

**Gibe (jib)**

1. A student has been parked 31 minutes in a 30 minute parking space. Would you:  
 A. Write him a ticket.  
 B. Write him a ticket.  
 C. Both A and B.

2. A student with a medical emergency is parked outside the Beutal Health center in a Tow Away zone. Would you:  
 A. Write him a ticket.  
 B. Tow his car.  
 C. Write him a ticket and tow his car.

3. A student parked in a Reserved spot reports his window broken and his Stereo Stolen. Would you:  
 A. Write him a ticket.

*Simmons*

**Aspiring to work for the University Police. Lewis aces his final.**

## Resume padders for president! Who needs a student body president? Not us!

Today is election day! All over campus, students have the opportunity to vote for a multitude of positions including yell leader, class officer, senator, and best of all, the ubiquitous student body president.



**DAVID BROOKS**  
Columnist

As a former campaigner, I just have one suggestion to make: Let's kill off the position of student body president. Why do we need one? t.u. doesn't have one. Tech doesn't have one. What they have instead is a position they call president of the Student Association.

The difference between the two is purely semantic, but it seems to be an important distinction to A&M students. This trifling difference has led to an amazing amount of acrimony and some pathetic electoral results in past elections. Last year, an amendment to the Student Government Constitution was proposed that would have required candidates for student body president to have participated in student government for the past two years. The idea was to guarantee a certain degree of experience and expertise in the position.

Predictably, the campus reacted with a full measure of righteous indignation. The Battalion, in its infinite wisdom, rose up and smote the (unidentified) authors of the proposal with the full force of its' editorial might. Partisans from the Corps, MSC, RHA, and other campus organizations set up a keening howl of self-serving outrage.

The ensuing campaign proved fertile ground for non-student government candidates. In a flash, stump speeches designed to emphasize whatever tiny contribution a candidate had made to student government underwent a 180 degree turnaround. Suddenly, candidates were doing their best to tell audiences about all their non-SGA leadership exploits.

Voters nodded their heads knowingly when candidates spewed out gems like "my extensive leadership experience in the Corps makes me an excellent candidate," and "the student body president needs to be a representative of all the students, not just student government."

What a bunch of hoo-yah! The truth is simple: Candidates need a considerable amount of experience to do the job right. Just like other positions around campus, there ain't no way you can waltz into the student body president's office and do anything other than pack your resume. Anyone can "be" student body president, and do a decent job if judged by outward appearances. The danger in electing the wrong candidate is not that the campus will suffer, but that the opportunity to accomplish positive things will vanish. Anyone who looks nice and can speak in public can appear competent, but it takes

specific skills and connections to do the job right.

Anyone running for this position has to be conversant with a nearly infinite list of subjects: The budget - A&M's budget, state budget appropriations, the student government budget, the student services budget - parking, campus facilities, shuttle buses, food services, student fees, the library, the school calendar, student government committees like Muster and Big Event, multicultural issues, residence halls, the campus police and the curriculum, just to begin to name a few.

At minimum, it is imperative that a candidate already be familiar to key figures across campus including Dr. Mobley, Dr. Koldus, Dr. Gage, state Sen. Turner, state Rep. Ogdan, Dr. Southerland, Dr. Adair, Mr. Carrethers (head of multicultural services), members of the Board of Regents, and perhaps most important of all, Mr. Smith.

Robert Smith is the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and to put it bluntly, he holds the University's purse strings. Without a strong relationship with Smith, any student initiative involving fees, prices or money in general is doomed to fail.

The story students are being told that generic "leadership" experience qualifies one for student body president is just that - fiction. I seriously doubt anyone would make it as Corps Commander without some impressive credentials and experience within the Corps. The same holds true for editor of the Battalion, president of the MSC, or any other significant campus office.

Each year, we have enough lousy candidates running for office who have experience in the system, and we can truly do without those who just want to pack their resumes. If the situation has progressed to the point where it is impossible to tell the difference, then let's call our person the president of the student association and start electing people that will do the job for the right reasons.

Candidates for student body president should run for office because they want to get something done, not because they think it would be marketable. In the past, student body presidents have made a difference. On their own initiative, they started programs like the night walking patrols around campus and the drive to improve the Health Center. One president pushed the Aggie License Plate bill through the state legislature and made the administration abolish the practice of confiscating people's leftover Aggie Bucks at the end of each semester - an \$80,000 bonus for students.

If we employ some common sense and ignore the divisive, self-serving rhetoric, we can start electing candidates once again who will begin attacking the problems that exist on this campus, instead of just polishing their resumes.

*Brooks is a senior economics major.*

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The Battalion  
  
 100 years at Texas A&M

## EDITORIAL

### Vote for the future Say 'yes' to library referendum

Those students who have not yet participated in this year's Student Government elections should consider of one ballot item which is extremely important to the future of this University.

