

# Opinion

## These are the breakthroughs that try men's souls

Texas A&M — A World University. Sounds nice, but words alone are not enough to prove to others that we belong with the Oxfords, Harvards and Yales of the world. We need deeds to prove to the world that we belong right up there with the rest of the big boys.



**Richard Williams**

The trouble is that no one knows what deeds are needed to make any university a world university. For this reason I will now set forth a few of the qualifications required to become a world university and explain how A&M has gone that extra mile to reach the status of world university.

Research can be one indication of reaching that world status. A&M is a leader in research. We are one of only a few universities that has a superconducting cyclotron on campus for re-

search. A&M has research vessels that sail the seven seas; we have an excellent engineering school and an awesome agricultural college.

But, A&M goes that extra mile to produce other types of research, an example of which was brought to my attention last month.

In a press release, A&M announced that its researchers have discovered that people waiting in line at the check-out counter actually hate to wait if another check-out counter is empty.

This piece of research alone has probably sent other universities scrambling to discover if people waiting in line at convenience stores hate to wait to pay for their gas. Becoming the nation's leader in check-out line research will push us past Slippery Rock and on our way to the top.

My secret source for research, Deep Enbull, passed information to *The Batt* about A&M's newest technological advance. This breakthrough is so big that A&M will be known across the globe (and way past Kansas) as a leader in construction research. According to Deep

Enbull, A&M has developed a special type of Aggie concrete.

A&M scientists have actually discovered that watering this special concrete will make it grow. Further research has shown that fertilization by a secret method will actually increase the growth rate.

Enbull said this special fertilization method involves bird droppings and that the method is being used on campus.

One problem has cropped up in the experiment. It seems that the Aggie concrete grows so fast that it actually kills off parking lot concrete and open grassy areas.

The Aggie concrete grows best when watered by sprinklers, but water from fire hydrants also works. The research has also shown that by using specially trained individuals, the concrete can be made to form buildings. The only real problems this has presented is that the building seem to require lots of repairs.

Another breakthrough will be announced in the near future. My source

said that A&M has developed an advanced method of stopping people from parking illegally. The researchers have developed a sensor that will be fitted in all campus parking spaces. This sensor will detect the presence of a vehicle without a parking sticker and immediately send out a call to the University Police Department.

In most cases this is the only thing that will happen, but if the sensor detects a repeat offender it will call a wrecker as well as drive four nails into each tire.

Because other universities also have a parking problem, this will surely make them ashamed they didn't think of it first.

What other qualifications are needed to become a world university? No one knows for sure, but having agreements with universities in other countries and having branch campuses in faraway lands are at the top of some of the lists.

A&M has agreements with other schools, and we're even working on some sort of branch campus in Japan.

