITOR:

Why not get the facts from the source?

This week SCONA will have a conference entitled "The Myriad Challenge of Middle East," a significant part of which will be dealing with Islam. Ironically, no Moslem scholars have been invited to speak at the conference, even though Moslem student organizations here submitted a list of recommendations to SCONA in 1985.

To become familiar with Islam, Moslems, and the issues concerning them, we invite the public to hear a Moslem scholar rather than the western "experts". Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, director of the London-based Moslem Institute will give a talk concerning the Middle East on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in room 701 Rudder Tower.

Siddiqui is the author of numerous books and is a frequent contributor to the *Crescent International Weekly* published in Canada. For 17 years he was a journalist on British newspapers including the prestigious *Guardian*.

Saeid Minaei

Selected Bible readings

EDITOR:

I am a senior who has never responded to a letter in The Battalion because I have never seen a letter worse than plain stupid — until Wednesday.

That was the day I read the ugliest and most disgusting cheap-shot ever printed in our paper. My letter is to the Foardes', who lashed out at Karl Pallmeyer by implying that he is unprofessional, wicked, sinful, immoral and an atheist.

My first question is, how dare you? Where do you get off? Who do you think you are? God's right hand on this earth? You know, some of us like Karl Pallmeyer and his articles even if we don't always agree with him. He stimulates my mind. He might have stimulated yours if you had one.

Nevertheless, your letter was a low-down, uncalled for piece of slander. Maybe you ought to open up your Bible and read the portions that concern the judging of others (this part of the Bible is most commonly and conveniently overlooked by people of your type). If you don't like Pallmeyer's articles, then just shut your eyes when you get to Page 2. You would have us believe that no one wants to read his viewpoint. Well I do!

Mark A. Mendlovitz

Give the man a job

EDITOR:

I'm glad that someone still considers homemaking and child rearing to be a significant career. I and my wife (whoever she will be) will certainly welcome someone with Hal Hammons' zeal to take care of our children during the workday. He claims that in his perspective, I hope he meant perspective, no career is more significant. Good for him. I hope he enjoys it.

Richard de Castongrene
Class of '88

An awesome human

EDITOR:

How about that Karl Pallmeyer. Isn't he an awesome human. We were extremely impressed by his ability to comment on the desires of the Filipino people. We are sure he knows exactly what type of freedom of Filipino people want, but it's not his fault. The Batt just doesn't give him enough room to express a complete thought.

We are in need of his vast knowledge of world affairs, after all he is a journalist and a darn insightful one at that. His vast wealth of information on various topics that touch our everyday lives is simply awesome.

We would like to take this opportunity to express some views of our own. In regard to the science of orthopedics, we feel that the entire population of Southeast Asia want to wear Dr. Schols arch support slip-ins. In regard to physics, we believe that the people of New Guinea no longer want to obey the laws of physics. This is displayed obviously in the people of New Guinea's protests.

We would, however, like Pallmeyer to confirm our opinions.

Doug Driskell
Greg Van Horn

Not for women only

EDITOR:

In Hal Hammons' Thursday letter, he stated that the most significant career for a woman would be to stay at home and rear her children to become responsible, mature citizens. Well of course raising children to that goal is important. But if it is so important, then why doesn't he stay home and help out? Gee guys, all this infinite trust in the character-formation abilities of us women is quite flattering, but somewhat inaccurate (like all stereotypes). Do you really

think that ovaries and breasts should be the qualification for rearing? Does every woman you know have the exact same personality and is nurturance the dominant trait?

A lot of women may not enjoy applying their intellectual stimulation problems as: What is the correct temperature for the bottle? Should I potty train little Joey this week or next? All thought-provoking situations with a screaming child that demand ALL of your attention (Don't tell me this is incorrect — I've never been around a two-year-old?)

Of course, a lot of women find child-raising a very enjoyable experience. Well, good for them! They have found themselves a occupation that they really enjoy. A lot of men enjoy raising children also.

Since Hammons holds child-raising in such high regard, LOVE for him to be my nanny!!! He should give me a call. I'll book.

Georgette Nicolaides

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editor 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 telephone number of the writer.

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