

The Battalion Editorial Board

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

Book cuts

Journal reductions add to library's woes

With the announcement that subscription fees for academic journals will jump by 13 percent this year comes the reality that the Sterling C. Evans Library does not have enough money to handle the increase. Different departments will be affected in accordance with the costs of their journals, but the overall results will be fewer journals in a library that is already deficient in that area.

Students and faculty have suffered budget cuts, section cuts and fee increases while new buildings have popped up around us. If there is money to be found, raised or begged, for these things, then it is unacceptable to allow our library to be handicapped by cutting off journal subscriptions.

"I find it very alarming that the University can't come up with \$400,000 to meet the costs," said James Rosenheim, a professor of history. "The library is a fundamental commitment, and I think this is time to show the fundamental commitment in real terms."

In addition to faculty protests, students find it disheartening that journal cuts may occur in a library that already finds it necessary to bus researchers to the University of Texas in order to access crucial information.

The Sterling C. Evans Library serves more than 41,000 students. As it is,

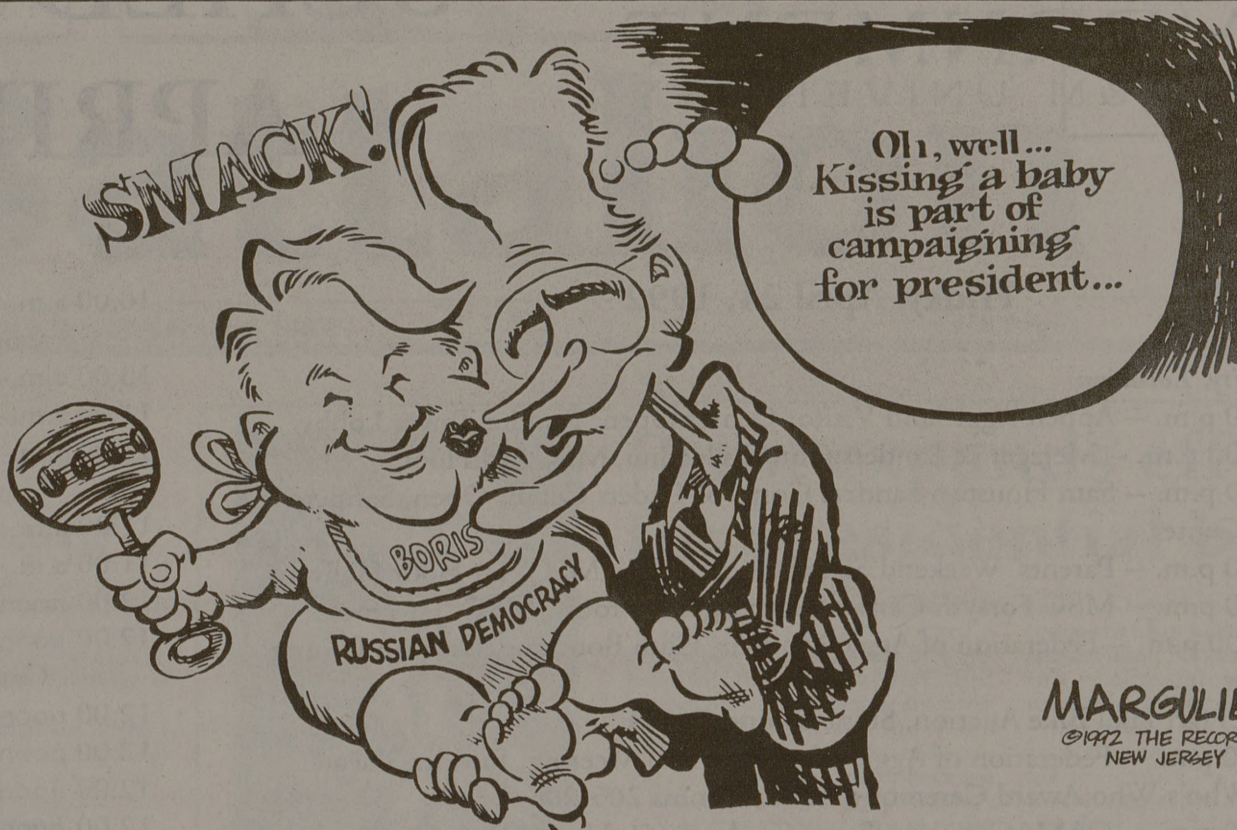
students often spend hours in search of journals that have not been reshelved or simply cannot be found. While reshelving is an unavoidable problem due to students' unwillingness to return the material they pulled, it would be a great improvement if more than one copy of each journal existed among the more popular subscriptions.

The reality, at least among the vast majority of A&M students, is that the quality and quantity of information available in our library is an embarrassment. This is an obvious result of a lack of funding in such a crucial area.

The administration at this University first needs to see to it that journal subscriptions are not cut. But this is not enough. Our library needs more material, which means more room.

If this school has the resources for a new parking garage and student center, then it should have the resources to improve the quality of our library. After all, it is the quality of education that should be the first and most important consideration among administrators.

