

Opinion

The Battalion

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Neighbors?

State Rep. Richard Williamson, D-Weatherford, has come up with a creative, inexpensive solution to the problem of overcrowding in state prisons. Forget about repealing the 95-percent capacity limit. Forget about building a new prison. Forget about enlarging county prisons to accommodate state prison inmates. The prisoners can live with college students.

Williamson proposed, and anticipates that the Texas Department of Corrections will agree, that the "world" of unused buildings on college campuses around the state be used to house non-violent prisoners.

Aside from the obvious fact that Williamson wasn't considering A&M's campus when he decided how much extra space was available, he failed to take the feelings of students and educators into account.

How do students, faculty and staff members of various Texas colleges feel about sharing quarters with criminals? Though the prisoners' "dorms" probably wouldn't differ much in character from many existing college dorms, the idea of housing students alongside criminals is absurd.

Perhaps the prisoners could convince Williamson to arrange for them to enroll in the universities as well.

The real crime is that the state is paying Williamson to come up with ideas like this.

Mail Call

Et tu, Bruté!

EDITOR:

I submit the following funeral oration for the funeral of Aggie Tradition which will follow the granting of Mike Sullivan's request for the abolition of the Corps of Cadets.

Friends, Aggies, and Cadets

Lend me your ears.

For I have come to bury Tradition — not to praise it.

Mike Sullivan says that we should abolish the Corps of Cadets.

And he is an honorable man.

Mike Sullivan says that 95-percent of us "have absolutely nothing to do with the Corps." We don't support it.

And Mike Sullivan is an honorable man.

Mike Sullivan wants no midnight yell practice, no Aggie Muster, no Silver Taps.

And Mike Sullivan is an honorable man.

Mike Sullivan says that it is the "pursuit of a reputation..." that we want — not Aggie Spirit.

And Mike Sullivan is an honorable man.

Mike Sullivan says we must be ambitious.

And Mike Sullivan is an honorable man.

Jim Starcher '90

Off target

EDITOR:

Wednesday's column advocating abolition of the Corps was way off base. I don't believe most people associate A&M with the military, nor would it be a very good reason for the Corps to be abolished. It serves its purpose.

The problem with the Corps is that a few bad apples give the impression of a rotten barrel because all the fruits look alike. Cadets need to realize that when they put on their uniforms, their behavior reflects on that of the group. They should strive to create a positive image and an honorable reputation. This does mean they will have to stop beating up women.

Margaret Shannon '87

The last word

EDITOR:

