

# Opinion

## Revenue shortfall price for inaction

Gov. Mark White ordered a 13 percent reduction in general revenue spending Tuesday. The executive order means a \$68 million cut for Texas A&M this fiscal year and next. Action could have been — and should have been — taken before the revenue shortfall got out of control.

It is still not too late.

The \$1.3 billion shortage in this year's state revenue is no surprise, but harbingers of financial difficulties were ignored.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock warned Feb. 13 that plummeting oil prices would create a drastic reduction in state income. Bullock also outlined other problem areas — declining revenue from natural gas and sales tax.

Bullock also claims he warned state leaders of the impending shortfall last March. The State Legislature had plenty of time to act but did nothing.

There still is time to call a special session of the Legislature. It's not too late to come up with alternatives to White's indiscriminate scissors.

The legislators are reluctant to call a special session because generating new sources of revenue usually means raising taxes — something politicians don't like to do in an election year.

But Texas' financial woes can't be put off until our state officials are comfortably incumbent. Nor can they be left to Gov. White's executive orders.

Our representatives need to call a special session to find alternate revenue sources now, before this University and the entire state suffers from the Legislature's procrastination.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Isn't it wonderful?

I often am asked why I don't write something that represents the opinions of the majority of the student body. Here goes:



Karl Pallmeyer

Isn't it wonderful to go through life and not ask questions?

Isn't it wonderful to blindly accept everything your parents have told you?

Isn't it wonderful to think that because America is the best country in the world we don't have to do anything to make it better?

Isn't it wonderful to think that because Texas A&M is the best school in the world we don't have to do anything to make it better?

Isn't it wonderful to violently oppose anything that we don't understand?

Isn't it wonderful to have football and basketball games so we don't have to worry about other things?

Isn't it wonderful to be able to hide behind tradition instead of trying to see if something new and different might work just as well if not better than the old ways?

Isn't it wonderful that we are better than they?

Isn't it wonderful that we have such a great president like Ronald Reagan who is so brilliant that he will do what's best for us so that we don't have to be bothered with political matters?

Isn't it wonderful that we have a head coach who gets paid millions of dollars more than our best teachers?

Isn't it wonderful that we have an alumnus who gives us bell towers instead of cluttering up our library with books?

Isn't it wonderful to wear the same clothes that everyone else wears?

Isn't it wonderful to make fun of those who aren't wearing the same clothes that everyone else wears?

Isn't it wonderful to know that everything is either black or white and there are no shades of gray in between?

Isn't it wonderful that Hollywood makes movies like "Rocky IV," "Rambo: First Blood Part II," "Invasion U.S.A.," and "Red Dawn" that teach us about how evil the Russians are?

Isn't it wonderful that unwanted pregnancy is solely the woman's fault even though there was a man present at the time of conception?

Isn't it wonderful to live in a state where the legislature has to make laws to tell the people that school is more important than football?

Isn't it wonderful that Jerry Falwell is

doing God's work because God must need all the help He can get?

Isn't it wonderful to have a group like Accuracy In Academia to warn us that certain professors might actually teach us something?

Isn't it wonderful that we can watch 24 hours of television a day and be reasonably sure that we won't be asked to think about anything we've seen?

Isn't it wonderful to be able to listen to most of today's music and be reasonably sure that we won't be asked to think about anything we've just heard?

Isn't it wonderful to be a Texan without having any Mexican or American Indian blood in your family?

Isn't it wonderful that South Africa and the Philippines are such good friends that we don't have to question what their leaders do to their people?

Isn't it wonderful that guys can't get pregnant?

Isn't it wonderful to know that might makes right and that he who carries the biggest stick wins?

Isn't it wonderful to go to church every Sunday to hear about love so that we can have the rest of the week to hate?

Isn't it wonderful that when America does it, it's maintaining world peace but when anyone else does it, it's terrorism?

Isn't it wonderful to make lots of money regardless of what happens to other people?

Isn't it wonderful to be able to get a degree from a world-class university and not have to read Shakespeare, Dickens, Twain, Plato, Thoreau, Hemingway or Marx?

Isn't it wonderful to live in a state where you can drink and drive as long as you wear your seatbelt?

Isn't it wonderful that white is better than other colors?

Isn't it wonderful to be able to believe anything you want and be reasonably sure that you will not have to answer for your beliefs?

Isn't it wonderful to have Star Wars so we don't have to worry about trying to stop a nuclear war?

Isn't it wonderful that men are men and women are usually where they should be?

Isn't it wonderful to have freedom of speech as long as some people don't abuse it?

Isn't it wonderful to be able not to use certain parts of your body?

Isn't it wonderful to know that God loves you even though you are the most unlovable creature in the universe?

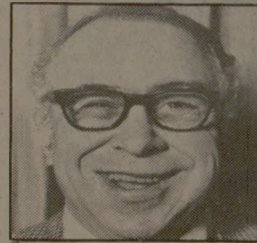
Not all of the student body is like this. Isn't it wonderful?

