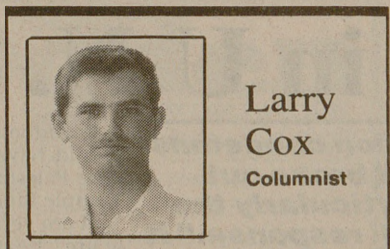


Tree huggers and faculty, don't pick on bonfire

Ah, fall. When a college student's mind turns to football and, of course, bonfire.

Following first cut last Sunday I sat down with the intent of writing a scathing condemnation of the group Aggies Against Bonfire. After several hours of contemplation, though, I realized that a handful of long-haired tree huggers posed absolutely no danger to the continued existence and longevity of bonfire. Suffice it to say that the transcendental zeal with which they pursue their naturist philosophies would be put to better use by doing something other than sitting cross-legged in a circle and communing with nature.

The real danger to bonfire's continued existence comes from student apathy, in particular a lack of off-campus participation in its construction. Proposed changes in bonfire by various



Larry Cox
Columnist

groups around the University (and even in Austin), in particular those proposed by the Faculty Senate, will tend to promote student non-participation and ultimately lead to the end of bonfire.

The Faculty Senate, as many of you will recall, came out with a report which recommended a 50-percent reduction in the size of bonfire and a minimum grade point requirement for those working on it. This report followed a state legislative committee report which came out with a number of useless

suggestions (an Austin committee changing bonfire?) as well as the opposition of a number of local church groups to bonfire's continuation.

Evidently the Faculty Senate is not satisfied with overseeing the research and academic integrity of our institution, and has decided to give to itself the power of traditions review. Both of the aforementioned suggestions are needless and unwanted intrusions into the social lives and free time of the student body.

Yes, bonfire is a social activity. It is sponsored by the University and open to all students. When a student comes to college he or she must decide what to do during free periods, whether or not to study and ultimately whether they have the intestinal fortitude to do well enough to be invited back for another semester.

Any student who flunks out can only blame the person they look at in the mirror every morning. Blaming bonfire or anything else is a cop-out.

Putting a grade point requirement on bonfire is like checking GPR's at the door of the Chicken or outside church. How students spend their free time is now and should in the future be up to them. The Faculty Senate is simply trying to play Mother Hen by regulating Saturday or Sunday morning activities.

Admittedly, Corps of Cadets members have several mandatory cut weekends which might come at inopportune times during the semester. A grade point requirement might be useful in that situation. A grade point requirement for non-regs who participate voluntarily, however, will only reduce participation and induce

apathy, while having no effect on the academic performance of any student.

