

Research on animals needed for medicine

Putting an end to scientific research conducted on animals threatens the lives of humans more than AIDS or cancer.

Without the use of animals, important medical research would come to a screeching halt.

Organ transplants, the creation of vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, polio and hepatitis, and the discovery of insulin are a few examples that have resulted from animal studies.

Researchers are working to develop a vaccine for chicken pox, and they also are hopeful that AIDS research done on chimpanzees will prove valuable.

Other research includes work related to drug addiction, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, emotional disorders and heart disease. The list goes on and on.

Some people supporting the animal rights movement hope to abolish animal research completely. They believe scientists can do adequate research by using computers and cell cultures. But they must realize that these methods cannot produce the information obtained from research.

Humane animal studies need to continue. Without this type of research, scientists will have no way to find cures for the diseases and illnesses that plague our world.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Lunch breaks hinder Pavilion operations

The first floor of the Pavilion, except for the snack bar, completely stops operations from noon to 1 p.m. so employees can eat lunch, but students needing to register or pick up fee slips are unable to get help during this time.

Even though there are signs to inform students of the lunch breaks, they are not mentioned in the Directory of Classes, and it is especially inconvenient because the cashiers' windows close at 3 p.m.

Some students need to take care of registration matters, payments, etc. during this hour. Unfortunately, these students are out of luck.

Staggered lunch breaks would be more practical. The line would move more slowly since a smaller staff would be working for two or three hours, but it would be better than not moving at all.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Phone registration deserves commendation

"Welcome to the Texas A&M Student Information System. Enter an action code ... now."

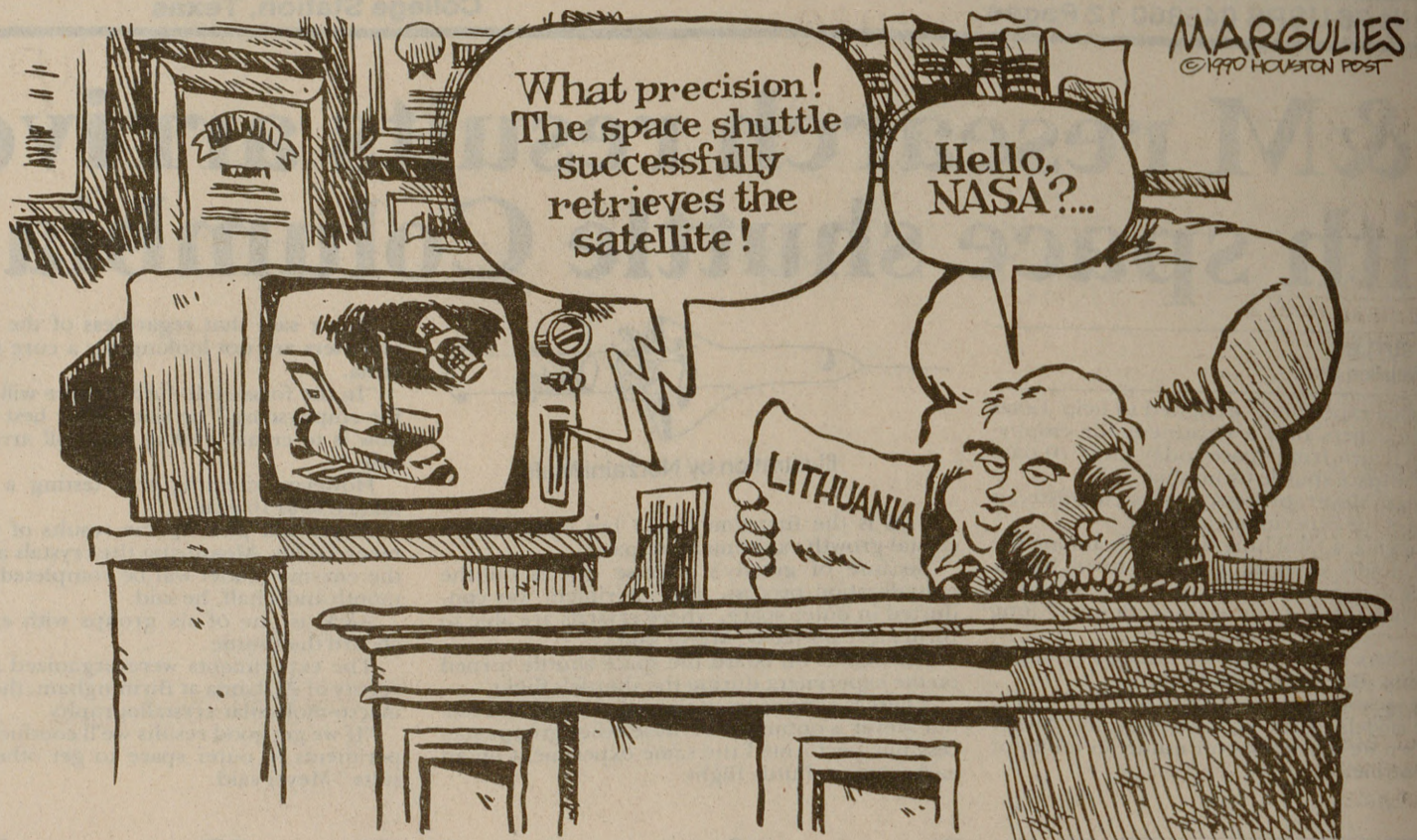
Texas A&M's telephone registration system, since it began three years ago, has proven to be a boon to students, faculty and staff despite irritating busy signals and recordings.