Allowing resources to be cut at a library that could already stand improvement sends a message to students that education is at the bottom of the priority list.



MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

Conceptual hell

Everyday occurrences relate closely to netherworld's experience

Last week while gaily traipsing across the pounded cow-paths of our should-be-green campus grounds, I noticed a quaint t-shirt back, faintly yellowed from the stains of armpits past, and the shirt went something like this: "Chem-E: Because everyone needs a concept of HELL."

I agree. I do think everyone needs a concept of hell, because all too often we tend to take our worthless, petty, trivial existences a bit too seriously — or hadn't you figured that out yet?

And since the Batt has of late evolved into a religious tract along the lines of televangelism and questing for better meaning in the daily droning of our dull existences, rather than share with you a tried and true heathen concept of heaven, I thought I'd give you some concepts of hell.

I mean I watch these extraordinarily sexist beer commercials on TV — usually during sporting events that require remote controls and beer guts — and I hear the words echoing, "Wouldn't it be great if..." and out spews some pre-pubescent wet dream with Swedish bikini teams and all the cold, free substandard beer you can drink.

What if the tables were turned? Wouldn't it be great if someone could show us how bad it could be, rather

than how great it could be? Wouldn't it be great if we had a list of concepts of hell which we could reference, because we're not all Chem-E majors, and because most of us don't have our own concepts of hell. So here it is, just in time for exams: "The Stacy Feducia Quit Your Whining Because At Least Your Life Isn't This Bad Concepts of Hell List"

Take your pick and quit your whining, especially during these trying times.

- Wouldn't it be hell if you were trapped in a small Arkansas town in which the only radio stations to be found were the country station which was saluting Garth Brooks and the Top 40 station which was doing the Bryan Adams "Everything I Do I Do It for You" marathon?
- Wouldn't it be hell if every weekend were Parent's Weekend and you had to clean up your room and pretend you didn't drink so much every weekend? (Granted, I like Parents Weekend, but my own private concept of hell and Parents Weekend stems from the fact that Aggies drive badly enough as it is — HELL is when the people who taught them to drive converge on College Station in minivans, station wagons and sport-utility vehicles).
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were trapped in the elevator going to the sorority rush forum with a wall of mutant perfume toxins and bows with hormone problems?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were trapped in an elevator with the muzak versions of Stairway to Heaven and Freebird playing constantly?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were as stupid as the woman I saw in the

bookstore last week who asked the salesman for a copy of the book "Malcolm Ten?" When the salesman asked her (and I will admit she was wearing a bow) if she meant the book Malcolm X, she pertly replied "NO! It's Malcolm Ten! It's my prof, don't you think I know what book is assigned?"

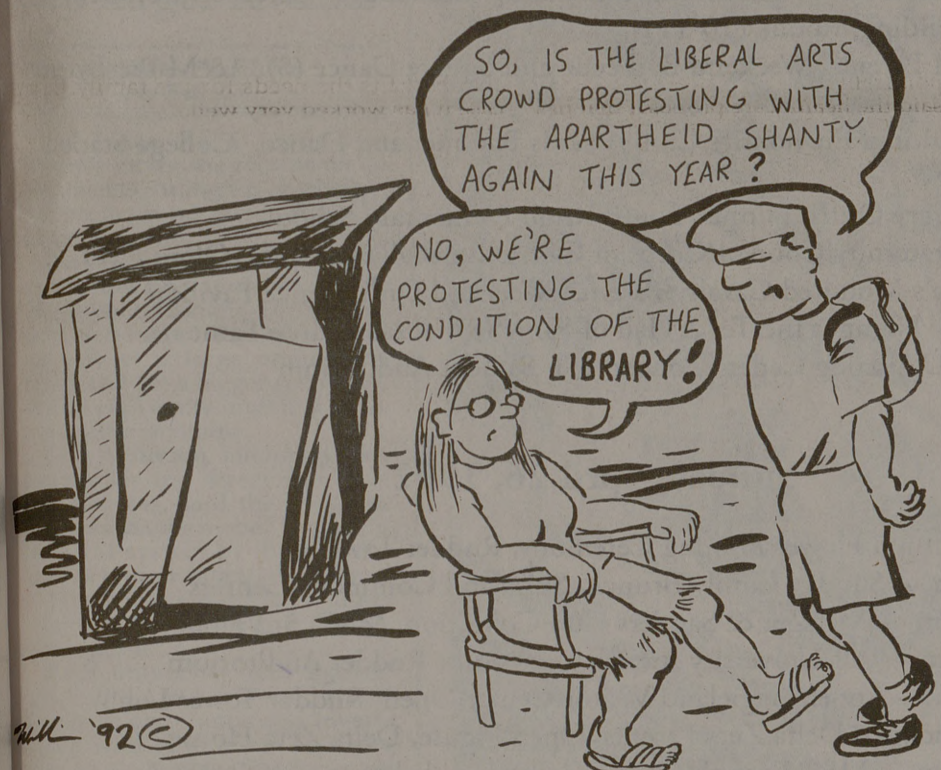
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were pregnant or abused or concerned that the next time you went outside to play in your front yard that you would be shot by a stray bullet?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were a member of the TABC?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were a campus parking cop — knowing full well that even if you were a nice person, everyone would hate you anyway?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were the guy who was in charge of doing the TV time outs at football games? His official title is "Red Hat."
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were at an Easter Egg hunt in Alaska and you got trapped in the snow? That really happened, just last weekend. Can you believe they were hiding Easter eggs in the snow?
- Wouldn't it be hell if you were an electrical engineering major?
- No, worse yet, wouldn't it be hell if you were trapped in a room with 40 electrical engineering majors whining about how bad it is to be an electrical engineering major?
- Wouldn't it be hell if I just stopped typing right now and quit my whining and shut up?

