

Kudos to Williams' education 'voucher' support

Here is an excerpt from a speech Clayton Williams gave in Tyler: "I think the answer to education is parental choice where we give the parents the money for school and they put their kids in a private school, a new school, a church school or a public school that has had the shackles and bureaucratic chains removed."

Mr. Williams, you just earned my support. As our public (read socialist) school system crumbles under the weight of its own inefficiencies, it is an immeasurable delight to see that Texas may just have a leader who has the solution to the state's education fiasco. The plan which Williams has outlined



Andrew Matthews

Columnist

would call for the state to provide a voucher to parents, who could use this at any school of their choice. The obvious attractiveness of this plan is that by allowing parents a choice, schools will have to compete to attract students. This competition for students and their

funds would force schools to improve about this concept. It is called "The Marketplace." Housing, restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, automobiles and a million other products all function under this mechanism. What makes education any different? Opponents of the plan say that it would cost the state too much. They cite that the government would now have to pay for the 116,000 students who now attend private schools. This is true; however, the parents of these students, in addition to paying private tuition costs, have also been paying state taxes for public education. Therefore, sending them a check would simply be a

reimbursement for the public education they paid for but never used. In the long run, the cost of education would fall drastically. Invariably, the vast majority of the parents will send their children to either private schools or the better public schools in the suburbs. Most estimates show that the cost of educating a student at a private school is two-thirds the cost of a public school. Thus, more funds would be sent to the lower private schools thus cutting down on the bureaucratic lard of public school administrators, which currently consumes one half of all education expenses. But what about the role that public schools have in integrating students from all racial and economic backgrounds? Aren't our public schools the great melting pots of America? If that were the case, how integrated is our system when a school such as Yates in Houston has over ninety percent African-Americans and a high school like Klein in northwest Houston has over ninety percent Whites?

A laudable goal, but none of these band-aid improvements are going to help. The system has been crumbling despite the efforts of the best education experts in the state. All the efforts of public educators to save the state education parallel those of the never-say-die communists who thought they could revitalize the socialist system. In addition to Ann Richards, Rich Kouri, vice president of the Texas State Teachers Association, and W.N. Kirk, the state commissioner of education, opposed to parental choice. "It's a plan that seems to be targeted at destroying public education in the state of Texas," proclaims Kouri. One might ask, why is that so? It is because Kouri knows that if given the choice, most parents would prefer their children did not go to a school with drugs, gang-warfare and classes in closets? Perhaps parents would actually like their children to get an education. The next question that begs asking is would it be such a loss if these schools closed? It should come as no surprise that teachers' unions and the education bureaucrats are all against voucher solutions to education. Giving parents the option to send children to private schools will destroy the cozy government-imposed monopoly of education. This system has provided teachers and administrators with job security and guaranteed funding by state government, without the pressure of competition of the marketplace. Like all monopolies, price goes up and quality goes down. Clayton Williams, I hope, will keep forcing the issue. Parents' frustrations with Texas schools ought to make this an issue with which he can win votes. But more importantly, if elected will Williams have the wherewithal to implement his plan? For the sake of the next generation of students, I pray he does. *Andrew Matthews is a senior economics major.*



Mail Call

Capitalism trumps socialism

EDITOR: Why is it that the University professors and graduate students such as Paul Kennedy (could the surname offer a clue?) continue to treat "capitalism" as a scourge on the human race while espousing failed socialist values? While the rest of the world turns to capitalism as the savior of humanity, it seems these folks are the only ones who haven't got the message. I know the demise of socialism is dreadfully disappointing to them, but the least they could do is develop some fresh arguments rather than recite the tired old cliches Mr. Kennedy's letter is laced with.

