

## EDITORIAL

### Political smokescreen Cable bill offers no real protection

Consumers, when confronted with choosing between a monopoly and a regulated monopoly, invariably choose the latter, which explains the popularity of the Cable Consumer Protection Act recently passed over the veto of President Bush. While a regulated monopoly is preferable to an unregulated monopoly, another option, competition, has been largely ignored.

The cable bill as passed contains many flaws. Cities already receive valuable franchise fees of up to five percent of cable companies' total revenues. This bill gives cities the power to regulate cable rates, but only as long as cable companies remain monopolies.

The bill mandates regulation of only basic cable rates — in Bryan-College Station, channels two through 13. These are the no-frills broadcast and public-access chan-

nels to which few people subscribe anyway. To advertise this bill as some kind of panacea for high rates is ridiculous; it safeguards the profits of the existing monopolies and provides consumers with little.

Competition works. It drives down prices and encourages better service. And competition can work in the cable industry. Surveys of areas with rival cable providers showed rates 20 percent lower than those with monopoly carriers.

A pro-consumer, pro-competition bill is badly needed. It would allow phone companies to provide cable services, open access to satellite programming, and prevent cities from issuing restricted franchises. The cable bill in its present state serves the election-year interests of the Congressmen who supported it more than the voters who will supposedly benefit from it.

### Last thing America needs now is another 'New Deal' delusion

It seems that everyone from the Socialist Party of America to Gov. Bill Clinton is calling for another "New Deal" as the panacea for America's economic and social ills. Before attempting to traverse such a path, it would be prudent to examine the results of the New Deal of the 1930s. It is a bizarre tale which few people, including many university economics professors, know about even today.



ANTHONY C. LOBAIDO  
Columnist

In the wake of the stock market crash of 1929, America was ushered into the era known as "The Great Depression." Yet in the early 1930s America had great industrial capacity, fertile farmland, skilled and willing workers, good farmers, a vast communications infrastructure of telephones, teletype, radio and mail, no war in its cities or countryside, no pestilence and no famine.

Without federal intervention, the effects of the 1929 crash would have righted themselves within the framework of the free market. However, banks, which were the only source of new money and credit, refused loans for industries, stores and farms. Payments, though, continued, and money began to disappear. The greedy bankers were thus able to gain control over vast amounts of private property and other securities.

In an effort to end the depression, President Franklin Roosevelt chose to adopt the Keynesian economic theory of governmental economic intervention. The "WPA" or "Works Progress Administration" of the New Deal was launched, which supposedly put millions to work and saved capitalism. The facts, however, show that 13 million Americans were unemployed in 1933 and by 1941 that figure had only dropped to 11 million. Without World War II, horrendous unemployment would have continued.

The painful truth is that for every worker the government put to work, it displaced another worker in the private sector. The gaping hole in Keynesian economics is that the government has no money except the money of its citizens; therefore it can never do anything for the people that they cannot do better for themselves.

The New Deal operated under the notion that you could create wealth by digging a hole and filling it up again with the same dirt. This idea of the government giving people gifts out of their own wealth was first tried by Pericles, and spelled doom for Athenian democracy.

But FDR was on a roll. In order to attack the "farm problem," the President ordered the price of corn (which was barely selling at 10 cents per bushel) be raised to 50 cents per bushel. Farmers were ordered to plow under their corn crop without harvesting, kill their pigs and dump boatloads of potatoes into the ocean. Keep in mind, this was done at a time when there was real hunger in America. Thus, FDR launched the communist-oriented, centrally commanded agricultural economy which has pushed the modern American farmer to the edge of extinction.

On March 6, 1933, FDR called a bank holiday. The President then ordered the revaluation of gold from \$20 per ounce to \$35 per ounce. With one stroke of the pen, FDR had "stolen" \$200 billion from the American public as life insurance and pensions were suddenly and grossly devalued.

In 1934, Congress passed the Gold Reserve Act. The government stopped minting gold coins, and persons could no longer hold gold money. Yet few Americans realized the foolishness of placing their wealth in worthless pieces of paper called dollars, which were under inflationary attack.

With the onset of World War II, banks, which only months before had no money to lend for houses, food and clothing during peacetime, suddenly had unlimited billions for Army barracks, K-rations, uniforms and bombs. With an increase in the money supply, people were hired, factories began two shifts and farmers sold their produce. Clearly, a lack of money brought on the depression and an adequate money supply ended it.

An elementary analysis of the policies and effects of FDR's New Deal should be enough to provide 1992 America with valuable lessons in dealing with the desire for a "Second New Deal." Wealth creates wealth, which explains why the rich continue to grow richer. Clearly, the best way to have things is to produce them. Nevertheless, today's neo-Socialists continue to tell America that you can do less and less and receive more and more.

Another New Deal? No way.