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



## Marcos' 'landslide' election unlike any in the Free World

One of the most miraculous political victories in modern times took place last week in San Nicolas, the hometown of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.



Art Buchwald

Marcos received 13,643 votes, and his opponent, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, got 0. There has never been an election consensus like it in the Free World.

I called Manila and congratulated one of Marcos' campaign managers for the outstanding job his people did in San Nicolas.

"We were hoping to have a larger turnout to add to our plurality."

"How can you be sure if you'd had a larger turnout the voters would have gone for Marcos?"

"No one can be sure of anything in a Filipino election; you just hope for the best."

"Weren't you surprised that not one voter in San Nicolas cast a ballot for Mrs. Aquino?"

"We had a gut feeling it might happen. Marcos ran an awfully good campaign, promising the people rice and

housing, jobs and a discount on office space in any building Mrs. Marcos owns in New York City."

"There are some people in the United States, and I'm not one of them, who insist there must have been at least token opposition to the president. They can't believe the shutout for Aquino."

"There was opposition to the president. You can't have a democracy without opposition. Many people in San Nicolas wanted to vote for Mrs. Aquino."

"Why didn't they?"

"They couldn't get out of their homes."

"Why not?"

"Because the army had surrounded them to protect them from the supporters of Marcos. Our main objective in the election was to save lives. I will tell you about one man in San Nicolas. His name is Juan, and he was mad at Marcos because someone had put his father and mother in jail. So he said he was going to go to the polls and cast a ballot for Aquino."

"We said very politely, 'Juan, don't be a troublemaker. Mrs. Aquino has no experience. Only Marcos can get your mother and father out of jail.'"

"But he said he would still vote for Aquino. So when he dropped his ballot

in the box, we fished it out and tried to vote again, we arrested him voting twice in a presidential election. Now Juan is with his mother and in jail. President Marcos believes in keeping the family together."

"It's fortunate you stopped. Otherwise Mrs. Aquino would have received one vote in San Nicolas."

"He would have never slipped. Our poll watchers are too good. Nicolas is very dear to President Marcos' heart, and it would be terrible for the outside world saw that there were people in his hometown who didn't want him to serve again."

"Did you prevent many people from voting by force?"

"Not many. It was easier to buy votes. We have a hospital and orphan fund just for the elections. It's the lady's pet charity."

"Then I assume you are satisfied with the results in San Nicolas?"

"You are never satisfied in an election. We know we could have done better."

"If you could sum it up, what do Marcos win so handily in San Nicolas?"

"Charisma."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

## Mail Call

### A change of style, please

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Michelle Powe's column last Friday, "Striving for equality will never go out of style." Yes, hopefully equality won't ever go out of style — one thing I hope and pray will go out is the predominant writing style of The Battalion's opinion columnists. This semester we have been treated to a lot of catch words and cut hypothetical scenarios, such as Powe's fantasy questions posed about "anti-feminists." ("Are the women afraid they'll start to like wearing men's clothing? . . .")

Whatever happened to the practice of looking at your opposition's arguments rationally, intelligently and honestly (i.e. no misquoting or twisting of the facts) and then refuting them with your own well-thought out arguments? When you resort to ridicule — as in Michelle's vision of Phyllis Schlafly, Jerry Falwell, and all the members of Concerned Women for America "cackling and chortling" while dancing around a copy of the Equal Rights Amendment — you only discredit yourself and your opinion.

Are these "anti-feminists" really "a small, but radical bunch of well-organized, well-financed antiegalitarians?" It is interesting to note that currently CWA's membership is 560,000 strong — that's more than the membership of NOW, the League of Women Voters and the Women's Political Caucus combined. If you can be wrong about "small, radical bunch," I wonder what other parts of that sentence could be wrong?

Florence Mayes '83

### Good work, SCONA

EDITOR:

This letter relates to SCONA and the good work they accomplished in informing the public about complex issues such as the Arab-Israeli conflict. Many of us generalize that Arabs are terrorists. After the talks presented by SCONA speakers, I was able to see that there's much more to it than terrorism. I feel I know and understand their side and his-

tory better. I found out that the information we get from media is incredibly biased.

Now with respect to the letter from Barry Lanes, "noting the article" in The Battalion, did he notice that talks were open to the public? Is he concerned about awareness of the Arab-Israeli conflict? What does he think of Arab people? Does he have any Arab friends? He probably takes a class with an Arab student, has he asked her how they feel about the issue? He really must be blind to say illogical rationale about terrorism.

I'm not for terrorism on either side, but please don't blame it all on Arabs. There are many Christians in Lebanon that have killed and many Jews in the United States that support this killing, so where have they left their praise for Ten Commandments . . . "Thou shalt not kill?"

Maria G. Quintanilla

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

### The Battalion

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

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