

EDITORIALS

Political intolerance

A&M should stand for higher ideal

Vice President Dan Quayle received far more respect at A&M Tuesday than did some Aggies. While the crowd at the Quayle rally was described as basically well-behaved, some students saw the vice president's visit as an opportunity to suppress a basic right.

After posting hundreds of signs and fliers inviting Aggies to attend the meeting, some supporters decided that the expression of opposing viewpoints could not be permitted.

Some students showed up carrying a sign that read "The only thing worse than an ignorant Republican is Dan Quayle." Having been escorted out of G. Rollie White, the protesters moved to the sidewalk across the street. The protest turned violent when certain Quayle supporters decided that the signs across the street should not be allowed on

University property. They crossed the line from supporter to protester and destroyed the signs that they deemed inappropriate.

Surely, the vice president expected to see some protesters. He was visiting Texas A&M, not Tiananmen Square. Dissension is allowed here.

Like the right to vote, which is presumably tolerated by Quayle supporters, dissension and protest allow people to voice their opinions. Such opinions are considered valuable in the this democracy where people are allowed to assemble and speak freely.

Welcoming the vice president showed that some Aggies have learned how to support their candidate. Destroying the signs of protesters showed that some Aggies still have a lot to learn about maturity and tolerance.

MAIL CALL

Thanks for making Quayle visit success

I want to thank the Batt staff for the good job they did of informing students and faculty about the many aspects of Vice President Dan Quayle's visit to College Station. We had only four full days to make all the preparations and many students would have missed the event without the Batt's coverage.

Thanks must also go to the President's Office and the Athletic Department for their cooperation and assistance with arrangements. The professionalism and good will of the Rudder Theater Complex staff was amazing with such a short time to do so much.

Of course, the thousands of students and volunteers from the Aggie Band who gave Mr. Quayle such a rousing welcome were great, too!

Finally, all Aggies can be proud of the work of the Texas A&M College Republicans. The outstanding campus program and promotion was handled entirely by their officers and hundreds of members ... many of whom slept only a handful of hours between Friday and Tuesday.

Now, let's translate that enthusiasm into massive voter registration in every dorm and student organization before the October 4 deadline. That's the only way our Aggie views can be expressed at the polls in November.

Rodger Lewis '76
County Chairman,
Republican Party

University appeared to endorse candidate

I was shocked to read in the paper today that the Aggie Band and yell leaders were present and active at the Quayle political rally hosted by the College Republicans. The yell leaders and band represent all the students, faculty, and staff of Texas A&M University, not just the Republicans. That was a purely

political program and the sponsors and the university should make sure that nothing gives the appearance of official university sanction of one candidate over another. Having such well-known representatives of Texas A&M participating in partisan politics betrays the many Aggies that do not agree with that particular position. Are there plans for the Band and yell leaders to lend similar support if Governor Clinton or Senator Gore appear? If not, then a university reprimand should be given to the Aggie Band, yell leaders, and College Republicans along with an apology to the university community.

I'm sure other people will address the censorship issue exposed by the actions yesterday. Political candidates should expect tough questions and responses from the opposition. Removing people from G. Rollie White, hurling obscenities, and physical attacks are not acceptable behaviors for adults in a major university.

By the way, this is the opinion of someone who has voted Republican in every presidential election since 1980, but is seriously considering alternatives this election year.

Troyce Wilson
Texas Forest Service

I attended Tuesday's visit of Dan Quayle expecting him to give a speech in his function as vice president of the United States. I was thus deeply disappointed as the event turned out to be a platitudinous pep rally for the Republican party, crowned by an (I hesitate to say speech) appearance of Dan Quayle in front of a cheering crowd for about 15 minutes.

The point of my criticism now lies in the fact that elements of university traditions and rituals were being misused during this event. The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band represents our university as a whole and should not support any political party by participating in a rally. I see a great danger in the applied strategy to pep up the students by fusing university yells and songs with the support of the Republican party (or any other political group.) The appearance

No understanding Perot support

Psuedo-candidate offers no real leadership for U.S.

by ROBERT VASQUEZ

Who is this Ross Perot? The more appropriate question might be, who does he think he is? First he was a simple Texan heading a grass roots campaign for change in American government. Then he was a billionaire businessman who knew when to cut losses and abandon an unsuccessful venture. Now the man who never actually said "yes" to America's voting public, and finally said "no," is squeamishly smirking "maybe."

What I want to know is why would anyone want this man to lead our country?

As Clinton and Bush begin the political slugfest staged immediately before voters select the lesser of two evils, Perot elects to boo from the sidelines. After quitting the game, Perot contents himself to heckle those who continue to fight it out.

