

Opinion

Mail Call

One Greek stone still unturned

EDITOR:

In Monday's September 5 issue of *The Battalion*, two idiosyncracies pertaining to local fraternities and sororities were brought into focus. One article eluded to the vanities of sororities while yet another examined the blind patronage of one particular fraternity and though these were, indeed, solid observations, one anomaly not yet mentioned concerns the mire of discrimination hanging above these "Greek islands."

Of course, in the compacts of fraternities and sororities there will be no decree of racial bias, but in essence, such a ruling is deemed unnecessary by virtue of the high expenses associated with these fraternal organizations. The fiscal burden is enough to scare off most lower middle class students, and statistically, minorities represent a respectable portion of this group.

Furthermore, in looking at the well-established fraternities and sororities on campus, a minority student will feel intimidated by the lack of his/her own ethnicity present in these organizations for one needs not more than two hands to assess the number of blacks, Hispanics, or oriental students represented in these groups.

The challenge put to these organizations is to address the problem not through abusive or erroneous argument, but through rational self-examination and open-minded communication. Yet it is unfortunate to admit that openmindedness appears to be a dying resource.

Robert J. Villarreal '90

Why yes, burlap is a devine fabric

EDITOR:

I was upset but not surprised by Anthony Wilson's article on sororities. He holds the same attitudes as many non-Greeks. He suggests that sorority members are chosen on the basis of clothes, hairstyles and makeup. I beg to differ.

First of all, rushees stand outside in the heat all day, their hair falls, their makeup melts and their clothes get wrinkled, how could anyone choose members on basis of appearance after living through this themselves? Rushees are chosen on basis of grades, diversity of extracurricular activities and, most importantly, their personalities.

He asks why rushees spend hundreds of dollars on rush clothes. Personally, I haven't met many rushees who spent that much. But if so, it's for the same reasons they spend money on school clothes or formal clothes.

Would he prefer they wear potato sacks?

As for lying on applications, it is not acceptable. Actives know many rushees from other activities and lying on information sheets is not taken lightly. Also, don't tell me that he can't tell when people are kissing up to him. Actives can also tell and it actually harms rushees chances because it's so obviously false.

If he wants a sorority system in which anyone is allowed to join, let him start one! I don't think any rushee would want to join a group that would affiliate with just anyone off the street!

Mr. Wilson said himself that he has criteria (personality) for choosing his friends. Would he want to have just anyone in an organization he would devote a lifetime of effort to? I doubt it.

I think he should spend less time criticizing just one aspect of sororities and more time getting to know some of the diversified members of A&M sororities — not just viewing them as superficial partyers!

Lee Woodward '90

All frats are not created equal

EDITOR:

My deepest sympathy and respect go to Eva Nichols. Although I agree with her complaint totally, it was her warning that made me uneasy.

She has all the right in the world to be mad and I honestly hope that, as she puts it, justice is found. However, she has no right to generalize the way she did.

What happened to Ms. Nichols is not the norm among fraternities but the exception. Her comments will probably hinder many innocent fraternity brothers who would not stand by and let an incident like that happen.

If she wished to criticize that specific fraternity, or better yet, the specific individuals involved, why not do so by name. By comparing all other fraternities to the one she was involved with she is doing justice a disservice.

My warning is addressed to Eva. History has taught us that generalizing like you did is both dangerous to society and simply unfair.

I will stay away from such mistake and I'll speak only for myself and my fraternity. I can assure Eva that incidents like the one she depicted are non-existent in our organization.

Antonio G. Forrest '89

Editor's note: Eva Nichols' letter contained the name of the fraternity involved in her assault. The editorial staff of The Battalion decided not to include the name because the case is still pending.

Good Ags save the day

EDITOR:

We would like to take this opportunity to give a big thanks to two great Aggies, Rene Gonzales '88 and Howard Zuch '88.

