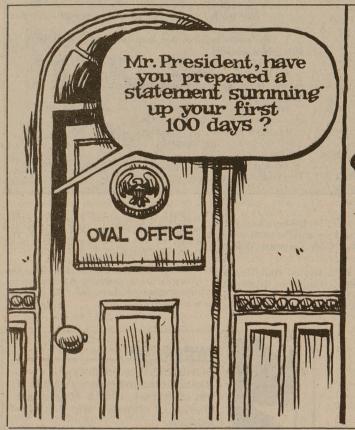
## OPINION

Friday, May 5, 1989





### Mail Call

#### Liberal views not wanted

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Adam Mathieu's column on our civil rights and the war on drugs. I sincerely hope that Mr. Mathieu's bledding-heart liberal views are not what we students should expect from next semester's opinion page.

Mr. Mathieu, it is people like you and the American Civil Liberties Union that are going to drive the United States into the ground.

If someone acts suspicious, then I believe he or she should be investigated. If a person has something to hide, then being searched should not bother them too much. I realize that being secretly investigated or searched is not a fun experience, but I am willing to let airport guards search me if it keeps a real terrorist off the plane.

Since the beginning of time, suspicious looking people have been investigated. If a person looks like a criminal because of the way his face looks, the clothes he wears or the way he acts, then investigate. A friend of mine once said, "Hey man, then they'll

start searching people for the way the pattern is on their

I truly believe that people won't be searched for the pattern of their shirts or the color of their ties.

Every time you think that suspicious people shouldn't be searched in airports, think of a mother and her child. Then think of a Pan Am plane that was blown out of the sky over Lockerbe, Scotland.

Steve O'Brien '92

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. ditor should not exceed 300 words

## Health center needs support

It's a tradition to criticize the A.P. Beutel Health Center here at Texas

Even the doctors at the clinic affectionately call it the "Quack Shack.

But the "Shack" deserves a lot more. credit than it gets.

Granted, the wait is often long, and examinations seem hurried, but the quality of the doctor's care is adequate, if not excellent.

Some people say the doctors are not qualified to practice anywhere else so they come to the "Shack." Perhaps this is part of the tradition of criticizing the clinic, but few people can question the qualifications of the doctors.

All of the doctors are licensed to practice medicine in Texas, which means they have gone through college, graduated from accredited medical schools and have all had internships and postgraduate training. Four of the seven doctors are qualified to take board examinations to be licensed as specialists. Most of the doctors have had post-graduate training in one or more specialties and have held teaching positions ranging from instructor to clinical professor. All of the doctors are required to take continuing-education classes.

In addition to the full-time staff, many specialists from Bryan and College Station also offer their services at the clinic. There are specialists in: general surgery; urology; ear, nose and hospitals. throat; dermatology; obstetrics; gynecology; orthopedics; pathology and X-ray.

Wade See

**Managing Editor** 

In addition to the qualifications of these doctors, the clinic is also supported by a good staff of nurses and a top rate laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment.

Most people don't have the luxury of so many specialists and such quick and convenient lab service. Certainly, almost no students would if it weren't for the 'Quack Shack."

The problem is not in the quality of the doctors we currently have. The problem is that there are not enough of them to go around.

According to health center records, an average of 155 patients per day visited the clinic last summer, 289 patients their tails off while we've been sitting on per day visited last spring and 365 pa- ours. tients visited each day last fall.

Including urgent care, the health center saw roughly 68,500 patients last year. Those patients were seen by the current staff of seven doctors, two of which only work part time. Thus, five full-time doctors take care of an inordinate amount of people each day.

In fact, the health center's patient load exceeded the number of patients admitted to the University of Texas Health Science Center's three teaching

In 1988, M.D. Anderson in Houston,

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the Tyler Health Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, had a combined patient load of approximately 52,700. And they probably had a few more than seven doctors to take care of all the patients.

A bill has been introduced into the Texas Legislature to raise the student health fee from \$15 to \$25 during the regular session. Apparently, the bill will allow students to vote on the increase before it is passed.

