

## The Battalion Editorial Board

DOUGLAS PILS, Editor-in-Chief

BRIDGET HARROW, Managing Editor  
 BRIAN BONEY, Opinion Editor  
 JASON MORRIS, Night News Editor  
 MORGAN JUDAY, Night News Editor

MACK HARRISON, City Editor  
 KARL STOLLEIS, Photo Editor  
 SCOTT WUDEL, Sports Editor  
 ROB NEWBERRY, Lifestyles Editor

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

## TCA Cable

### Get rid of flawed company

A change must be made in the cable service in the Bryan-College Station area, including Texas A&M University. The change is simple. TCA Cable has two years to get its act together or it should get out.

The cities of Bryan and College Station were recently given a report by Municon, a private cable auditor, commissioned to examine TCA. The report found 36 areas in which the company is lacking or failing in its service to the area. The question before the cities of Bryan and College Station should not be how to improve the existing service, but what company will replace TCA when its contract runs out in 1994.

TCA, according to the report, is not even meeting the industry minimums in many areas, both technical and service-oriented.

Many of the 36 problems in the report are major. For example, signal quality is substandard, testing of the system is irregular and most of the system is filled with antiquated cable.

Also, a large portion of the report questions TCA's billing practices, particularly those relating to Texas A&M. The report states "the policy of charging college students \$35 for merely activating their outlets is an exorbitant charge in light of the

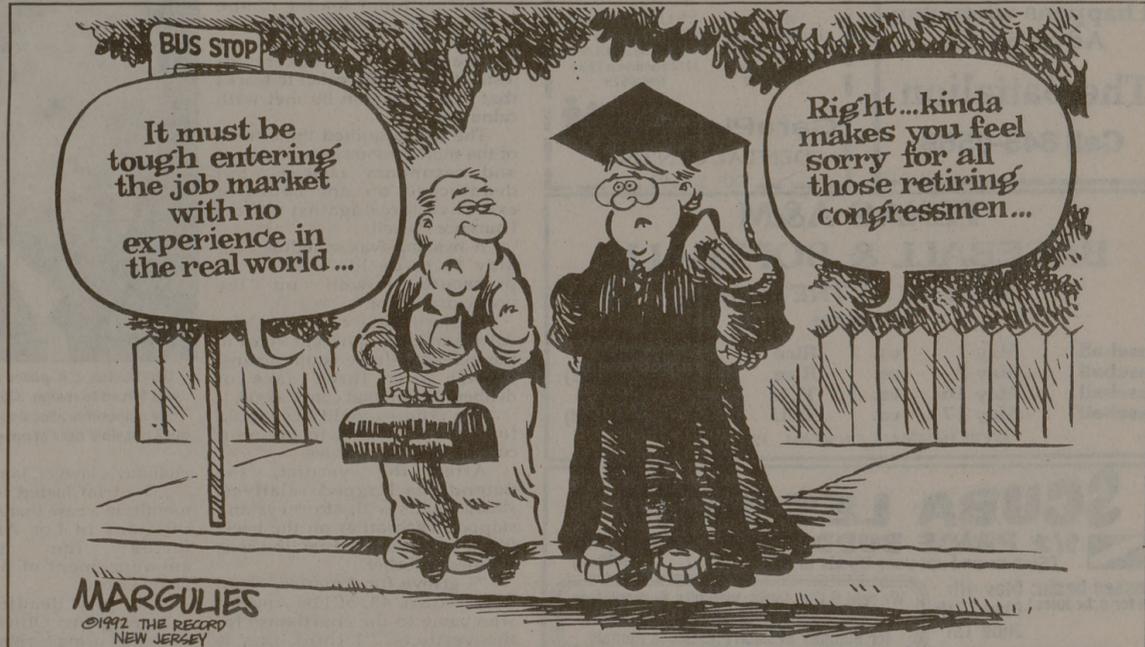
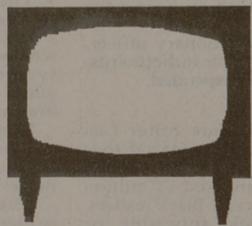
minimal cost involved." The report sums up its findings by stating that "there exists in the mind of the consultant a major concern as regards the company's sense of responsibility, both as a cable system operator and as the owner/operator of a business."