The system not only has eliminated many registration lines and much paperwork, but also has made adding and dropping classes quick and efficient.

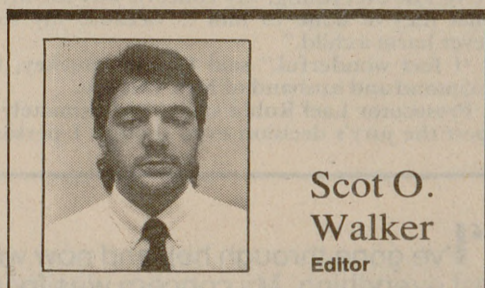
Students should appreciate the system, a luxury that few universities have, and A&M should be commended for the improvements it has made in the system.

Thank you for reading the Texas A&M Battalion. Goodbye.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Professor X should learn to stand up for his opinion



Scot O. Walker
Editor

Back in December, the opinion page editor and I decided that it was time to expand the breadth of opinions expressed on Page 2 to include people besides students. It made a lot of sense, because we have about 70,000 potential readers every day and only 40,000 of those are students.

We decided to hire a couple of new columnists to represent the faculty, the staff, the administrators and other non-students. We placed an advertisement on the page: "Faculty members wanted to write columns." And then one day I got a very interesting letter from a professor explaining why there was no way in creation that any professor would ever write a column for The Batt. Here are the highlights of the letter, in italics, along with my comments:

Dear Editor: I noticed your ads for a professor who would write a column for The Batt. While I applaud your efforts to engage faculty participation, I doubt that you received much of a response.

That's Mistake Number 1. We've gotten a good response, and the applicants cover the whole spectrum. Some seem like they would be great, others appear completely unqualified. That's generally the response to any job opening.

There are a number of reasons why productive professors who really have something to say about TAMU (not the good ol' boys who will tell you about "world class" when we are not ranked in the top 40 in the nation) would shy away from publishing anything in The Batt. I would write a column describing these reasons if you would like.

Wait a minute. This person says no prof will write for The Batt, and then turns around and offers to write for

The Batt. Sounds fishy to me; must be a catch.

If you do (print the column), then you have to agree not to publish my name, not to give it to the administration, regents, or anyone, and not to edit the letter.

Hold the phone, here's the catch. This person wants the opportunity to slander, slam and slime the powers-that-be, but isn't man (or woman) enough to sign his/her name. What a gutless pig.

This is not because I'm gutless, but because those of us on the faculty with a future realize the type of response we would receive from the administration and especially the regents if we wrote

If everybody with something intelligent to say spoke out, there is no way that the regents or administrators could fire everyone. To do so would be to commit suicide. All the good people would leave and go to places where their opinions would be respected, and we'd be left with the drones and the dregs, and the school would be dead in the water.

anything that they could construe as "not on the team."

The letter was signed "Professor X." The thing that really bothered me about the letter was that this professor felt that expressing an honest opinion was sufficient to cause him/her grief with his/her superiors. Maybe that wouldn't have happened, but Professor X certainly believed it would, and therefore was afraid to speak out. This is supposed to be a university, an institution of higher learning, where intelligent people come to be further enlightened. Instead, for this person and maybe others, it's a place of oppression and censorship.

What a downer.

But who is to blame? The administration? The regents?

No, the blame falls on all those people who want to say something but don't because they fear the consequences. If everybody with something intelligent to say spoke out, there is no way that the regents or administrators could fire everyone. To do so would be to commit suicide. All the good people would leave and go to places where their opinions would be respected, and we'd be left with the drones and the dregs, and the school would be dead in the water. Disagreement is what academics is all about, so if you have something to say you should say it.

I can imagine Professor X saying, "You're idealistic because you're just a kid and a student. Wait until you have a REAL JOB in the REAL WORLD, and then you'll understand that you can't always stand up for what you believe."

That's bull. Anyone can stand up for something, as long as he is willing to accept the consequences.

And I'm really sick of hearing that line about the real world. It's just an excuse for people who have already sold out their own ideals. Everyone has the same choices. You can speak out and try to get something changed, and maybe risk your job. Or you can keep quiet, let things stay the way they are, bitch about it in private and be unhappy. Or you can leave. That's pretty simple, isn't it? It all comes down to what is important to you.

If you choose to keep quiet out of fear, then that just encourages your boss to try to intimidate you again in the future to keep you quiet. So you brought this situation upon yourself, Professor X. You, and people like you, chose to be intimidated, and if you don't like it, then you should try to find the backbone to work to change it. If you can't, then you are letting someone else determine the course of your life, so you should just shut up and wallow in the misery and oppression that you allow to be heaped upon yourself.

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



The Battalion

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