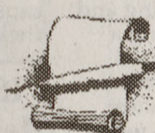




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The Battalion



100 years at Texas A&M

## EDITORIAL

# Gambling on election

### Texans liked lottery more than ballots

What if they gave an election, and nobody came?

That question could be rightfully asked of Texas voters after the May 1 special election that winnowed 24 senatorial candidates to just two: Bob Krueger and Kay Bailey Hutchison.

That less than 2 million of the 8.5 million registered voters turned out to try to elect a new Senator on the same day that more than 20 million lottery tickets were sold says something about the commitment of Texans to better government.

Krueger, a Democrat, is currently serving as the state's junior Senator after being named to the seat in January by Gov. Ann Richards. The seat became vacant when Lloyd Bentsen became Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Hutchison, a Republican, seeks to be the first woman to ever serve as a Senator from Texas. She currently serves as Texas' State Treasurer and was featured prominently at the Republican National Convention last year in Houston. If Hutchison is elected it will be the first time in the history of Texas that two Republicans serve as the state's two Senators. Phil Gramm is currently the state's senior Senator.

Hutchison edged out Krueger in Saturday's special election and the

two will face off again when the governor sets the date, probably June 5. Any voter who did not cast a ballot on May 1 will not be allowed to vote in the runoff.

There were also three propositions on the statewide ballot, all related to school funding, including the controversial "Robin Hood" school finance plan that would have had richer school districts sharing revenue with poorer ones.

106 of the state's 1,048 school districts would have been expected to lose some property tax revenue to other districts under the proposal laid out by the Legislature.

All three propositions were soundly defeated, leaving state legislators less than four weeks to settle an issue that they have been unable to solve in two years. If the issue is not resolved by June 1, the Texas Supreme Court will force the legislature to cut out most funding for state schools, leaving schools across the state with nothing to spend on Summer programs.

That the voter turnout was considered heavy for a special election should be even more galling when one considers the propositions on the ballot and the power a Senator can wield in Washington.

It has been said that in a democracy, you get the government you deserve. Let us hope not.

# And now for something different

## Everything you never wanted to know . . . and more

Once again, it's time to do some spring cleaning in my opinion cupboard. It's the semiannual compilation of random vignettes that no one else would mention. So, with apologies to Blackie Sherrod, here's two cents worth:

For a town only 10 miles away, Snook is a very overlooked place. It must surely be kolache heaven. There are certain things in society that must be abolished. These include reruns of any of the umpteenth Star Trek television shows, any meal containing onions and men wearing sandals.

What did Woody ever see in Mia? It will be a sad, sad day when the Cow Hop leaves the friendly confines of Northgate. It might result in the destruction of the planet, but by God, one day, the Chicago Cubs will win the World Series.

Favorite politician: Rep. Fred Grandy of Iowa, A.K.A. "Gopher" on the Love Boat. On the other end of the spectrum is the Honorable Mayor of Palm Springs, Sonny Bono.

It is absurd to say that *The Dallas Morning News* is "out to get" Texas A&M. Don't shoot the messenger when the king is to blame.

Music, as a whole, still hasn't recovered from the Village People.

For 20 years, this campus has been privileged to have Dr. John Koldus as one of its leaders. Two decades of dealing with students should be enough for anyone, but he actually seemed to enjoy what he was doing. His retirement will be a loss to this University, but hopefully, it will be a gain for his golf game.

It's been 128 years since General Lee surrendered, yet some still rally behind the Confederate flag. Hey, the Civil War's over. Deal with it.

Isn't Tuna Helper a contradiction in terms?

Rush Limbaugh is definitely not the most agreeable person in the world, but if I had a choice, I'd prefer him to Howard Stern.



CHRIS WHITLEY  
Columnist

One burnt orange bumper sticker seen on a burnt orange car read: "Will Rogers never met an Aggie."

There's one way to cure the problem of getting to West Campus on time: Let every student have access to golf carts.

Yeah, I'll watch Letterman when he moves to CBS. But something deep within me feels that it just won't be the same.

Many members of the media have given President Clinton a pretty rough critique of his first hundred days. If I were to grade him, I'd give him the benefit of the doubt: C-

If this were a perfect world, movies would not be colored, baseball would be played on grass, and Seinfeld would be on every day.

My least favorite building on this campus has to be The Pavilion. Every time I walk into that place, there's a line. And where there's not lines, there's forms. And when you reach the end of a line, they tell you to stand in another line. They should rename it the Bureaucracy Building.

I'd vote for Bill Clinton in '96 if he could get the three remaining Beatles back together.

Credit cards: Are they a helpful tool to purchase items that you could not otherwise buy or are they a constant hellish weight that burdens you until your dying day?

