

Voting 'yes' could improve health center

Ellen Hobbs
Opinion Page Editor



On March 29, the students of Texas A&M will make a very important decision. On that day we will be voting on the Health Center Referendum. If passed, our health center fee will be increased from \$15 a semester to \$25 a semester. I am writing to urge you to support this proposed increase.

At the beginning of my term in April 1989, I met with Dr. John Koldus, the vice president for student services, to express my concerns about the quality of health care we were receiving at the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Koldus informed me that he was in the process of arranging for a comprehensive evaluation of the health center to be performed by a team of the top physicians and health center directors from across the country. He invited me to be a part of the evaluation process and I enthusiastically accepted.

The evaluation team was impressed with many aspects of our center. As far as physical capabilities are concerned (diagnostic equipment, size, potential services, etc.) our health center was ranked as one of the top three in the nation.

The primary problem identified with the center was the lack of staff and support to accommodate our large and diverse student body. The reason our health center is understaffed is because it does not, at this time, have the money to obtain the necessary physicians, nurses, assistants and other workers to provide an adequate level of health care.

As I mentioned earlier, our health center fee is \$15 a semester. To put this in perspective, I have included some information on the health center fees at other universities comparable in size to A&M:

- University of Texas — \$40.60 per semester.
- University of Georgia — \$106 per semester.
- Louisiana State University — \$40 per semester.
- University of Oklahoma — \$40 per semester.
- Virginia Commonwealth University — \$56 per semester.
- University of Rochester — \$104 per semester.

Kevin Buchman
Reader's Opinion

• Texas Tech University — \$25 per semester.

Even with an increase in our fee, our total payment of \$25 to the health center will be significantly lower than a majority of other comparable universities.

What will the fee increase do for our health center? The benefits include but are not limited to the increase the number of staff members by three physicians, two nurses, two clerical

support staff and two nursing assistants.

This staff member increase will result in significantly shorter waiting times in the clinic. It will also permit longer visits with the physicians. This will provide more time for you to explain your health concerns to the physician and discuss them with him or her. The opportunities for consultation between physicians in the health center will be increased. Time will be available for the physicians to continue their education so that they will constantly improve their health treatment skills.

In January alone, which includes the last two weeks of Christmas vacation and the first two weeks of the spring semester, 5,309 patients were treated by the health center. As one can plainly

see, our eight physicians are tremendously overworked. Furthermore, they are underpaid. If we do not provide them with additional resources soon, we will begin to lose them to private practice.

This proposal has my sincere endorsement. I hope you too find it to be unquestionably beneficial to the student body of Texas A&M. I urge you to vote "yes" for the Health Center Referendum on March 29. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please contact me at my office, 845-3051, or at home, 846-7206. Thank you for your support.

Kevin Buchman is a senior speech communications major and Texas A&M Student Body President.

Rape remark shows stupidity of Williams

If Clayton Williams' latest screw-up doesn't show that he is not fit for the governorship of Texas, we might as well get ready to relax and enjoy four years of bumbling gubernatorial leadership.

When the start of the work day at the ranch was delayed by fog Saturday, Williams told workers and a group of reporters he invited out to see the spring roundup that weather was like rape.

"If it's inevitable, just relax and enjoy it," Williams is reported as saying.