Instead of debating issues as the real candidates should, Perot simply skips from one talk show to another, touting his ideas for a better America. Back in April, when Perot appeared on those same shows as an instant political giant, his ideas of a new approach to government using simpler methods for complex problems sounded like the panacea Americans longed for.

But after jumping ship when the campaign had only begun, the ideals spouted by this little man from Texas now sound as hollow as a tap on a broken fiddle.

Critics say Perot left the race because his acute business sense told him to. After promising supporters to stage a world-class campaign Perot flatly refused to pay for a direct-mail blitz suggested by a campaign manager. When told of the price that quality commercials would cost, Perot shuddered, whining that he could have his own political ads produced at a fraction of the costs suggested.

Shortly after Perot rejected the marketing proposals, the expert he himself had hired to mastermind his "world-

class" campaign quit, a casualty of Perot's acute business sense.

Soon Perot himself quit, telling the American voters, and the thousands of volunteers who had worked to put him in office, that he was removing himself from the list of contenders. He said he was leaving because he didn't want to throw the vote into the House of Representatives.

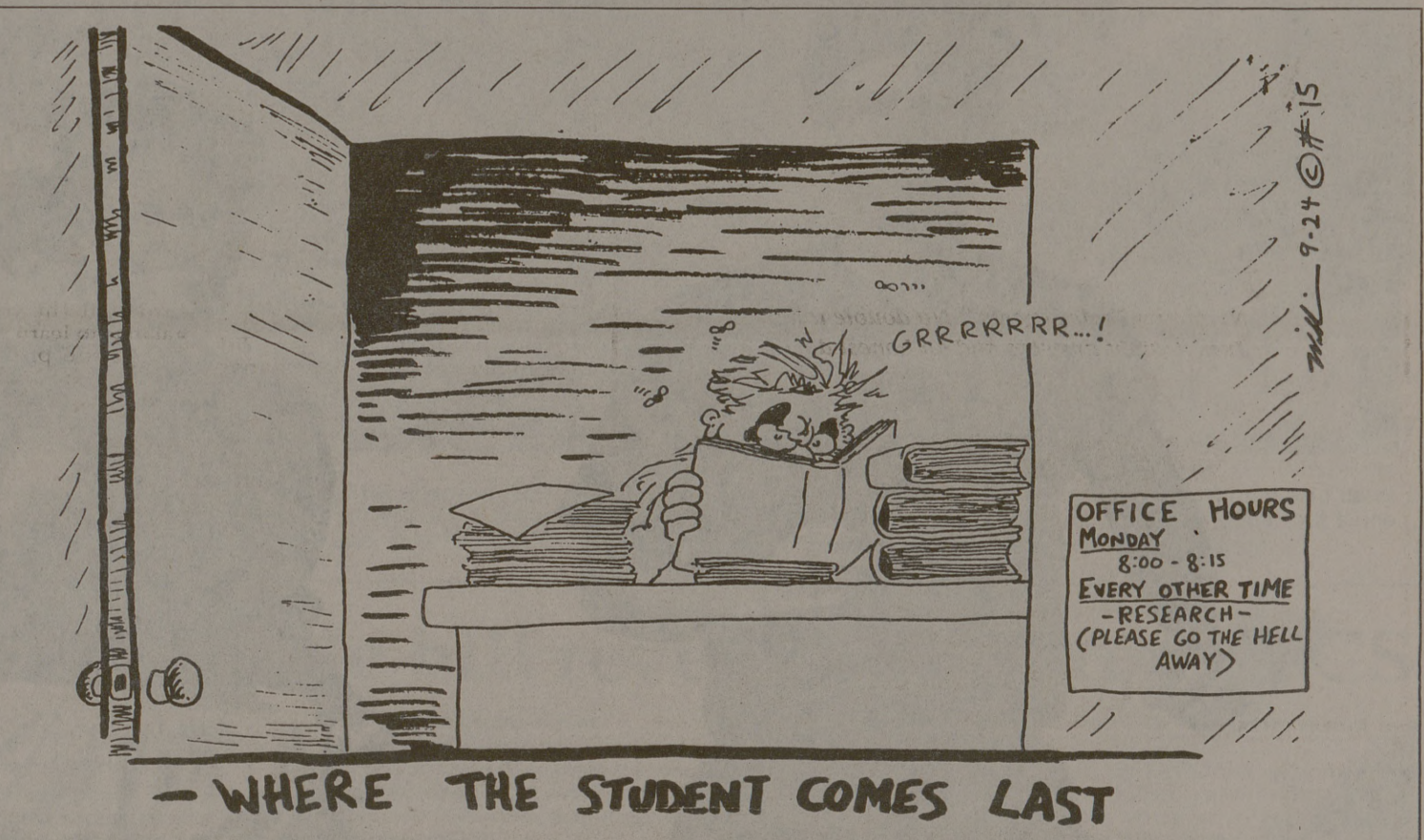
Suddenly Perot wasn't so sure of his victory. He said that excusing himself from the race ensured that the election would be politics as usual. Isn't that the reason Perot entered in the first place? Didn't he say the nation needed a change, and that he would put an end to politics as usual?