Nine days ago, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally, the University countered with a rally, and the Diversity and Equality Coalition also had a rally. However, the attendance at the A&M baseball game surpassed that of all three rallies combined. What does that say about the political nature of this campus?

So there's talk now that former president and library namesake George Bush might be teaching a class or two at A&M. Geez, can you imagine the waiting list for that class? It's hard enough to get a good class as it is. Also, will Secret Service agents have to frisk students' backpacks before they enter class?

May the Lord bless *The Battalion* this fall. Something tells me we'll need it.

Whitley is a junior journalism major.



MARGULIES  
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NEW JERSEY

## COLLEGE STATION, TX MAY 3 1993 MAIL CALL

### Selective criteria will slant your judgment

I would like to respond to the letter written by Tiffany Boyd that appeared in the April 19 Mail Call. Tiffany is a student who, after attending two years at Texas A&M, decided she would be better suited at the University of Texas. I both respect and empathize with her decision to transfer, knowing the heartfelt consideration involved in making such a change. I spent two semesters at UT before transferring to A&M as a sophomore. It has been crystal clear to me since the day I set foot on this campus nearly three years ago that Aggieland is where I belong.

Having spent time as a student at UT I am qualified to report that the social issues of concern at A&M are equally prevalent at UT. I attended school there during the spring of 1990 when an African-American lesbian woman was elected student body president. Her victory generated considerable controversy

throughout the campus community and elicited the exchange of bitter racial insults. Also, that spring there was an incident of a fraternity displaying a car in front of its house depicting racially degrading and offensive words and pictures. As far as A&M's "(dis)gracing" of Texas Monthly, I seem to recall a lengthy article in the same publication not all that long ago painting a quite unpretty picture of fraternity life at UT.

I mention these acts of prejudice and mistreatment of fellow human beings to make a point. It is misleading of Tiffany to represent UT as an institution having achieved total equality and thus somehow superior to Texas A&M with regard to race relations. That is simply not true. The truth is that we both have a long way to go on that road and we are not alone. The race and gender issues that plague Texas A&M and UT are the same that society at large is continually struggling to overcome.

It is insulting to Aggies everywhere to be judged on the basis of isolated remarks by certain individuals whose words and actions do not embody Aggie

ideals. It is tragic and unfair that such incidents occur. However, all Aggies don't deserve to be held accountable for remarks made by those individuals whose beliefs and values are totally inconsistent with our own.

The bottom line is that people can be selective about the criteria upon which they choose to base their judgments. Tiffany has chosen to focus solely on those aspects of life at A&M that have caused conflict and disharmony. In doing so she has overlooked and discounted the facets of life at A&M that Aggies hold so dear. Two weeks ago, one of the most unifying and time-honored traditions A&M is proud to call its own was observed for the 110th time. Aggie Muster is just one of the traditions that does make us a world class University, Tiffany. Thousands of Aggies, former and current, gathered not only on the A&M campus but wherever they were to honor the legacy of those whose time came before their own. You see, the Aggie Spirit that will linger with all Aggies long past April 21 makes no distinction between race or gender.

You missed out, Tiffany. You had your chance to be a part of a bright, diverse, dynamic and fiercely loyal group that continues to proudly make its mark on this world. We are called AGGIES. Gig 'Em.

Jennifer L. Busch  
Class of '93

### Clean up campus, Ags, A&M's a war zone

As I walked through the war zone between Schumacher and Walton Hall a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed by the amount of debris scattered about. The tree branches sported pizza boxes, beer cans, a bicycle, even a shopping cart. The trees and balconies had also been festively draped with yards of toilet paper. Various bottles, cans, and other trash, including an apparently used condom, were also strewn about. As I continued through the area between Crocker, Moore, and McInnis I found newspapers, the pages of a telephone book, and many more beer cans.

Seeing these areas around the residence halls so filthy each and every weekend disgusts me for several reasons. Aside from the obvious personal reason that this is my home and I don't enjoy living among such filth, it angers me to think how hypocritical it is that Aggies who label me as a "two-percenter" for not feeling especially compelled to go to a yell practice could show such a basic lack of respect for the very school they claim to love so much.

To be quite honest, I am a two-percenter. I don't feel strongly one way or the other about Bonfire or the Corps. I don't feel that being a student here obligates one to observe all the little traditions, as I am here for primarily academic rea-

sons.

Yet, who really cares more about this University, the student who stands at all the football games, or the one who makes sure that all his or her trash makes it to a trash can or dumpster instead of the ground? Sure, the custodial staff will be there Monday morning to clean it up just like every other week. But during the period from Friday evening to Monday morning the halls look like slums, even during Parent's Weekend.

Rather than defacing the campus, I find other ways to amuse myself, because I have enough respect for this University that trashing it is not my idea of fun.

David M. Hamada  
Class of '95

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