

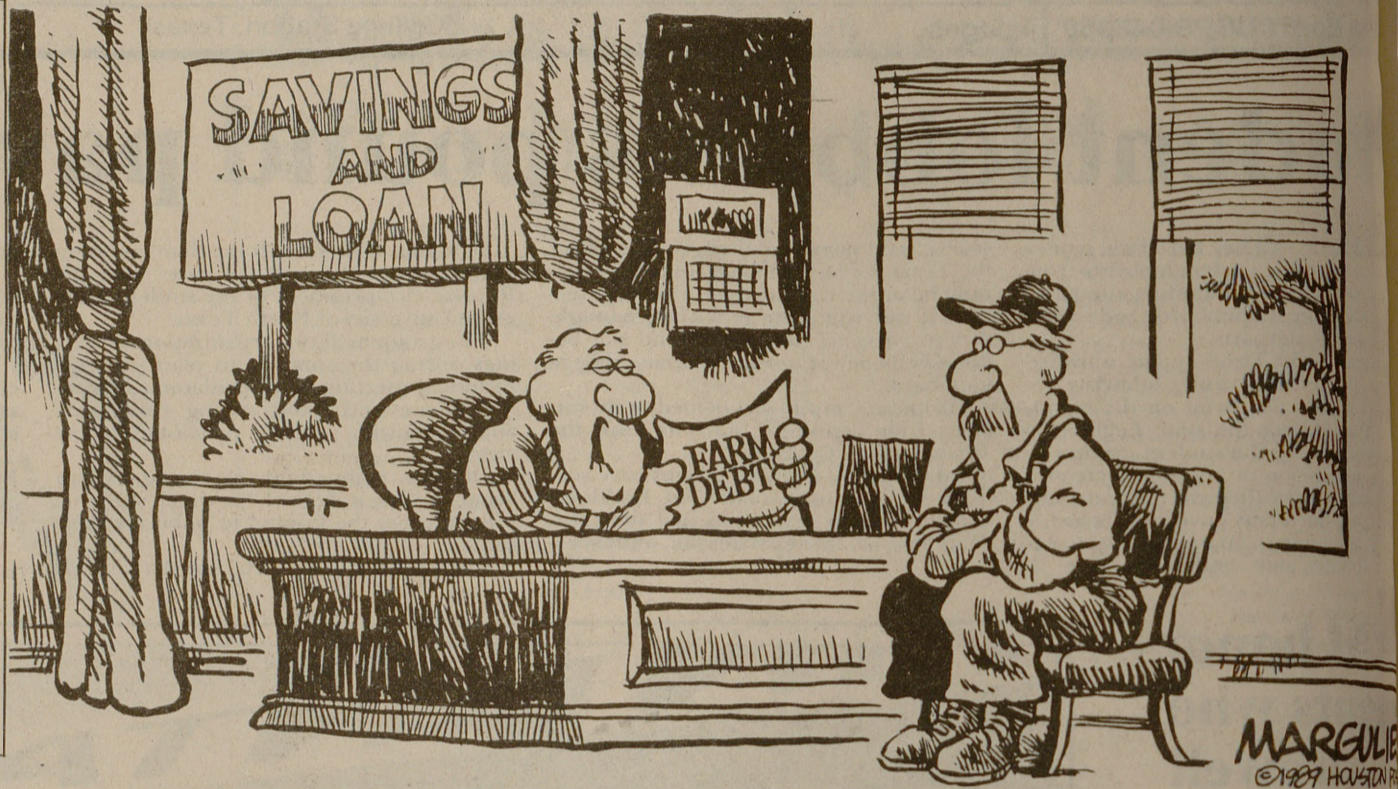
## Cuts in funding will hurt Texas

The proposed Texas state budget for 1990-91, if approved by the Texas Legislature, would cut funding designated for Texas A&M University's faculty salaries by more than \$40 million from current levels. The proposed budget contains similar spending reductions for many other state universities.

The quality of higher education in Texas is vital to our state's continued well-being. By spending the money necessary to attract top professors and researchers to our state universities, we not only will increase the quality of higher education in Texas, but continue to attract projects such as the superconducting super collider.

If we are to receive the economic benefits of quality educational facilities and federal projects such as the super collider, the Texas Legislature must vote against any budget that would decrease current levels of university funding.

