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EDITORIAL

Stopping sellers

Proposal limits campus vendors

Texas A&M students need to voice their support for a proposal which would place restrictions on campus vendors. The plan improves the solicitation system by eliminating problems and increasing convenience for students.

The Concessions Committee, operating under the Department of Student Services, created the proposal in response to students' complaints about vendors.

Many students find themselves confronted by obnoxious salespeople who yell sales pitches, throw newspapers and almost grab them. A&M administrators blame this overaggressive approach on the rapid increase in competition on campus.

Traffic problems during the first two weeks of classes, especially in and near the MSC, add to students' difficulties. Problems also arise from the great number of tables being set up and their scattered locations around campus.

The Concessions Committee proposal creates a "Back to School Student Services Fair" in Rudder Exhibit Hall. The fair would begin three days

before classes and end five days later. Students would be able to attend or avoid the fair as they choose.

All vendors would set up in the centralized location, allowing students to find, compare and select all the services available. Those students who live on campus or are without cars would find the new system especially convenient.

Another advantage is the option for officials to invite additional groups to set up exhibits. Banks and local phone companies are among the possibilities.

Student organizations will still be able to sponsor vendors on campus during the rest of the semester after the fair. The change will not hamper fundraising efforts.

The proposal to restrict on-campus solicitation will give students the ability to avoid the sales campaigns that swamp the campus at the start of every semester. It will also prevent the massive congestion in the MSC by moving vendors off the beaten path.

Support for the measure will help make the whole system more efficient and convenient for students and vendors.

Congress may confirm security threat

Defense department nominee dealt with convicted spy



ELIOT WILLIAMS
Columnist

Four years ago, the Senate Armed Services Committee rejected Navy veteran and four-term Texas Sen. John Tower, a Republican, for placement as Secretary of Defense due to rumors of Tower's drinking problems and his relations with women.

Today, the same committee, led by Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, stands ready to confirm a man renowned for his continual defense of various traitors, spies and turncoats to a position arguably as vital, if not more so, to national security.

As the Senate prepares to confirm Dr. Morton Haleprin to the defense department as assistant secretary for democracy and peacekeeping, it is important to reflect upon a little history.

As the Bush administration came to an end, the United States began a humanitarian mission in Somalia. We had a clear goal: to reestablish the supply of food to all citizens of that country. That mission accomplished, U.S. troops should have come home. They did not.

The United Nations, led by Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, convinced the United States to remain in Somalia in an ostensibly peace-keeping role. Obviously, someone made an error in judgment.

The United States is now stuck in a foreign country with no clear goals, led by a global body that was recently accused of gross mismanagement and fraud by CBS' 60 Minutes.

But you have heard all of this before.

Perhaps what you haven't heard, though, is President Clinton's plan for America's military with regard to the United Nations. Clinton has set forth what he envisions to be U.S. foreign policy for the remainder of his administration in Presidential Decision Directive 13.

PDD-13 demands that the Pentagon build a military structure for Boutros-Ghali, transfer U.S. troops to U.N. command and give U.N. officials access to American intelligence. Now, with the problems in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, this seems to be a strategic foreign policy blunder.

"I'm really not that interested in all of that foreign policy stuff," Clinton seems to be saying. "Why don't you go ahead and cover it for me, Boutros?"

Clinton clearly overestimated the ability of the United Nations to manage troops effectively. The lesson that he should be learning from Somalia is that the United States is the United Nations. If Clinton expects the United Nations to pursue any vital objective in the world, then he must lead that effort. However, our president does not seem to be heading that lesson.

With these things in mind, it is clear that the person most directly related to the implementation of PDD-13 will have tremendous influence over our national security for the next few years. That person, assuming Senate confirmation, will be Dr. Morton Haleprin.

Haleprin began his illustrious career in the Nixon White House as a member of the National Security Council. When Henry Kissinger alleged Haleprin was leaking national security secrets to outside parties, Haleprin resigned his post to begin work at the ACLU, where he announced his goal to cripple the Cold War activities of America's security agencies.

When Philip Agee, ex-CIA agent and U.S. defector, exposed the names of hundreds of CIA agents — an act of treason that immediately resulted in the assassination of a CIA station chief in Greece — Haleprin jumped to Agee's defense.

