

UT embarrassed by tactics of student protestors

I am embarrassed for our rivals over in Austin.

While I was at home this past weekend, I saw a news report of how University of Texas President William Cunningham was forced to abandon addressing a crowd of over 1,000 students who were protesting racial incidents that occurred on the campus last week. The racial incidents involved two campus fraternities, which were both suspended by Cunningham last week until formal investigations can be conducted.

The news clip that I saw showed a flustered Cunningham trying to present a prepared statement about the administration's views of the racial situation on campus. Student protestors were all over him, putting their hands in front of his written words, shoving him back and forth and all the while chanting, "No More Lies." After repeatedly trying to speak to the student protestors, Cunningham left with his administrative buddies, retreating to the



Damon Arhos
Assistant Opinion Page Editor

UT Tower without delivering his address.

In an Associated Press news story, Cunningham is quoted as saying, "In an open society, we ought to be able to have a chance to express our views, but apparently that was not the case today."

"Clearly there is a problem of race relations in society. The university obviously has problems as well."

Obviously the University of Texas does have race problems. This is evident from the incidents that have occurred in the past few weeks. These problems are much like the racial problems that are

encountered here at A&M.

There is a difference, however. Those students who protested and kept Cunningham from delivering his speech are an embarrassment to the University of Texas. Protesting can be an effective means of reaching a goal when it is carried out in a non-violent, respectful way. However, those students who pushed, shoved, chanted and kept Cunningham from delivering his speech only hindered their cause.

Do you think that Cunningham has a much more positive view of their cause since he has been ostracized from their rally? If their object was to get attention from him, they surely did. Next time he'll probably stay in his office and ignore their protest altogether.

Many of the students voiced concern that the UT administration was apathetic and lacked interest and action. But how is Cunningham and the rest of the administration supposed to act if they do not yet know all of the facts? As I said before, both fraternities were

suspended pending an investigation. How can Cunningham take action when he does not yet know who is truly responsible? Doesn't an idea that one is "innocent until proven guilty" exist in this country?

Without knowing everything about both situations, it is impossible for Cunningham or the administration to take action. It would not be fair for Cunningham to immediately penalize the groups involved without first knowing what actually occurred.

Student Association President Toni Luckett seems to be leading this movement against the administration, advocating working against them instead of working with them. This idea is spreading like wildfire on the UT campus. The same Associated Press article quoted University of Texas student Chantrell Andrews, a sophomore from Dallas, as saying, "We have tried to be non-violent about this, but this could turn from Martin Luther King to Malcolm X in a matter of