LoBaido is a doctoral student

### Helpful on-campus travel ideas Traffic congestion problems miraculously solved

If you rode your bicycle within the past few weeks of school — and rode it on a non-bicycle-lane surface, you probably rode into the painted-toenail-sporting Birkenstocks of a snarling mass of profanity-screaming estrogen, namely myself.

And if you just ran the "Sprawling College Station Marathon" from your freshly parked car in the fish lot to your class in Zachary (where the prof counts off for tardies), you probably passed a heaving mass of backpack-toting, PTTS-cursing columnist; that would be me.



STACY FEDUCIA  
Assistant editor

And if you walked across campus during the past few weeks of school — and stepped into the path of an oncoming small, white, foreign car, driven by yours truly, you probably heard a pleasant stream of colorful four-letter words intertwined with the mellifluous melody of screeching tires, and you probably pissed me off.

The Student Senate recently announced its next meeting date (Oct. 14) and encouraged all of us to contact our senators and voice our opinions — not that I know who my senator is, or even care. I do have an opinion, and it is the solution to all of our campus traffic needs. In fact, I have three opinions, three suggestions, three great ideas for the Student Senate to snatch right up and implement, proving to all of us that they actually do something other than pad their resumes.

So here it is, in small words and big type so everyone can understand: "Stacy's Quick and Handy Traffic Tips for a Trouble Free University."

First, the Student Senate passes the "Bag a Biker for Stacy" rule. The University requires all students to wield spoke-proof pencils at all times. In the event that some scum-sucking bicyclist neglects to use the bicycle lanes that we gave up parking spaces for, all walking students are authorized to jam those pencils into the spokes of that bicycle

wheel and then laugh hysterically as the foolhardy cyclist eats concrete! Ha! Ha! Ha!

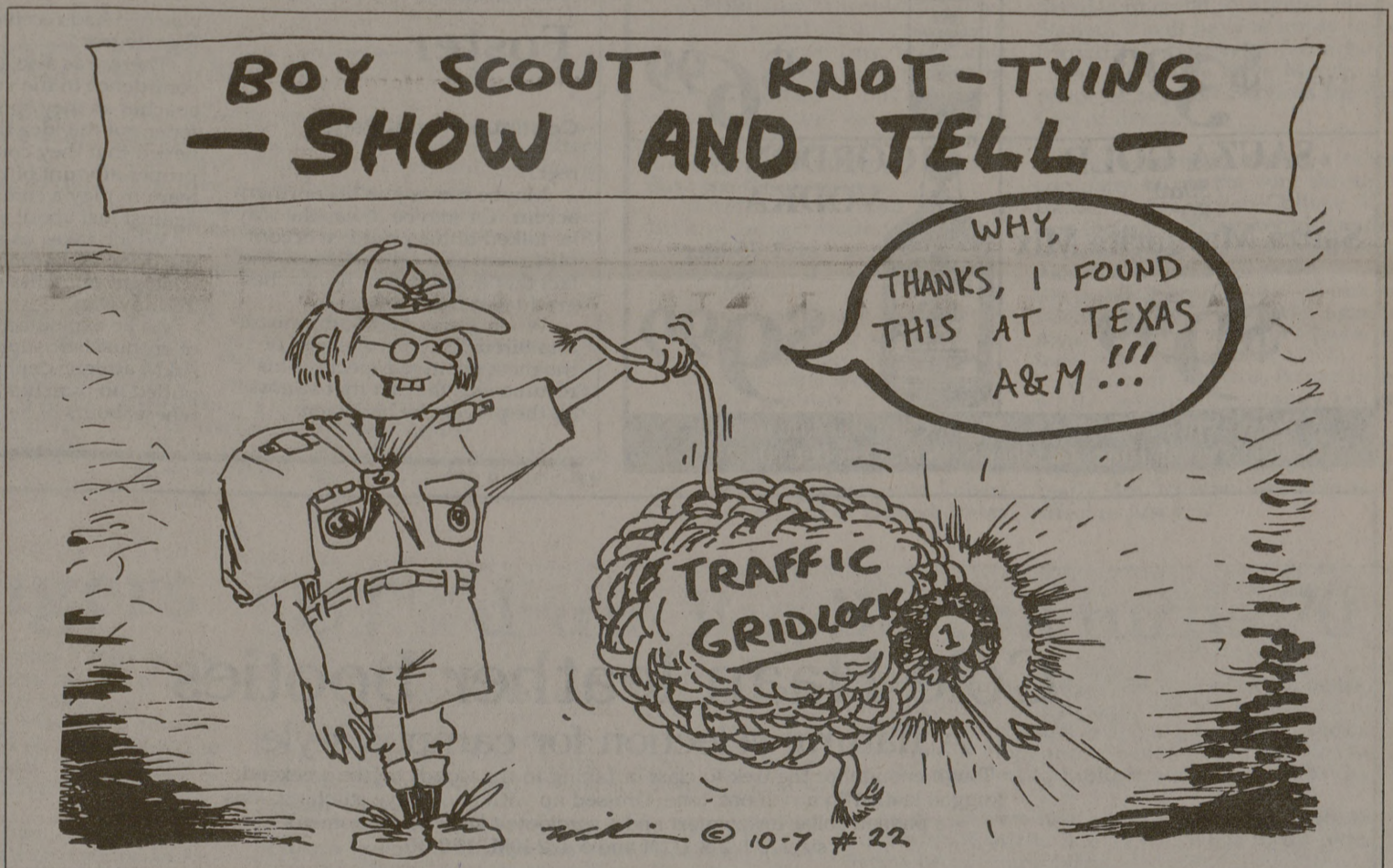
Secondly, PTTS accedes to the demands of parking place-hungry students and provides "All-Play Parking Day." Once a semester, all PTTS officers remain at home with their little black boxes of electronic death, and everyone parks everywhere! Students cruise up to the doors of their classrooms! People park on President Mobley's lawn! There will be no more mad dashes across campus to class, because we can DRIVE there! Go all-terrain! Go off-road! Go crazy, kids, because you won't be ticketed! (MSC grass and Kyle Field are, of course, excluded).

