

Senate resolution has good and bad points

The Faculty Senate resolution concerning legal representation in formal proceedings contains some good ideas. If approved, the resolution would change the role played by lawyers in hearings concerning academic freedom, responsibility, and tenure. Texas A&M University is represented by lawyers at such hearings while faculty members often do not desire to employ legal counsel, but prefer to retain that option for post-hearing legal action.

The resolution would allow legal representation for the University only if the faculty member employs legal counsel. This would be a more equitable way to handle proceedings that involve the tenure or dismissal of faculty members. If this resolution is passed, faculty members who do not employ legal counsel would not have to face University lawyers.

This resolution, which was returned to committee and should be back in front of the Senate next month, also contains some bad ideas.

The resolution, as it stands now, would abolish many procedures that traditionally have been fundamental to fair hearings. Pleadings, court reporters and rules of evidence would all be abolished if the resolution is adopted in its present form. While decreased emphasis on legal representation would benefit faculty members and the University, the abolition of all formalities would create an atmosphere inappropriate to proceedings concerning tenure or dismissal.

Members of the committees that are reviewing this resolution should remember that basic requirements must be met to assure hearings are fair to all parties involved. The sections of the resolution abolishing pleadings, court reporters and rules of evidence are not in keeping with the idea of fair proceedings.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Batman fashion fad

Ron Pippin
Guest Columnist

The decade of the '80s has blessed us with a number of offbeat trends — sushi bars, liposuction, stupid-yellow-car-window signs, fax phones and Batman wear.

Yes, Batman wear. Most of you see it everyday, but try to ignore it. All it takes is a pair of boxer shorts, long johns or "exercise" tights and a t-shirt.

The Batman look began as a pre and post-aerobic mode of dress. Instead of changing back into street clothes following a workout, many coeds chose to simply pull their shorts over their tights and return to the dorm or apartment.

The purpose of "shorts over the tights" began as a method to discourage glances from lascivious male students and construction workers.

But the trend has reared its ugly head in our dining halls, our bars and yes, even the classroom.

How did this fashion cancer emerge? It's difficult to say, but here's my theory.

Sultry Susan is every man's dream. She works out at Gold's Gym, rides her bike three miles a day, sunbathes at TAN U, doesn't eat red meat and digs Schwarzenegger flicks.

One day Susan went to her nuclear physics class dressed in her work out clothes. Two of the girls in her class, Mona and Clara, saw her walk in and opened fire.

"Why, she's the offspring of a mongrel," Ramona said, munching on a bag of M&M's. "Who does she think she is, Paulina?" The next day, over cow pies and diet Cokes, Mona and Clara got wise.

"I know why all the guys look at Susan," Mona says.

"Why? By the way, you've got mustard on your chin," said Clara.

"It's the way she dresses," Mona said. "If we get some long johns and wear those boxers we got at the spring formal, all the guys will notice us. Wanna

go to Sticky Chins?"

The next day Mona and Clara walked into class, clad in their newfound awareness.

"All the guys keep glancing at us and smiling," Clara said.

"Yep, they can't keep their eyes off us," Ramona added.

And thus, the evolution of a fashion faux pas began.

Although I believe Batman wear to be a byproduct of the fitness craze, some argue it's exhibitionism stepping out of the closet.

Dr. I.C. Peebles of the Psychology Department is conducting research on trends in American colleges.

"Libidinal and sexual expressiveness is on the uprise, especially in our American universities," Peebles said. "What we're seeing at A&M is a local manifestation of a global trend. Wearing underwear in public is just the A&M way of saying 'Look at me, I'm proud of my sexuality.'"

Peebles cited this worldwide movement by saying nude archery is now very popular throughout European colleges and some males attending Japanese universities are wearing jockstraps on the outside of their trousers.

"The Europeans have always been more open about their sexuality," Peebles said. "Although I don't believe the conservative students of A&M will ever be uninhibited enough for nude archery, it is likely we will see some unusual fashions this spring. For instance, brassieres may be worn on the outside of blouses, or we could possibly see swimsuits in the classroom. It's difficult to say."

