



EDITORIALS

Legislative bickering School finance solution no closer

Sadly, it appears that the Texas Legislature will close the current special session having accomplished nothing. The school finance problem will be no closer to being solved than before.

Republicans and Democrats have done little more than trade accusations and have come no closer to the essential compromise which must be reached to solve the state's education funding problems. Senate and House members each have accused the other body of not seriously tackling the issue and not really trying to compromise.

The Democratic leadership proposed their "Fair Share" plan without Republican input; therefore Republicans claim to stand on principle in opposing it. Unfortunately, when Republican Rep. Steve Ogden

proposed his own bill, which some viewed as the beginnings of a compromise attempt, House Republicans withdrew support.

There are obviously many complicated issues involved in solving this problem.

Republicans want a spending bill passed which will guarantee no tax increase before they will allow a constitutional amendment, whereas Democrats have exactly opposing priorities.

Neither party will get the three-quarter majority vote necessary without bipartisan cooperation.

The legislature must quit wasting time and tax money fueling irreconcilable partisan animosities and make an earnest attempt to compromise. Or, in words they might all understand — just do it.

How Lee Corso stole Christmas... Or, 'Let's squash FSU like bugs in the Cotton Bowl'

With all due respect to the great Dr. Seuss and his Grinch who stole Christmas, I give you the great Christmas football epic, part two — the revenge.



STACY FEDUCIA
Assistant editor

Every Ag down in Ag'land liked Cotton a lot...

But Lee Corso who lived north of Ag'land did NOT!
That Corso hated Cotton! The whole Cotton Bowl thing!
He hated the Aggies!
He hated their team!
He did not like them in the day.
He did not like them any way.
He did not like them in the bowls.
He only liked the Seminoles!

You're a mean one, Mr. Corso. Not a keen one, Mr. Corso.
You're a little green man, with a little round torso,
Mr. Corso! Mr. Corso.
(Again, I mean this in the best way possible, with due apologies to the Grinch.)

"Those Aggies in Texas! They're having such fun!
'Cause they're 12-0, and we're 10-1."
But we've got those handy, dear polls on our side,
And fourth place is disgrace to their Aggie Pride!
How sad and how tragic, that he should think that
Not that we've cared that there's where we've sat.
"Don't look at the rankings," said dear old R.C.
"Our record speaks for itself, as plain as can be.
We throttled the Cardinals! We pounded Mizzou!
We ran roughshod over Houston and even t.u.
We outscored the Mustangs! We outscored the Frogs!
We decimated the Bears, but didn't play the Hogs —
(SMU took care of them for us — thanks, guys!)
So OK, I broke rhyme. Sue me.
"Played one game at a time, and each team would fall.

We butchered them! Butchered them!
Butchered them all!"

But that nasty old Corso, that grinchy old fiend
Just butchered the Aggies when he got on the screen!
The television screen, that is — he was *not* on the field.
He neglected to mention the Aggies' great power
That had shown through those boys in their finest hour.
(Usually the fourth quarter.)

He forgot Marcus Buckley, Aaron Glenn — no slim pickins!
He forgot Steve Solari, Eric England, Ray Mickens!
He neglected to mention Carter, Thomas and Corey,
Forgot all about their victory glory!
Didn't say a thing about Davis or Hill!
But just wait 'til they give those 'Noles a Cotton Bowl thrill!
Dare I say it? Did he do it? Was he tempting the fates?
By ignoring our resident headhunter Bates?
(We're not worthy! We're not worthy!)
And let's not forget Teichelman and Atkinson.
O Corso, you may say what you can —
But wait 'til your Seminoles meet the Fightin' Twelfth Man!
If we happen to play them, we will romp on the 'Canes.
Then we'll laugh, and we'll cheer as you take the pains
To beg pardon, dear Corso, of old Aggie-land —
And come down to join us, now that would be grand!
Because you know what happened to the Grinch in the end,
He said "Sorry" to the Whos and said,
"Hey, I'm your friend."
Because, you're probably not a mean one, Mr. Corso,
Probably a keen one, Mr. Corso.
But we're gonna stomp your team,
And with class, even moreso,
Mr. Corso. Mr. Corso.

See you in Dallas, Ags!
Beat the hell outta some team from Florida.

Feducia is a senior English and history major

Deregulate trucking Unnecessary rules stifle economy

Texas has an opportunity to catch up with the rest of the nation by reforming the Texas trucking industry.

