

Opinion

Students should respect kindness

There's a lot of talk in this town about lending a helping hand to a fellow Ag. We are, as Aggies, supposedly honorable, caring, responsible students and peers. Maybe we just need to be reminded occasionally what being responsible and caring means in our everyday lives. At A&M the good guy should not have to beware.



D.A. Jensen

After I finished a statistics test Thursday, the prof asked me if I would let a guy who had not brought his calculator to the test borrow mine. I thought it would be a good opportunity to help out a fellow classmate so I agreed. I asked the guy to return my calculator the next morning in class. He didn't come to class again until Tuesday. I did eventually get my calculator returned after the guy got back into town from the weekend, but the whole experience left me wondering about how responsibly Ags act with each other.

I'm a firm believer in responsibility. Every day of our lives we must take responsibility for our actions. It is part of being a college student and an adult.

We take responsibility for paying our bills, for going to class, for studying. When it comes to being kind to other people we sometimes forget the responsibility we take in the other areas of our lives.

No one is perfect. It's easy to forget a calculator on the day of a test. It's nice that classmates are willing to loan you a scantron or a pencil when you need one. It's responsible action that leads that borrower to act graciously when accepting an extended kindness. The helping hand should not be taken for granted or abused.

I loaned this guy my calculator because he was in a bind. I did not expect undying gratitude. I only expected to get my calculator back the next morning so I could do some mundane things, like my homework.

The calculator seems like a petty thing to make waves over since calculators are so plentiful. I could have borrowed one from a friend for four days, even though my

friends were all studying for their own tests. It's the same.

When someone lends a helping hand, they do it because they know they would want help if the roles were reversed. They feel good about helping another person. It gives them a feeling of personal satisfaction. That satisfaction quickly turns to a feeling of being a fool when their kindness is abused. This is the reason people are reluctant to reach out the helping hand.

I know I will hesitate to loan my belongings to strangers in the future, even if they are fellow Aggies.

It's easy to pass this matter off lightly until you are the one that needs a hand and no one offers help.

I think we all need to be a little more conscious of the response we offer when someone helps us out. If we continuously abuse a kind gesture, then the next time we need one it may not be forthcoming. It's time to act responsibly when we accept help from another person.

D.A. Jensen is a junior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

U.S. benefits from foreign students

EDITOR:

Frank Fay questioned whether it was appropriate for Texas A&M to have foreign students who pay the same as out-of-state students and then take their knowledge back to their countries to compete with us. This question has been asked by others and deserves an answer.

The Texas Legislature has discussed this many times over the years and has changed the fee structure from free tuition for Internationals to the present \$120 per credit hour. Two years ago the Coordinating Board of the University & College system in Texas figured the total cost of educating a student to be \$120 per credit hour. The Legislature assigned that cost to all non-Texans — our taxpayers are no longer subsidizing non-Texans at TAMU. The Internationals also pay an additional \$12 fee per semester for the extra services they need.

Foreign students were first invited here to enhance the education of Texans. We can learn as much from them as they can from us. The U.S. government hopes they will have such a fruitful experience at our universities, that they will return with a positive attitude toward democracy. The fact remains that for this glimpse of democracy in action and the opportunity to earn an education in the United States, foreign students pay their own way. In other countries this isn't always so. The Soviet Union, for instance, invites foreign students to study in their country at no cost: no tuition or room and board to pay. A great many Central Americans, who could not otherwise afford university educations, take advantage of this free program.

Our hope is to foster better understanding between other nations and ourselves and to bring more harmony to the world. So, the issue Mr. Fay might want to consider is not merely the cost of an education of Internationals (which they pay for), but the global impact of encouraging foreigners to study in the United States.

Tina Watkins
International Student Adviser

A&M needs foreign students

EDITOR:

This is in response to Frank Fay's letter in Thursday's Battalion protesting the fact that foreign students' tuition is the same as for out-of-state U.S. citizens.