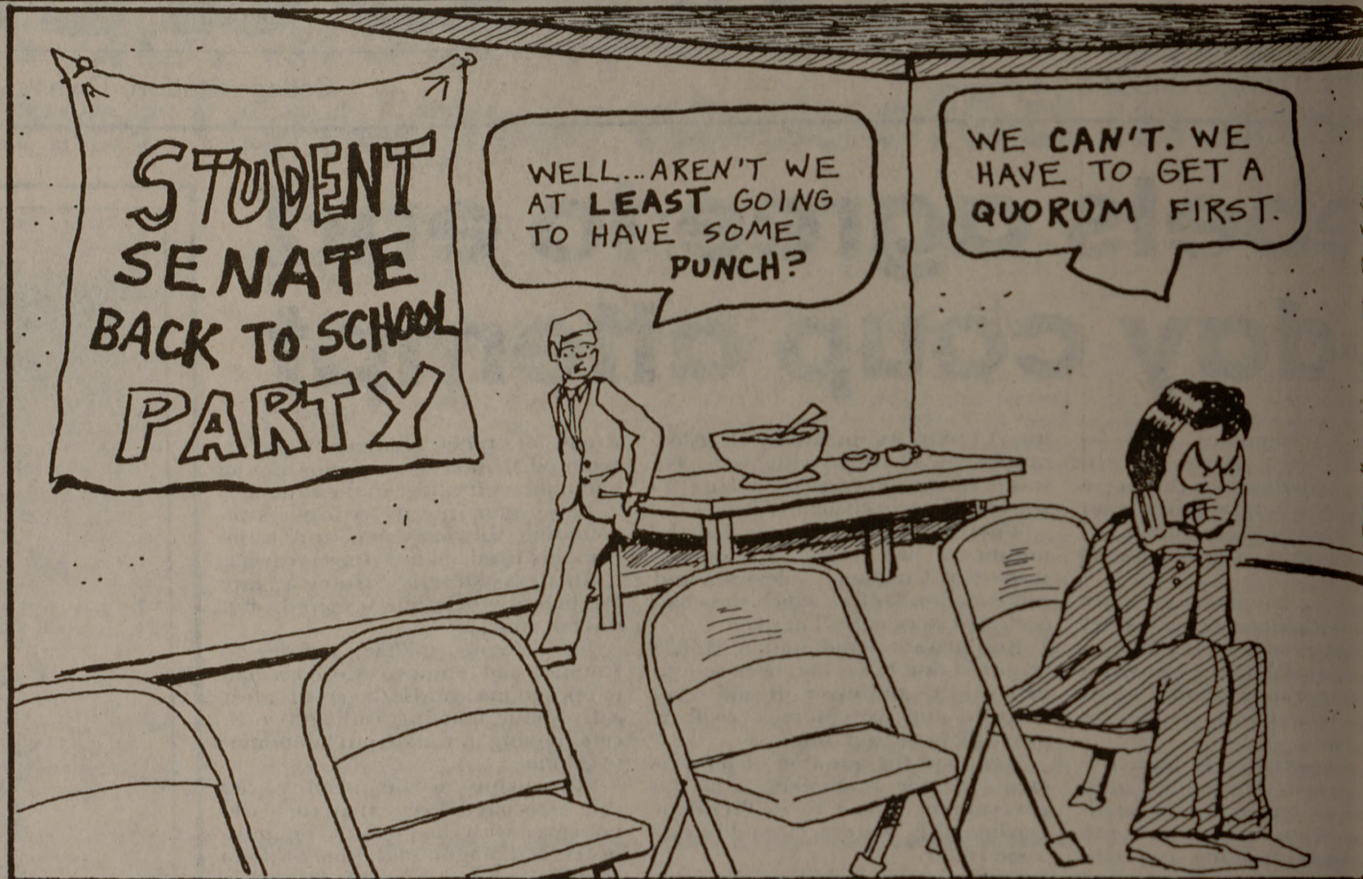
Many questions have been raised recently concerning the outdoor exhibit behind the Academic Building. While some say the exhibit is a refreshing change, many contend that it is annoying and possibly the furthest thing from art.

The question that comes to mind is, "what is art?" According to the American Heritage Dictionary, art is "the activity of creating beautiful things." Obviously, all people do not share the same taste in beauty — thank God, we might all be wearing Sbis uniforms. Will Rogers once said, "If a man ain't nothin' else, then he is an artist. It's the only thing he can claim to be that nobody can prove he ain't."

This is a democracy and the choice to accept or reject the exhibit, or anything for that matter, is every individual's own. Regardless, the Laguna Gloria Art Museum was very gracious in allowing this campus the opportunity to view its display.

Andrew J. Kochevar '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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.



Football is destroying America

The Super Bowl came and went Sunday leaving us to face seven football-less months. I can't say I'm disappointed.



Karl Pallmeyer

It should come as no surprise to anyone that football is no longer a game. It's a multi-million dollar industry dedicated to the destruction of the future of our nation. Football is a tool being used by the scuttleship to cloud the minds of the people so they will become so intoxicated with patriotic jingoism that they fail to notice America is going to hell in a handbasket.

From Sunday's Super Bowl, all the way down to junior high schools' Thursday night football games, the worm disguised in pigskin is eating at the very heart of America's youth. Football starts its evil work at an early age.

In junior high school most male children are conditioned to believe that football is a prime element of manhood. Almost every boy tries out for the football team because of pressures from parents and peers. The boys who have the potential are taken, trained and prepared for high school football. The boys who don't have the potential are used as tackling dummies for the others. Such social Darwinism is sanctioned by the schools.

High school football is much worse. The boys are groomed and primed for college recruiters in much the same fashion as cattle before a livestock show. Nothing is allowed to stand in the way of a promising career in the football industry, least of all school.

In Windthorst, a small, insignificant town near Wichita Falls, there have been charges that teachers have been asked to change the grades of students so those students may participate in sports. Ron Rushing, a vocational agri-

culture teacher, says he changed grades of student-athletes as part of an arrangement made with the students. The students would be spanked in exchange for a passing grade. Jim Pappas, a math teacher, says he also was asked to change grades of student-athletes. Leonard Schenck, coach and principal of the elementary and junior high schools, denies these accusations but the University Interscholastic League has ordered a probe of the school's grading policies.

The city of Windthorst and its 409 inhabitants should have greater concerns than football. Instead of trying to field a football team, the school should concentrate on teaching children practical skills that will enable them to shake the dust of that crummy little town off their heels and tackle success in the real world.

