

Opinion

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 Journalism.

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Payday

It's pay-raisin' season in Washington again! And when the subject of salary hikes for federal employees comes up, political cowardice cannot be far behind.

Congress has developed an effective, albeit spineless, approach to voting on raises for themselves. Obviously, voting to raise their own salaries would not set well with the congressmen's constituents. Yet voting against a pay increase would not set well with colleagues. So Congress enacted a process that automatically grants a pay raise to federal employees unless both houses of Congress vote against it.

The raise itself is not as objectionable as the way it will be enacted. Under the increase, senators and representatives would make \$89,500 a year, which, while not slim pickings, is not outlandish for government officials.

But congressmen refuse to stand behind, or even publicly acknowledge, their support for the raise. In a time when senators and representatives are screaming for fiscal responsibility by the federal government, few members of Congress seem willing to practice what they preach.

If congressmen want more money, the least they could do is tell voters outright, instead of hiding behind legislative processes designed to do nothing more than shield them from the unpopularity of their decisions.

Aviation is a big farce

A wonderful thing has happened to me. I received notification in the mail recently that I have been invited to join "The Man Will Never Fly Memorial Society."



Lewis Grizzard

Until I received my notification, I had no idea such an organization existed.

But now I am fully aware, and I will be proud to help in the society's primary purpose:

The society is dedicated to debunking the myth of the Wright Brothers and subsequent, so-called man flights.

The society was born on December 6, 1959, when a group of friends had been invited to Kill Devil Hills, N.C., to honor Wilbur and Orville's alleged first flight on Dec. 17, 1903, at nearby Kitty Hawk.

The night before, described by the founders as "a dark and windy night when nothing flew and even the sea gulls bounced from place to place like hoppy toads," the group began to drink heavily.

The more they drank, the more they became convinced that men flying is just another cruel hoax being played on society.

The brochure that accompanied my membership offer indicated the myth of men flying has its roots all the way back to ancient times.

"First, came the nonsense of Cupid flying through the air," the brochure reads. "Then, there was the nonsense of Pegasus, the winged horse."

"Next, came the fabled Arabian carpet. And finally, a piece of flummery about a flying stork that dropped babies down chimneys."

"Small wonder that humankind, nourished on such nonsense, would readily believe two bicycle mechanics from Day-

ton, Ohio, could move through the air like winged fowl."

What, then, of the massive jets of today that are supposed to carry people from city to city at hundreds of miles per hour?

The society has an answer for that:

"Airports and airplanes are for the gullible. Little do passengers realize they are merely boarding Greyhound buses with wings."

"While on board these winged buses, passengers are given the illusion of flight when cloudlike scenery is moved past their windows by stagehands in a very expensive theatrical performance."

So that's how they do it.

I further learned the society is involved in several worthwhile projects, one of which is a plan to build an Invisible Museum for UFOs.

Another, being tackled by the White Knuckle Chapter (Austin, Texas) is researching the octane rating of chili gas, in case someone eventually does invent the airplane.

I, of course, have long been dubious of air travel, as well as afraid of it. If you share my feelings and are interested in joining the society, write to: TMWNFMS, P.O. Drawer 1903, Kill Devil Hills, N.C. 27948.

All you have to do is send \$5 and make the pledge that is the lifeblood of the society:

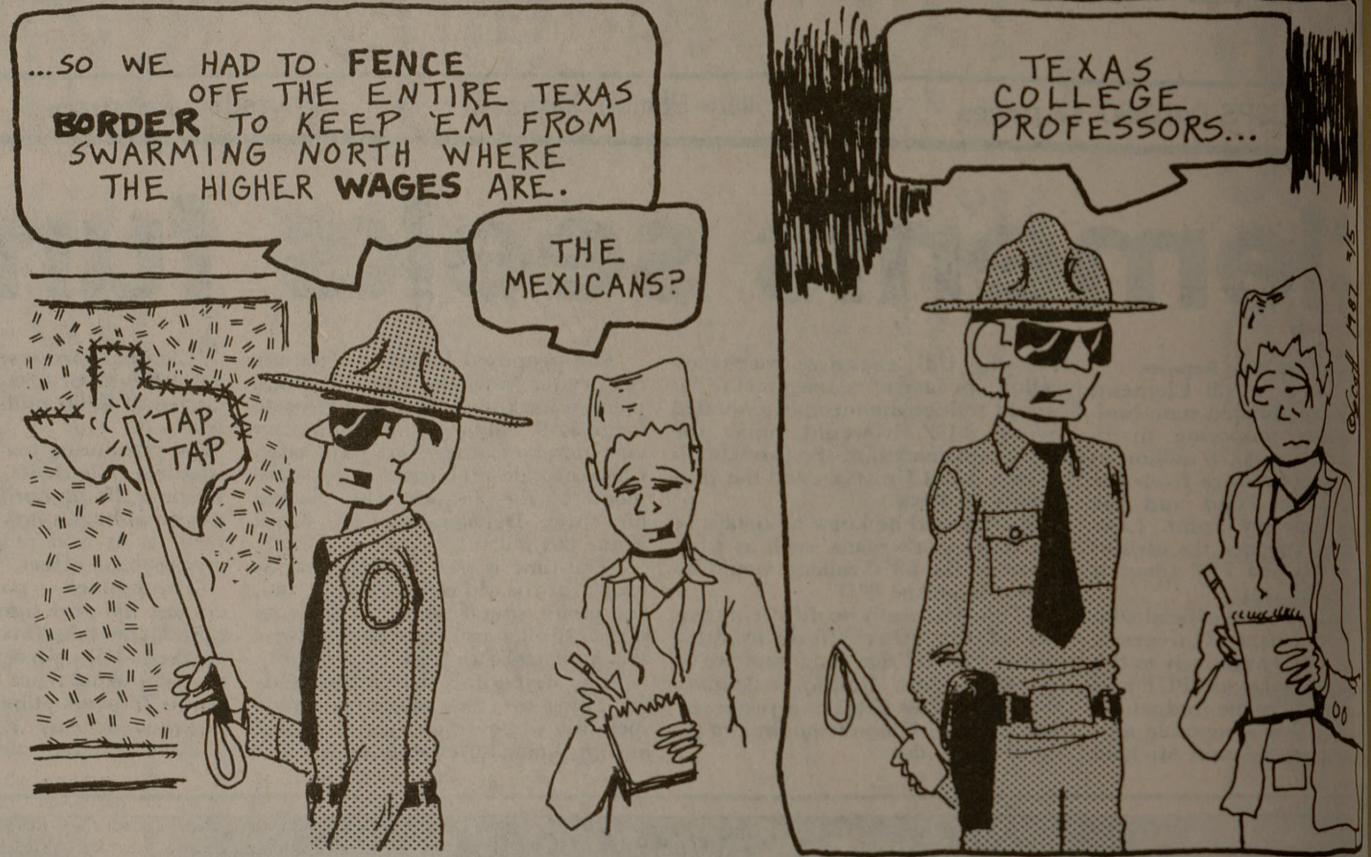
"Given the choice,

I will never fly,

but given no choice,

I will never fly sober."

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And God spake unto him . . .

Note: While digging through an old stack of Battalions the other day, I stumbled across fragments of a scroll. The scroll looked thousands of years old and was written in Pig Latin.



Karl Pallmeyer

After hours of translation, minutes of research and seconds of conclusion jumping, I determined the scroll must be one of the lost books of the Bible. Joseph Smith discovered the "Book of Mormon" in a New York cave in the 1820s. I have found the "Revelation of St. Fred the Mediocre" in a Reed McDonald Building filing cabinet in 1987.

Fred's "Revelation" is similar to John's "Revelation" in the Bible because it tells of dark times to come. Many of the prophecies in Fred's "Revelation" already have come to pass.

The Revelation of St. Fred the Mediocre Chapter 1

1 God gave unto his servant Fred this revelation so that he shall bare testimony of the divine message unto all who readeth these holy words.

2 It shall come to pass in the lands of the presidents that there may rise a great force. That force shall be called television.

3 And it shall come to pass that men shall become slaves to television and shall serveth their new master by worshipping it all of their days. Many men shall lie prone before television and giveth up offerings of VCRs and stereo hook-ups.

4 But not all men shall become slaves to television. There shall be several men who riseth up and shall make television their servant. These men shall be feared throughout the lands.

Chapter 2

1 And there shall come among these men a man called Roberts. Roberts shall beget a son called Oral.

2 These men shall use television to spread the words of their Lord.

3 And it shall come to pass where these men shall reap the riches of the land from those who worship television. These men and other false profits ad-

vanceth themselves in this world and care not for the kingdom of the Lord the claim to love.

4 And it shall come to pass that the false profits shall use television to enslave the peoples of their nation. For those who worship television know not where their salvation shall lie and are willing to follow any leader.

