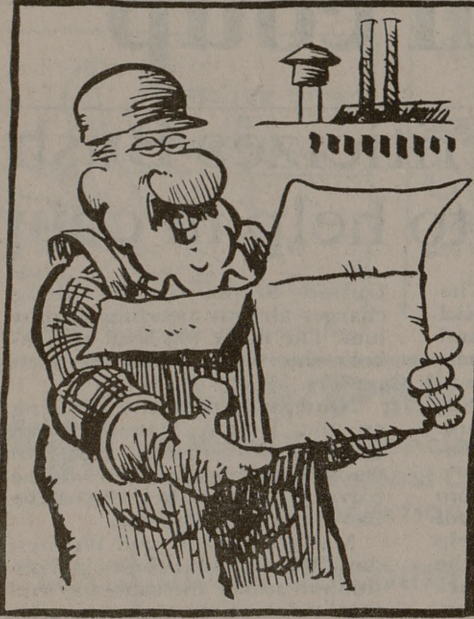
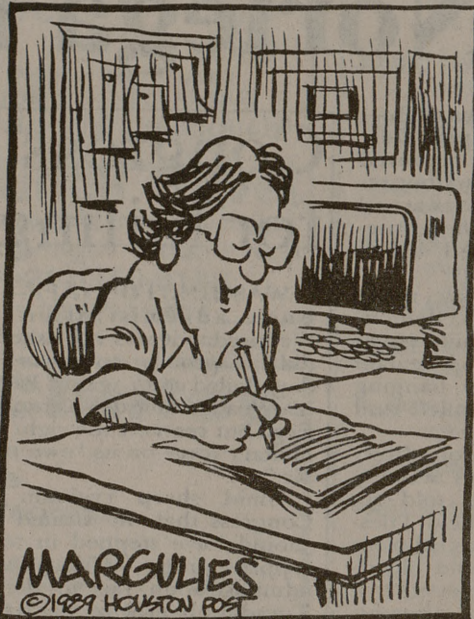


WHICH JOB WILL BE CREATED BY CUTTING THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX?

A) Factory Job



B) Desk Job



C) Snow Job



MARGULIES
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School's out for summer

The Faculty Senate has proposed that, as of 1991, all summer classes be taught over 10 full weeks only. Currently, some summer classes are offered over 10 weeks, some as five weeks, and a select few are offered in both five and 10-week sessions.

Both the Faculty Senate's proposal and the Student Senate's later counter proposal address concerns about the quality of teaching and the amount of time in the classroom during summer school. Many of the faculty feel they can not teach properly considering the time restrictions imposed by the short terms. Also, many professors do not like having to give finals to seniors a few days early so they can graduate with a diploma.

To address these and other concerns, the Faculty Senate drafted a proposal urging all academic colleges to shift to teaching primarily 10-week courses in the summer. After receiving the proposal, President Mobley decided to have a committee composed of faculty, students and administration research the topic more thoroughly and submit a new proposal. Mobley apparently stressed the importance of finding out what the students want, and in response to that, the Student Senate submitted a proposal as a counter to the Faculty Senate's proposal.

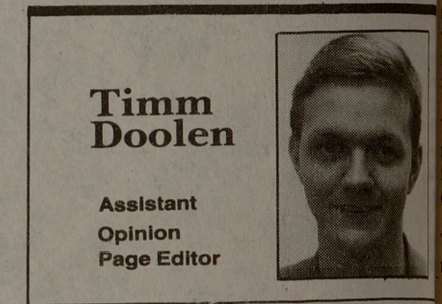
The Student Senate, acting in what they perceive as the best interest of the students, proposed a plan that tries to retain many of the good points of the current summer policy, while making a few improvements.

The Student Senate proposal keeps the five-week sessions, but adds a few days to allow more study time before finals. It would also allow graduating seniors to take finals along with other students and graduate with a real diploma.

In past summers, finals began during the last day of class for that summer session. Under the Student Senate's proposed plan, there would be a separate finals day, or in other words, a break between the last day of class and finals.

The Student Senate's proposal will also allow faculty to give one final for all students. Graduating students would take finals the same time as everybody else, consistent with the fall and spring finals policy.

As far as the quality of classroom instruction in five-week classes, the



Timm Doolen
Assistant
Opinion
Page Editor

smaller class sizes and intense studying of the topics during a short period of time help improve the quality of the learning. Quantitatively, there are more classroom minutes in a five-week summer term than in any other semester term or 10-week session.