The Texas economy currently languishes beneath the price-fixing Texas Railroad Commission, whose rates border on surreal — it costs more to truck jeans from El Paso to Dallas than to ship them from Taiwan to Dallas. Texas trucking rates are 40 percent higher than, and often twice as much as interstate rates. The cost to the Texas economy is about \$1.2 billion.

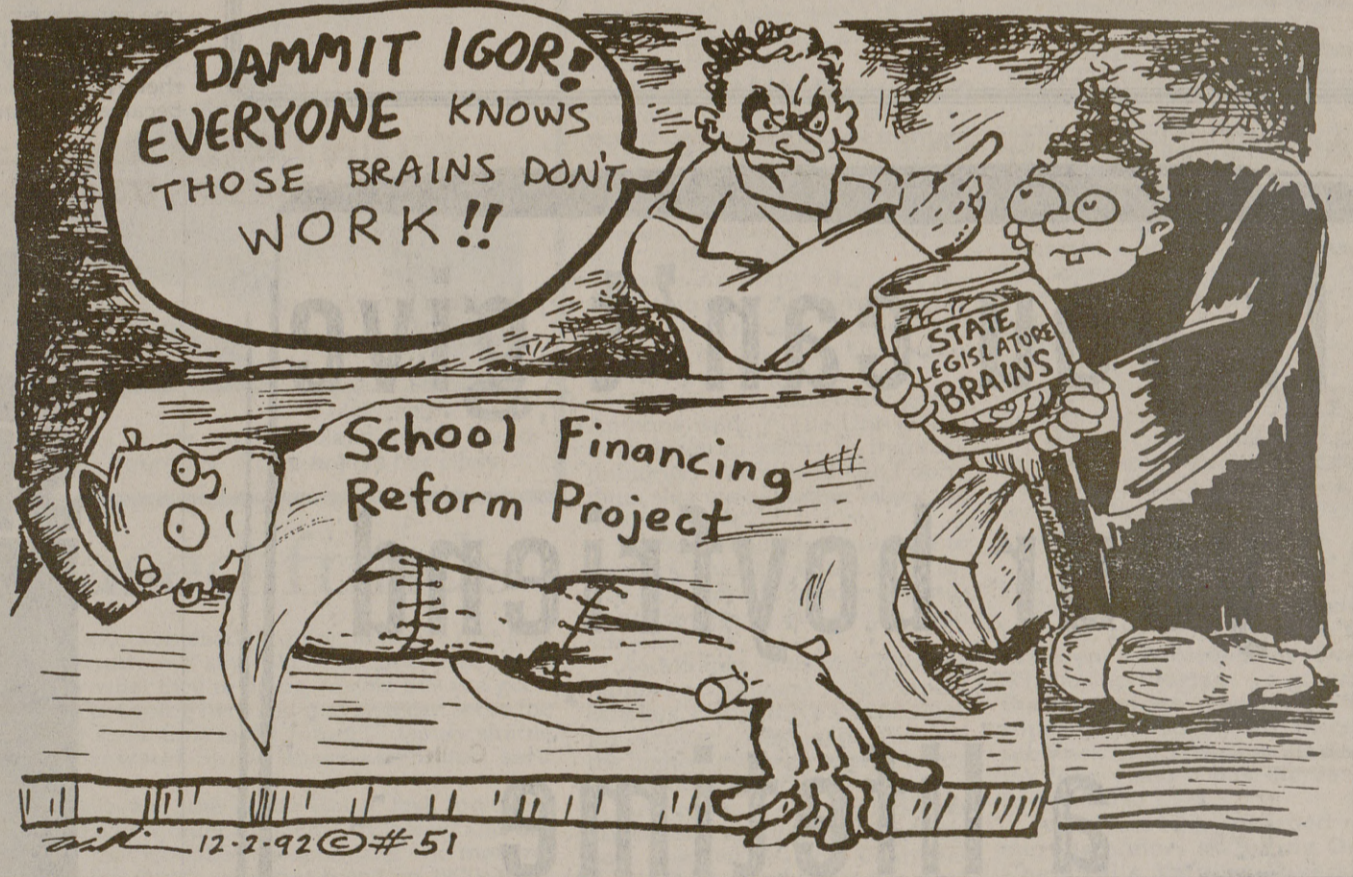
Transportation is an input for the production of virtually all goods, so high trucking rates increase operating costs for other firms. Many firms will not locate in Texas, and other firms have left in order to move freight via low-cost interstate rates. It has been estimated that trucking deregulation would add

between 20,000 to 35,000 jobs to the Texas economy within 10 years.