The ballot includes a referendum that would call for the creation of a \$15 student fee which would be earmarked specifically for the Sterling C. Evans Library. If the referendum passes, Student Government and the Texas A&M University administration will propose the fee to the Board of Regents for their approval.

Though no one likes the idea of yet one more fee, with this referendum students have an opportunity to directly address one of the more glaring shortcomings of this University.

The fee would provide a much-needed financial boost to a library that suffers greatly from underfunding. The recent cancellation of about 1,000 subscriptions in the current periodicals department is only the latest symptom in a bad case of budget malnutrition.

The many students who have met with frustration in their attempts at research at Sterling C. Evans are familiar with the long-standing manifestations of the library's financial deficiencies.

It is somehow not surprising that the Evans library ranks among the most frequent borrowers of material from other libraries.

Furthermore approval of the fee by the student body would present the administration with a clear and statement of student's concerns about budget priorities.

In effect, the student body has the opportunity to put its mouth is and proclaim that the library needs to be moved way up on this University's list of priorities.

If \$15 seems too much, consider the \$48 that a 12-hour student pays for computer access fees to provide and maintain computers that he or she might never use. Consider the \$96 that the same student would pay for "general use" fees for the expansion, air conditioning and rehabilitation of facilities. Renovated buildings look great but contribute little to education.

Complaints about the library have continued for long enough with no appreciable results.

This time students have the opportunity to step forward and make a strong statement to the A&M administration and the Board of Regents.

All it takes is one vote from every student. Take some time today to fill out a ballot.



COLLEGE STATION, TX  
**MAIL CALL**  
 MARCH 31  
 1993

### Which students does "uncover" apply to?

I have a question that perhaps one of the Battalion writers or A&M students can clear up. The question is simply, to whom does the term "Uncover" refer? I understand that the MSC requests that people remove their hats in memory of those who died in the war, and the sign outside the MSC states that "all MEN remove their hats."

I am a bit confused. I was always under the impression that this certain rule of etiquette referred to men.

I was once asked to "Uncover" at the Fish Pond after a football victory. I was not wearing a baseball cap or a cowboy hat; I was wearing a nice summer straw hat that accented my dress. I was a bit confused and asked if the CT was talking to me, which he was.

I seem to remember the days when women were not fully clothed without a hat. Many times a hat was seen as being formal, particularly in the ultimate memorial, church!

I own many hats and usually wear them to dress up, but I have never been asked to remove them because it was impolite; not even in church.

This brings me to baseball hats. When many women wear baseball hats they pull their hair through the back making it inconvenient to constantly remove. In this situation, "uncovering" is not as easy for women as it is for men.

I understand there are certain women who prefer not to be singled out and like to be treated equally to men. Yet, there are still those women who enjoy being different and being treated as a lady.

This brings me back to my question: To whom does "Uncover" apply?

Does it apply to all students no matter what type of hat they are wearing? Does

it only apply to men? Or does it apply to all students male and female but only those wearing baseball caps or cowboy hats? Please, someone help me so that I may have a clear understanding.

*Sandy Hernandez  
Class of '94*

### America should heed Washington's words

When America was young, Americans were free and respected, George Washington left us with his Farewell Address to remind us how we might keep our freedoms. Americans of today should return to his wisdom in the light of expensive and failed policies by Leaders who forgot the lessons of yesterday.

"Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none, or a very remote, relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the cause of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities."

"...Why quit our own to stand on foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice..." In other words, George Washington warned us to mind our own business if we intend to be free.

"Interweaving our destiny" with other nations has proven very expensive by quartering over 200,000 American troops in Europe for 50 years, over 45,000 in Korea for over 40 years and now the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and other commitments to numerous to name. Costs are estimated at \$957.2 billion. Other countries should defend themselves without us.

In 1992, leaders of the United States, Canada and 27 European countries signed a new agreement to limit ground troops in Europe. American troops are to be cut to 150,000, with 345,000 for Germany, and 325,000 for France.

Russia would have 1,450,000 and Ukraine would have 450,000. Adding in the several million more "soviet troops" scattered around in the "republics" and Asian Russia with atomic and chemical-bacteriological capabilities, it is not difficult to determine the dominant military forces after the cuts are completed.

Are American troops to be potential hostages? Are they to be embroiled in the Balkans with a Serbian Communist

government when it is a European problem?

Paul Harvey reported that illegal aliens are coming into the U.S. at the rate of 3 million per year with many going on welfare. This enormous invasion cannot be stopped by a restricted border patrol. Those troops in remote parts of the world may be desperately needed back home to protect us.

Is it wise to be interwoven with other countries when our interests are best served by minding our own affairs and getting our imperial congress under control?

*MacDonald Hays  
Amarillo, Texas*

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Due to space restrictions, guest columns will not be accepted unless the author contacts the opinion page for prior approval before submitting columns.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

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