

Ty Clevenger for student body president

The Battalion endorses Ty Clevenger for student body president.

Clevenger, presently speaker of the Student Senate, has a proven track record of getting things accomplished for students.

- He battled Food Services and won for students the right to receive refunds on our Aggie Bucks at the end of the semester.

- He recognized a need for 24-hour access to popular computers like the Macintosh, and persuaded the administration to provide such access.

- He worked to push the collegiate license plate bill through the Texas Legislature, generating \$200,000 in scholarships for A&M students.

Besides serving as speaker of the Senate, Clevenger also has served on numerous committees and advisory boards, including his present position on the Regents Advisory Panel on Undergraduate Education. As a freshman, he chaired a committee to look into placing a student on the Board of Regents, and he has testified before four committees of the Texas Legislature on issues of concern to students.

In reaching our decision, the Editorial Board conducted lengthy interviews with all the candidates and read detailed platform papers which they had submitted to the Student Government election commissioner. All of the candidates for student body president demonstrated that they were in touch with the issues important to students: improving campus safety, preserving greenspace, improving English proficiency, alleviating parking problems, improving undergraduate advising, and drastically improving the quality of our library resources.

The Battalion also was impressed with Craig Sandlin, who demonstrated a good grasp of the mechanics and organization of student government, a clear view of what he hoped to accomplish as president and workable plans to reach his goals.

But a majority of the Editorial Board felt that while Sandlin and the other candidates are ready to make things happen, Clevenger already has begun to make those things happen and will continue to do so if elected Student Body President.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Gay, Lesbian Awareness Week will battle against homophobia

Next week, Gay and Lesbian Student Services of Texas A&M will be sponsoring a series of informative events. The "awareness week" activities will include a film festival, an open meeting, a panel discussion and a picnic.

The film festival will include four documentaries and two feature films. "Before Stonewall" concerns gay life in the U.S. prior to the gay liberation movement's beginning in 1969. "The Times of Harvey Milk," is a chronicle of the life of the first openly gay elected official in the U.S., is highly recommended; this excellent film won the Academy Award for best documentary in 1984. The other two documentaries address issues of gay and lesbian parents and gay rights in general.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week is sorely needed here at A&M. There are few university campuses of comparable size in the U.S. as high on conformity and as low on tolerance as this one; the issue of homosexuality exemplifies this as does no other. Homophobia, prejudice and just plain old misinformation are found among faculty as well as students. By sponsoring the awareness week, the members of GLSS are saying, "Here we are; come get to know us." It's a call that anyone truly interested in furthering their education should consider.

In the same way that the activities of Black History Month can enrich people of every race, so can Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week enrich those people who are not lesbian, bisexual or gay. It is



Jeff Farmer
Columnist

for everyone, including (and indeed especially) for people who are uncomfortable with the issue of alternative sexuality. Meeting people from other cultures helps us to better understand and appreciate our own; it is interactions with people who are different that provide opportunities for personal growth. In attempting to bridge the gap between us and create understanding, we experience our common humanity rather than our differences.

Understanding is especially important when it comes to this issue. For lesbians and gays, expressions of love and affection are still criminal in 25 states. Many folks seem to object to the very existence of gay people; the days when gays and lesbians were considered fair game for physical assault or murder are barely behind us.

It's time in our society for us to return to a simple idea: Each person should treat every other person with respect and civility. This idea is not radical — it has been with us from the beginning of our republic. It was easier to do when we were all (supposedly) "the same;" it's a bit more difficult in the face of

List of events

Some of the films to be shown during Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week are:

- "Before Stonewall" — 11 a.m. Monday and Thursday.

- "The Times of Harvey Milk" — 2 p.m. Monday and 8:15 p.m. Thursday.

- "In the Best Interests of the Children" — 2 p.m. Tuesday.

- "Rights and Reactions: Gay and Lesbian Rights on Trial" — 2 p.m. Wednesday.

