

## The Battalion Editorial Board

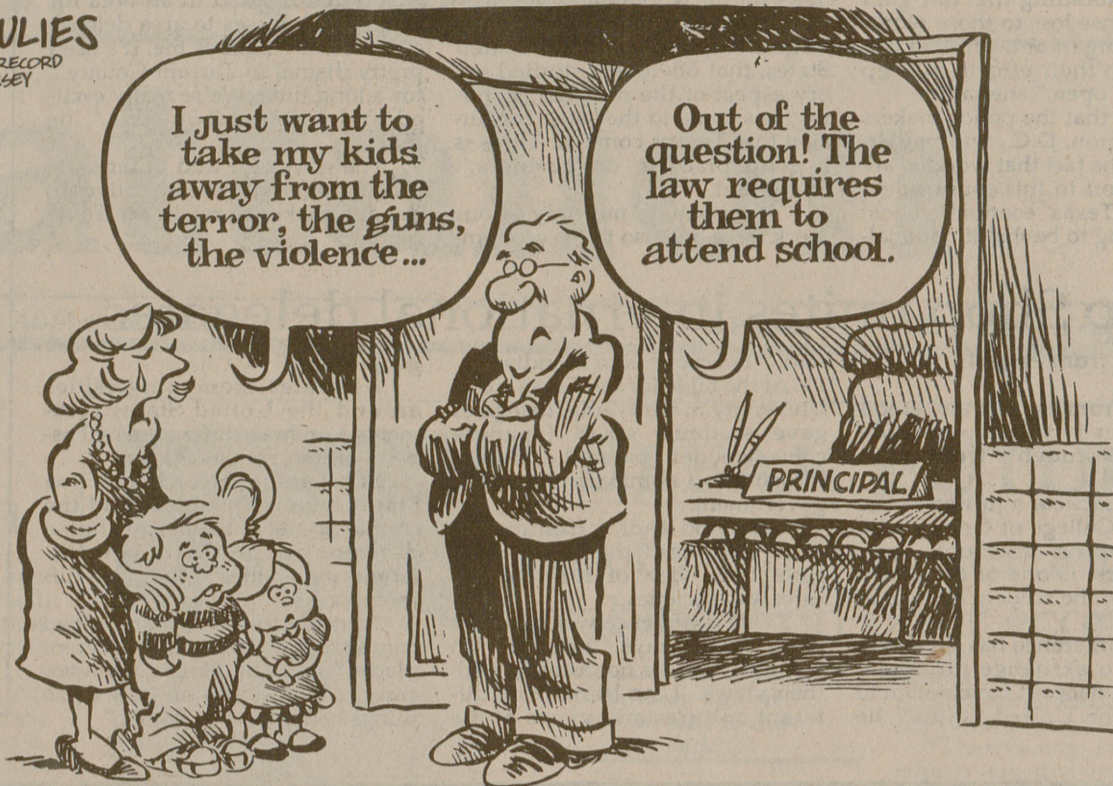
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The following opinions are a consensus of The Battalion opinion staff and senior editors.

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## Student president

### Restrictions on office limit rights

Tonight the Texas A&M Student Senate is considering action which will affect us all and cannot be allowed.

Last week, the Rules and Regulations Committee of the Student Senate introduced a change in the requirements of candidates for Student Body President. The committee wants all candidates for the position to have previous Student Government experience. This is akin to requiring the President of the United States to have served as a senator, cabinet member or vice-president.

The proposal severely limits the number of potential candidates to around 100 instead of the current number of approximately every student on campus.

While the concept of previous experience is noble, it only short-changes the student body. By allowing only the same group of people to hold the positions of power, new ideas are unable to surface, resulting in the same old problems and methods. In any setting, whether it be the U.S. government or our student government, new ideas are the life blood.

Student Government is not the only place for leaders to develop. The Corps of Cadets, fraternities, sororities, MSC

committees and other groups offer just as many roles for hands-on leadership training from which the Student Government could benefit.

However, when the number of candidates is limited, the voice of most of the student body will be silenced. It is unrealistic to think that in a small group of like-minded people someone who represents a true majority will be found. As Steve Beller, long-time student government participant, says, the president "is not only responsible for student government, but for the entire student body as a voice representing it to the students, faculty and staff, former students, visitors, Texas and the nation."

The proposed rule also suggests that A&M students are not smart enough to pick a qualified president. We believe A&M students are as qualified as Student Government members to pick their representative.

