

## EDITORIALS

The following opinions are a consensus of The Battalion's opinion staff and senior editors.

### MLK

#### A&M organizations do him justice

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great orator, leader and spiritual conscience of the American people.

King's message of peace and equality for all people struck a chord deep in the souls of many Americans. His philosophy of nonviolence opened America's eyes to the injustice and oppression of blacks and other minorities.

But he should not be considered solely a black hero. People of all races should strive to achieve King's dream of universal brotherhood.

To pay tribute to King's achievements and efforts, many Texas A&M students celebrated his birthday this week. The celebration started with a musical tribute by local residents at the Lincoln Recreation Center in College Station on Saturday.

On Monday, the Department of Multicultural Services sponsored a video tribute to King, and the Committee on Multicultural Awareness (COMA) sponsored Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Wednesday.

Also, the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference, which focuses on minority leadership, continues at the MSC through Sunday. "I'm sure Dr. King would have tears of joy just to look out onto this crowd and see such a gleeful and joyous gathering," Student Body President Steven Ruth said after speaking at Wednesday's celebration which COMA sponsored.

We commend all who participated in these activities.

King worked hard to lay the foundations that work toward his goal. His persistence and effort enabled many civil rights laws to be passed. In addition, he helped organize and support the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Congress of Racial Equality, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, National Council of Negro Women, American Foundation on Nonviolence, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, all of

which promote the idea of nonviolent change.

King's belief in nonviolence was a means to gain equality for all oppressed people. His philosophy is best described in one of his most well-known speeches.

"Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral," King said. "It is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than convert."

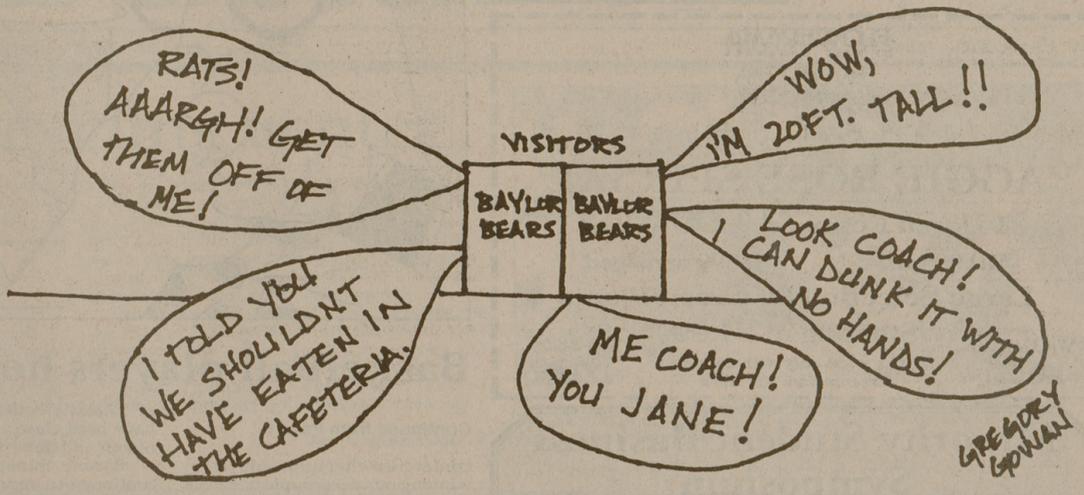
Due in large part to his efforts, segregation of public facilities and private businesses has been abolished and basic civil rights and privileges are shared by all Americans. Much has been accomplished, but the fight for equality and freedom still goes on.

King's message is still ignored by many. January 20, the day the nation paid tribute to him, was marred by riots in Denver and the acknowledgment that racism still exists in many covert forms.

King, should be remembered not simply as a martyr, leader or even great orator, but as a man of peace who saw a potential and greatness in America few others could imagine. King realized America has the ability to create equality among all creeds and races.

We all must remember King's message, understand his message, teach his message and practice his message. For these are not thoughts or ideas of one man or race but a philosophy instilled in the very fiber of all humanity. When humanity finally accepts equality, freedom and love for all, then we all can sing the words of that old spiritual that King made so famous: "Free at last! Free at last! Great, God all-mighty! We're free at last!"

YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER A DIFFERENT DIMENSION. ONE WHERE YOUR MIND LEAVES YOUR BODY, YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF REALITY. WELCOME TO..... THE CARBON MONOXIDE ZONE



## Responsibility for yourself

People should do good for its own sake, not fear consequences

It's cold and it's getting colder. I hear another cold front's coming in so it seems a good night as any to start a great big cracklin' fire in the fire place! Oh, and what have we here but a few faded old (Fall '91) liberal Opinion Pages - there's just nothing better to get good fire going'. Why don't we glance at a few lines as they blaze to see which way the winds of youthful idealistic journalism are blowing.

**Guest Column**  
**Patrick Dixon**  
is a graduate student in business administration

**JOURNALISTS** must remain uninformed

"Adopt attitude of indifference"  
"PC changes harm no one" (suppress the laughter, it gets better)

"AIDS is a problem that needs to be attacked using any means necessary." (Any means?! Well just what should we do for the top 10 national causes of death then?)

"Society develops moral standards"  
"The excessive conservatism of this university is choking its attempt to become a world class institution."

Burn, burn, burn.  
Isn't it funny how smoke just eats a bad odor right up?!

"Choking its attempt to ...." Oh, come on!! Enough already! That's like saying the Marines will never be a world class outfit 'til they're allowed to wear pink polka-dotted uniforms and tattoos on their foreheads. Or that the Bolshoi will never really be a good ballet company until they can do it without wearing those silly tights and hopping' around on their toes!

**PEOPLE** wake up! Where in the sam hill do they get this stuff?!

It is time for the winds to change.

Oh, hey, here's one that really takes the cheese cake: "Scientists should concentrate research on techniques to lengthen life span." ...."Only when we are able to be 200 will we have time to take life seriously...and we finally would become responsible human beings." Presto!

(Yes, ladies and gentlemen, that was printed in your very own school newspaper and not in The Top 101 Answers Not to Give if You Are a Pageant Finalist.)

Starting with us at Texas A&M, it's time for the rational, common sense leaders of tomorrow to begin accepting responsibility for our own actions. Nearly everywhere one looks in society today, people are trying to pin the responsibility for their circumstances on someone else. All too often they blame the government.

Part of being responsible means reaching out and helping our neighbors, and those less fortunate as well, so that the government can start doing less and less, instead of snowballing into a magnetic trap of socialistic dependency.

Is it possible, that responsibility, virtue and integrity floated out the window around the same time that our absolutes became unpopular?

**FOR ALL** those who have no supreme values except those of personal peace and affluence, consider the words of Solzhenitsyn about the Russian youth of his day: "Young people are acquiring the conviction that foul deeds are never punished on Earth, that they always bring prosperity. It is going to be uncomfortable, horrible to live in such a country."

As the question was for them, so it will be for our own American culture and our next generation. It is one of absolutes and truth, not simply one of equality and multiculturalism. There must be a true foundation for there to be dignity, virtue and value of human life.

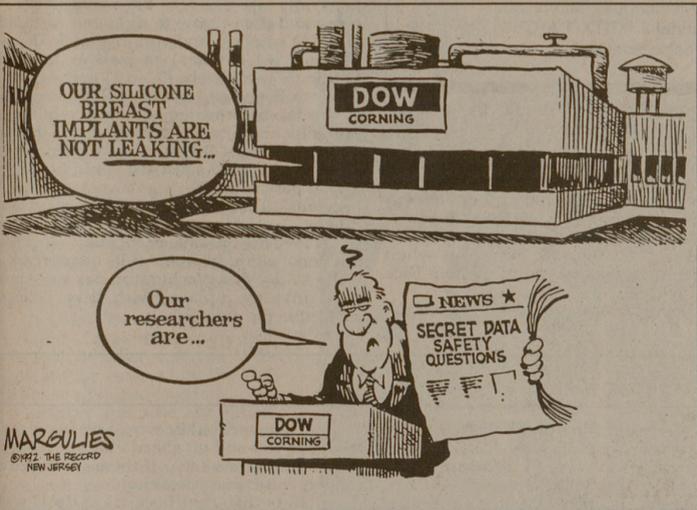
We must learn from the strengths and mistakes of our own past and then that of others in order to make the future of America strong and truly free. The last thing we need to do is blend into this valueless, "I'm-ok-you're-ok," multiculturally diverse nothingness!

Dr. Francis Schaeffer kept a portrait of a young Hungarian girl, who was executed for protesting the communist takeover in '56, to remember: "Forget the past and you will lose both eyes."