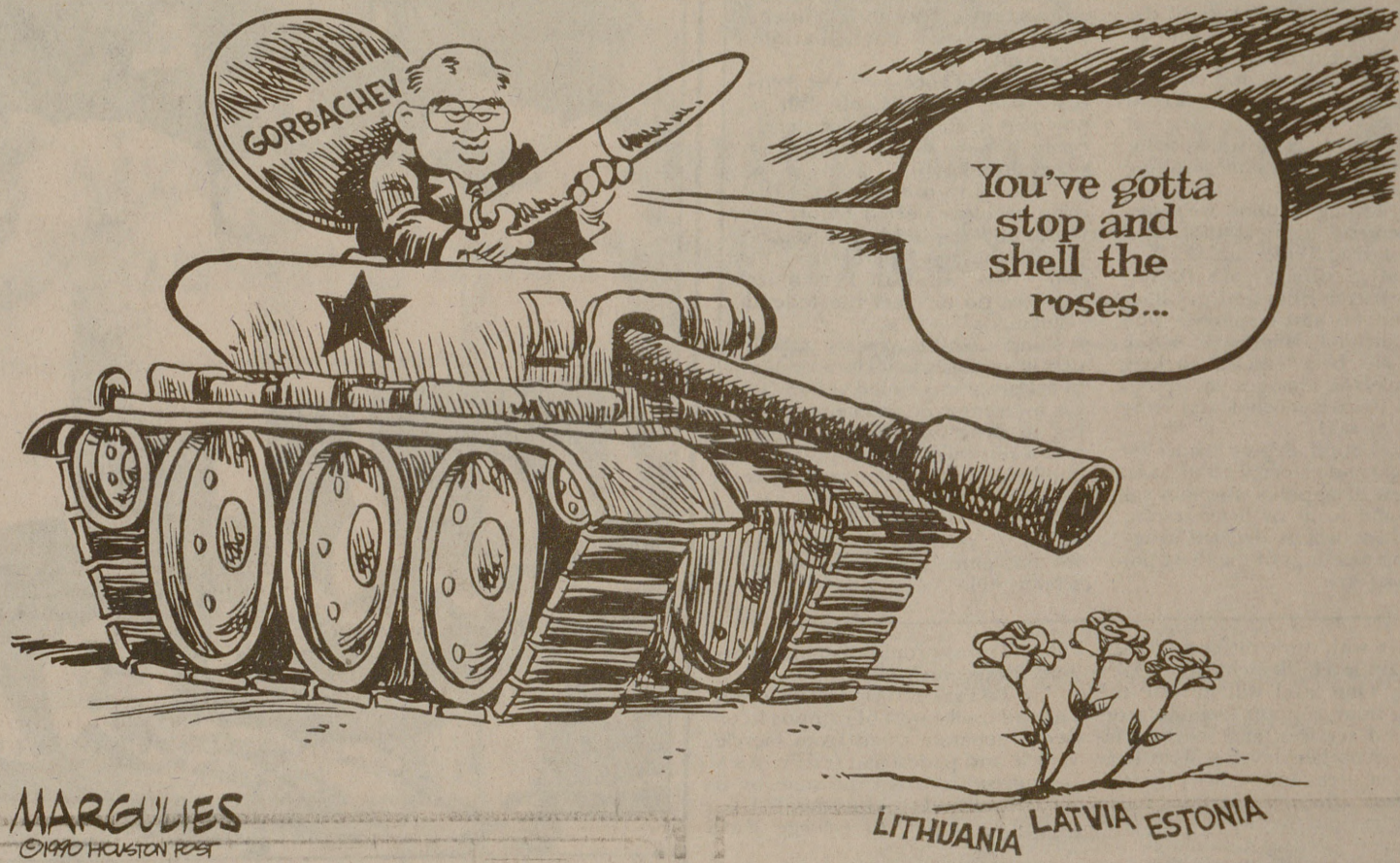
Williams apologized later, saying he was sorry if anyone was offended, but told reporters that it was just a joke in "barnyard" language. He said he didn't think it was fair that he was being condemned for the remark since he made it outside at a cow camp with working men, not at "a Republican women's club."

And this man could be our next governor.

But he certainly shouldn't be.

Because of the remark, Williams has been criticized by his opponents as

And this man could be our next governor.



MARGULES
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Mail Call

Let's give a whoop for intolerance

EDITOR:

I am writing in reply to Wehner and Tomlin's letter, and all I can say is: *way to go!* Their intolerance of others' opinions is admirable, their attempt to suppress individual freedom is world-class, and their total lack of maturity in dealing with the entire situation is commendable.

Perhaps the best way to deal with these two-percenters is to revert to Old Army. Return to an all-Corps A&M. If we all look alike, dress alike and act alike, maybe we'll all think alike! As for those who still try to be different, well, a few crap-out's, come-by's and fire watches never hurt anyone. Besides, it builds character.

As for those of you who don't like that idea, there's always t.u. ... although that's not much of an alternative. I mean, how good can this haven of freaks, liberals and two-percenters be academically if they can't even put together the best football team money can buy? Shoot, they don't even have a bonfire!

So, my final words to those of you who have now been officially labelled "two-percenters" are: *Zip it! You make us vomit!* And last, but not least ... Highway six runs both ways (for those good Ags who can't think up great phrases like the first two)!

John D. Burke '93

Priority parking is unfair

EDITOR:

I am writing in regard to the letter written by Kevin Wise in the March 21 issue of The Battalion. In the letter, he claims that priority parking is more fair, since as an upperclassman, he has done his time at Texas A&M (as if underclassmen don't work just as hard). Mr. Wise, I'm as fed up with the parking situation as any other Aggie is. However, we all pay the same for our parking permit and are entitled to the same spots.