Overall, the Student Senate's proposal is better for both students and faculty than the Faculty Senate's proposal. It allows flexibility that students need during the summer if they have other plans and want to attend school. It affects many of us, including students who study abroad, students who work, students who must take sequential classes and students who want to attend various summer camps. Limiting summer school to only one 10-week session severely limits students' abilities to do other things during their summer, such as vacation, if they wish to attend A&M as well.

Having two five-week sessions and a 10-week session also allows professors to do research for half a summer and teach the other summer. Five-week terms allow for employment of more graduate teaching assistants, albeit for a shorter amount of time.

Of all the major universities in Texas, Rice is the only one that offers a single term in the summer. Over 17,000 students attended summer school in 1989. With this many people attending, a school of A&M's size has an obligation to offer its students a reasonable choice during summer school.

The University should offer more 10-week classes, but it should also retain the flexibility that 5-week courses offer. The best interests of the students of Texas A&M were well represented by the Student Senate's proposal. We should support them in their quest to keep our summers flexible.

Timm Doolen is a junior computer science major and assistant opinion page editor for The Battalion.

George Bush Drive — big mistake

George Herbert Walker Bush: 41st President of the United States, Vice-President under Ronald Reagan, former member of the House of Representatives, husband of Barbara, grandfather of many, resident of Texas, horseshoe champion, master of Millie the First Dog, and as of last Thursday, namesake of the street we used to call Jersey.

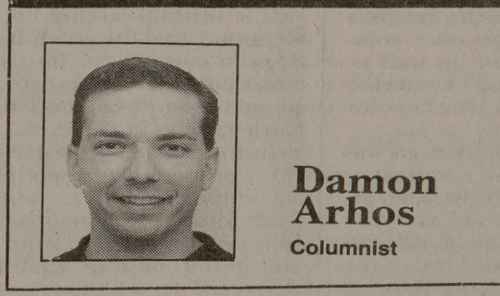
By a 5-1 vote last week, the College Station City Council made a big mistake. They changed the name of Jersey Street to George Bush Drive. And supposedly, this will bring the Bush Presidential Library to Aggieland.

To use the words of Ronald Reagan, there they go again.

There they go again attempting to lure Bush into selecting College Station as his library site. And the renaming of Jersey is just one hook in the tackle box of A&M officials.

Many people have voiced the opinion that changing the name of Jersey could be considered a purely political action that would reflect badly on the community. They're right. I'm sure that everyone realizes the motives of the city council. It is not like the council just thought, "Hey, it would be really nice to honor George Bush by naming a street after him, so let's do it." They want the library for College Station, and it shows. But renaming a street is definitely the wrong way to go about getting it.

Jersey Street has a place in the history and heritage of College Station. Aggies and College Station residents, both young and old, have fond memories associated with it. How many of us can remember walking up and down



Damon Arhos
Columnist

JERSEY on the way to and from bonfire? Many members of the Corps park on JERSEY. The Association of Former Students Building is right off of JERSEY. Many people have had addresses on JERSEY for years. But it is all about to change.

And speaking of addresses, think of the potential confusion with the post office. If you live on Jersey, get ready to call every one of your friends and relatives and tell them you don't live there anymore. The potential for confusion and for mail loss is very real. Every magazine you have subscribed to, every company that sends you a bill, every person that has your address listed as Jersey — YOU get to inform of the name change. And the city council has been generous and has given you 6 whole months to do so.

And besides, Bush isn't even dead yet. Aren't streets, trees, etc., usually named after people who are deceased?

I would like to see President Bush's library to come to College Station, just like most other residents of the city. It would be a tremendous asset to our community. If the library were to be put here in College Station, it would spur the local economy through an in-

crease in tourism. However, I just do not understand why everyone is so obsessed with doing insignificant things that probably won't have any influence on Bush whatsoever. Can you imagine Bush thinking, "Well, College Station named a street after me...I guess I'll put it there."

I hope Bush would choose College Station because of the quality of our university and its students. Texas A&M is one of the finest research and educational facilities in the nation, and is highly deserving of the library. Placing the library here would provide a tremendous educational opportunity not only to students of A&M, but also to people from all over the state, which Bush calls home. To me, this is reason enough for Bush to entrust his presidential papers with A&M. Why do we have to scramble around changing street names to influence his decision?

Aggies are special people, and Aggieland is a special place. Aggies set College Station apart from all other proposed locations for the library. And if we really want the library, we need to stop concentrating our efforts toward small and insignificant actions that get us nowhere, and start promoting our school as the fine research and educational facility that it is.