The problems in the dinky little town of Windthorst become larger in larger cities. Larger high schools are able to offer a wider variety of courses so student-athletes are able to sign up for a course load that isn't challenging and won't interfere with extracurricular activities. Former governor Mark White tried to remedy the situation with his no-pass, no-play provisions but the legislation has failed mostly from lack of interest among teachers and communities.

In college, grades don't matter as much, and several athletes are allowed to play out their four years of eligibility without receiving a degree. Colleges also offer blow-off courses for their star players and there have been instances of grade changing.

Many high schools' athletic programs, particularly the football program, receive a disproportionate amount of the schools' budget. In college sports, the money problem is way out of hand. Aside from the outrageous budgets for the athletic department, the charges of athletes receiving cars and gifts from alumni show that there is a lot more than sportsmanship involved with the "game."

It is ridiculous to believe that all preparation is for a career in professional football. Although some professional players get paid unnecessarily large amounts, comparatively few make it to the pros. It is sad that those who don't make it to the pros don't have any other skills to fall back on.

The future of our nation is at stake because so much emphasis is placed on something that provides little in the way of the advancement of humanity. Education is being subverted in favor of football. High school and junior high schools have their priorities backwards when it comes to the education question. Colleges, doomed to a future of financial ruin, the alumni forsakes books in favor of balls.

The most damaging aspect of football is that it carries a philosophy destructive to the psyche of the American youth. Individualism is pushed aside in favor of team spirit. Players are required to follow the set patterns of plays and orders of the quarterback instead of thinking for themselves. Blindly founded hatred is the required attitude towards the opposing team. Violence shown to be the only way to win the game.

Vince Lombardi is the man most responsible for the destruction of that philosophy and the bastardization of "game." When Lombardi said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," he added a Machiavellian twist to the "game." Pig farts.

Once upon a time there was a saying, "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, how you play the game." That is a philosophy that can be applied to anything. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose — the only thing that matters is how you handle each defeat and victory, how you use those experiences to improve your life and the lives of those around you.

Karl Pallmeyer is a journalist, graduate and a columnist for The Battalion.

They want only the gory details

Was it really necessary that we be given every specific detail regarding President Reagan's recent surgery?



Lewis Grizzard

After all, the surgery did involve a rather private part of the president's anatomy, and I think most people could have done without the unabashed coverage of the ailment and the procedure that was necessary to get rid of it.

I do admit some people have a very inquisitive nature when it comes to other people's health problems.

Family discussions when I was growing up routinely regarded the health of others.

"Hear about Shirley Spratlin, our third cousin? She had an operation and they had to sew her right side back up. She was eat up. Eat up."

Visualizing that scene always made me terribly uncomfortable. I could see the doctor finishing the opening of his patient and then turning to his nurse and saying, "Oh my God! This person is

eat up. Eat up! Let's sew her right back up and get out of here quick!"

Cousin Shirley, incidentally, lived another 30 years, despite whatever it was that had gnawed at her innards.

Still, the family continued to refer to her as "poor, old Shirley" and whispered when she was out of earshot about how she was able to go on when she was in such pitiable condition.

Visiting doctors, and having procedures and surgeries done to one's self is enough to endure, without having to be subjected to graphic explanations of what is happening to someone else.

What I hate most about modern medicine are tubes. Doctors will put a tube in you anytime it appears remotely necessary that they do so.

I've had a few bouts with the knife myself, and I consider myself an expert on tubes. When they started talking about where they were going to put tubes in President Reagan, my own nightmare came back to me.

I have said many times before that when the Lord was creating humans, if he had wanted doctors to stick tubes in at least a couple of places they stick them, he would have made those openings a bit larger.

And let me tell you something else

about tubes. When doctors run holes to put them in, they make holes. You simply cannot escape.

I felt sorry for the president who was embarrassed for him when the organizations spared no detail of predicament.

This man is the president of the United States. Doesn't he, too, deserve a little privacy? Why should his dignity be slapped around in the manner it was?

We ought to use some restraint in the news business in such situations. We should report the illness of a public figure, especially one with power and responsibility of the president, but there are the matters of taste and respect for their individuality and his or her family to be considered. Enough on the tubes, please.

President Reagan isn't the first president to have his physical ailments tailed in full for the public, of course. Remember Jimmy Carter's hemorrhoids and Lyndon Johnson's bladder operation?

Johnny Carson was monologuing President Reagan's operation the night and said, "At least Reagan didn't do what Johnson did — show his scar." Let us hope not.

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