The Battalion Editorial Board



"Help you get back on your feet?! What do we look like - The Federal Government?"

## Mail Call

### Parking lots intended for students

EDITOR:

I am writing in protest to whomever decides where to put people who visit for conferences — specifically, where they park.

As a student who pays for the privilege of parking a half-mile from my first class, I find it annoying that the whole north stadium parking lot was put aside for these visitors and blocked off to students when less than one quarter of it was being used. That meant the south lot and the places by the railroad tracks were left to the hundreds of lowly peons like me who don't like walking in the rain from the fish lot.

Since many of the people in the conference were being driven to Rudder Tower by their friends anyway (one of whom nearly ran me over), I should think they could park in some remote lot such as the fish lot and be driven by shuttle buses to Rudder Tower, thereby sparing us some pain.

Milli Pope '91

### Christian duties know no boundaries

EDITOR:

I am responding to Ms. Warren's letter, appearing in the Jan. 17 issue of *The Battalion*.

It is apparent that Ms. Warren is not a Christian. She, like many others, fails to see Texas A&M University as anything but an institution for learning and a haven for social fraternities. Students can discuss their secular, late-night endeavors and even professors can digress from a lecture to talk about one of their speeding tickets. But for a professor simply to share his faith with students is strictly taboo.

What any Christian professor hopes to accomplish in the classroom is what any devoted Christian does in his or her work environment, in the church, or anywhere: to spread the Gospel. Some of us witness by words, others by action. But we do so regardless of our environment, regardless of our opposition.

Atheists and agnostics are not compelled to share their beliefs because what they have to say contains no promise or hope for mankind. They cannot relate a personal experience that changed their lives and gave them a whole new outlook. Christians have a purpose — to fulfill God's purpose — when they share their faith.

There is no reason anyone should feel imposed upon, because they are not being forced to do or think anything they don't already do or think. That is the decision of the individual. Witnessing in the classroom is just like witnessing anywhere else: it is as much to exercise our freedom of speech as our freedom of religion. You can ignore it, challenge it, even be offended by it, but your right to speak out in class or in a forum or in a letter to *The Battalion* is as equal as a Christian's right to spread the Word in the classroom.

Brian Butler '90

### Recognizing King not too much to ask

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the Joe Dan Shelton's Jan. 18 letter. First of all, I am glad you recognize that racism exists, and, specifically, that it exists on the Texas A&M University campus in the form of institutionalized racism. However, I disagree with the statement that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. does not deserve a national holiday.

Dr. King did more for the human race (black, white, Hispanic, women, etc.) than any other person. It is because of him and others like him that there is a rise of blacks and other minorities to high positions in industry and government, a burgeoning black middle class and a black man who ran for President. These examples don't even begin to scratch the surface of what Dr. King did.

I don't believe anyone wants to shut down the whole country for Dr. King. However, it is a small thing to ask people to recognize and accept one day as a remembrance to a man who gave his life to try to achieve constitutional civil rights. Martin Luther King Jr. day is not just a black day but an American day.

Felicia G. James  
Graduate student

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.

## Goodbye Ron, we'll miss you

I was 12 years old when Ronald Reagan began his first term as president of the United States.

I remember the 1980 presidential election — parts of it at least. Mainly, I remember seeing Jimmy Carter on television shortly after he realized that he had lost the election. He was understandably upset, but he was very gracious in losing. His wife was upset also. If I remember correctly, she was crying as Carter gave his "I'm sure sorry I lost, but gosh Ronnie, I'm awfully happy for you" speech.

People didn't feel sorry for Carter for very long. After all, Carter had been kind of a wimp. He let the Iranians push us around, he let OPEC push us around, and he "gave" away the Panama Canal. Who was going to feel sorry for a loser like him?

What the nation needed was some new blood. We needed a leader who would take charge. We needed a president who wouldn't let the U.S. of A. get pushed around. We needed a guy who'd get out there and kick some butt.

And we got him. Yep, we elected the roughest, toughest, meanest hombre this side of the Potomac — Big Ron. That's right, The Gipper himself.

