

## Dredging up mud from the past Reminders of Corps problems indicate liberal bias

As a senior here at Texas A&M, I have watched many changes take place in the name of progress at this University. However, one thing that has not changed is the liberal viewpoints expressed in the reporting and editorials of The Battalion. Although I am not a journalism major, and far from being an expert on the subject, I have always believed that it was the responsibility of a journalist to report the facts in an unbiased and nonpartisan fashion.

GUEST COLUMN

TIM G. PIPER

From the Oct. 26 issue of The Battalion containing the follow-up article on sexual harassment charges in the Corps I quote, "It was just another day for members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets last fall as accusations of sexual harassment triggered national media scrutiny and rumors of disbandment." I want to know just what in the hell Julie Chelkowski and Todd Stone meant by stating, "it was just another day." For your information, it was far from being "just another day."

Why must The Battalion resort to reporting a year old story just as an obvious attempt to turn the student body against the Corps of Cadets? It would seem far more appropriate for The Battalion to report current issues such as charges of racism in Greek organizations. As I have always been told, "Don't beat a dead horse."

Well, since The Battalion finds it necessary to create controversy when there isn't any to report, let me set the record straight on a few things. Last year I was the commanding officer of Parsons Mounted Cavalry. Last year as cavalry commander, I was involved in a very difficult and political situation. I felt that it was in the best interest of the cavalry and the Corps to take a vow of silence to prevent anything I said from being misinterpreted by the media. That is why I was quoted in virtually every paper from The Battalion to the New York Times as saying, "no comment."

The first thing that I would like to make clear is that at no time last fall was Parsons Mounted Cavalry ever dis-

banded. When the allegations of sexual harassment were first made public, I felt that it was in the best interest of the cavalry to reduce to "minimal operations" in an attempt to avoid unnecessary media attention while we were conducting an investigation in cooperation with the University Police. This meant that members still cared for our horses and equipment daily as well as participating in required equestrian classes.

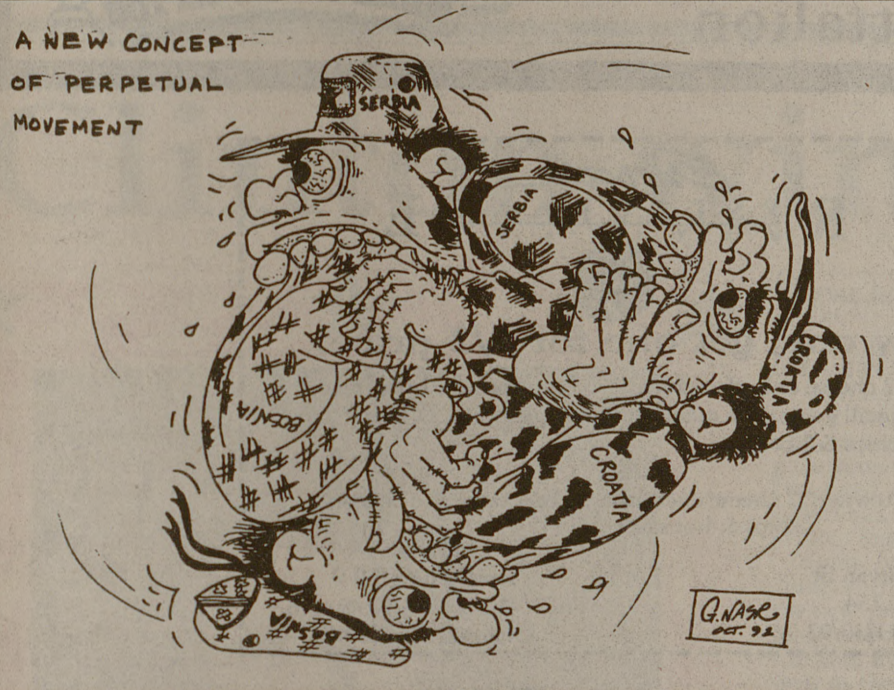
The second point that I would like to make clear is that one issue that all the media avoided last year. I know that you never read in any article that Parsons Mounted Cavalry had two high ranking senior officers that were female. I am not so ignorant as to say these two cadets were greeted with open arms when they first joined the cavalry. However, with composure and perseverance, these two young ladies overcame adversity to gain the respect of every member that they so well deserved. Lori Seelhoff and Laura Kleen were pioneers in our organization and set a wonderful example for future females to follow.