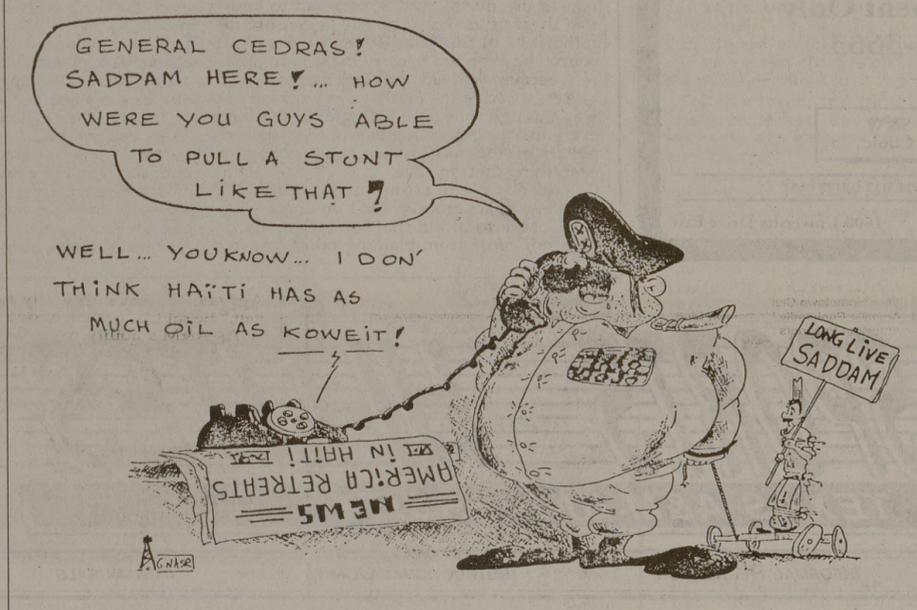
"Haleprin concentrated on the positive results brought by my revelations... and on the traditional abuse of the 'national security' cloak by security services," Agee said.

When David Truong was on trial for turning over U.S. secret documents to the Vietnamese communists, Haleprin again scrambled at the chance to testify for him. Although Truong later received a 15-year sentence for espionage, he attended a party hosted by Haleprin during the trial to celebrate the release of a documentary that savaged the FBI and CIA. Haleprin went so far as to have a photograph made of himself standing with the communist agent.

Haleprin's escapades don't end there. He also served as chief of staff for the defense of Daniel Ellsberg, the man who stole the Pentagon Papers in an attempt to destroy the U.S. war effort in Vietnam. LBJ called this act "close to treason" while NATO Commander Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer called it "a traitorous act."

It is clear Haleprin has advanced an agenda that is un-American in nature. It is one thing to voice one's beliefs in the immorality of war and to object to certain U.S. policies. It is another thing to actively support the traitors and saboteurs who are on the other side. Haleprin has no place in our government, and he definitely has no place in the command structure of our military.

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Quest for cure makes life hard for those suffering from flu

They're back. Those pestilent members of society that invade our lives without warning and make us slaves to the Kleenex company have returned.

On your mark, get set, go. Flu season has come to town.

It all began so innocently. It was a normal day, and I had normal intentions — go to class. All right, go to class and stay awake. As it turned out staying awake was no problem. Quality snooze time does not come easily when the guy next to me is playing boomerang with his lung cavity. Red-nosed and armed with a Kleenex, this guy was coughing so hard that I was certain that his innards would begin to shoot out of his mouth in rapid



JENNY MAGEE
Columnist

succession. I looked closer. The signs were all there: blurry eyes, reddened skin around the nose and a mountain of cough drop wrappers at his side. He was a victim, pure and simple.

But there he was, loyal to the classes' three absences only policy, copying bits and pieces of the lecture in between sneezes. And like a thoughtful and considerate student, my fellow classmate brought enough of the flu virus to share with the whole class.

At this point, it appeared that a good majority of the class had already received their party favor from this guy or some other subservient flu-victim walking the streets and spreading the disease.

I was surrounded. These little microscopic viruses that looked like Papa Smurfs were flying at me from all directions. With sadistic grins and T-shirts that read "It's an influenza thing — we want you to understand," they were slowly invading my health space.

They were everywhere. I couldn't run. I couldn't hide. Then all of a sudden, a large sneeze erupted from the guy next

to me. Ah! Ah! "Cover your mouth!" I screamed at him. But it was too late.