Chapter 3

1 This is the book of the generations of Oral. Oral shall come forth unto the lands with the words of his Lord. And Oral shall father a school. And the school of Oral shall bring forth many scholars and basketball players.

2 And it shall come to pass that Oral shall speaketh unto his Lord. And Oral shall sayeth his Lord telleth him: "Oral, thou shall raisest \$4.5 million by the month of March or thy life shall surely end."

3 And Oral shall come forth and

that the people shall sendeth unto \$2 million. And Oral saw that a good.

4 And it came to pass that the March had arrived. Oral said unto world th . . .

Note: At this point the text here unreadable. Certain sections of the had been destroyed due to years of neglect and several hungry rodents.

Chapter 15

1 And it shall come to pass in the of the Aggies that a newspaper shall be formed and that paper shall be called The Battalion. And The Battalion shall become the instrument to spread news of the world and the thoughts of man.

2 And there shall come a man shall be called Karl and who shall be for the paper. The writings of Karl shall be met with much anger and controversy.

3 And there shall come other man who shall be called Mike and he shall also be for the paper. The writings of Mike shall also be met with anger by those who shaveth heads and weareth the duds of a soldier.

4 And it shall come to pass when the Lord shall speaketh unto Karl and sayeth: "Thou shalt raisest \$2 million shall increase thy years a hundredfold and force ye to dwell in the land of the Aggies for the rest of thy days. Thy payment shall be to writeth that shall stireth up thy students' wrath."

5 And Karl shall sayeth unto the Lord: "Surely thou shalt leaveth me to face such a trial alone."

6 And the Lord shall speaketh unto Karl: "Thou shalt not be alone, for I will take your Mike and I shall increase thy years a hundredfold. Ye shall both dwell in the land of the Aggies and ye shall both dwell until the cows cometh home."

7 And so it came to pass that Karl teth and asketh for \$2 million to pay him and Mike from the curse that haveth decreed.

8 Then it came to pass . . .

Note: Sorry, that's all I could pher, folks.

Karl Pallmeyer is a journalism graduate and a columnist for The Battalion.



through his servant television he shall addresseth the people of his nation. And Oral shall asketh the world to sendeth unto him money so his life shall not surely end in March.

4 And the people shall seeth Oral through his servant television and their hearts shall be open, for their minds seeth not the deceiver. And it shall come to pass that in the month of February

until the cows cometh home.

8 Then it came to pass . . .

Note: Sorry, that's all I could pher, folks.

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Mail Call

The big scam

EDITOR:

I'm a senior accounting major and am disgusted with the book scandal at this University. An occasional change of texts is understandable, but the rip-offs I have been the victim of lead me to wonder who is pocketing my money — area bookstores, the University, authors or someone else?

The first robbery occurred during the Fall 1985 semester when I took Accounting 230. I had to buy a new text, and I could not sell it back at the end of the semester because the accounting department changed books for Spring 1986.

Now, Spring 1987, I find they are using my old 230 text again, making Accounting 230 students buy new books because none of the bookstores bought the texts back when I was selling mine.

The second robbery occurred this semester. Unfortunately, I have the privilege of taking Accounting 329 again — a class I took last semester — and yes, they changed books. The change is only in the edition number of the text, however, and I'm hard pressed to find any other differences, excluding the vastly different cover

and ordering of some later chapters. Word for word the books are the same. The problems at the end of the chapters are what really lead me to believe that some sort of scandal is taking place. The problems, which also are in slightly different order, are exactly the same with — at most — a change in one irrelevant piece of information. Am I the only one who smells a scandal?

Tim Strohmaier '87

Stop and salute

EDITOR:

After attending the Feb. 3 Silver Taps, we began to wonder if a new location would be better for the ceremony to avoid disturbances such as planes flying overhead during the 21-gun salute and trains that always seem to pass during the playing of "Taps."

Surely, someone with authority could ask Easterwood Airport and surrounding train depots to delay or alter their traffic for a mere 30 minutes. Silver Taps only happens a few times a year and

is intended to be a tribute. But how can it be with such annoyances? If something is done about this situation it will make Silver Taps the quiet, solemn experience it is intended to be.

Mark Heath '88
Don Hermon '88

Keep your ketchup

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Gregg Leissner's Feb. 3 letter. He wrote about a recent A-1 Steak Sauce commercial. He said there was nothing wrong with putting ketchup on steak. That may be true at t.u., but not here. And before you try to pass out condiment advice again, remember, Gregg, Highway 6 runs both ways.

Andy Vann '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 phone number of the writer.