I thought so.
You heard it here first.

Feducia is a senior English and history major



Stacy Feducia



Mail Call

Animal rights offer many views

The purpose of our letter is to clear up a false image presented by an ad from Americans for Medical Progress Educational Foundation in The Battalion. The ad attacked the "animal rights movement" and accused it of being against the right to save human lives and against a good quality of life for humans if either resulted from animal testing in medical labs. It also said that any sane, sensitive, and thinking individual would support animal testing for advancements in medicine.

Yes, there are animal rights activists who wholly support this full respect for non-human animals and we could question how someone can be sensitive and sane, yet torture and kill helpless animals for such an anthropocentric cause. However, we are not addressing that issue. We do want to say that there are segments of the movement which do not oppose medical testing in animals for human (and animal) medicine. To characterize the entire animal rights movement as striving to prohibit advancements in medicine if they require animal testing is, frankly, to distribute propaganda (something AMPEF condemned in their ad.) Such propaganda results in misconceptions of other segments of the movement and, as a result, hinders their causes which many "sane, sensitive, and thinking" non-animal rights activists themselves support out of kindness and humane respect.

The causes of the animal rights movement need not be dismantled because a large group of "professionals" disagree with part of it. The

movement also strives to put an end to pet theft, inhumane conditions for farm animals being processed for human consumption, "puppy mills," the fur industry, destruction of dolphins in drift nets and testing of cosmetic/cleaning-type products on animals. And once again, several segments concentrate on one or two issues above, and some do not even support all of them.

Our point is not to enumerate all of the horrors committed against animals (though we wish we had the time and space); we merely want to prevent the readers of the ad from opposing this entire animal rights movement because they disagree with a segment of it. The movement is founded on respect and fair treatment, and such a foundation is not one to be destroyed under the pretense of vanity or profit or overgeneralization. If you are concerned about the welfare of animals yet believe animal testing is acceptable, do not alienate yourself from the movement because there is a place for your support in the struggle to promote respect and fair treatment.

Tracey Spoon
Class of '93
Stephen Silliman
Class of '93

Aggies should vote for Perot

Howdy Ags. I'm a student worker doing research for the Agriculture Economics Department. The job requires that I review reams of economic data produced by our government. While shifting through the shocking figures

related to our running deficit, I've come to the shocking conclusion that the average American has no idea of the magnitude of our problem. You've heard the figures, which are in the trillions, so I won't waste your time — most people distrust statistics anyway.

In the next 10 to 15 years, we will resemble Brazil which has its economic policy and sovereignty practically dictated by banking institutions such as the World Bank. This doesn't have to happen to America, but the course our politicians are setting seems directly on that course. I've always considered myself Republican, but I have seen that President Bush has never submitted a balance budget before Congress. It is obvious that any Democrat such as Clinton (who promises a program to cure all, thus increasing spending) would bust the budget. My point: Ross Perot is our only hope. As a populist businessman, he has little chance of playing party politics and can surely understand the value of reducing the deficit. Please Aggies do not discount Perot too quickly. Previous generations have worked too hard to build this country to simply squander away our dignity. Don't let us deteriorate into a Third World nation — sign the petition and then vote for H. Ross Perot.

Marc E. Stewart
Class of '92

We shouldn't get Good Friday off

I am writing this letter in reply to Tanya Williams' Friday (April 17th) article. I enjoyed

reading her article until I got to the end. I do not think the University (or anyone else for that matter) forgot that last Friday was Good Friday.

As she indicated, the "state's universities have neglected to observe this holiday" and there is a variety of good reasons to do so. One reason is that the university follows the status of separation of church and state. Few countries have this policy, yet most of them do not celebrate Christmas as a holiday while the United States does. Don't get me wrong; I love the month we get off for the Christmas holidays. I believe that Good Friday is an important day (because of the fact that it is the day that Jesus died), but there are many important people that have died (such as Mohammed, Buddha, Gandhi and Martin Luther King). I also understand that Jesus, was a very important individual and this day is significant in many ways.

But everyday of his life was essentially significant and unfortunately, we cannot have a holiday for all of them (or else we wouldn't attend school at all.)

S ala Senkayi
Class of '94

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 845-2847.