The influenza family had moved into my body. Mama and Papa flu took permanent residence in my stomach, and I was certain the children had set up a pingpong table in my head. Not to men-

By the time I made it to the cough drop section, I felt like chucking the entire display of cherry-flavored, assorted berry and citrus medley at Mr. Vicks himself.

tion the cousins, who decided to rollerblade across the back of my throat. I am all for helping the homeless, but becoming a host for a virus family was not exactly what I had in mind.

I walked out of class just as a housewarming party in my body was getting

into full swing. Medicine. I needed medicine. I'd take a few pills and rid my body of the new inhabitants. No problem.

So, there I was in the local grocery store in the medicine aisle, surrounded on both sides by a collage of assorted miracle cures. The miracle cure was only available to me, however, if I could figure out which of the medicines fit my exact symptoms. Did I have the runny-nose, stuffy head and sore throat combination? Or was I suffering from itchy eyes, a hacking cough, and fever? I even had an option of nighttime or daytime varieties. But from what I could deduce, the influenza family did not seem to be worried about adhering to a nine-to-five workday, so I had no idea if I should concentrate on daytime symptoms or nighttime symptoms. Frankly, at this point I just wanted medicine that would give me relief no matter what time of day it was.

After 30 minutes of comparative shopping, I resorted to eenie-meenie-minie-mo. By the time I made it to the cough drop section, I felt like chucking the entire display of cherry-flavored, assorted berry and

citrus medley at Mr. Vicks himself. I was sick; I didn't want to make decisions.

I went to the cashier and unhappily surrendered \$19.46 to the lady for my box of medicine, cough drops and three cans of soup. Walking home, I began to think that perhaps I should seek medical assistance. But I figured that sitting in the Health Center for about four hours would only give my influenza family the prime opportunity to meet up with all sorts of relatives.

I decided to nurse myself back to health. Really, what were a couple of thousand minute viruses compared to a big, semi-strong me?

I think I managed to hold-out for about five minutes of coughing and sneezing before I gave up. I had tried inner strength. I had tried medicine. I had even tried the microwaved version of vegetable soup. There was only one thing left to do. I picked up the phone and dialed

"Mom, I'm sick"

Jenny Magee is a sophomore English and journalism major

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 1993
MAIL CALL

Let's blame it all on Beavis and Butt-head

Beavis and Butt-head named as responsible parties in three more fires ...? New FBI investigations are considering a link between the crude pair and the Kennedy assassination. That's right, if

you look closely, the Zapruder film reveals a glimpse of what appears to be Beavis' head just above the horizon on the grassy knoll.

A former employee of the book depository has also identified Butt-head as being on the fifth floor of the building at the time of the shooting. Are these mere coincidences?

The unsubstantiated "magic bullet" theory has new explanations for its validity. Oliver Stone, try that out for your sequel.

Hold on, there's more. The American public has been misled by political leaders. Mistakenly, the Republicans were blamed for the 4.3 trillion dollar national debt. Unconfirmed rumors have placed both Beavis and Butt-head in the White House at exactly the time everything hit the fan. We apologize to all corrupt politicians. Proper punishment will come to these characters.

Why not pin all our problems on a couple of cartoon characters? It's "politically correct," right?

No, wait just one minute. Why don't we accept responsibility? Rather than locking up Beavis and Butt-head and throwing the key away, let's face the responsibility. Parents should maintain re-

sponsibility for their children; young adults should take responsibility for their actions, and we all should take responsibility for current condition in the U.S.

Or we can remain on our comfortable couch and flip the channel until we have a new scapegoat: Bart Simpson.

*Russ Huntington
Class of '95*

A&M needs to add courses in fine arts

As correctly reported in The Battalion (12 Oct., "Gage encourages administration, faculty to work together for future"), I stated that I believe Texas A&M

University is "painfully shy" of offering acceptable courses in the arts.

The 1993 "Reported Gains by TAMU Graduating Seniors" clearly underscores this fact. Those Aggies perceived that they were deficient in "cultural awareness," "knowledge about the world," "enjoying literature," and especially lacking in "understanding art, music and drama" as compared to students of other doctoral institutions.

If our university is going to be considered a comprehensive (not "supplemental," as incorrectly reported) institution it must include curricula in the fine arts. We face a changing world that will require fundamental changes in how we do business here.

*Joseph M. Hutchinson
Professor of architecture*