Now Perot is showing up in places where candidates are normally expected: talk shows, political rallies, and hurricane ravaged towns, where there are plenty of TV cameras — oh yes, and homeless people.

It's no coincidence that the media is suddenly hyping Perot's image as it did when he first announced that he was thinking about the possibility of running for president — maybe. In order to be certain that America wanted him as their leader, Perot needed to be placed on the ballot in all 50 states. Five months after he told Americans that he would not run for president, Perot's name has made it onto every state's ballot.

Yes, Americans are looking for a change. Perot represented a fresh new chance to restore the concept of government for the people and by the people. But how many times will he change his mind, telling the people one thing and then doing another? Perot represented ideas and ideals that made him appear too good to be true. And he was. He left his supporters with empty hopes and broken promises. For a man who claimed to be a new hope for the nation, his actions appear to be only politics as usual.

Vasquez is a senior journalism major



of yell leaders psychologically forced many students to cheer for a completely different cause, seemingly implying that voting Republican is an Aggie tradition. I deeply disapprove of the participation of yell leaders and the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band in Tuesday's event, as they represent Texas A&M and no particular political party, and call for a justification of their actions. Had Vice President Quayle appeared in his function as vice president and not political contender, it would certainly agree with the spirit of Texas A&M to use any of our traditions as a display of patriotism.

Don't get me wrong. Universities are necessarily places of political agitation for any political group, but university representatives should not take position in their function as such.

Jan Plefka
Graduate student

Liberals are strange, amusing creatures

In regard to the appearance of Dan Quayle at G. Rollie, I must say that I truly enjoy the some 30 or so leftists that we have on this campus. They are continually making "Democratic mascots" of themselves and are always good for a chuckle.

For instance, that odd person disguised as some form of fowl was exceedingly entertaining. I only regret not being able to read the sign that he was holding. I am sure it would have heightened the humor. What about the stinging wit of the man(?) whose placard compared family values to fascism? It would be a disservice not to mention the two long-haired, maggot-infested, tofu-munching, tie-dyed hippies brandishing the banner: "Quayle is Satan."

I am sure Satan would be amused. Unfortunately, this display does not encourage me to vote for the liberals in November. Who can take them seriously when they have representatives such as these on our campus? I think the problem with government now is the number of touched people running it.

Charles D. Scott
Class of '93
accompanied by 11 signatures

Aggies should show intelligence, respect

How about a little campaign rally etiquette quiz for you, Ags? Just two simple questions:

- #1 If a person is holding up a sign supporting the opponents, what do you do?
 - a) realize intelligently that the person is merely stating his opinion and exercising his/her right to free speech, and leave him/her alone
 - b) call the person a "two-percenter"
 - c) physically remove the sign from that person's possession
- #2 If you are making a sign to display at a campaign rally that represents the opposing view, what do you put on it?
 - a) an intelligent statement addressing some wrong you believe has been committed by the incumbent administration or names of the candidates that you support
 - b) some sort of character slander
 - c) some type of lewd comment

(Hint: If you have to guess, the longer answer is usually correct.) Jeez, guys, let's hope at least the voters can

show some tact and maturity in this election!

Chris Tombari
Class of '93

Reader offers harsh criticism of columnist

Now that Anthony LoBaido has directed his penetrating social analysis away from sorority women and politics and towards his (our) existential fears, we the readers get to go on a journey from Anthony's "steel trap" and to nothingness. First, if I'm wallowing in distress over the meaning of life or lack thereof, and I'm grappling with my own existence, I'm pretty sure none of LoBaido's empty "Look ma, I took a philosophy class" writing is going to inspire me to start life afresh with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. I've been more motivated by late night infomercials, but LoBaido's stuff is a better cure for insomnia. By the way, I fell asleep last night while reading Nausea, and Sartre came to me in a dream and said, "Anthony is absurd, but grimly acts as if he were not."

Bill Rankin
Graduate student

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