Concerns over safety deterioration with deregulation are misplaced. Since deregulation of interstate trucking in 1980, traffic accidents, fatalities, and injuries associated with trucking have continued to fall. Studies have not found any correlation between economic regulation and safety.

Employment has surged in the trucking industry, as have women and minority carriers. Small business carriers that earn less than one million dollars per year have more than doubled.

Trucking reform is long overdue. Deregulation will encourage competition for routes, create more jobs, drop rates, and improve service. It will help take the Texas economy into the 21st century.



MAIL CALL

Debating who hates whom waste of time

A funny thing happened to me the other day that I thought you'd want to hear. I was in one of the local bars drinking a politically incorrect beer (St. Pauli Girl — the low-cut neckline on the dress of the barmaid on the bottle) and thinking politically incorrect thoughts about the multitude of female Ags around me.

I turned around and was bumped into by a politically incorrect individual who told me in a very politically incorrect manner to get out of the way.

Of course, being the hypersensitive crybaby that is so much the rage here at A&M these days, I immediately realized that I needed to write the Batt and complain.

I was then struck with a brilliant idea. This person obviously didn't feel the same way about social conduct as I did, nor did he like or appreciate me, as

I thought it would be a good idea to campaign on campus to have mandatory multi-personality courses for people who don't agree with me.

Let it be the rule that all those who do not agree with me be forced to take a class on appreciating me, Steven Kling.

Then everyone would be bright-and-shiny happy and I won't have to worry about people offending me anymore. Granted, condemning others for holding different views and forcing them to take indoctrinating classes to mutate their opinion goes against the very ideals this country was based on, but what the hell, we've got crybabies to satisfy.

It seems these days that everyone has a bee in their bonnet about something. It's amazing how many man-hours (yes, I said "man" -hours, not person hours; file a complaint) have been wasted on petty acts of hate; whether it be the act itself or the useless responses to it.

Steven Kling
Class of '94

Wilson visit nothing but attack on A&M

If the objective of the MSC Black Awareness Committee on Monday

night was to bring cultural sensitivity to Texas A&M, it failed miserably.

I came to the assembly with an open mind.

I arrived early, as instructed, to proceed through the "necessary" security checks. Once underway, the attendees were treated to an antagonistic history lesson by Mr. X.

Following Mr. X, Rep. Wilson engaged in a lengthy assault of the privileged people who attend this public university.

He made the comment that poor minority children were helping to fund this institution through our state sales tax.

His position was that our university had a responsibility to those children not only to be sensitive to their culture, but provide them with an education, even if it meant lowering the standards of admission to attend this school.

He felt that mere funding of higher education, through taxation, guaranteed an individual the right to attend a public university of his choice.

I am sorry, Wilson, but I am not going to allow you to destroy the integrity of higher education.

The problem with lack of minorities in higher education is not in the admission standards but in the standard of living. How can a minority avail himself of the opportunities before him if his motivation in life is survival?

When the average lifespan of a black

male is shockingly low, how can college be a helpful alternative? Pruning of the branches will not rid our country of racial insensitivity, but attacking at the roots will.

The responsibility lies in the hands of Wilson and the rest of our elected officials. The question at hand is whether or not Wilson is bold enough to seek out the real issue and apply a proper solution.

Scott E. Doyle
Class of '93

Aggie Band members embarrassed school

Although school rivalries usually consist of simple, healthy competition, there is something unique about the A&M-t.u. rivalry that often tends to get out of hand.

After witnessing and reading about the decision by a few Aggie band members to walk off of the field at the t.u. game, I find myself embarrassed to be an Aggie. What occurred was an example of poor taste and selfish pride. I agree that the t.u. fans behaved extremely rudely, but do we have to stoop to that level? Instead of taking the opportunity to show maturity and good sportsmanship, these band members, by walking off the field,

displayed nothing short of childishness.

I admire and support the action taken by Col. Toler in his decision to remove these members from the band. I realize that not all members of the band were involved; therefore the punishment individually instilled was justified. When participating as a member of any organization on campus, you are representing our University as a whole. The irrational and unsportsmanlike action taken reflects heavily on all Aggies. It is a shame that the action of a few could taint the reputation of so many.

Krista L. Turner
Class of '95

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