

## Our support needed to win Bush Library

Locating the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M would have a positive effect on the University and the local community. A&M would immediately stand out among Universities across the nation. Scholars traveling to College Station to utilize the library would pump money into the local economy. In addition, the added prestige and recognition of the A&M name would increase the value of student's degrees.

A&M's Student Senate is trying to collect the signatures of 20,000 students on a petition to be used to help A&M land the Bush Library. We urge all students to support Student Senate in its efforts by signing the petition in either the MSC or Blocker, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. today through Wednesday.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Mail Call

### McBurnett right about prostitution

EDITOR:

In response to letters expressing opposition to Matt McBurnett's article favoring legalized prostitution, I must suggest the novel concept of examining the facts before forming an opinion. To Jon Beeler, who wrote a sincere but misinformed letter to the editor on Friday, I recommend Sterling C. Evans Library as an excellent source of information on the subject. Beeler argues that legalizing prostitution is analogous to legalizing murder, rape, assault and theft. This argument is clearly not well thought out. Prostitution, unlike the other aforementioned crimes does not involve a victim. Furthermore, prostitution involves two consenting adults, who do not infringe upon the rights of any third party, engaged in an otherwise legal (if money were not exchanged) activity.

There are a plethora of reasons for legalizing prostitution. Although Beeler dismisses the argument that legalization reduces the spread of sexually transmitted diseases with the well-researched "I doubt this", the facts show otherwise. Gilbert Geiss, in his book *Not the Law's Business*, presents evidence from Italy and France supporting this argument. John Decker, in *Prostitution: Regulation and Control*, presents similar data from Great Britain, West Germany and Sweden. Another reason for legalization is that the laws as enforced are blatantly sexist as McBurnett pointed out.

In addition to the enormous waste of police, jail and judicial resources in the futile attempt to stop prostitution, Helen Reynolds in *The economics of Prostitution* estimates more than \$2.9 billion of tax revenue would be generated by legalization. This estimate takes into account tax fraud and evasion by the prostitutes. We must ask ourselves whether the limited resources for policing and housing criminals should be assigned to the task of stopping prostitution or rather be allowed to focus on crimes that involve victims. The answer, upon examination of the FACTS, is obvious.

Steve Harrington '90

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.

# Education necessary to alleviate drug problem

These days, it's all the rage to jump on the it's-time-to-do-something-about-the-drug-problem-in-this-country bandwagon.

Unfortunately, the most popular "solutions" being offered are all far from plausible.

On the far right, keeping company with Attila and Adolf, we have Czar Bennett the First, who proposes shooting down any plane suspected of carrying drugs that doesn't respond to attempts to make radio contact with it.

What a scary scenario that brings to mind: Imagine you are a private pilot who has flown to Mexico for a short vacation. Shortly after passing over Brownsville on your way home, your radio goes out. You're low on fuel, relatively inexperienced and now you have no contact with the ground or other airplanes. But wait! Lo, there on the horizon, could it be? Yes, a plane, arriving just in the nick of time to lead you to a safe landing at the nearest airport! You wag your wings, and then the D.E.A.-owned F-15 jet fighter sends a heat-seeking Sidewinder anti-aircraft missile right up your kazoo. God bless America and all that.

On the other hand, we've got the theory of legalizing, regulating and taxing all drugs. Milton Friedman, one of the nation's most well-known economists, has been a vocal proponent of this idea since at least 1972 (when the fashionable "drug war" of the time was "Tricky Dick" Nixon's attempt to stop the flow of heroin into the United States).

From an idealistic viewpoint, I agree with the theory of legalize, regulate and tax. In a perfect America, all citizens would be free to make their own decisions and follow the path of their own desires and wants. Of course, all the perfect citizens of this perfect America would be perfectly educated, and would know better than to do anything that is bad for them. But here's a news flash: This isn't a perfect America, and any plan to legalize drugs is doomed to failure.

I only realized that this past weekend when a good friend of mine showed me a copy of one of Milton Friedman's latest articles in favor of legalizing drugs. He asked what I thought, and I told him I thought it was a good idea. He asked if I would want one of my children to be



Scot Walker  
Editor

able to go down to the store and buy drugs over-the-counter. My answer sounded good at the time: I wouldn't want my 12-year-old son to be able to do so, but I would want my 18-year-old daughter to be able to decide for herself, and I would hope I would have raised her in such a manner as to enable her to make an informed, responsible decision about her own lifestyle. After all, isn't that the same way we regulate the sale of tobacco and alcohol in this country?

But later I realized the inherent fallacy of my argument: That is *exactly* the same way we regulate the sale of alcohol and tobacco in this country, and children and teenagers still have no problem getting hold of the products. Any 9-year-old in the country can walk up to a cigarette machine and make a purchase, if he has enough quarters. And every college student reading this article has to admit that the "legal drinking age," whether it is 18, 21 or 69, doesn't keep "minors" from having access to alcohol. So why should we believe that "legalized and regulated" crack won't fall into the hands, and blood systems, of our children?