If that opportunity should arise, every student who has waited in the 'Quack Shack" for three hours should vote for the fee increase. And that increase should go toward hiring more a purse or pluck a few hubcaps in Chi-

Oh, and every student who has waited for three hours should thank their doctors when they do get to see them. God knows they've been working

BLOOM COUNTY

# Postal service F delivers junk Bushen

When you sort through your mail, and you find envelopes with your name and address printed by computer, and maybe some big red lettering that says: "Urgent, Last Bargain Opportunity," what do you call this sort of communica-

Of course, you call it junk mail. We all

receive it, and that's what everybody calls it: junk mail. The Webster's New World Dictionary even has a listing for it, with the definition: "advertisements, solicitations, etc., mailed indiscriminately in large

quantities.' Did I just say that everybody calls it junk mail? I'm sorry, that was incorrect. I had forgot about the strange workings of the bureaucratic mind.

One of the marks of the bureaucratic mind is it will always look for a vague and muddy way to say something sim-

For example, a true bureaucrat would never say: "Let's think about this problem." He would say: "We must conceptualize." He wouldn't say: "Let's do something about it," when he can say: "We should begin the process of instituting a solution.

Which brings us back to "junk mail." It turns out the U.S. Postal Service does not approve of this phrase.

It not only prefers that junk mail be called "bulk-rate business mail," or even "BBM," but it requries that its employees refrain from even referring to junk mail as junk mail.

This was a lesson recently learned by an Ohio mailman. Oops, another mistake on my part. The bureaucrats prefer that they be called "postal carriers."

Anyway, this mailman (to hell with what the bureaucrats want) works out of a small town called Xenia. His route is in the farmlands. And he recently was quoted in a story in his local newspaper about some junk mail being a nuisance.

He referred to it as "junk mail," not as "bulk-rate business mail," or as "ВВМ."

His superiors in the Xenia post office read the story and it offended their bureaucratic sensibilities.

For "conduct unbecoming a postal

employee," he has been suspended, without pay, for two weeks. The mailman (choke on it, you bu-

reaucrats) will lose about \$1,300 in pay. That's a stiff penalty. You can snatch

cago and get off with a lighter rap than a \$1,300 fine.

The mailman's superiors, a word I use loosely, will not discuss the suspension. Of course they won't. They know if they answer questions they will sound like bubbleheads.

#### Mike Royko Columnist

An interview would probably som

'Why can't the mailman call it ju mail?"

"Because it is the policy of the U Postal Service to call it 'bulk-rate bu ness mail,' or 'BBM.'

"Why?"

"Because."

"Why because?"

"Because that is what we call it."

"But nobody else calls it that. When the average American sorts through mail, he doesn't say: 'Doggone all the bulk-rate business mail, or BBM.'H says: 'Doggone all this junk mail' why can't a mailman call it what everbody else calls it?"

"He is not a mailman. He is a post

"Why do you call them postal@ riers? They don't carry posts."

"Because that is what our policy is." "Why?"

"Because."

"I see. But is it really 'unbecomi conduct' for someone to call junk m what it is - junk mail? What is so unb coming about it? I mean, the man did moon the post office when he said How can two non-obscene, non-em words be considered 'unbecoming or

"Because that is what our policy is." "Why?"

"Because."

"Ah, I see. Now, you prefer that it called 'BBM,' is that correct?'

"Under our policy, we find that a ceptable.'

'But are you now aware there those who use the combination of ters, 'BM,' to refer to a bowl movement? And we could take it of So the mailman (I hope my use of the step further, by adding another b' word makes their teeth grind) has been punished. we would have 'big bowel movement's that the sort of thing you want we postal carriers saying?

> "That is not covered in our poli manual.

> "I find this shocking. You suspend man for using a common phrase, w encouraging him to use what could interpreted as scatological. Why do you reverse his suspension like a go

> 'No, he has violated postal policy." must be punished.'

> "Then you, sir, are a real b reaucratic BBM.' Copyright 1989, Tribune Media Services, Inc

#### by Berke Breath





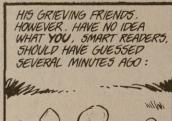
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#### BLOOM COUNTY

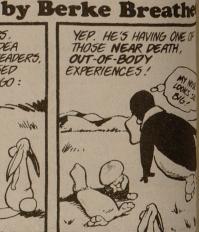












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