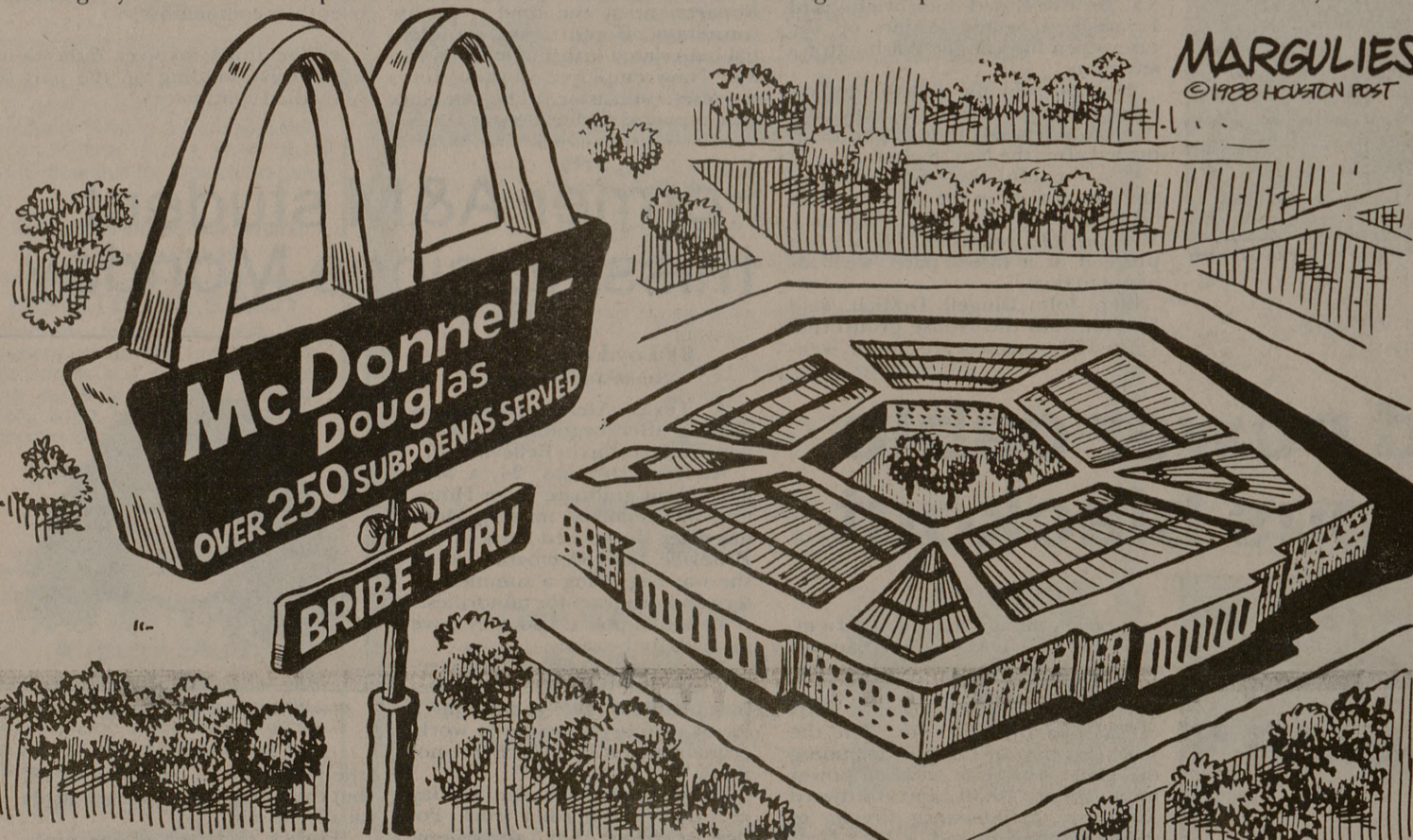
I.M. Fanatic, friend of a man with a

cousin that knew the father of the daughter of the man who knew the rival Italy's inability to model instr After ret handed, Jo would have gain the ne lins. "We are

Another campus source, Faye, has informed *The Batt* that A&M is currently working on a project for PTL that will sound an alarm when ministers violate any moral standards that they have preached about in the past five years.

Ofit said that the PTL has a great interest in this device and promised to give Heritage USA the device if the device works. A&M is still holding out until the PTL through roller coaster and a truck of the Faye's make-up with the deal, but another story.

*Richard Williams is a senior agricultural journalism major and editor of The Battalion.*



### Baseball and stats — America's game

Bob: Good afternoon, friends. It's a beautiful day for baseball here at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Eighty-two degrees. Light winds. Sitting in with me today is Frank Gordon, former infielder for the Cardinals in the seventies.

**Robert Dowdy**  
Guest Columnist

Frank: The well, thanks, Bob. It's a pleasure. You know, I haven't missed a Cardinals' game in twenty-three years.

Bob: Is that right?

Frank: Well, 22 years, 10 months and five days.

Bob: Well, uh... that's great, Frank. A true baseball fan if I've ever heard of one. The game is about to begin. Richards has taken the mound, and he's ready for the first pitch. Richards is known for his wicked curve ball and 95 mile-per-hour fastball. He's got a record of seven wins to only one loss.

Frank: Also, Bob, I've found that he has trouble with left-handed hitters with the first name of Harold.

Bob: What's that Frank?

Frank: It's true. Every time he has faced a left-handed hitter named Harold — with the exception of Harold White when he was in the American League — he has given up a hit or walk. And if it's not one of those, one of his teammates makes an error.

Bob: Well, fortunately for Richards, the first batter up is Mark Johnson, the first baseman. And the first pitch is high, for a ball. Johnson is batting 273, with three homers and 11 RBIs.

Frank: It's also fortunate that today is Thursday.

Bob: Why's that, Frank?

Frank: Because, over the past five seasons, Richards has won eleven games and lost only two when he pitched on a Thursday. There was an instance a couple years ago —

Bob: Excuse me, Frank. The second pitch is in for a strike.

Frank: — when the game was delayed by rain so long that it went past midnight, and Richards won the game early Friday morning. So, if you include that game, then his record is 12 and two.

Bob: Fine

Frank: On Thursdays.

Bob: Good

Frank: In the past five seasons.

Bob: Thank you, Frank. Boy, you really did your homework for this one.

Frank: I believe in being prepared, Bob.

Bob: Great. And Johnson rips one into right field for a base hit. Richard got that one up about waist-high — as we see here in the instant replay — and Johnson is aboard with a single. Next up is Dave Marquez, the center fielder, who has been struggling at the plate lately.

Frank: It is interesting to note, though, that each of his four hits was off of a right-hander, on artificial turf. And that's the same situation we have here.

Bob: Well, I didn't know that. But, then again, Frank, Marquez is a left-handed batter, so he'd naturally be a better hitter against right-handed pitching.

Frank: Well, I don't try to make sense of these startling statistics. I just report

them.

Bob: Fine, Frank. And the first pitch is in the dirt, for a ball.

Frank: You know, it never ceases to amaze me all the amazing statistics I can get out of this crazy game. It's amazing.

Bob: Richards throws over to first to keep the runner close.