We can only speculate where the current phenomenon of the Batman look may lead. Hopefully an awakening will take place and this trend will sink like a pet rock. But for those of you who still wear Spuds t-shirts and listen to your Rick Springfield records, it may never end.

Ron Pippin is a senior journalism major and a guest columnist for The Battalion.

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Becky Weisenfels, Editor
Leslie Guy, Managing Editor
Dean Sueltenfuss, Opinion Page Editor
Anthony Wilson, City Editor
Scot Walker, Wire Editor
Drew Leder, News Editor
Doug Walker, Sports Editor
Jay Janner, Art Director
Mary-Lynne Rice, 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 77843-4111.

Defeated pay raise proves constituents have power

Sometimes all the world falls down on you, and you begin to lose faith in everything surrounding you. And then an event occurs that strikes a blow to your pessimism and cynicism and beliefs.

Congress voted down the pay increase for themselves and other high officials.

That, in and of itself, is enough to make a person born-again.

It seemed at first that Congress was about to get an excessive pay raise without having to vote for it — every working person's dream. I guess if you have the ability to create the laws then you should be able to reap some monetary awards for yourself as well. Think about it — being able to raise your salary or wage 51 percent without having to be accountable for it!

And Bush is talking about having higher ethical standards for those in government.

Congress was acting unethically for two reasons. The first entails accountability. Members of Congress have the responsibility to be held accountable for the laws they create. As it stood, the responsibility for the pay increase was not going to anybody because no one was voting on the bill. Consequently, the voters and citizens of this country would not be able to lay the blame on their respective representatives and senators.

The second reason deals with patriotism. The supposed reasoning behind the pay raise was to keep more men and women in (or perhaps to entice better men and women into) government jobs, and to keep them out of the world of business. The purpose of a government office is not to make money. Most officials are already among the upper class. It is almost impossible to run for office unless you do have money. (Aristocracy, anyone?) The purpose in having an of-



Todd Honeycutt
Columnist

ice is to do the best you possibly can for America without concern for yourself. The men and women in office are there for the benefit of the country, not for individual prestige and wealth.

I assumed that the bill would be passed without any qualms. "It'll go right through without even a glance by the people or the press," I thought. After all, most citizens seem to have a lack of concern for issues such as the magnificent budget deficit, poverty, tax increases, and the deepening trade deficit.

Perhaps the citizen isn't involved with the government because of its massiveness and unresponsiveness. Perhaps government problems are too incomprehensible for the lay person to truly understand. But American citizens did see that Congress was unethical and dishonest in raising their salary without an implicit vote.

I suppose that it *did* have to come to money for the citizen to get involved, though.

Voters across the country were angry — angry enough to do something and not just accept what the leaders gave them. They wrote letters demanding that the raise not go through. They called in on talk shows to express the irresponsibility and greed of Congress. They sent in tea bags to show that the people were in control of government and that the government was directly responsible to the people, not solely an entity in and of itself.

Apathy did not set in as it has done many times.

America began over two hundred years ago with people that were self-sufficient and independent. Early Americans did not want to be ruled by a blind government on the other side of an ocean, and they did not want to be ruled by a blind government at home. They wanted equality and justice, freedom: freedom from government interference in all aspects of life, freedom to enjoy any and all lifestyles and beliefs, and freedom to not be abused by selfishness and greed. And early Americans were caring and believing — full of pride and hope.

Look at America and its people two hundred years ago with people that were self-sufficient and independent. Early Americans did not want to be ruled by a blind government on the other side of an ocean, and they did not want to be ruled by a blind government at home. They wanted equality and justice, freedom: freedom from government interference in all aspects of life, freedom to enjoy any and all lifestyles and beliefs, and freedom to not be abused by selfishness and greed. And early Americans were caring and believing — full of pride and hope.

Though we have failed in the ennobling of our early ideals, we still have hope. America has not fallen. Americans have not sold out entirely. We still fight, and we can induce change. We did in the defeat of the pay raise, matter how grand or distant the government is. We simply, or perhaps not simply, need to quit being blind. We need to leave our apathetic tendencies which have become the norm.