In answer to your question, Mr. Fay, yes, this is what it takes to become a world-class university. A&M encourages the foreign students to come here, and with good reason. Do you realize that if tuition were raised for foreign students, many of them wouldn't be able to attend A&M? If your answer to this is "so what," then go find a foreign student. Take some time to talk to him or her, and maybe you'll realize what a privilege most of these people consider it to be here. In their own countries, they can't get A&M's quality of education — or any education for that matter. Many would be fighting in civil wars or bound by political systems which don't allow the kind of free educational system that America offers. And while you talk to this person, take a little time to find out about them, their country, their customs and beliefs. Not only will that larger understanding of the world picture benefit you personally, but in a professional sense as well. The world is growing increasingly more interdependent: four out of five new U.S. jobs are created as a direct result of foreign trade and approximately one-third of U.S. corporate profits come from international activities. The better you understand other peoples and cultures, the better equipped you will be for the future.

A world-class university is (if it can be defined) one that recognizes these facts and works to bring people from different countries together for mutual benefit. It should not be one that xenophobically discourages foreign students from enrolling.

Mary Beth Butler
graduate student

Reagan presidency limping along

EDITOR:

With Irangate closing in and Iran screaming at the United States, President Reagan is joking about his nose operation.

It is amazing how much can be done by an administration to divert attention from its deeply-rooted problems.

The tale of Irangate is so sordid that it will take many scholars and much time to figure out this complex problem in our executive power.

Ronald Reagan recently spoke on taxes. The lame duck president is running around the country looking busy and reading speeches written by someone else.

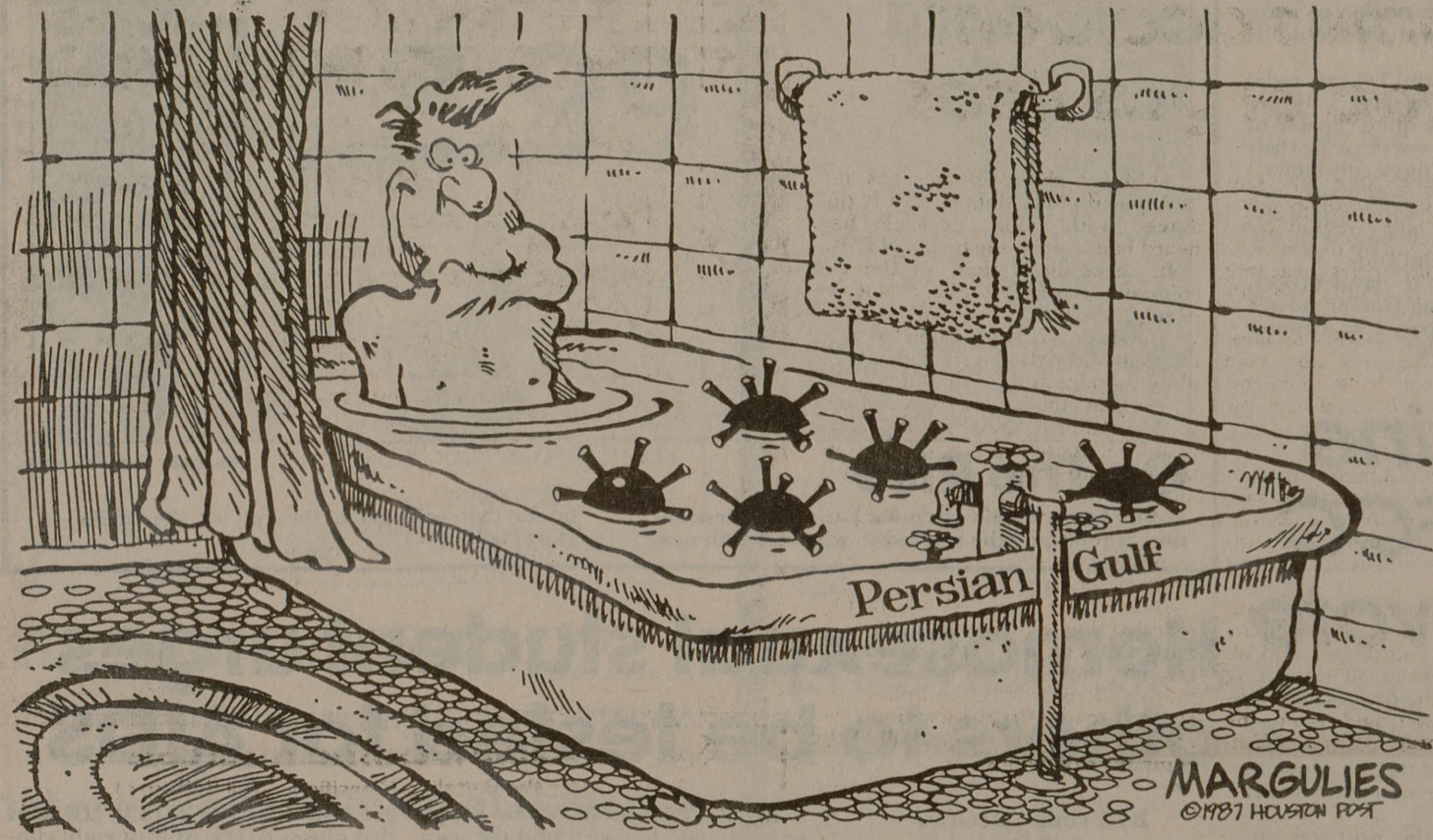
Occasionally, he will read a joke that pertains to nothing that is relevant, namely his nose. He does not even read these correctly.