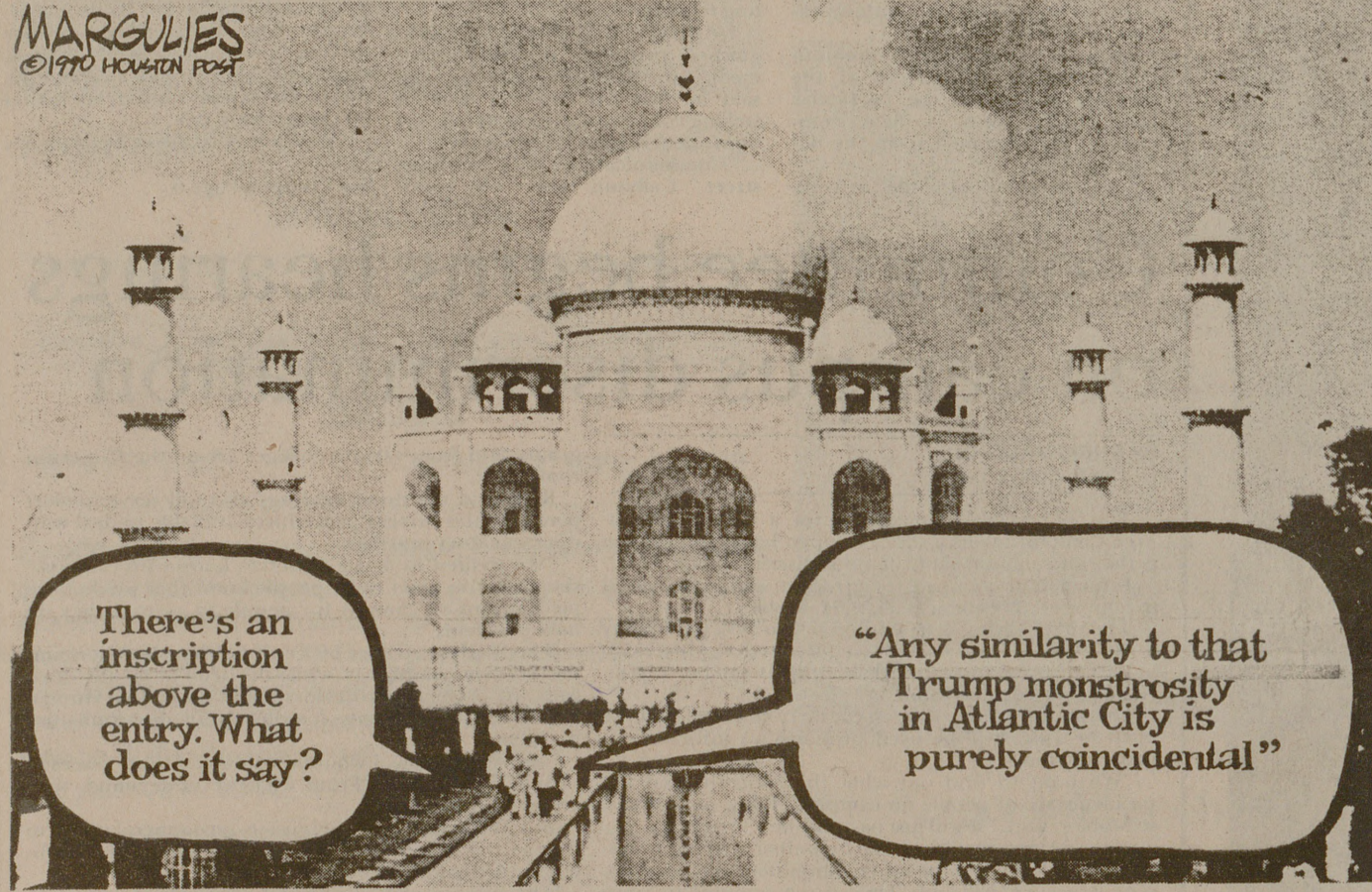
seconds." But I've got news for Luckett Andrews and for anyone else who advocates this sort of policy: Give it up because it will get you nowhere.

These students need to take a lesson from protestors and activists here at A&M. I can never remember a time when Dr. Mobley was prevented from giving speech, booed off of the podium, shoved out of the way or driven from a rally. The president of Texas A&M, we respect his title and character enough that we will hear him out. Our student leaders tend to work with the administration instead of against it, a policy which involves compromise and rationale, not militancy and unrest.

Those immature student protestors who were involved in this embarrassment need to reevaluate their views about dealing with President Cunningham and the University of Texas administration. Otherwise "Texas Fight" could take on a whole new meaning.

Damon Arhos is a senior journalism major.

MARGULIES
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Class registration 'horrific' for Aggie

Well, well, well, Aggies, it's that time again. No, I'm not talking about Aggie Muster; No, I'm not talking about finals. I'm talking about the wonderful, long, arduous, beautiful, fearful and horrific process of registration.

For the last three years I have had the misfortune of trying to get the desired classes for the following semester that would allow me to stay on course to graduate on time. But it seems like every year the classes that I want are always taken. Do I get upset when I press all those buttons and Ricky the Rude Registration computer tells me that the class that I want is closed and no other sections are open? Yes. Is it upsetting when a freshman has registered for a class, (that was closed when I registered), and she tells me that he or she got in? Yes. Is it even more upsetting when I finally get in after 18 hours of button pressing and Ricky the Rude Registration computer tells me that I am blocked (and proceeds to hang up in my face) because some poor, deprived soul gave me a parking ticket because he had to fill his hourly quota of at least 1000 parking tickets? Yes.

