



## EDITORIALS

### Professors rarely seen

#### Research emphasis hurts teaching

The House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families recently published a report entitled "College Education: Paying More and Getting Less." The report focused on rising tuition costs coupled with a decreasing emphasis on teaching in public universities. Schools reward professors primarily for research activity and in some cases actually look down upon them for focusing on teaching, according to congressional investigators.

Graduate students bear the brunt of teaching the classes least attractive to professors — freshman English and chemistry labs, for example. These students are poorly paid, usually overworked, and certainly can't bring the kind of experience to the job that a professor would. However, students pay exactly the

same tuition no matter what the qualifications of the instructor, or lack thereof as the case may be.

Professors teach less and less as public universities try to keep their research output competitive with private research giants such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. However, public universities still have the primary mission of educating students. Certainly, good research facilities and brilliant researchers can improve a student's learning experience, but students should demand that the quality of their education not be sacrificed in the bargain.

Students should not be forced to pay for increases in tuition at public universities only to see less and less of their professors, no matter what the research reputation of a university may be.

### Time to talk issues

#### Voters need real basis for decision

Political mudslinging has turned the presidential campaign process into an irreverent display of finger-pointing. Candidates should discuss what they can do for the country's future and not merely exploit the other candidate's past.

Voters tune in to rallies and speeches looking for reasons to choose one candidate over another. Expecting them to address pertinent issues, voters learn that some candidates dodge issues better than they do the draft.

Yes, previous personal dealings can provide insight into the workings of a potential president's mind. But once those facts have been disclosed, the candidates should progress to more pertinent issues. Previous actions do not dictate future ones. While tabloids feast on skeletons of politicians' pasts, recent

polls show that voters are not concerned with bedfellows and cookie recipes.

Instead, the electorate wants to know how candidates plan to boost the lagging economy, curb government spending or lower unemployment.

Both presidential candidates spend speech time alluding to former president Harry Truman, who came from behind to win the election.

Bush and Clinton would do well to heed the words of others who once held the same office. Before running for president became an excuse to denigrate fellow Americans, Lincoln said, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Today voters ask not what candidates have done for themselves, but what they can do for their country.

## A global emphasis at Texas A&M

### Education should include a look at outside world

It is grand, for a change, to get some good fiscal news. At a time when announcements coming from state and federal budget offices are usually bleak, it is heartening to learn that Congress has more than doubled the funds available for international education programs.

Starting with fiscal year 1993, the federal government has budgeted \$113 million for activities affecting international education. They include upgrading undergraduate education programs, placing more emphasis on overseas experience-based learning, and improving the development and dissemination of international expertise.

This timely news is certainly welcome at Texas A&M University where we are increasingly emphasizing the value of a global perspective for our students and faculty. From a practical point of view, we need merely remind ourselves that foreign trade now generates four out of five new jobs in the United States. We are also mindful that international activities account for approximately one third of U.S. corporate profits.

Although some U.S. firms profit internationally, we do not have a favorable balance of trade. That is worrisome to a lot of people, and rightfully so. I submit that there is only one way to reduce this nation's unfavorable trade balance that does not reduce our standard of living: America must become more productive, globally competent and internationally competitive. Education is the key.

To succeed in this emerging global community, our students must have a basis for an informed perspective about it. That means acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to develop a better understanding of themselves as well as their cultural and physical environment.

A cornerstone of the international dimension for students at Texas A&M is the Study Abroad Program. Few experiences can better provide that perspective. Study abroad programs were once viewed as niceties available only to the affluent. We are now striving to instill the perspective that students cannot afford to pass up such opportunities.

We go to great lengths to make financial aid available in the form of scholarships and loans, just as we do for students needing assistance to attend Texas A&M University. Students who receive our top academic scholarship automatically qualify for \$1,000 study abroad stipends, but also have available need-based scholarships.

GUEST COLUMNIST

DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY

Our newest study abroad program, sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's Jordan Institute for International Awareness, goes a step beyond what is becoming the norm. It provides financial assistance for students to carry out independent research-oriented endeavors that relate to their international career interests.

Our new study center near Florence, Italy, serves as home base for several of our study abroad programs that focus on Europe, for example, and we plan in the not-too-distant future to be able to accommodate large numbers of Texas A&M students at our campus in Koriyama, Japan. A center in Mexico City, funded by former students and friends in Mexico, will become a reality in several months.

This fall, we reached a significant milestone in our international program when we welcomed to Aggieland the first group of Japanese students who enrolled at our Koriyama campus two years ago. They will be here for their final two years of study, joining about 2,500 other international students from 110 countries. Together, these students add a special dimension to our campus life, benefiting everyone in the university community who takes advantage of opportunities to interact with them. There can be no question that integration of international students into all activities at Texas A&M builds cultural bridges — both when the students from abroad are on campus and when they return to their homelands to become tomorrow's leaders.