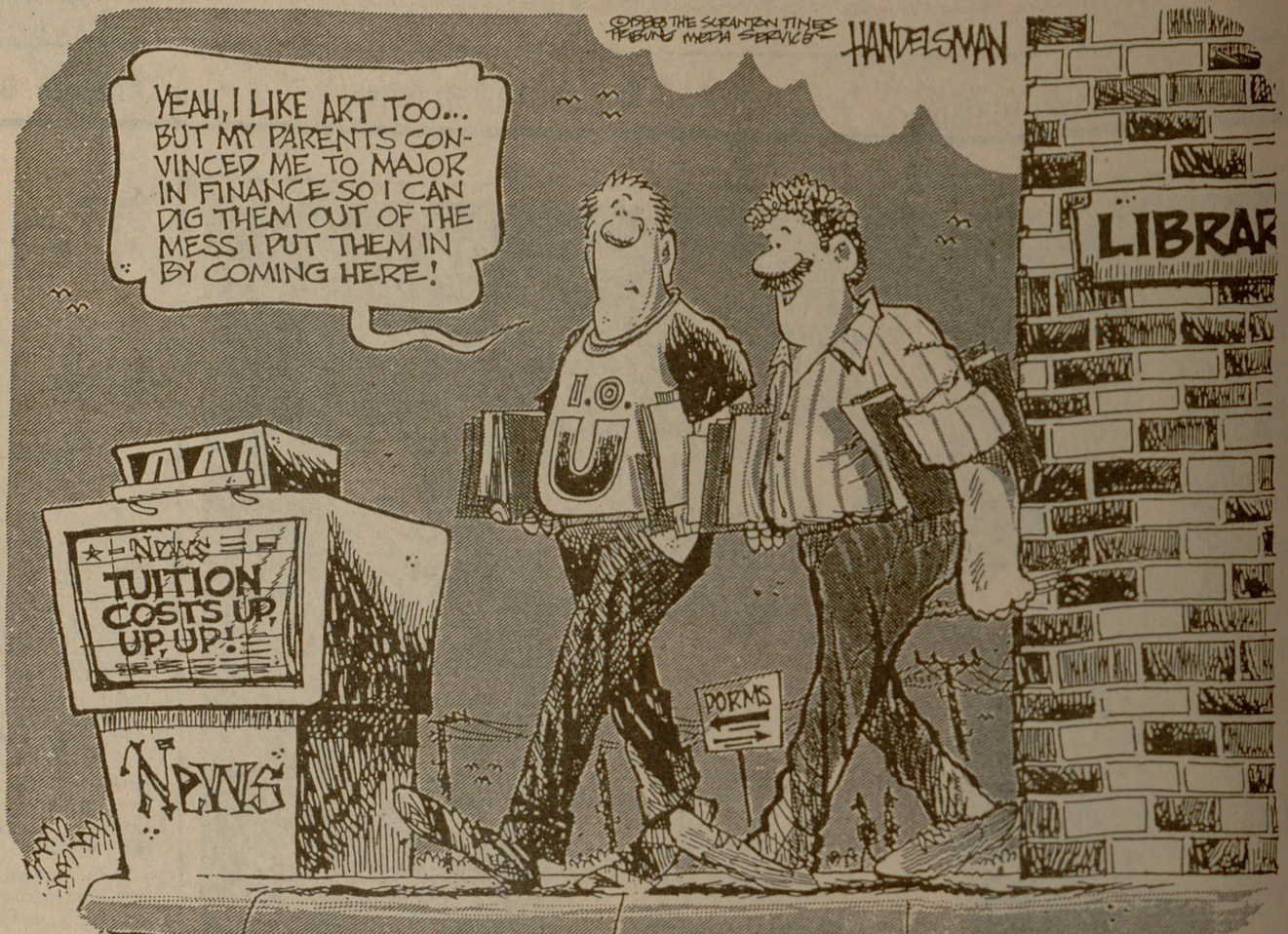
Sunday, while leaving New Orleans, we were rear-ended, leaving us with no way back to A&M. These two Aggies stopped and offered to wait and give us a ride to College Station. After waiting three hours in the rain for the New Orleans police to arrive, we were finally able to leave for A&M. This was far more than was expected from anyone.

This goes to show that the true Aggie Spirit is alive and well.

Jennifer Lindsay '88

Chris Richard '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.



A Batt columnist & the 7 profs

As many of us know, a student's first year in college can be a rather trying time. Not only is the student faced with moving away from home into an unfamiliar environment, but there are also academic adjustments to be made — taking difficult courses, understanding college-level textbooks, and learning how to deal with professors. In fact, the process of becoming accustomed to instructors at the university level can be one of the more complex transitions between high school and college.



Dean Sueltenfuss

Because professors can be such sources of enigma to many new students, I have unselfishly taken the time to compile a survey of the most common types of professors at A&M.

This survey, which classifies professors into groups based on their behavior, teaching methods, etc., is intended to lift the veil of mystery which seemingly cloaks many of our instructors. It should be noted, however, that this survey is by no means intended to be exhaustive. There will be professors who do not fit neatly into any of the categories I have delineated here.

Currently, I recognize seven distinct groups of professors at A&M. Although many subgroups do exist, space limitations prevent me from delving too deeply into such subtleties. The seven types of professors are as follows:

Type A: This group consists of your general, run-of-the-mill professors. They are semi-compassionate, professional in manner, and usually make their classes at least partially interesting. If these professors appear rather frustrated at times, it is only because their primary purpose here at A&M, conducting research, is being interrupted by the courses they are being forced to teach.

Type B: This group consists of those professors who, in the course of one lecture, change the subject approximately 17 times. Insofar as this tendency goes, these professors are very desirable. If,

for example, the topic of electron orbitals begins to get boring, the student simply has to ask a question concerning last week's football game. The type B professor will then proceed to give a 10 or 15 minute discourse on why A&M should have won that particular game, not forgetting to mention that such an atrocious event would have never taken place back when the class of '36 was in its heyday. The disadvantage of type B's, however, is that the questions on their final exams rarely pertain to football.

Type C: This type of professor (who by definition is male) is commonly referred to as The Hip Dude. Sightings in recent years have been scant, which has led many researchers to think that type C's may be on the verge of extinction. Although descriptions vary, I have developed a computer-generated model that reveals some of the physical characteristics of a typical type C.