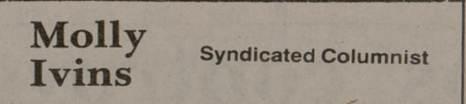
As for Jersey Street, it is unfortunate that the taxpayers will have to pay for the new street signs that will go up early next year. I hope the City of College Station saves the old Jersey street signs just in case we don't get the library.

Damon Arhos is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Wearing blinders doesn't hide the poor

When I was in graduate school I learned how to say "narcotizing dysfunction and cognitive dissonance," mostly so if anyone ever asked me to say something in graduate, I could spout "narcotizing dysfunction and cognitive dissonance." The existence of that splendid string of syllables confirmed by expectation that graduate school would be more b.s., Ph.D., (piled higher and drier — old academic joke). Now I look around and find to my amazement that narcotizing dysfunction and cognitive dissonance are running the country.

Both are theories about how we acquire, and how we resist, new informa-



Molly Ivins
Syndicated Columnist

tion. All of us walk around with a set of mental baggage, a world view, stored in our minds. By the time we become adults, we develop a resistance to information that does not conform to our world view — we deny it, we ignore it, we find reasons to doubt it — because if we have to accept this new, nonconforming information, it means we will have to shift around all that luggage we've got stored away, which is a painful and tiresome process. That's cogni-

tive dissonance: narcotizing dysfunction is another form of resistance whereby people ignore unpleasant realities by anesthetizing themselves with anything from crack to soap operas to football.

The current debate in Washington City over "what's wrong with the Democrats" is a textbook example of cognitive dissonance. The latest conventional wisdom is that Democrats must finally come to see the wisdom of being like the Republicans, that they must give up their useless, old-fashioned attachment to inveighing against tax breaks for the rich. "The thing I think our party has missed is that the American people do not buy in, in any fundamental way, to a class-warfare political argument," said Rep. Les AuCoin, Democrat of Oregon. So many people are saying the same thing, we can be certain some pollster has done a focus group on this very point. Rep. Mickey Edwards, Republican of Oklahoma, said posing this issue as one of the limousine set against the first-time homebuyer was the kind of populist appeal that makes people think Democrats are "campaigning to an America that existed 40 years ago."

Kind of hard to figure out what country these people are living in. Forty years ago most Americans were middle-class. One of the oddest aspects of American life, by European standards, has been its relative classless-

ness. True, there have always been more and deeper class divisions than we have cared to acknowledge, but it used to be that every family with an income between \$15,000 and \$50,000 considered itself middle-class. There has been no visible class warfare here — we always cheerfully assumed that almost all of us were in the great middle. The dramatic redistribution of wealth in this country over the past 10 years is raising urgent class issues for the first time since World War II. The gap between the rich and the poor has become a chasm.

Part of the social cohesion of Japan comes from the fact that difference between the salary of an assembly line worker and the salary of the CEO of any given company is roughly four times. If the worker makes \$15,000, the CEO makes \$60,000. Try comparing what an average GM assembly-line worker makes in Detroit with the salary of Roger Smith, the top guy at GM. You throw in the stock options, the bonuses, the perks, you're talking several million dollars for Roger, at least. And these disparities are growing like The Blob. The same day *The New York Times* carried a piece of political analysis concluding that "Class warfare cliches are seen as losing their luster," the same newspaper had on its front page a story saying one-fourth of all preschool children in America are living in poverty. The report was written by the

same Congress that just voted to decrease capital gains taxes so the richest people in America can get richer. "More children than ever are living in the streets or in families shattered by divorce, drugs or poverty. While cuts in federal spending have worsened the plight of many poor people and mounting economic pressures have squeezed the middle class, childhood has become far more precarious and less safe for millions of American children. One fifth of all children are living in poverty, 50 percent of all black children and 25 percent of the preschoolers. But the problems extend beyond the poorest families. Even among children who seem destined for high achievement, hopes appear to be tempered by an acceptance that drug pregnancy, bad grades and bad jobs are overwhelming many of their peers."

Terrible and worsening class divisions areas not some old-hat cliché — they're on the front pages. Not to recognize that is an extraordinary feat of cognitive dissonance. Front page, hell, try walking the streets of any city in America and actually seeing what's there, letting it register. The streets of the capitol where this Congress meets where its members live, are littered with homeless people. If the members of congress have to move some mental luggage to make room for this reality, let me suggest that they start shifting

The Battalion

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