CUT! Bring in the fall president. The only action that can save the Reagan today is a stunt president.

Oh, how Reagan wishes he could call in a double and forget his mistakes. Well, not exactly forget — just not recall.

Richard Storm '87
David Driskell '87

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.



On the fly with Delta Air Lines

Delta Air Lines has appointed a special committee to investigate all the problems it's been having lately with things like near mid-air collisions and landing at wrong airports.



Lewis Grizzard

I've been a loyal Delta patron for many years, and quite frankly, I believe Delta has been getting a raw deal in the press.

Because of this, I decided to launch my own investigation of Delta's recent misfortunes. I called one of my many sources with the airline and he explained what really happened with the celebrated incidents of the past few weeks.

I promised not to use the source's name if he would be completely frank with me, an old journalistic tool that is often necessary to use when getting at the truth, or getting at somebody.

I asked about the fact a Delta pilot landed

in Frankfort, Ky., when he was supposed to land at Lexington.

"Picky, picky, picky," began my source.

"At least we got the right state. Plus, it was night and the crew couldn't look out the window and find the K-Mart where they're supposed to hang a right when they are landing in Lexington."

That explained that, so I asked about the near collision over Newfoundland that was caused when a Delta jet went 60 miles off course into the airspace of a Continental airliner.

"I have talked to the pilots, and they said they were trying to dodge Halley's Comet," my source explained.

I was somewhat skeptical of this due to the fact that Halley's Comet only comes around about once in every lifetime. My source would not budge, however.

"In the immortal words of Ollie North, 'It's our story, and we're sticking to it,'" he said.

Then I wanted to know what happened when a Delta pilot cut off the engine during takeoff from San Diego and nearly dumped the plane into the Pacific Ocean.

"The pilot is a real cut-up, and he was just

having a little fun with the passengers," my source continued.

"At least he doesn't put a lampshade on his head while flying anymore. And what's the big deal here? The seat cushions could have been used as flotation, and everybody could have paddled back to shore if he hadn't got the engines to start up again."

A Delta jet also landed on the wrong runway at the Boston airport.

"Runways all look alike," my source said. "They're long and narrow with a bunch of numbers on them. What, you've never turned up a one-way street before?"