Frank: For instance, the manager of the Cardinals has lost 71 percent of the games in which his pitcher gave up a game-opening single. And also —

Bob: The second pitch is outside for a ball. Let me ask you something, Frank.

Frank: Right after I tell you this amazing statistic —

Bob: Forget the statistics! Let me ask you something.

Frank: Sure thing, Bob.

Bob: Do you think all this number juggling means anything?

Frank: What do you mean?

Bob: Do you think they can actually predict what a player is going to do at every moment of the game?

Frank: Are you kidding? Statistics are the life-blood of the game!

Bob: Marquez lifts a double to deep left-center field. And there are men on second and third with nobody out.

Frank: Oh my God!

Bob: What is it?

Frank: Every time this situation has come up against a Cardinals' pitcher in the last twenty years...

Robert Dowdy graduated from A&M in May. He is currently a freelance writer in Houston.

### Mail Call

#### Right, wrong and racism

EDITOR:

I would like to respond to C.V. Baker's letter printed last semester to encourage further dialogue on this issue which is so important to all of our educational processes. Emotional, yes, because I was subjectively experiencing a strong feeling related to values. Irrational, no. What happened regarding that horrific incident had to do with human values and ethics — with matters of conscience. Universities were established in order to pursue truth, and this naturally involves philosophical considerations regarding what is right and just. This clearly goes beyond "whether any rule were broken." When individuals put up a slogan that calls for the death of an entire racial group, that is disorderly (this is exactly what these students were charged with — disorderly conduct), and it incites others, i.e. it could precipitate violence. All we have to do is look to Nazi Germany to see what happens under such conditions. If someone cries out "fire" in a theater when there really is no fire, this could incite pandemonium and cause injury and possible death to people. While one of our basic freedoms is freedom of speech, that does not mean that one can incite others to violence.

The students who constructed the anti-apartheid shanty were not expecting to incite racism, as C.V. Baker states, but rather to raise the level of our consciousness regarding the evils of apartheid. It was the hanging of the dead birds and the racist slogan by Robert Reed and Kenneth Nelson that one would expect to incite racism. I concur with C.V. Baker's statement that it was not right to do what Reed and Nelson did and I too believe in "one of the freedoms that our nation is founded upon: fairness by authority." I interpret this statement to mean due process by the authority of the University, and I agree that Dr. John Koldus and/or other University officials will see that justice is done.

I was perplexed by why C.V. Baker brought up the fact that I graduated from U.C. Berkeley. I assume he was suggesting that Berkeley would not tolerate students displaying overtly inciteful and immoral racist slogans. I believe that to be true, and I assume that it is also the case at Texas A&M. If Texas A&M is truly a world-class university, it too will not tolerate this kind of behavior.

I appreciate the response of C.V. Baker to my original letter and this opportunity to respond to his letter. I think the more dialogue on this critical issue, the better our University community will be. The point I am trying to make in speaking out in this manner is similar to Bob Wiatt's comment in a letter to me, and I quote: "Such activity is never to be considered as 'fun and games' or 'good bull.'" In other words, this is a very serious matter. If we are going to learn to live together as one human family, we need to accept all members of our community equally.

**David H. Rosen, M.D.**  
professor of psychiatry and behavioral science

#### And not a drop to drink

EDITOR:

What is wrong with Texas A&M? In this year of drought, I see campus lawns over-watered to the point where mud and silt are washed into the street. How can this university, of all places, exhibit such flagrant waste of such a precious resource? We should be setting an example of conservation for others to follow.

**Leigh Anna Tolar '89**

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

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### BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

**Panel 1:** Dogen: "NO CIGARETTES TODAY?" Dilbert: "Not today, Dogen." Dogen: "Why not?" Dilbert: "I'm on a diet." Dogen: "That's a good idea. I'll be right back with your diet." Dilbert: "Dogen, I'm not on a diet. I'm just saying that." Dogen: "Oh, I see. Well, I'll be right back with your diet."

**Panel 2:** Dogen: "QUIT COLD PUFFIN." Dilbert: "Not today, Dogen." Dogen: "Why not?" Dilbert: "I'm on a diet." Dogen: "That's a good idea. I'll be right back with your diet." Dilbert: "Dogen, I'm not on a diet. I'm just saying that." Dogen: "Oh, I see. Well, I'll be right back with your diet."

**Panel 3:** Dogen: "I THOUGHT I'D BETTER FIND A BAD HABIT SOMEWHAT MORE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE THAN SMOKING..." Dilbert: "Dogen, I'm not on a diet. I'm just saying that." Dogen: "Oh, I see. Well, I'll be right back with your diet."

**Panel 4:** Dogen: "LIKE RINSING SOUPS IN A DRINKING FOUNTAIN OR IMITATING BORN NOISES IN A CROWDED ELEVATOR." Dilbert: "Dogen, I'm not on a diet. I'm just saying that." Dogen: "Oh, I see. Well, I'll be right back with your diet."