And, by golly, he did what we wanted him to do. He went out there and kicked some butt. Remember when the Communists were trying to build an airfield at Grenada? What did Big Ron do? Did he try to negotiate? Did he go complaining to the United Nations like some little crybaby?

Hell no.

He sent our boys down there and we kicked some butt.

He used the same strategy on Libya when they started acting up. But hey, it's not our fault we had to bomb the Libyans. They should have known better than to mess with us in the first place.

And if some innocent Libyan citizens died in the process, that was just too bad. They shouldn't have messed with The Gipper.

Big Ron would have kicked a lot more butts, too, if it weren't for those liberal pansies in Congress who were always trying to back down from our enemies.

Heck, if it weren't for those pantywastes, we'd probably be fighting the Commies in Central America, Afghanistan, and a dozen other places right now. But alas, our Constitution is not a perfect document, and the president does not have unlimited power. So for now I'll have to settle for writing and going to classes instead of blowing away Commies in a jungle somewhere.



Dean Sueltenfuss  
Opinion Page Editor

Although Congress managed to keep us out of many direct conflicts, they couldn't seem to say no to Big Ron and his dream to help the "freedom fighters" in Central America.

Some people might say that we shouldn't have been spending millions of dollars to support the "freedom fighters" when we had plenty of problems right here at home. To these people I'd like to say the following: You make me sick.

Do you honestly think we're supposed to spend our money on our own people? Are you so naive that you believe our government should be spending all its time and efforts to help U.S. citizens?

If you do then I feel sorry for you. I guess you just can't see that it's our duty as the most powerful country on Earth to decide what is right and to impose our wishes on other people. I guess you just can't see that we have the responsibility to enforce our wishes by dropping a bomb or staging an invasion every once in a while.

But the Gipper could see these things. He had vision.

He also had a natural talent for managing money.

It was Reagan who ushered in a new age of prosperity for the United States. He got our economy going again — he put us back on our feet.

Some of you may be wondering how he did this. Well, it was simple — brilliant in fact.

Big Ron spent more money than we had. A lot more. And he spent it on things such as tanks, missiles and jet planes. This, in turn, created jobs for American people. (Somebody had to build all of this stuff, right?)

So we had all of these people working at factories that were cranking out weapons left and right. Then what happened?

Boom! Instant prosperity.

Some of you cynics are probably asking yourselves, "But what happens when we have to pay back the billions of dollars we've borrowed from foreign investors?"

Well, I'm really not sure. But I'm certain that Big Ron had it planned all along. Now he'll just tell President Bush

the secret formula and presto! Our trillion dollar national debt will magically disappear.

But people won't remember me for his money-management skills. They'll remember him for the role he played in helping to protect our natural resources.

Big Ron realized that all those laws protecting the environment were silly. There was just no need for most of them. The Environmental Protection Agency was wasting the taxpayer's money by trying to keep factories from dumping toxic sludge into creeks and rivers.

So Reagan slashed the EPA's budget and tried to get rid of those nasty laws.

Big Ron also recognized how important the position of secretary of the interior was, so he appointed a concerned, competent nature lover named James Watt to the position. As secretary of the interior, Watt was responsible for handling all federally-owned land. Watt realized that federal land was being used for such frivolous purposes as national parks and national forests. It was clear to Watt that this federal land would be much more valuable if it was leased to oil, timber and mining companies.

There is no doubt that Watt was great secretary of the interior, but due to some controversial statements he made, he was forced to leave his position. (Evidently Watt had an aversion to minorities and The Beach Boys.)

Big Ron, however, soon found a suitable replacement named Donald Hodel. Hodel was not only a nature lover who was concerned with protecting the environment; he was a level-headed problem solver as well. When he was asked what should be done about ozone depletion in the atmosphere and the increasing number of skin cancers it was causing, Hodel announced that people should wear hats and start using more sunscreen.

The man was a genius.

We're going to miss people like him now that Ronnie has left. But most of all, we're going to miss Big Ron himself. Things just won't be the same without him around here.

Now we're going to be a kinder, gentler nation. No more air raids on Libya, no more strip-mining on federal land, no more butt-kicking invasions of Grenada, no more voodoo economics, no more arms deals with Iran.

We're gonna miss ya', Big Guy.

Dean Sueltenfuss is a junior journalism major and opinion page editor at The Battalion.