So, after all that I have said, what is my point? My point is that the liberals of The Battalion have no business creating a controversy where there is not one. Let's not beat a dead horse here.

Don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that sexual harassment is a dead issue. Conscious efforts are being made as they should be to eliminate sexual harassment and discrimination from this University. However, the charges made against the Corps a year ago is a dead issue. There is no need to make further attempts to put the Corps in a bad light.

My congratulations and best wishes go out to this year's members of Parsons Mounted Cavalry who have done an outstanding job of carrying on the traditions of our organization. Once again, the opinions that I have expressed are my own and are expressed after being a cadet for four great years. I am not endorsed by current cadets or their advisors, although many of them share my viewpoints.

Piper is a fifth-year senior and former Parsons Mounted Cavalry commander



## EDITORIAL

### Going to extremes

#### Mandatory culture classes unwise

While some people at Texas A&M misunderstand the perspectives of ethnic minorities on campus, adding a class about multiculturalism to the core curriculum would overstep the boundaries of the University's mission and fail to effectively change students' attitudes.

Texas A&M is a state-supported institution of higher education. The University offers a place for students to learn to think critically and analytically.

A&M should be a free forum of debate with a goal to graduate students who hold convictions about truth and knowledge about fact.

No class, especially a one credit hour class, can cover all the facts or history of a culture.

Moreover, who would determine the content of such a course? Would it simply be a history of minority cultures, and how many races or nationalities would be included in the curriculum?

If, instead of just teaching history, the course is created to dissolve racial generalizations and to avoid insult by offering the medicine of multiculturalism, the class will not treat multiculturalism itself nor any particular ethnic group impartially. The objective of the class would likely be to proselytize cultural sensitivity rather than just cultural awareness. The class would evolve into a de facto mandate for cultural sensitivity.

By requiring a multiculturalism class, Texas A&M assumes the role

of cultural moderator, an arbitrator of truth and propriety, a dictator of fact and morality.