But the students at Texas A&M and the citizens of Bryan and College Station do not need an auditor's report to tell them that. They could either flip on their TV's at home or they could ask one of the more than 100 people who complained about TCA at a hearing two months ago to

find out how poor the quality is. Subscribers to TCA are aware cable service is often interrupted. And even when the channels are on line, there is often a "ghost" or there are background sounds and images.

As customers, the citizens of Bryan, College Station and the students at Texas A&M deserve better. We must get what we are paying for and what we want.

If service has not improved by the time TCA's contract runs out, it will be time for Bryan-College Station to remove the franchise given to TCA and replace it with a company that will give the area proper service and attention at fair rates.



## Jokes on us

### Aggie witticisms show others' jealousy of A&M's greatness

Every time I go home, my kid brother tells me all the new Aggie jokes he has heard. My father does not help either. He laughs along and starts remembering any he has heard recently. I usually take this in a very light-hearted manner; however, some of these jokes are just stupid.

For instance, have you heard of the Aggie who thought Taco Bell was a Mexican telephone company... or how did the Aggie break his arm raking leaves? He fell out of the tree. Do you know what 1,000 Aggies parachuting are? Air pollution. What about the Aggie who stayed up all night studying for his urine test.

The list of bad jokes goes on and on.

Some Aggies get mad about these jokes. They do not realize that the jokes show how great this university is. No other major university in Texas, that I know of, is famous because of its jokes.

These jokes are not confined to our little brothers or sisters either, they are everywhere.

Even the Texas Department of Public Safety has poked fun at A&M.

Someone in the department made a memo that floated around. It was official in every way except what it said. The memo was addressed to all manufacturers of automobiles saying (in a serious tone), "Effective immediately, all automobile manufacturers of vehicles to be sold in the state of Texas will have the headlight dimmer switches near the driver's left foot and not (repeat

NOT) mounted on the vehicles steering column.

A recent accident investigation has shown that 95 percent of all Texas highway traffic accidents have been caused by an Aggie getting his foot caught in the steering wheel."

There are so many jokes that go around. Here are some that I have heard of:

an Aggie pilot and co-pilot are bringing the plane in for a landing. And once they have touched down the plane stops abruptly. The pilot says, "Man that was a short landing." The co-pilot replies, "Yeah, but look how wide it is."

Here is a crude joke.

Two Aggies go to a restaurant. At a table beside them a man starts choking to death. Everyone panics. They don't know what to do. The two Aggies run to help. One holds him up while the other pulls down his pants and licks his butt. The choking man starts breathing, and everyone is relieved. The manager of the restaurant thanks the two Aggies and asks them how they did it. The Aggies reply, "Oh it was nothing, just the Hynelick maneuver."

How do you sink an Aggie submarine? You knock on the door.

Aggie jokes have become so popular that the July 1990 edition of "Texas Monthly" asked some famous and successful Aggies their favorite jokes.

Herman Gollob (Class of '51), senior vice president and editor-at-large of Doubleday and Co. in New York, told his favorite joke:

An astronaut wants to cool off from the pressures and publicity of NASA, so he drives up to a little bar in College Station. The bartender keeps staring at him for an hour and then finally says, "Aren't you one of those astronauts?"

The astronaut answers yes, but he wants to get away from the publicity and really doesn't want to talk about it. The bartender says, "Well, we got a couple of engineers who've been building their own spaceship out back. Why don't you take a look?" The astronaut doesn't really want to, but he agrees to go see it. It's a mess of beer bottles, aluminum cans and tamale husks.

The bartender says, "You fellas at NASA think you're something, going to the moon. But we designed this old spaceship to go to the sun."

The astronaut shakes his head and says, "I hate to tell you this, but this thing will be incinerated before you get within a few hundred miles of the sun."

The bartender says, "Well, we got that all figured out. We're gonna go at night."

Houston City Councilwoman Beverly Clark's (Class of '75) favorite joke is: an Aggie was driving to Dallas. He kept seeing signs along the highway that said, "Clean Rest Rooms Ahead," so he cleaned the rest rooms all the way to Dallas.

Aggies might be portrayed as ignorant fools, but Aggies know that the people who make up these jokes are either jealous or envious of our great school.