In fact, denying privileges to a person just because he or she is an underclassman might be interpreted as hazing, which as we all know is illegal. If you feel you deserve a better parking spot because you have been here longer and have worked harder than any of us underclassmen, maybe you would agree to a system by which the better parking spots are reserved for those with the higher grade point averages. Well, that's a pretty dumb idea, just as allowing upperclassmen better parking is a ridiculous ideology. Would you treat transfer students as upperclassmen or underclassmen? And hey — why stop there? You would probably push for "seniors-only" lines as Sbis Dining Hall and in the U.S. Post Office.

Jeffrey Michael Benzick '92

RCC employees need to change attitudes

EDITOR:

We would like to call attention to the fact that there are considerable problems (among them bad attitudes, lack of friendliness and a lack of willingness to help) with the employees at the help desk in the RCC. Considering we have only worked on three computer projects in three years, we would think that our computer access fee would allow us to get more help than we have received in the past — which is just about nill. Aren't the employees getting paid to help us — is that not their job?

The following are a few of the problems we've encountered and observed at the RCC. First, the employees do not make themselves accessible. The hide in the back room (help desk) and work on their own computer projects or shoot the bull. On the average you have to ask them three times to come out and take a look at what your having problems with before they decide to leave the sanctuary of the back room. I think everyone can understand how frustrating this can be. Secondly, we think they have an attitude problem in dealing with people who do not have as much experience on computers as they do. Lastly, since most of them are engineering majors, they seem to feel that non-engineering related programs are insignificant and do not require their help when a problem arises. We hope this letter will help bring about a change in the way the employees at the RCC treat their fellow students when they are asked to do their job.

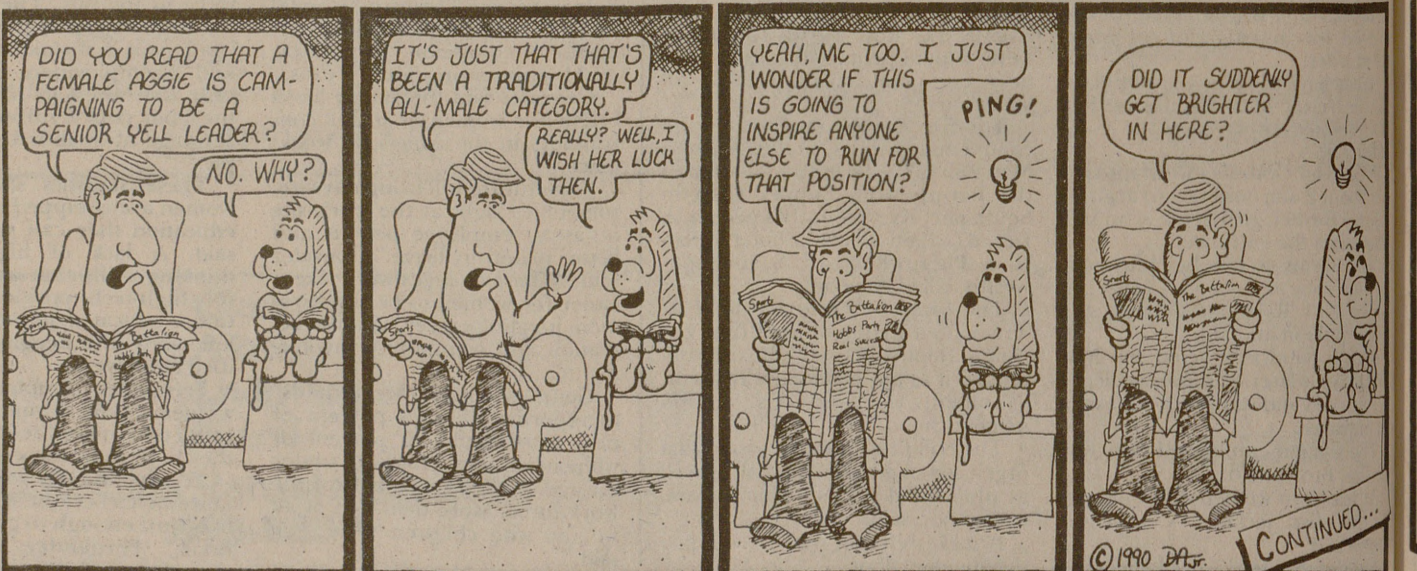
Chris Camperson '91
accompanied by two signatures

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



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