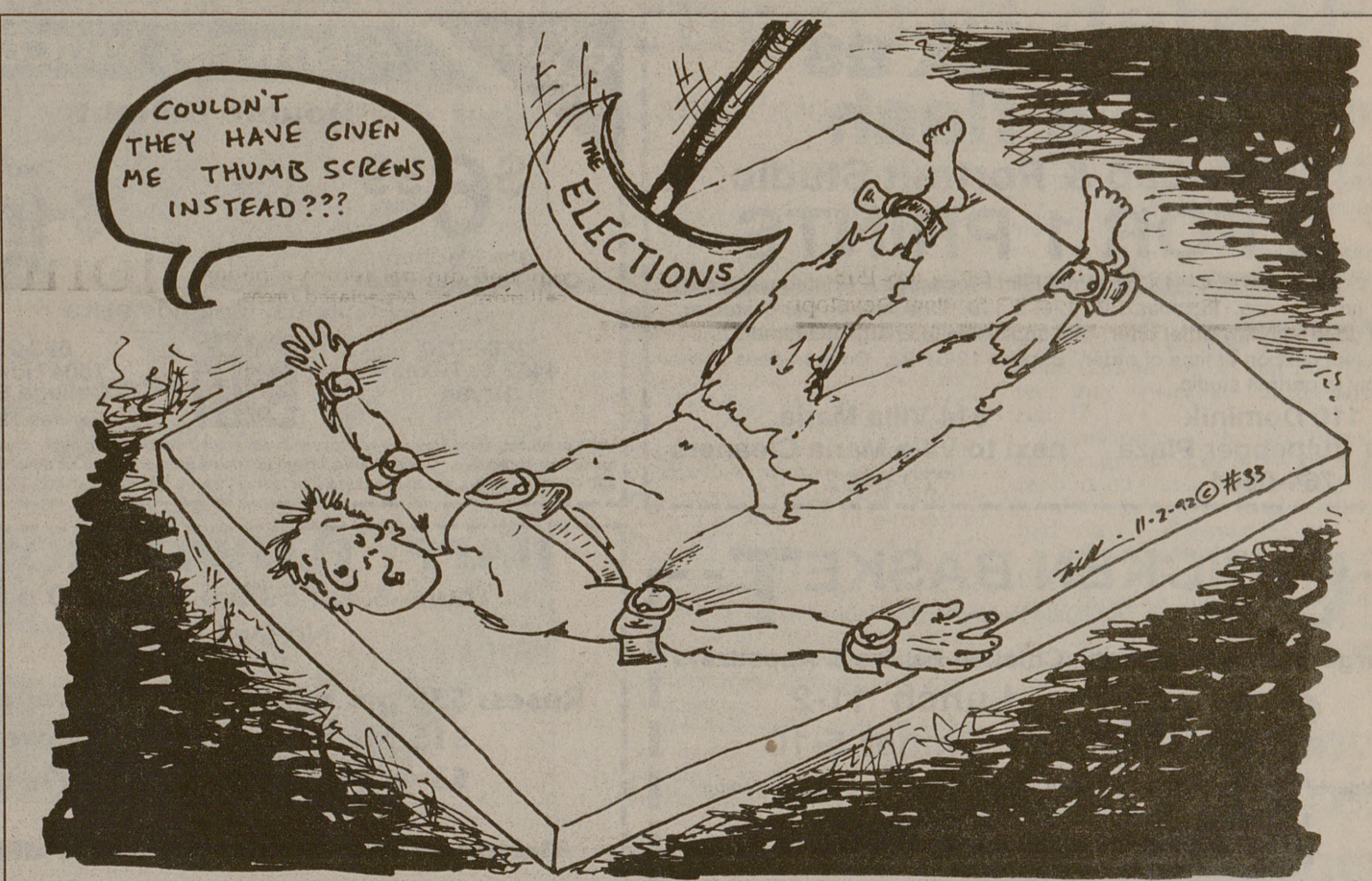
No educational institution should itself champion some movement for social change. Social change must erupt from within a society, in our case the community of students, in order to be genuine, viable, and effective. Forcing people to take a multicultural class would only create hostility and resentment.

In the same way that "gun-slitting" evangelicals make enemies by demanding conversion with threats of hellfire, the University will spur dissent by promulgating its own form of intolerance — intolerance of sometimes misguided individual observation and conclusion.

The recent Sigma Alpha Epsilon "Jungle Party" episode demonstrated that some A&M students need to be more culturally sensitive. However, requiring a class for all students punishes the entire University for the isolated problems of a few. Over-reaction by the administration would return the University to the days of McCarthyism when institutions demanded compliance to lofty, but misplaced ideals.

The class might be seen as evidence to the public of an A&M commitment to the destruction of the racial barriers that persist.

However, requiring the class subverts the function of a university and the cause of multiculturalism — a high price to pay for our freedom to think, and study, what we please.



## MAIL CALL

### Beer drinkers have clear election choice

I recently voted in the MSC. There in the booth, on the last page of their little plastic book, was a category of interest to me and all other Ags that go to the Dixie Chicken and Duddley's. The category was justice of the peace for Precinct 7, Place 1. Guess whose name was there... George Boyett.

He is running for re-election against Jean Williamson, #126 on the ballot. It then occurred to me that not everyone knows that Boyett's position is elected. We have the ability to remove the man who has pledged to fine all people receiving minor in possession citations on campus and on Northgate \$125. For the second offense, it's only \$500.