- "Torch Song Trilogy" — 8:15 p.m. Monday.

- "Desert Hearts" — 2 p.m. Thursday.

Other events scheduled during Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week include:

- Open meeting on aspects of gay culture — 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

- Panel discussion on homosexuality — 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

All Monday and Thursday events will be in 301 Rudder, Tuesday and Wednesday events will be in 410 Rudder.

modern political, religious, social and ethnic diversity. We must live up to it nonetheless; if we don't, our civilization will disintegrate before our eyes.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week is a small step in the right direction. Let's support it.

Jeff Farmer is a graduate student in mathematics.

Mail Call

Student leaders behind fee hike

EDITOR:

We would like to encourage the students of Texas A&M University to vote "yes" on the Health Center Referendum that will appear on the spring ballot on March 29.

We have studied this issue very closely and are confident that the student body would benefit immensely from the proposed \$10 fee increase.

We therefore, emphatically support the Health Center Referendum and we sincerely hope that you, the student body, will do the same.

Kevin Buchman '90
Student body president

Keith Powell '91
Off Campus Aggies president

Matt Poling '90
Corps Commander

Gorgette Lopez-Aguado
CAMAC chair

Jason Wilcox '91
MSC Council president

Darren Smith '90
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Katherine Smith '90
Senior class president

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PanHellenic Council president

Dan Vrudny
Graduate Studies Council president

Diana Galindo '90
International Students Association president

Leah Hanselka '90
Resident Hall Association president

Sandra Burke
Married Students Apartment Council president

Koldus supports fee increase

EDITOR:

When I arrived on campus nearly 17 years ago, the health center fee was \$15. That fee has not been increased during my tenure as the vice-president for student services at Texas A&M University.

Student Government and the student services administrative staff concur that we want to have the finest student health care program possible. We have worked together to create the legislation that allows the University to increase the fee. We are working together to insure that the student referendum will be passed. The effort has only one bottom line: to improve the health services provided for students.

I encourage you to vote in the Student Government elections on Thursday. I encourage you to vote for the increase in the student health service fee.

Dr. John J. Koldus
Vice-president for student services

Vote 'no' on fee increase

EDITOR:

Here's an Ag that adamantly says "no way" to the Student Senate's proposal to increase the health center fee for all students. I realize that the costs for operating such a facility are on the rise, but there has to be a more rational and equitable method of covering the increased expenditures.

I can agree with the present system of allocating the cost of medical services over the student body so that everyone pays their fair share, but where should the line be drawn? I say at the present level of \$15 with the remaining deficit to be covered by those who actually use the facilities.

During the fall semester, I injured my knee playing intramural football. I went to the health center for the first and last time. The extent of my "diagnosis" was the doctor examining how far I could bend my knee. The doctor then proceeded to send me to physical therapy, as if the damage

would just go away. I decided to use my own common sense and visited another doctor. It was discovered that I had blown out my knee by tearing my anterior cruciate ligament. Over Christmas break my knee was reconstructed by replacement of the ligament.

I will never use the health center again and therefore am against any increase in fees for a service that I will never use. I propose a more equitable system for meeting the increase of health costs by charging a nominal fee, say \$5, for every visit. This would still be a bargain for students who would pay \$35 to \$40 for a visit to another health clinic while not placing an extra burden on those who will not use the service.

J. Drew Popelka '91
accompanied by 16 signatures

Thanks for music reviews

EDITOR:

I would like to sincerely thank you for The Battalion's coverage of the music scene here in College Station. Although I would like to see more reviews and stories on local groups and clubs, I realize that there is a limited music scene here in College Station.

Your interest in College Station's music scene will help expand listener interest in local music, which will in turn expand the music scene itself, giving you more subject matter.

Again, I thank you for beginning this positive cycle that will expand the local music scene and give more prestige to the present bands and clubs here at A&M.

Kevin Lindstrom '93

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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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 is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