An average Hip Dude is going bald and is in his late thirties. He usually wears plaid pants, white dress shoes, and a silk shirt. He leaves his shirt open down to the top of his beer gut in order to impress the babes. When he's in the classroom, he says such things as "Cool, man," and "Yeah, I can dig it." He chain-smokes and he snaps his fingers a lot. It's very easy to get on the good side of this professor — just tell him that you have every album the Bee Gees ever released.

Type D: This professor is your worst nightmare come true. Remember that day when you were 30 seconds late to class and the professor interrogated you in front of 250 students? He was a type D. And remember that woman professor who KNEW you hadn't read the assignment, but asked you questions over it anyway? Well, she was also a type D.

Type D's are usually referred to by a number of unkind names, but there are a couple that are prevalent. The male version of a type D is most often referred to as an S.O.B., while the female is commonly referred to simply as a B. In cases where one of these females is past 50, such terms as Grandma Gone Bad and She-Witch From Hell are used.

Type E: This type of professor is generally considered to be one of the most dangerous in existence. Type E's usually

are very compassionate and have a pleasant disposition. During the course of the semester they tell some jokes, treat you with the utmost respect, thereby gaining your complete trust and loyalty. In fact, they even dismiss you early on occasion. And at the end of the semester, when your final average is out to be a 79.4, do you know what the kind, compassionate people do? They give you a C.

Type F: Most of these professors come from foreign countries, although a few hail from right here in the good U.S. of A. The one thing that all of these professors have in common with one another is the simple fact that no one understands what they're saying. In deed, the only phrase that many of them can state with clarity goes something like this: "You failed the exam."

Actually, it's amazing how easy it comes to understand a type F when they tell you something like that.

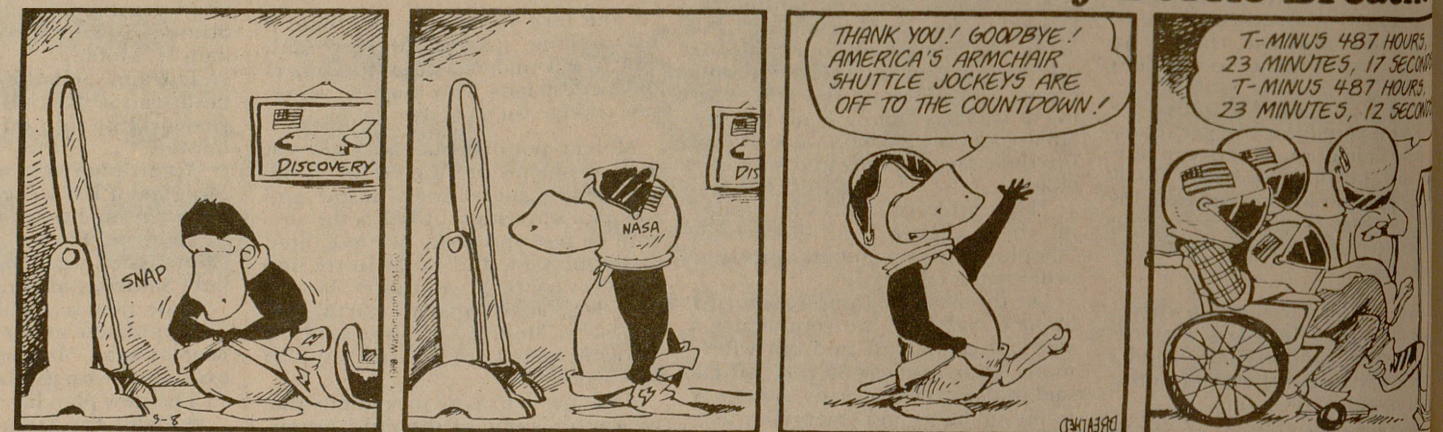
But, you ask, if they're that hard to understand can't they just write their notes on the blackboard? Well, yeah. The problem is that some of the letters we use aren't found in our alphabet. I get that type F's aren't all that bad, though — just as long as what they're telling isn't important.

Type G: Most people know at least one of these professors. They're the kind that interrupt each class period telling about five minutes of bad jokes. A typical type G professor, upon hearing his students laugh as he tells his joke, is encouraged to tell even more. He believes that most type G's would give up this practice if they knew why their students were laughing.

Well, that about does it for the professors of A&M. I hope I've helped clear up this issue for everyone. If you would like additional information on this subject please consult my "The Guide to the Professors of North America," which is available at your local bookstore. Also look for my new book titled "An Illustrated Guide to Faculty Coaches and Other Invertebrates," should be out by November — just in time for everyone's Christmas-shopping list.

Dean Sueltenfuss is a junior journalism major and columnist for The Battalion.

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

- Lydia Berzsenyi, Editor
- Becky Weisenfels, Managing Editor
- Anthony Wilson, Opinion Page Editor
- Richard Williams, City Editor
- D A Jensen,
- Denise Thompson, News Editors
- Hal Hammons, Sports Editor
- Jay Janner, Art Director
- Leslie Guy, Entertainment Editor

Editorial Policy

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.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-1111.