

MAIL CALL

University placement services inadequate

I would like to commend the staff and student workers of the Placement Office for their tireless efforts and cheerful attitudes. In addition, I believe the Placement Office provides valuable job-hunting resources. However, after obtaining interviews through the Placement Office for the past two exasperating years, I have finally been driven to write about the Placement Office's inadequate interview bidding process and offer some alternatives.

The manual process of flipping through pages upon pages of data sheets and bubbling in bid cards is completely out of date. For example, t.u. has a computerized bidding system which eliminates paper transactions. Many Aggies are already compelled to use the t.u. library — will we have to use their placement center too? With A&M's ample computing resources, a computerized bidding system would be perfect for busy students who don't always find 2 or 3 hours in their schedules to wait for a binder in the Placement Office. Realizing that this would require a large investment of money, perhaps an inexpensive solution would be to provide more binders or to categorize the binders by colleges and type (summer or permanent). This way students in the smaller colleges or looking for summer jobs wouldn't have to wait so long to get a look at only a few schedules.

Of course, providing more binders can only be a stop-gap solution; large crowds are still a problem even in the new, larger lobby. A computerized bidding system would free students from congregating in the same place.

If Texas A&M truly wants to be a world-class university, let's give our graduating seniors a world-class Placement Office to help them find employment in today's tough job market.

Kenny Kincaid
Class of '94

Column inadequate in discussing child abuse

Visualize it — Oct. 14, 1992, a Wednesday, on page 11 of The Battalion (the opinion page) a horrid crime was committed. A speech communications major displayed bad grammar! Toni Garrard made reference to "satanistic rituals" in her article. Come on gang! The proper term is "satanic rituals." It seems minor, but it added a small taint of ignorance to some necessary information. Much goes on that we don't know about (or that we ignore). A back issue of The Battalion (several years ago) shockingly revealed that the Academic Building was on a national list of great places for gay anonymous sex. This campus probably has a large number of Ray Cohn types who viciously attack the sins that they secretly practice.

Child abuse is us. We've doubled our prison population with no effect on crime. Date rape. Spousal abuse. Hostile drivers. How many of these (and those who shrink terrified into a corner) are abused children? It's not a sin or a shame to be abused. It's a problem.

I'm sorry if my cheesy pickiness has annoyed you. I've probably called the kettle black by this point. It's just that it detracted from an article that already wasn't doing a deep subject justice. Child abuse isn't just a kiddie subject worthy of Sally Struthers' whine. It's an adult subject when we grow up and the wounds are still there.

Andy Blozinski
Class of '94

B-CS television stations neglect duties

Shame on both of our local television stations for not broadcasting live the first of four presidential election debates on Oct. 11. Neither KBTX, our only commercial television affiliate, nor KAMU, our only other local broadcast television station,

elect to air the first presidential debate of 1992 live, despite the fact that, according to the New York Times, both CBS and PBS planned to feed their affiliates live coverage.

As a matter of law, television stations must, in order to preserve their rights to exclusive use of broadcast frequencies, serve the public information needs of their local markets. In refusing to air Sunday's debate, both stations betrayed the public trust in a dramatic way.

KBTX's decision was all the more egregious in light of its commercial status, and especially in light of its behavior during the spring primaries. On at least two occasions, KBTX failed, at the top of its 6 p.m. local newscast, to air available network feeds from CBS News which would have brought to its viewers important, late-breaking information on the primaries. In both cases, Dan Rather announced, during the CBS evening news feed from 5:30-6:00 p.m. our time, that a live feed on primary results would follow at 6:00 our time, immediately after the polls closed in eastern states. But in each case, KBTX chose to bury the most important news story of the day 10 or 15 minutes deep in the newscast, and to deprive viewers of many details which CBS's more detailed live feed would have conveyed. No community should tolerate such irresponsible behavior on the part of its television affiliates, which must, in order to maintain their licenses, serve our legitimate information needs.

Gary Warner
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Hemp good for more than getting stoned

This letter is in response to the issue of marijuana legalization. I am not writing to advocate marijuana as a drug, though, as Anthony LoBaido stated, it does have many therapeutic uses.

The hemp plant from which marijuana is derived is outstanding for the environment. One acre of hemp produces as much cellulose fiber pulp as 4.1 acres of trees. In fact, Benjamin Franklin started one of America's first paper mills with cannabis, allowing America to have a free colonial press without having to justify books and paper from England.

Hemp is a soil building plant excellent for crop rotation and could reduce deforestation by 50 percent or more worldwide.