The year is almost over, and soon we will see the class of 1992 graduate and become leaders of the working industry. Some might argue with me about the Aggies being that great or smart. Yet, there is one joke that is very true... what do you call an Aggie five years after graduation?

The Boss!

*Ben-Musa is a sophomore journalism and history major*

## Jimmy Carter

### Former president sets good example

Hardships and strife are common in all the cities of the United States. It is not uncommon to see skyscrapers beside slums and paper shack houses.

Yet, former President Jimmy Carter is one of the few past presidents trying to make a difference. As president, Carter made many mistakes, but as a former president he is one of the best. He is working hard to address the issues of poverty in Atlanta.

Meanwhile, former President Ronald Reagan made \$2 million for speeches in Japan. Like many other former presidents, Reagan is making speeches and is "raking in the dough" as quickly as he can.

On the other hand, former President Carter is doing something more productive with his life. He has helped organize Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds houses in the nation's low-income neighborhoods and rural byways.

His Carter Center, located in Atlanta, has founded the Global 2000 program to research agriculture and health in the Third World. Carter's center has become a watchdog of the world's democratic process. The center

observes the voting procedures and authenticity of elections in many Third World countries.

Carter has even been a mediator in major international disputes.

Carter's most recent project, Atlanta project, is focusing on the rich in Atlanta to help the poor Atlanta. The project seeks to incorporate the business community, government and poor residents of Atlanta to cooperate and work together.

The business community of Atlanta hesitated at first but have become enthusiastic supporters of his new program. With the 1996 Summer Olympics preparations on the way, many Atlanta residents seek an answer to the increased violence and homelessness in the city.

Carter's work will help find solutions to those problems.

Unlike Reagan and the rest of the former presidents, who've done little to nothing in using their experience in a positive way, Carter has been using his knowledge and experience as president to better the country and the world.

He should be remembered for that.

## Mail Call

### Batt fools change meaning of letter

Obviously, some extremely irresponsible fools are editing The Battalion these days. They seem to think they can write whatever they want to sensationalize an article or letter. What was once a humorous little feminist-bashing letter was turned into an attack on basic rights.

This was done by the all-knowing, all-powerful Brian Boney because he felt like it. With the stroke of a pen causing an enormous ruckus in the A&M community, you really got off on that didn't you big Bri. You must think about rape an awful lot to title a letter about feminism that way.

And then we have Douglas Pils, the head honcho who I suppose is in charge of Big Bri. Our friend, Dougie thinks that Jan Parshell and Patricia Ireland are two women who wrote in to The Battalion about date rape.

Well, as you can see there is no shortage of ignorance here. I have a suggestion for Boney, Pils and the rest of The Battalion's crack editorial staff. Pull your heads out of you butts and read the article before you cut and paste.

Thanks for your attention.

*Dimitri Filippov  
Class of '94*

### Don't censor library painting

This is in response to the article in the April 28 Battalion entitled "Students Petition to Remove Art" as well as the Mail Call Editorial "Piece of 'Art' Blights Campus".

I am glad to see that the Desert Traders painting in the library has shocked and horrified other students on campus besides myself. It restores my faith and respect in the human race. And especially in those who are willing and ready to start doing something about it.

However, I am greatly concerned about their response to their feelings on this issue. The revulsion this painting brings out in them is just what the painting should bring out. The artist has done nothing if not capture on the canvas an attitude or disease that is relevant in society today

as it was in 1858, and for that reason alone should remain exactly where it is so that others can see it, so that they will have to confront this uglier side of ourselves and just maybe realize that it's time to fight for a change.

Art, be it painting, sculpture or photography, simply points out our faults to us (it doesn't create them) so that we can confront them and fix them. But if it's not seen, then it can't be a motivator for change. And we won't admit the problem exists, in much more than a superficial way, until it's too late. Every time we see this painting we should be reminded of those feelings we felt the first time we saw it and use that as a motivator to fight against all the other problems we usually just ignore and hope they just go away. Because treating a symptom and not the problem doesn't do much good. And if you think it does, well, just try telling that to someone with an ulcer or cancer or AIDS.

So don't hide something that motivates you, but use it to do something worthwhile and good.

Censorship, no matter how good or justified the intent, is still censorship.

*Robert V. Gauper  
Class of '93*

### 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.