Todd Honeycutt is a sophomore psychology major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Appreciation of music, fine arts is worth the extra effort

For reasons that logic cannot explain, there is not a fine arts school at Texas A&M. Because of that, many people leave here without really knowing how to appreciate the arts. I can see Aggies who leave the state going to see a major opera company and asking, "What the hell is all that screamin' about?" They'd react similarly to art exhibits, drama, and orchestra performances.

But despite this shortfall in the A&M system, it's important to be able to understand the ways in which people express their deepest thoughts, their reaction to society, or the way they see the world. Not only does it enlighten you by giving insight into the minds of others, but it's an exercise for developing your own mind.

While I enjoy almost all forms of art, my strongest appreciation lies in music. I listen to rock, jazz, and new age music but never, never country. Almost all of these types of music are influenced by the chord structure and rhythms from the romantic, classical, and baroque era. It's interesting to think that these works have lasted hundreds of years and are still prominent today.

With some thought on the part of the listener, this type of music, which has a reputation for inducing sleep and boredom, is exciting and entertaining. But it is not for the idle mind.

If you like adventure and action, there's Wagner's "Til Eulenspiegel." There are no words, just music performed by an orchestra. You have listen to the mood of the music, how does it make you feel? What do you picture in your mind? Here's what happens: A practical joker named Til goes around town trying to pick up girls, cause fights, and wreck houses. Then there's a chase where the townspeople go after him for revenge.

The music swells triumphantly as he



James Cecil
Columnist

escapes, but it suddenly halts to a morose low brass chord and the roll of the drum at the gallos where Til is hanged. A solemn theme is repeated from the beginning, showing the town back to normal without the prankster. But the piece ends with a quick flash of Til's spirit that still lives on, perhaps in a mischievous boy throwing a rock through a window.

You can't just sit and passively listen to the music to see the action. Every phrase creates a mood or depicts action, but just like one line from a movie, one note by itself doesn't mean much. You have to listen to music like you were watching a movie or analyzing the depth, mood, and feeling in a picture.

For people with a good feel for visualizing scenes and sensing moods, "Pictures at an Exhibition" paints a musical picture in our minds of the drawings of an architect who was a close friend of composer Modest Mussorgsky.

With ten musical movements, this piece shows us ten paintings from the architect's works. We see a medieval castle shrouded in mist, children playing in a garden, a Polish ghetto contrasted with a wealthy man, the catcombs of Paris, and other sights, all linked together by a reflective theme that represents Mussorgsky's pensive expression as he moves from picture to picture in the gallery.

It ends with a bold and majestic portrayal of The Great Gate of Kiev, the ar-

chitect's design for a stone entrance to the city of Kiev.

Something I'm sure everyone would recognize is the theme featured at the beginning and end of the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." The one where trumpets slowly play ascending and gradually getting louder, then the timpani drums boom in with a steady beat as the orchestra swells to a powerful climax. This piece is called "Also Sprach Zarathustra," written by Richard Strauss around 1900. It portrays the development of the human race from the beginning up to the ultimate phase of human existence — the Superman. An ideal state of mankind proposed by the philosopher Nietzsche.

You hear mankind in its primitive youth with dark brass chords and hard sounds from the strings, logic and science come in with very mechanical rhythm patterns; man recognizes his petite for love, and evolves into the Superman, then the world ends. Maybe a little grim, but the music gives the listener a vivid image of each transition.

All this may sound abstract, but be able to understand abstractions is important. Even though most college students in the country are getting a liberal education, there's not much we can do about the Texas' education system. Endowing A&M with a fine arts school so it's up to you to develop this appreciation on your own. If you don't want to do it for your own enlightenment, do it to keep up with your peers at other schools.

Obviously, people without imagination and creativity would have trouble visualizing sounds like this. They should stick with the movies where all the work is done for them.

James Cecil is a senior economics major and a columnist for The Battalion.