With student government elections rapidly approaching, the proposed action has the smell of elitism and exclusionary tactics. As the inheritors of a democratic culture, we cannot allow this restrictive rule to take effect.

The students of Texas A&M deserve better.

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT



## Film firsts

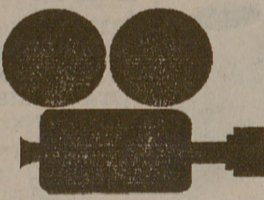
### Oscar nominations bring refreshing change

The Oscar nominations released Thursday focus a bright light on the sometimes seamy and seedy elements of the motion picture industry. When so many movies today focus on violence and sex to garner a box office share, the nominations of "Beauty and the Beast" for best picture and of John Singleton for best director offer a refreshing change in a world that is too often swayed by glitz and glam-

"Silence of the Lambs", and "Prince of Tides."

Another first for the Oscars is the nomination of John Singleton, director of "Boyz 'N the Hood", for best director. Singleton at 23 is the youngest person ever to be nominated for the award. And even more significantly, he is the first black director to receive a nomination. Singleton's achievement with "Boyz 'N the Hood" brought home to audiences the tragic plight of inner-city black youth. The movie was a powerful, gripping project which spared no emotion in revealing the ugly truths of our nation's inner cities. His laudable accomplishment with "Boyz in the Hood" and his subsequent nomination for best director establishes Singleton as a role-model for both the groups he portrayed in his movie and for moviegoers nationwide.

Both "Beauty and the Beast" and "Boyz 'N the Hood" warrant a viewing by moviegoers throughout the country for the powerful images they convey and for the significant achievements of their makers. Good luck to both John Singleton and "Beauty and the Beast" in their Oscar bids.



For the first time, an animated film, "Beauty and the Beast", has been nominated for best picture. While bloodbaths like "Rambo" and "Terminator 2" rake in millions of movie-going dollars, Disney continues to produce family entertainment. How marvelous that a movie so positive and so fun can have a shot at winning Hollywood's most coveted award — an award that usually goes to epic dramas like "Chandni." For over half a century, Disney has brought laughs, smiles and tears to international audiences from "Fantasia" to "The Little Mermaid." The academy is commended for its break from the traditional pool of nominations by allowing "Beauty and the Beast" to compete with the likes of "Bugsy", "JFK",

## Couch potato philosophy

### Dieters cannot expect to get in shape a week before spring break

Just when I was getting used to wearing my turtle-necks and wool coat, Mother Nature gave us a sign that winter may be short-lived this year. Spring is coming and the campus is being transformed into a warm-weather resort with volleyball, softball and even bikini-lined beaches galore. The cool thing to do is no longer to stay indoors and rent movies and video games but to throw frisbies while rollerblading in the sun or have romantic picnics at Research Park. (All this and we claim not to worship a sun god!)

Spring seems to change students' lifestyles in many different ways. People realize they can no longer hide in their extra-large maroon and white sweats that they received from their grandmother for Christmas. While attempting to shed those extra layers of clothing, they apprehend a bit too late that maybe it was not such a good idea to gorge on pepperoni rolls and candy bars all through last semester.

Now, miraculously, these same beer-guzzling, pizza-scarfing couch potatoes suddenly become new-and-improved, sprout-eating pseudo-vegetarians. The one-time connoisseurs of cholesterol-filled burgers and fries undergo metamorphosis to become rabbit-like creatures whose main staples are lettuce and tofu. Not that I have anything against vegetarians — personally, I agree with many of the humanitarian philosophies behind it — but I do wonder about people who change their lifestyles 180 degrees overnight without knowing just what they are doing.

The same type of quick transformation can be found within the walls of Aggieland's oh-so-famous DeWare Fieldhouse. On the chilly mornings of November and December, an observer of the facility would be greeted by the honest-to-God sweat of those hard-core muscle machines who work

out more in one day than the majority of the population has for the last five years combined. But a follow-up tour in the spring would reveal a slightly deviated picture dominated by normally sedentary individuals who are anxiously racing against the clock to get in shape for their spring break trip to Padre Island, which is less than one month away.

Now there's nothing wrong with actually starting a fitness program or doing some new exercise. My complaint is about the people who spend a truckload of money on new workout clothes and cross-trainers while limiting their actual workout to the walk from their car in the parking lot to the gym. Once in the gym, they may do a couple of curls with roughly a 5-pound weight or ride the exercise bike for ten minutes, but that's about it. And they wonder why they don't get in shape! You may be wondering why I am harping on innocent heads of lettuce and wholesome health clubs. The point is that both the food and exercise commentaries point out basic flaws in our society. First, in today's mile-a-minute roadrace of life, people want everything instantaneously. They expect things to be handed to them on a silver platter without having to work to obtain them. Also, on the once-in-a-maroon-moon occasion when the things people are actually striving for goals which can be classified as positive in nature, they end up wanting them for the wrong reasons.