Our faculty also is helping build bridges by participating in faculty exchange programs and cooperative research programs. For example, within the past three years scores of Texas A&M faculty and research staff have contributed to more than 300 projects in 57 countries. In addition to helping solve real-world problems, they have contributed immeasurably in building good will for our university, state and nation.

It is rewarding indeed to see and feel what is happening internationally. I see exciting and promising results here on campus, and I see prospects both for continuing and heightened activity.

Thanks for your support. \$72

Prices do not include rates of La Quinta Inn, Holiday Inn, or Motel 6. Anas Ben-Musa / The Battalion

## Junior cadets face restrictions on yell practice traditions

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI and TODD STONE

Reporters of THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets will have new restrictions placed on them because of 'good bull' turned bad at the Sept. 12

niors on the field to groups such as Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council, and other organizations that deal with large groups of people.

He said the role of the Corps during yell practice needs to be defined because of the misunderstanding.



## MAIL CALL

### Quayle spoke about the issues at rally

As I read over the front page of Wednesday's Battalion, I noticed a quote from the Aggie Democrats president, Pat Gendron, saying he was disappointed in the Dan Quayle rally because the vice-president did not address campaign issues. Now as I think back to Tuesday, I must have attended a different rally than Mr. Gendron. I quite clearly remember Mr. Quayle saying that President Bush intended to lower taxes and "empower the people." That seems like an important issue to me. Quayle also stated Bush's plans to revamp health care and hinted at ideas to create new jobs. Those are both very important keys to this election. Quayle also mentioned that he felt Congressional terms should be limited, just as Presidential terms are. Finally, Quayle

stressed education and stated Bush's belief that parent's should have the right to choose where their children go to school. All of these issues combined lead me to ask one simple question: What does Mr. Gendron feel are the important issues to this election? I'm not asking Mr. Gendron to change his political views. I just hope he is smart enough to listen to other peoples' point of view.

Stephen C. Skinner  
Class of '94

### Protest squelched by Quayle supporters

After I attended the rally on Tuesday featuring Dan Quayle, I joined an impromptu protest group outside the coliseum. There I witnessed some of the most asinine and immature behavior from a political party that I've ever seen. For some reason, perhaps because they were afraid of the truth, the Republican faction decided that they had to block our signs instead of standing on the other side of the street where they could have shown support for their own group. In addition to attempting to abridge our ability to express our views, they yelled to us that we weren't Aggies, and should be sent

to t.u.! It's sad to see that they embrace a system more akin to fascism than to the two-party system. I hope that the majority of College Republicans don't condone their behavior, because I love being an Aggie. But even more, I love being in the United States, where I'm free (usually) to express myself.

Andy Kazmaier  
Class of '95

### Multicultural studies bring understanding

I am writing in response to "Multiculturalism no boon to race relations." I praise Brian Beckrom for taking the initiative to defend his political beliefs, but he has a deep misunderstanding of the purposes of multiculturalism. His statements that multiculturalists are "historical revisionists" and that we should be racially "colorblind" deeply offended me.

The purpose of multiculturalism is to create a better understanding of different cultures in America and their contributions to American society. Through the efforts of multiculturalists we not only know who George Washington and Eli Whitney are, but a few of us also know about Richard Allen and Frederick Douglass. Historical igno-

rance serves as a breeding ground for racism and economic disparity. To be racially "colorblind" would be inferring that my color doesn't exist, that something is wrong with it, or that it doesn't matter. To be Asian-American, African-American, Native-American, or Hispanic does not mean that we are de-emphasizing the importance of being American. It does mean that we are something else in addition to being an American. There is no need to overlook a person's race. I'm not saying that you should treat me differently because of it, but I am saying it should matter to you. When you see me, look at my race — maybe you'll see my culture and my heritage. Only then will you and I have a better understanding of each other.

Tonia Harris  
Class of '96

### Some golfers need to find another sport

I'm sure everyone has probably noticed the cars parked out on the side of George Bush Drive along the golf course. Well, one of those cars just happens to be mine. As I was walking the mile to get to my car last week, I saw a really disturbing sight. Three Aggie-shirted golfers were participating in a

tasteless, cheap thrill that made me furious. It wasn't an accident, but a deliberate act to see who could club a golf ball into the parked cars with the most destructive results. I stood there and watched someone's red Honda Prelude get pegged on the windshield, and then I heard these Aggies laugh hysterically. I would like to know what kind of people think something like this is appropriate ... especially in Aggieland. So, golfers, if you don't find it a challenge to sock that tiny white pellet over those rolling green landscapes that are already provided, I suggest finding another sport.

Julie Averett  
Class of '96

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