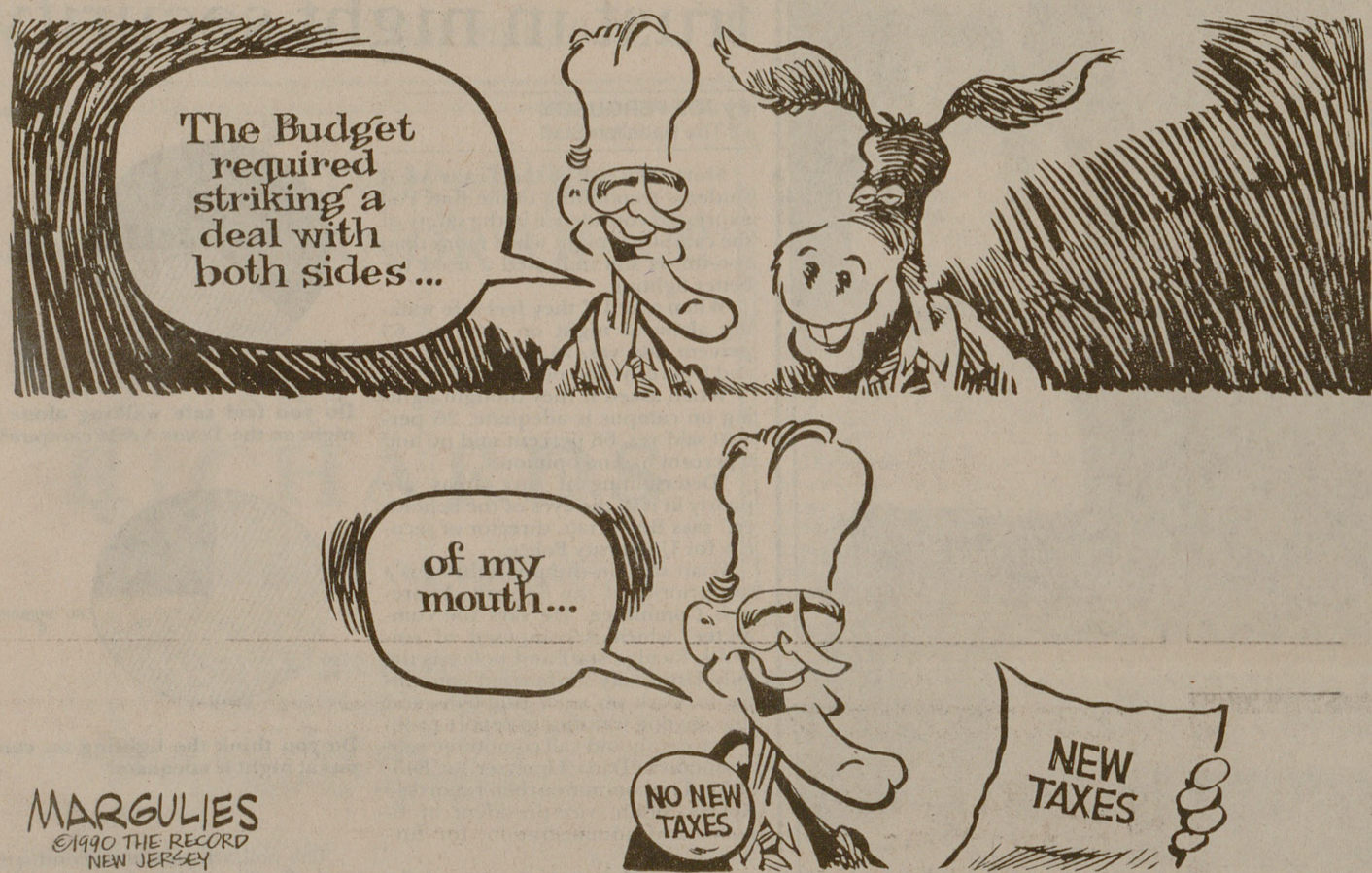
The proposed 50-percent size reduction is also a useless gesture. The trees must be cut anyway in order for mining to occur on the cut site later in the year. The tree huggers are apparently opposed to electricity generation, or too spaced to realize that mined land will be replanted. The Faculty Senate knows better. The call for the size to be "more in line with the beginning" (when there were less than four thousand students) is simply a move to reduce participation.

The campus Gestapo's crackdown on drinking at bonfire was done in the name of the old days also. Bull. I've talked to old Ags who spoke of hitchhiking to Navasota to buy booze for bonfire way back when. It has always been a

celebration of school spirit (translation: party), rather than family affair for the kids. The verbal harassment and persecution of student revelers by storm troopers last year will decrease attendance in the future, thus increasing apathy. Curtail the debauchery by all means, but leave the somber mood for Muster.

If anything, bonfire should be bigger. More student participation would result in a more unified and spirited student body. Let the Faculty Senate stick to academics and research and leave traditions to the students. Let Aggies Against Bonfire hug trees or commune with Mother Nature's karma or whatever. But don't try to fix something that isn't broken and don't try to tell me how to spend my free time.

Larry Cox is a graduate student in range science.



MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

Clayton Williams: the biggest Aggie joke

Texans have only one month left to decide who they will vote for as the next governor of the great state of Texas. It seems virtually assured, based on the latest polls, that Clayton Williams will reside in the governor's mansion for the next four years. What a shame.

For the past six months Williams has canvassed the state flashing his big Texas smile, spending his big Texas bucks, tipping his big Texas hat, and putting his big Texas foot in his big Texas mouth.

Throughout the campaign he has made one gaffe after another and had them excused by his supporters as the "mistakes of a political neophyte".

I cannot envision how Texans can tolerate a complete imbecile such as Clayton Williams. If I were a Republican, I would be making a serious query into the Democratic Party.

I wonder how ol' Claytie would feel if someone made a remark concerning his son's previous drug problem?