For example, dorm inhabitants binge on mozzarella sticks every weeknight for a semester and a half yet they expect to go to one aerobics class and burn off enough fat to fit into that little size 5 bikini. They don't understand that it takes years of hard work and health-conscious eating to be able to look like a model (except, of course, if you're Cher!). You can't look like an athletic person if you're eating low-calorie salads for lunch at the same time you're hanging out at an ice cream shop every Sunday night.

The epitome of these "get in shape quick" types is the person who puts on his or her running shoes on Saturday only to end up laying out in the sun on the Commons beach resort with a bag of potato chips dipped in

low-calorie ranch dressing. The only exercise opportunity the person uses is the motion of a hand moving back and forth to feed a mouth.

Right now the bleeding hearts among us are probably saying that I should not be criticizing people who are trying to take a step in the right direction by introducing a little exercise into their lives. Truthfully, my goal is not to make fun of those who have tried to change their living patterns, but who lacked the necessary willpower. That would require degrading my own persona as well. I know that any person who is truly serious about entering into a new exercise program or diet will cheat every once in a while, but I have very little sympathy or respect for the people who want to better themselves just for material reasons or passing pleasures.

Wanting to improve the quality of one's health should not be a short-term goal for the purpose of attracting a member of the opposite sex during the week of March 15-20. It should be a lifetime aim for a healthier body and mind which incorporates all aspects of one's life.

Physical fitness is just like any other healthy habit in that it requires practice. Like brushing your teeth, it must be done on a regular basis for it to do any good. You also have to want it for yourself and not just to impress the people who will see you in shorts or a bathing suit. Everyone knows that a healthy body will by no means appear over night. It takes daily effort over a long period of time, which is something our society has taught us not to believe in. In re-evaluating the reasons why we want to be physically fit, a little hard work seems a fair price to pay for a healthier, more enjoyable life. You will have the opportunity to meet new and interesting people who have similar healthy outlooks on living. And in the long run, these new friends will be much more fulfilling than those ex-couch potatoes you were trying to attract in the first place!

Saddler is a freshman psychology major



Lori Saddler

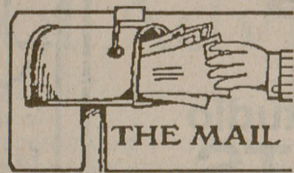
## Mail Call

### Corps members show intolerance

Last Tuesday, at around 5 p.m. on the second floor of Bldg C in the Langford Architecture Complex, I witnessed the confirmation of a stereotype. Four members of the Corps, apparently having just left class, were hovered around a bulletin board. All snickering, three stood by while one of them scribbled something on a posted notice. They were just leaving as I approached and I stopped to look at what and on what they had written. On an announcement for a ProChoice meeting on campus that evening they had penned in that ProChoice "... is for communists & sluts..." This may have been an isolated incident, and this may have been just four guys having fun being politically incorrect; they are certainly entitled to their beliefs and the expressions of those beliefs. But I would be less than honest if I did not admit to interpreting this

as a sad reminder of the strong undercurrents of intolerance and ignorance that remain institutionalized at Texas A&M.

Louis G. Tassinary, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor and Director



### Batt ready for trash TV

Far more hilarious than the requisite swill of

Stacy Feducia's most recent column was the adjoining editorial submitted by the Battalion staff in the Feb. 20 issue. How appropriate for a newspaper that, in the space of one week, has run both a front-page photo of a "naked" sunbather and a scintillating discussion on the beauty of "butt crack" to crusade for the end of tabloid journalism.

Give me a break. In the card game of tabloid journalism, Stacy Feducia is a trump card. She continues her vulgarity-is-vogue campaign, much to the delight of the Batt staff, because she and The Battalion are hungry for attention. If shock value is your goal, by all means - keep running her vacuous column. But don't expect your readers to stand and applaud your indignation at "reputable establishments (that) fail to live up to their own standards." Frankly, I have a sneaking suspicion that the entire Batt staff is angling for a guest appearance on the Maury Povich Show.

Jennifer Maloney '91  
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. They should be 250 words or less. 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 845-2647.