Finally, the Student Senate implements the weekly "Don't Yield to Pedestrians Day." One day a week, the University waives all rules for proper car conduct with regard to pedestrians. If they step in front of your car, you can mow them down! All crossing lanes, which are basically worthless anyway, become target ranges for your blood-thirsty hood ornaments. Kill! Kill! Kill! Maim! Maim! Maim! Suddenly pedestrians think twice — or even three times — before they try to dart across the street in front of the Bus Stop Snack Bar. Suddenly, walking becomes a contact sport! Suddenly the fly-splats on our windshields merge with the terror-stricken eyeballs of once-cocky pedestrians! Suddenly the Student Senate grants valuable cash prizes and merchandise for the best roadkill! And don't think that rollerbladers are excluded — the next one who zips out in front of your car can become instant "roll-kill"! Let's take back the sidewalks for the drivers who really need them!

Call your student senators now! Tell them that you support these plans for a worry-free campus! Assert your rights as members of the student body — so we can start the body count today! And stay out of my way, pal, because I ain't slowin' down for no one.

You heard it here first.

Feducia is a senior English and history major



## MAIL CALL

### Hotels here for profit, not charity to Aggies

In response to the Battalion editorial board's misconceptions about "good old supply and demand capitalism": Quite simply, profit margin does define good business. Local hotels may owe their existence to the University, but the owners have no obligation to provide rooms at below market value. They could have easily taken their investment dollars elsewhere, but these hotels were built because there was a market niche here. Now the owners are seeking the maximum return on their investment. Nobody ever built a hotel here to provide a cheap place for a football fan to crash for a night. Lower rates would be charitable but the result would be an abysmal shortage of rooms on football weekends (and a corresponding drop in football attendance). If you expect charity from hotels then you should not expect as many hotels in this area. Alternatively, if the hotels were actually charging too much and

rolling in their "inflated profits" they would be quickly undercut by invading entrepreneurs. As your editorial admits, Bryan/College Station is not a tourist mecca, and you do not need a master's degree in business administration to estimate what a local hotel's profit margin is from January through August. So the hotels' increased cash flow during a few special events merely offsets the dismal profits (losses) experienced throughout the majority of the year.

Steve Chesley '86  
graduate student

### Let those nasty, lazy poor people eat cake

Howdy, fellas! I am writing in response to David Dollinger's letter of Oct. 2. I totally agree with his viewpoint and would like to add a couple of words of my own. I myself have refused to receive financial aid because I have pride in myself. I believe in that "old pioneer spirit." Although I come from an extremely poor single parent family, I am proud of the fact that I am working my way through college selling tamales. Even though my mother taught me how to make those greasy tamales, I am ashamed of her! She has never tried to learn English or attempted to get herself a real job to support my 12 brothers and sisters in a more civilized manner. I tell her to have

pride and confidence in herself and not to rely on any governmental English teaching program or, heaven forbid, welfare. I am sickened by all these filthy-lazy-poor people who blame the economy for racial tension, robberies, drugs, AIDS, and single motherhood. I believe it is a personal disease resulting from the deterioration of family values.

We should worry more about international relations. Now, those hard working people in the East deserve some of the jobs these filthy-lazy-poor people do not want.

I, too, consider myself a real Christian like David and also feel that I have not suffered enough to receive financial aid or, heaven forbid, welfare. So Aggies, a word of advice — in this coming election I suggest you investigate the facts and make a rational choice ... Viva Bush!!!

Jose Enrique Morales Ibarra  
Class of '93

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