Now President Bush has a magnificent new idea. The United States is giving Colombia enough money to have a really rip-snortin' civil war. His logic is just mind-boggling: We'll destroy their nation and cause their people to live in terror, and that will in some way save our nation. Brilliant, no?

The problem with the Bush and Bennett plans is that it just doesn't make sense to attack the supply side of the problem. As long as there is demand, people will be motivated to try and devise innovative new ways to smuggle drugs into the country. Attacking demand is a never-ending proposition: You might stop the supply from Colombia, but then the suppliers will just move elsewhere and start over, or new suppliers will move in to take their places. If we decide to commit money and mili-

tary hardware to the fight against drugs, we have to realize that we are going to have to keep up the same level of commitment forever, or the problem just come back.

The proper remedy is to attack the demand side of the equation. The way to do that would be to remove the profit motive by legalizing, regulating and taxing. But the practical complications of such a move are so overwhelming as to render it unworkable.

The answer lies not in legality but in the education of people before they become addicted, and the treatment (not punishment) of those who already are. A sure way to reduce demand is to educate people just how bad drugs are for them. We have to start early, at home, before children even start school. We have to start teaching them in nursery school and kindergarten, and keep reminding them their whole lives.

This is already happening to some extent today. I've seen "He-Man" on Saturday morning television, telling young fans of the dangers of drugs. Teachers are being encouraged to turn anti-drug messages into all their curricula. Actors, popular musicians and public figures can be seen in anti-drug public service announcements.

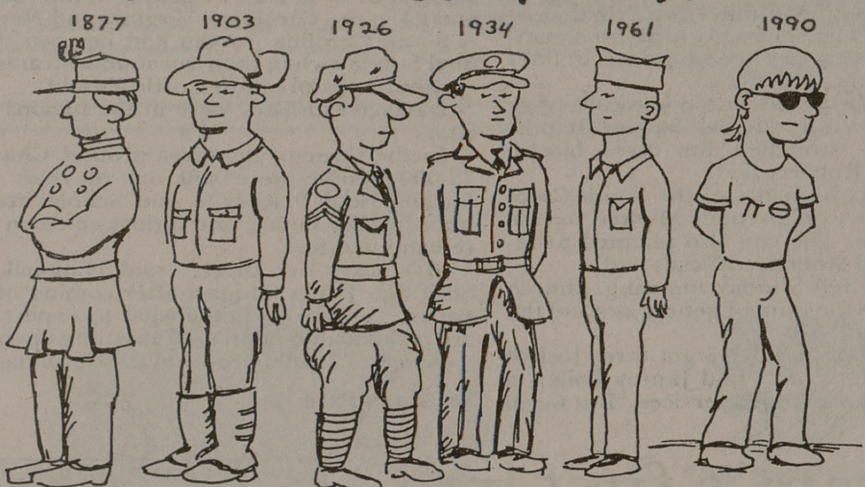
This approach has already shown that it can be effective. Cigarette use is no longer "cool," and use is falling. The legality of cigarette use has changed; education is more pervasive and warnings are prominently displayed on all packaging. Adults are changing the habit, and children are not picking it up. It has taken awhile, but all surgeon general's warnings, public service announcements and Great American Smokeouts are starting to have an impact. Cigarette companies are scrambling to diversify because the demand for their product is starting to shrink. The education programs begin to be effective.

I wish that this was a perfect country and we could all be free to do anything we want that doesn't hurt others. But I don't think the country is ready for that yet. Until it is, if we're really serious about reducing the damage done by drug abuse, we need to attack the problem in a more appropriate manner than that currently implemented by the administration.

Scot Walker is a junior journalism major and editor of *The Battalion*.

## AGGIE EVOLUTION

THOMAS THE BATT



# We are the Aggies: Corps, Non-reg and Greek

Adam Mathieu's column in Wednesday's issue of *The Battalion* was full of illogical reasoning that created a false portrayal of Aggieland while unfairly blaming the Corps of Cadets for being the cause of the Greeks' unpopularity among the student body at A&M.

Adam stated that the Corps controls "virtually every occurrence on this campus." His "proof" is that Corps members are seen on television and on the University's prospectus. This evidence does not produce a valid argument. The Corps' uniqueness and its proud 113-year history, since the beginning of A&M, makes it an interesting target for the media's cameras. The Greeks do not like to compete against this, as is obvious from Adam's jealous statement.