Colin Killian
Revenue Fund Information Representative

Respect 'rules' of ticket-drawing

EDITOR: This letter is addressed to all the boneheads who seem to have a severe problem understanding "the rules" when it comes to pulling football tickets. My friends and I (along with scores of others who play by "the rules") became extremely agitated by the fact that it took 3 1/2 hours to draw tickets on Senior day. This time could be greatly reduced if: a) people don't try to draw more than ten tickets (like the whiner who got to draw 22, yes, 22, tickets after fifteen minutes of groveling,) and b) people have the proper number of upperclassmen's IDs.

So please, stop your whining at the ticket window. Take your tickets and go home to complain.

Rick Bosworth, '90
accompanied by two signatures

Cox's column showed ignorance

EDITOR: After reading and ingesting Larry Cox's benign column

concerning the removal of several statues from the University of Texas campus by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I felt an overwhelming sensation of delusion and blatant ignorance on your part, especially the impact of racially denegrating symbols as the statues of those "good-ole" civil war generals you spoke of.

Though our contemporary minority community persists in an era of many problems, it is in my opinion that articles such as yours exacerbate the ignorance which is pervasive in the Anglo-Saxon community. Your ignorance of the present and past significance of symbols and their affect on mankind seems quite apparent. Though you state that your past generations fought to protect and enhance their own self-interest, what you fail to realize is it was just that, self-interest.

The symbolic nature of slavery and those who it affected relates both to the past and present. As such, the NAACP, understanding the cultural relevance of symbols, supports their removal; and so do I. The removal of these symbols belies their reasoning that symbols represent long standing beliefs and it is also clear that you also cherish those "good ol' days" past where degradation of the African-American man's spirit was the daily Anglo-Saxon duty; But, no. Your tone concerning the actions of the NAACP aims to diminish the spirit and fervor of the African-American Man: my friend, that will never happen!

As an Anglo-Saxon with deeply "rooted" ties to your hideous past brethren, you are on the outside looking in — with the Hubble Telescope — a highly technical, bumbling near-sightedness that typifies many of you "people." In the future, base your arguments on fact, not bias.

Christopher Spotser '90

Lose Kyle Field's new disco lights

EDITOR: We've finally done it. We've gone completely over the edge and hit rock bottom — "commonplace." Over seven

years and two degrees I have watched lots and lots of changes, obviously some for the better but several for the worse. Our good sportsmanlike traditions have taken the severest beating and our new "Eich-A-Sketch" scoreboard has dealt the final blow. "Your attention please to the message scoreboard" — Yes, we've seen it: Coke the official drink of GTE financed by NCNB and stuffed down our throats by Dairy Queen. Once was enough, twice way too much, three times just plain insulting. As a true member of the 12th Man I went to support the team in the way that used to make us unique, by standing, by yelling, and by being heard. I did not go to provide an audience for hours of commercials.

I realize that it's a financial matter but if we had spent the money on the athletics and not the new unneeded board, the bright glaring signs would have been enough. I felt Saturday as though I was watching the game on TV without the comforts of my own home. The students chanted "WHOO!" at the scoreboard as the yell leaders (please note what the name suggests) continued to ask them to "rest."

The purpose of the scoreboard is to do just that, keep score, time, and track of the ball. The old board worked just fine. For over two minutes during the USL game, as cartoons rolled flawlessly across the screen, the board failed to note properly which team had possession of the ball. Once that problem was resolved we were informed that 50 minutes remained in the second quarter. The game was then interrupted and came to a complete halt in order to remedy this malfunction. Let's get our priorities straight. Let's regain the uniqueness once involved in our games. Let's lose the disco lights at the south end of Kyle Field. I'm sure that Reveilles I-IV are not at all amused.

Jason Bruemmer '87
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)
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

- Cindy McMillian, Editor
- Timm Doolen, Managing Editor
- Ellen Hobbs, Opinion Page Editor
- Holly Becka, City Editor
- Kathy Cox, Kristin North, News Editors
- Nadja Sabawala, Sports Editor
- Eric Roalson, Art Director
- Lisa Ann Robertson, Lifestyles Editor

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

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. Newsroom: 845-9313.

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year: 845-2611. Advertising rates furnished on request: 845-2696.

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.