I could not end this little essay any better than to let you read the observations of one highly esteemed individual who has watched this America turn dark before his very eyes from a most unique perspective. Please thoughtfully consider the following words of ABC anchorman Ted Koppel from his May 1987 address to the graduates of Duke University:

"**WE HAVE** actually convinced ourselves that slogans will save us. 'Shoot up if you must but use a clean needle. Enjoy sex whenever and with whomever you wish, but wear a condom. No. The answer is no. Not because it isn't cool, or smart, or because you might end up in jail or dying in an AIDS ward - but no because it's wrong."

"What Moses brought down from Mount Sinai were not the Ten Commandments .... They are Commandments. Are, not were."



## Mail Call

### Send tax dollars to state, not D.C.

The quickest way to repay the national debt and give the states back their sovereignty is to stop sending our, yours and mine, income tax money to Washington and instead send it to our own statehouse. We realize about 25 cents back for every dollar which we send to D.C. for the boys to play with. Think what your state could accomplish with the whole dollar.

If that raises an eyebrow, think about this for a moment. Why do we need those guys in D.C.?? We can save 10 to 20 billion dollars a year by dissolving the Congress and letting the states run the country. The 50 governors meet with the president at his request to take care of any matters that would be of international concern.

The governors are more than able to take care of concerns with adjoining states than are the men we have in D.C. who only have four concerns: get re-elected, vote for legislation that favors campaign contributors, vote against anything proposed by the other party and vote for a healthy pay raise. The Congressional Ten Commandments all rolled into one phrase, "Congress is above the law, just be careful and don't get caught."

I could list a few undesirable things that go on such as their denouncing any idea of disclosing

one's net worth, the enacting of an ethics bill, limiting the terms of members and the disclosure of expense accounts. But these things also go on at the local level, so there isn't too much to hopefully gain there. Take the matter of the expense account and who takes his secretary along, or, his wife, family and a few cousins. Include a globe-trotting president who wouldn't think of using trips as a re-election gimmick, and we can save another billion or two.

Here's an idea to save another two to five billion dollars. Dissolve the Supreme Court. Every state already has its own Supreme Court in addition to all of the lower courts. Let each state make its own ruling on abortion or any other matter which concerns it alone.

Dissolving the Internal Revenue Service will be another huge savings. Plus, it will take the local tax collectors awhile to write as many loopholes into the 1040's and other forms. After all, the IRS has had 100 year start at polishing the holes.

We are at a time when many people are in favor of limiting the term of public officials. A program called Throw the Rascals Out (THRO) is beginning to get more recognition a little at a time, but it doesn't go far enough. It is run by Jack Gargon. At present, the group does not have an address. But Gargon has been receiving unsolicited mail from all over the country.

Eugene Antoineta  
Bryan Resident

### Reader challenges Batt's JFK 'facts'

The "JFK" warning published in a January 22 editorial made several valid points, but presented a few "facts" that need qualifying. I will reference my information using the Jim Marrs book "Crossfire," so you may research and decide for yourselves what you believe. Marrs is a Dallas journalist and an instructor at the University of Texas-Arlington.

The editorial stated as fact that all shots were fired from Oswald's rifle and hit the President and Governor Connally from the rear, as "proven" by the official autopsy and ballistics experts. These "facts" agree with the Warren Commission reports.

The official autopsy has been questioned for years (see Marrs, 368-379).

The only bullet linked to the Oswald rifle was not removed from the President or Governor Connally to be held as evidence. The bullet was found in Parkland Hospital in a public hallway on a stretcher that neither the President nor Governor Connally had occupied. According to the Warren Commission, this single bullet hit both the President and Governor Connally, causing a total of seven wounds. The Warren Commission also stated that this bullet was fired

from Oswald's rifle, according to ballistics test. This bullet, as pictured in the Warren report, was shaped differently than the bullet found in Parkland, according to Parkland head of security O.P. Wright (Marrs, 363-365). No proof even exists that the Oswald rifle was even fired November 22, 1963. The discovery of this bullet does not prove the Oswald rifle killed the president, no matter what the Warren Commission (or the Battalion) says.

I do not agree with Stone's conclusions in "JFK." I also do not agree with a newspaper that states half-truths based on inadequate research as gospel. "JFK" is a movie and should be viewed as such. The Battalion, as a newspaper, should be more careful with its "facts."

David Mott  
Graduate Student

#### Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters are welcome. Letters must be signed and must include classification, address and a daytime phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee the letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.