He has insulted women and other human beings who possess feelings by comparing bad weather to rape by remarking, "if it's inevitable, just lay back and enjoy it." He stated two weeks ago that he would rope his gubernatorial opponent Ann Richards like a calf and drag her through the mud. And once again his supporters excused his remarks by saying, "Oh Claytie, he's so funny." Please.

Well Claytie, what excuse do your supporters offer concerning your latest screw up?

Williams responded last week to Richards claims that the gap between her and Williams is closing by saying, "I hope she hasn't started drinking again."

It seems unbelievable that Williams could make such a stupid and insensitive remark about a woman who just last week marked her 10th year of sobriety.

Roland S. Martin
Reader's Opinion

I cannot envision how Texans can tolerate a complete imbecile such as Clayton Williams. If I were a Republican, I would be making a serious query into the Democratic Party.

I wonder how ol' Claytie would feel if someone made a remark concerning his son's previous drug problem? I wonder if ol' Claytie would mind seeing his son busting rocks, as Williams so proudly proclaims drug offenders do in his political platform, also known as a 30-second commercial.

It is embarrassing to talk to people outside of Texas who have the unfortunate opportunity of seeing a living image of the infamous Texas stereotype on national TV. I find myself defending Texans from such an idiotic representation of a "true Texan."

No longer do we elect people based upon their accomplishments. Sure, Williams has been a successful businessman. He also was a heavily indebted businessman. He says he wants to put Texas back on the right track.

Well tell me Clayton, why didn't you do something when your good buddy Bill Clements sat in the governor's mansion? Remember him? Of course not, we don't either.

Williams spent nearly six million dollars of his own money to win the Republican primary. Well Claytie, my vote isn't for sale. I can see that a 30-second commercial lasts for 30 seconds not four years!

How can we, as Texans, rest comfortably when we could have someone like Clayton Williams representing us? Do you feel assured having someone like him representing you around the state and abroad? I'd trust a thief with my best silver first.

On the homefront, it's even more embarrassing to envision Clayton Williams as the first Aggie governor in the history of Texas. Now tell me, can you think of a bigger Aggie joke?

Roland S. Martin is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

Democrat Ags also run for office

EDITOR:

The partisan group calling themselves "6 Ags for Texas" should be renamed "6 Republican Ags for Texas." There are several more Aggies that will be on the ballot this fall other than the slate of six Republicans that this group is pushing.

Missing from the Republican's list are John Sharp, the Democratic candidate for State Comptroller, and Garry Mauro, the incumbent Land Commissioner; both are A&M graduates.

Another Aggie missing from their list is Jim James, the Democratic candidate for State Representative. Since both candidates running for the State Representative seat are A&M graduates this means that students who are ignorant of the issues and base their votes strictly on a candidate's ties to A&M will have to flip a coin in this race.

Michael Worsham is an Aggie graduate student and founder of the Texas Environmental Action League here on campus. He is a write-in candidate challenging Republican incumbent Joe Barton for the sixth district U.S. congressional seat.

If you are in a throw-the-bums-out mood then there is no better place to start than with "Big Business" Barton, one of the biggest recipients of PAC money from big business interests currently fighting against clean air legislation and

other environmental issues in the House of Representatives.

Since Phil Gramm is considered to be an Aggie because he once taught some economics classes here then certainly Sarah Ryan, the Democratic candidate for County Court-at-Law, should also be considered an Aggie since she once taught several business courses here.

Finally, if we are going to have such loose definitions of who is an Aggie then we must also include Mary Ann Ward, the Democratic candidate for County Clerk. Mary Ann Ward is a lifelong resident of Bryan/College Station and while she herself did not attend A&M most of her family did, including her father who played football for the Aggies back in the 1930s. Mary Ann Ward has been working in the County Clerk's office for the past 17 years, and I don't believe that you will find anyone on the ballot who is more deserving of the office that they seek.

So the next time you see the group calling themselves "6 Ags for Texas" pushing their slate of Republican candidates remember that these are not the only Aggies in the race. And now that we know who most of the Aggies are, I want to encourage everyone not to vote for a candidate based solely on their race, sex, or school affiliation; rather you should vote for someone based on their experience, qualifications, and stand on the issues. I don't believe that this is asking too much.

Mike Thomas '87

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson



The Battalion

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