Hemp could replace 50 percent of oil consumed domestically without any offshore drilling or oil spills.

Methane, methanol, cellulose, and oil made from hemp could replace petroleum fuel and plastics.

Fabrics made from hemp are warmer, softer, stronger, and more water absorbent and last 26 times longer than cotton.

Hopefully these facts will help put the issue into an ecological perspective rather than marijuana legalization bringing to mind love bead-wearing, Jimi Hendrix-listening, sandal-sporting, stoned neo-hippies.

Ashley Galaway
Class of '94

'Big Brother' mentality conceals safety of pot

Perhaps someone has slipped something into my drink, but I found myself agreeing with LoBaido (for the first and hopefully last time) concerning the legalization of marijuana.

It's interesting to note that Vasquez's argument against legalization focused on the evils of alcohol. Clearly, when the crux of his argument does not address the substance in question, something is fishy.

As LoBaido pointed out, U.S. mortality statistics (compiled by the very government which is responsible for the illegality of marijuana and much of the propaganda against it) indicates that no one has ever died from a marijuana overdose!

Although I agree with many of LoBaido's arguments, I should point out a factual error. The "study" that linked marijuana to sterility was funded by the government and has not been confirmed by independent researchers, to the best of my knowledge.

Similar "studies" (all funded by Big Brother) indicating brain damage have also been debunked. A myriad of medicinal uses of marijuana exist: reduction of ocular pressure (glaucoma), anti-emetic (chemotherapy patients, anorexics), vascular dilator (asthma), and the like. While

marijuana is not necessarily the best indication for these afflictions, it is often used for those who have adverse reactions to traditional drug treatments. However, Bro will not allow marijuana to be used even for medical purposes. They're afraid it will put a dent in their propaganda.

Any drug can be used irresponsibly; marijuana can too, but this will be determined whether it is legal or not. The laws should punish those that drive under the influence of marijuana, as they do for alcohol. However, it is a waste of scarce resources to rest, jail, and imprison non-violent and otherwise law-abiding citizens for marijuana use. Wouldn't prisons better serve society by housing offenders who victimize someone?

name withheld by special request

Fraternity judged guilty based on hearsay

I feel that the commentary on this page has gotten way out of hand. I was at the "Jungle Party." I am not a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and have no loyalty to the fraternity, therefore, my opinion is unbiased. I only knew two people at the party and, as a result, I mostly stood around and observed. None of the members displayed negative or racist attitudes. The "natives" in question were pledges of the fraternity, and the fact that they were pledged is comparable to upperclassmen giving underclassmen a hard time. See one member of the band playing that night at the party is going to interpret this as racist, everyone automatically assumes this chapter is suddenly the KKK.

I could not remain silent and let this happen because I did not notice any feelings or beliefs present at the party. I realize that I will probably not change many people's minds about the situation, but I don't feel that the fraternity should be persecuted for one person's opinion. As I said before, I have no loyalty to the fraternity, and the last thing I want is to be accused of being a racist.

I would have assumed the same about the fraternity had I only read the band member's letter, but since I was at the party I think I have a little more insight into the situation.

I think racism is appalling and that it has no place in a university setting, but I do not believe that the party intentionally displayed these beliefs.

Bill Z...

Class of '94

University should handle SAE incident

My comments and questions are directed solely to the Administration of this University. I would not want my opinions about frat's to appear negative in any way. I am amazed how this University handles the SAE case regarding their act of hazing and racism.

Having been found guilty in a Bonfire-related hazing incident, I know first-hand how this University handles charges of this magnitude.

Now, I would view the frat's actions as an act of hazing and an incredible act of racism. Since the frat is associated with TAMU, I would think that the University would handle the case, just as they handled the Bonfire-related case I spoke of earlier. When a frat does something of this magnitude you don't turn the case over to the board made up of other frat members. A member when a young lady brought charges of abuse in the Corps? Did neighboring outfit get to hear the case? Because that is not how the system works.

If the frat is going to be allowed to associate itself with this University then it should be held accountable to a non-fraternity employed authority. I have three very big questions for this University's administration, to ensure that what I believe to be an act of hazing and an acceptable act of racism isn't just swept under the rug.

Does the University view the frat's actions as an act of hazing?

Does the University view the frat's actions as an act of racism?

If any of the answers to the above questions are yes, what is the University (the IFC) going to do about it?

Corky Mc...

Class of '94

Moses Hall Dead...

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MSC Room 201
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If you have ANY questions please contact: Tony Martelloto James Weinstock or Stephen Dunn at the Student Programs Office, 845-1515

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