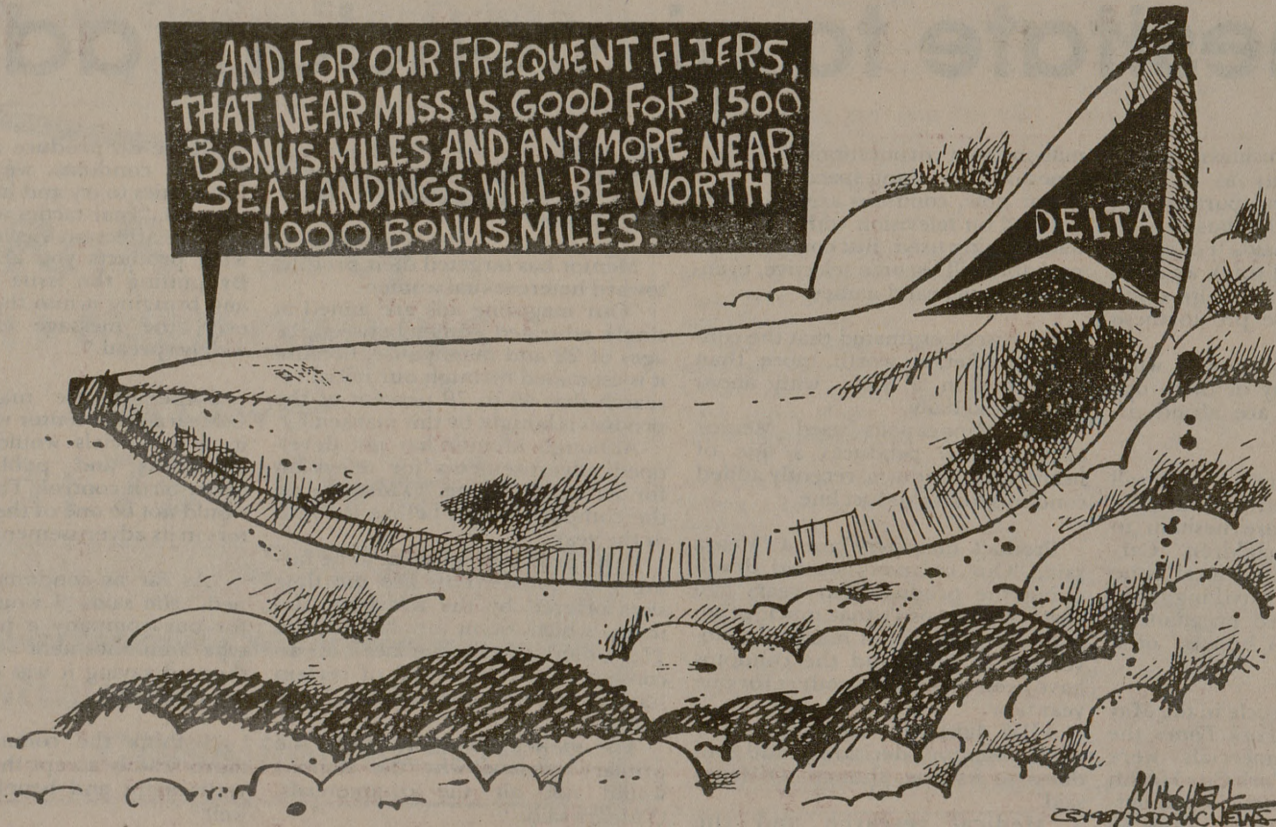
There was one more thing I wanted to ask, and that was about the Delta jet that took off without clearance.

"We didn't take off without clearance," my source said. "We took off without Clarence. Clarence Elrod, the navigator, who got lost on the way to the airport."

Completely satisfied that all the incidents were not anything to be concerned about, I thanked my source for his time and honesty, and I think I can say without hesitation that Delta still gets you there.

With or without Clarence.

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The Battalion

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