Roland S. Martin
Reader's Opinion

I think it is high-time that we, as college-educated upperclassmen, rebel against this University and the little twerps who have yet to pay their dues. We need to do away with this ridiculous policy of A through L and so on, and base registration on classification (for you twerps that means seniors, juniors, and YOU people). The twerps should only be able to register when EVERY upperclassman has registered for classes. I think this will put some faith back into the individuals who have attained the necessary hours to shout the words "senior" or "junior."

The University needs to make it a policy that only twerps have to stand in line and wait to register. Forget this privilege of using the phone. If a twerp is in front of a "Wise One" then the twerp has to graciously let the "Wise

One" go ahead of him (or her Gloria Steinham).

Third, we need to get rid of Ricky the Rude Registration computer and send him out to pasture. We need someone like a ... Ramona. (There needs to be some incentive to hear someone tell you that you cannot get in a class.)

Last, the University needs to provide food, drink and TV for every "Wise One" who has to stand in those damn lines. Sometimes I think they make us stand in line so they can see who will faint due to fee exhaustion. By providing the bare essentials in life, we can eat, drink and watch "All My Children" while we wait for a group of twerps who, due to a lack of hours, have yet to figure out that the registration line is not the financial aid line.

I think if the University would follow this particular registration policy, the students would be better off and I wouldn't have to hear Ricky the Rude's wife tell me that all lines are closed and I have to call back in another hour.

Roland S. Martin is a junior journalism major.

Mail Call

Perversity will crumble society

EDITOR:

Jeff Farmer at least concluded his pro-homosexual column correctly. Our society will disintegrate before our eyes if we allow the legitimization of perversity to flourish.

Mr. Farmer, do you wonder why the anti-sodomy laws were written and are on the books in over 25 states (and, in some countries, is a major offense)? There was a time when perversity was recognized for what it was, and laws were passed to try and keep it in check.

It is only because of the homosexual lobby and fearful legislators that it is even an issue.

Please read "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and learn something. Those that fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it; and in this case, the very foundation of morality and traditional values is at stake.

Gary M. Gaither
Instructional Materials Service Department

Safety should be University's main concern

EDITOR:

I am responding to the University's lack of concern for the safety of students, faculty and visitors in the areas surrounding the renovation of building C of the Langford Architecture Center.

As observation would indicate, the University is once again trying to retrofit the existing, rather than provide new facilities for the construction science department. This may be the most cost effective solution; however, this should not be incurred at the expense of public safety.

The project involves the addition of a fourth floor to building C, directly adjacent to both the Langford Architecture Building and building B, the woodshop facility.

Heavy steel columns and beams are being lifted in place (with considerably outdated building methods when compared to typical industry standards) at more than thirty feet above heavy pedestrian traffic, with little or no safety precautions being implemented. The project is contracted by a local construction company (Diamond Construction Inc., of Bryan, Texas).

Some of us might still remember the tragedy that occurred in the construction of the "new" Chemistry Building, where a construction worker was killed due to unsafe working conditions. For those of you who have never seen a construction fatality, be glad because it is not pleasant. But for those who are waiting eagerly for one to take place, just spend some time around the Architecture Center.

It would seem that a construction project directed toward the renovation of the Architecture and Construction Science facilities would exemplify construction methods and practices that were model in nature — especially in the sense of public and jobsite safety.

But then again, I guess that is what can be expected from a construction project which involves the famous Architecture Building, which has recently been aesthetically renovated by patching large areas where concrete has fallen from the exterior of the facade.

Just another safety hazard stemming from poor construction methods and practices.

Robert Long '88

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by Don Atkinson Jr.