Boyett, the man who also owns property on Northgate and is good buddies with Don Gantner of Chicken fame, also owns the police that persecute the Chicken and Duddley's giving out MIP and public intoxication tickets and harassment to all there.

Boyett doesn't like us students. He thinks we are nothing but smartass col-

lege students that don't know what we're talking about. He thinks it acceptable not to allow students to tell their side of the story in court. If we try, he raises our fines.

You decide, but I believe it could be in all our interests to remove Boyett from office. Go vote, but don't vote straight party. Vote on the issues. It will take you an extra 30 seconds. Vote Jean Williamson, #126, for justice of the peace, Precinct 7, Place 1.

James Elam  
Class of '93

### 'Two-percenters' not necessarily criminals

This letter is in response to Paul Phillips' charge that people who flatten car tires are "two-percenters." I consider myself a "two-percenter" because I don't relate to most of the so-called Aggie traditions. I, however, wholly resent being associated with those who flattened Phillips' friend's tires. Why? I have seen some of the acts of intolerance disguised as defense of tradition that some 110-percenters perpetrate — such as flattening tires.

I long ago realized that being an Aggie and participating in any number of Aggie traditions does not guarantee that one is a good citizen. We might consider everyone who goes to the University of Texas to be a zero-percenter. Yet I'll bet that most of the cars on that campus still roll on four wheels! Likewise, despite the efforts of a few two-

percenters and 110-percenters, most of A&M's tires still hold their air; and A&M still remains a great school to attend.

Bud Cox  
Class of '90

### Education won't be enough to end racism

I am writing to address the recent events at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, the prospects of a multicultural class requirement, and racism in general. In our society, everyone seems to be extra-sensitive about their race, political views and religious beliefs.

My view is only one of millions and may not be applicable to anyone else. This is a letter primarily addressed to minorities to let you know just what this single white male thinks and why.

My prejudices have developed over a long period of time. I have had many bad experiences with black people as well as white, but in my mind the majority of black people I have met I have had bad experiences with. To this day I try very hard not to allow that prejudice to interfere with the way I treat any person.

I always try to give a person the chance to prove himself or herself a valuable, trustworthy individual.

These prejudices that I have developed will not be destroyed by any amount of education; they will only be erased and forgotten by interaction with black people who bear the quali-

ties mentioned above. When this happens, and the good experiences outnumber the bad, they will have earned my respect and admiration; those things that tend to be the cries of most of the rallies.

You do not have to accept what I believe and indeed, I may be wrong, but it is the way I think and it will not change until the conditions I stated are satisfied. So if the attitudes of the majority are to be changed, all the organizations that condemned the SAE house should spend less time concentrating on the behavior of others and concentrate on the behavior of its own members.

John Groenewold  
Class of '92

### Personal welfare an individual concern

What makes us think that our government controls the economy? Wake up, Ags! We are the economy. It is our responsibility and not that of the government to create jobs. It's really sad because it seems like we believe that Washington is supposed to be our sugar daddy. I've got a little secret for ya, Ags. Every dollar the government has is your dollar before they take it from you. When our government spends billions on social programs, that is billions that could have been in your pockets.

Is it just me or does giving money to the government seem like the worst way to create jobs? And even if it does work, is this the type of country that we

want for the future of our kids? One where everyone expects handouts instead of hard work? Come on. Who ever said making a living was easy, and why did you believe them? Do you think that our forefathers had it easier? Do you think it should be easier now? No! Hard work is still what will make us successful, but you wouldn't know that from the way most of us live our lives.

Today there is a growing trend to look to Washington for both success and failure when we should be looking at ourselves. Our government is taxing the middle and upper classes and giving it to the poor. Why? So that everyone will be economically equal. I may be wrong but the last time I checked, that was socialism. Is this what we want for America? Is this what we want for our kids? No? Then get up off your butt and stop looking to the government for direction.

Shawn McGlothlin  
Class of '94

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