If anybody is trying to "manipulate" the student body, as Adam so boldly tried to prove, I would say it is the Greeks (although I do not completely subscribe to this point of view). With half of the Fish Camp directors, the editor of *The Battalion*, the student body

Michael Kelley  
Guest Columnist

president and the senior class president all being Greeks, it is ironic that Adam points the finger at the Corps. No Adam, it is not the Corps' leadership you are afraid of. It is merely the Corps' presence you cannot stand.

Adam's statement that "only a small percentage of Corps members actually use the Corps as a first step to a military career" is not only misleading, it is simply wrong. In reality, this year's senior class in the Corps will commission 209 of its 443 cadets. This means that almost half will go on to become leaders in the U.S. Armed Forces. That is most definitely not a small percentage.

Adam went on to say that the Corps members and Greeks are "roughly similar." I would say *hardly* similar is a better definition. He said that the "only" difference between the Corps and the Greeks is that Corps members lose per-

sonal time and freedom, while Greeks pay actual money to join a fraternity or sorority. I beg to differ.

The Corps is not just some fraternity that exists, like Greek organizations, to give its members a sense of social belonging. The Corps is an official military organization that is advised and led by retired and active-duty military officers and non-commissioned officers. Most of these persons come to A&M to serve part of their military careers as teachers and advisers for the cadets. This has made Aggie cadets the target of envy, especially at ROTC training camps, where A&M cadets consistently take top honors. For those cadets who do not join the 'Long Maroon Line' as military officers, their Corps-taught leadership skills are readily used in the business and political world.

The Corps also differs from the Greeks in that anybody who wants to become a Corps member is free to do so. Corps membership is not based upon such material factors as family wealth or father's occupation. For the Greeks, however, these material factors are of great importance in determining who will get a bid to pledge a certain fraternity or sorority.

The Corps' open membership has been the foundation for the Aggie spirit that pervades A&M. By this notion an Aggie is simply an Aggie, and is not judged like the cover of a book. That is what is important in keeping the spirit of Aggieland alive. The Greeks have taken away from this spirit by placing strict, material membership requirements upon their members. Even if this is the national norm for Greeks, they shouldn't forget that this is A&M.

The biggest difference between the Corps and Greeks is TRADITION. The Corps created, and is still actively partic-

ipating in, bonfire, Silver Taps and Muster, as well as saying 'Howdy' or 'Hi' to fellow students and visitors (just to name a few traditions). Aggie spirit for such traditions is the *one* key factor that unifies all Aggies and makes A&M special in comparison to other schools that "boast of prowess bold."

The question I raise is what have the Greeks, as a whole, ever done for Aggieland? When is the last time fraternities and sororities went out as organizations to cut, stack or to support the building of bonfire?

Do most Greek organizations go to Silver Taps as a group? No they don't. Sigma Phi Epsilon decided to go to Silver Taps last October, only after one of its pledges died at its Lake Somerville party on September 10. This special ceremony is for *all* Aggies. What I don't understand is why all of the fraternities and sororities don't consistently go to this ceremony and honor other Aggie's as well.

Something of great importance that I have left out so far is what I would call the 'real' student body (certainly not by Adam's definition), if there really is one. That is the 35,000 non-Corps/non-Greek Aggies. I'm talking about our very own Fightin' Texas Aggie NON-REGS! Notice that I don't classify the Greeks as 'non-regs,' because I don't believe the men of Crocker, Moses or Dunn, nor the women of Davis-Gary, Spence or Leggett, just to name a few, stand for the same things the Greeks stand for.

The Corps of Cadets may have started many of our traditions, but numerous non-regs have been the keepers of the traditions as well.

Most of the non-regs I am talking about have chosen not to participate in brotherhood, sisterhood or military

conformity. THAT'S GREAT! That's what makes A&M such a wonderful campus. These non-regs, particularly those in the residence halls, add diversity to Aggieland while maintaining the same spirit I mentioned before.

Adam tried to blame anti-Greek campus opinion on the Corps. I find it hard to believe, especially with the number of 'NO-FRATS' T-shirts non-regs are wearing on campus, as well as the anti-Greek sentiment that pervades the non-reg residence halls.

The truth of the matter is that Greeks have two choices of action to take in order to get the respect they want from the student body. They can try to abolish the Corps and such traditions as bonfire, so they can rest A&M's history and make themselves the center of attention, or they can support A&M and what it has stood for.

I dare say that if the Greeks as a whole would become more involved in the traditions here at A&M, then only would Aggieland benefit from added effort, but more Aggies would accept the Greeks, and campus opinion would probably change in favor of Greek organizations.

In the meantime, it is obvious that the Corps and many non-regs are not going to allow manipulation, by any group, to make our beloved Aggieland just another school in the Southwest Conference. Greek organizations can create their own identities, and at the same time support A&M through active involvement in Aggie traditions. The choice of the matter is theirs.

Just remember, it's GIG 'EM, Greek 'em.

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## The Battalion

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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.

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