

## THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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GUILTY... NOT GUILTY...  
GUILTY... NOT GUILTY...  
GUILTY... NOT GUILTY!!



## EDITORIAL

### Playing politics Earle stoops to shenanigans

With the abrupt ending of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's trial over alleged official misconduct and destruction of state treasury documents, the only thing one can be fairly certain of is that Ronnie Earle showed very poor judgment. The Travis County District Attorney may have had a very good reason for the indictment of Hutchison, but his decision making skills were definitely lacking towards the end of the whole affair. Earle dropped the Hutchison case after he came to suspect that State Judge John F. Onion Jr. would rule the prosecution's key evidence inadmissible.

The questionable evidence was seized just days after Hutchison assumed her office as the second republican senator from Texas. There was some question concerning whether the proper subpoena or search warrant was issued at the time, and Onion — in a highly questionable decision — refused to give a pretrial ruling on the matter.

When Earle decided to pur-

sue this case, he should have made a commitment to himself and, more importantly, the taxpayers. This court battle has been a series of mishaps and questionable decision making by Earle, beginning when a judge dropped the first indictment on the senator and ordered Earle to refile the charges of official misconduct in more clear and concise language.



Earle's actions after the trial were political in nature and completely inappropriate. After giving up the case, he invited the news media to look over seized records and other evidence. He also wanted to release secret testimony from the grand jury's hearings. These actions make it appear that the whole trial was a political game rather than a serious question of ethics.

Earle's own Public Integrity Unit would probably disapprove of his actions. To maintain his integrity, he should have followed his own professional code of conduct and avoided political games.

## Unemployment: an occupational hazard Job interview should get foot in door, not mouth



ROBERT VASQUEZ  
Columnist

Not that I'm counting ... but, did you know there are only 48 days of school left in this semester? My father informed me of that fact this weekend. It seems he stands to get a raise when I get my big, uh, "frame" out of school and start earning a living. He gets to keep a larger percentage of his paycheck, and I'll be stuck floundering in the real world. Reality bites.

With such a prospect looming inevitable on the horizon, I have begun preparing for the big nose-dive into the draining job pool. I got a firsthand look at the puddle this weekend when I attended a job fair for journalists. "Don't expect too much," said the motivational speaker. "The wages are low. The stress is high, and the hours are long. But look on the bright side — you're lucky if you have a job. Thousands of others don't."

The swarm of guppies in the audience gasped for water. I guess you could say she motivated us. She moved us to tears.

Next, was the interview session, where enthusiastic young idealists are placed in the ring with seasoned (read: calloused, bitter, cranky) professionals. It's a test to see just how much the kids can squirm before tearing their resumes into tiny pieces and breaking into a roar of laughter while the applicant cringes, retreating into the fetal position and then run-

ning for the door.

"What do you think you have to offer our company?" asked one interviewer.

"Well, I have some experience with TV news ..." I began.

"Yes, but, can you edit tape?"

"Uh ..."

"What about live shots? Have you done any spot news?"

"Well, when I interned with ..."

"I don't care who you've been with before. That's history. What can you do for me, huh? For ME?"

What was this? A date? I'd seen lawyers less greedy.

The resume critique session was much more encouraging. The resume, they say, is the one place you're allowed to toot your own horn. You must put all false modesty aside and puff out your breast like a Red-tailed Wooperwooper. You must list all relevant experience, putting yourself in the best possible light so that the employer is sufficiently impressed and hires you on the spot.

I had to lie.

"So, how long did you serve as Student Body President at Texas A&M, Mr. Vasquez?"

"Six years. Yes, six years. I took the last year off so that I could concentrate on my position as Editor-in-Chief at The Battalion. You see, that's listed right down there ..."

"Yes, I see. Just below the 'Publisher' entry. Was your 'Independent Review' a success?"

"Oh, yes. Very successful. It's still going strong, in fact."

Turns out half of the employers there weren't even looking to hire. They were interviewing sort of as a practice session for the nice, young students who had gone to the trou-

ble of paying the \$300 entry fee and driving all the way to Amarillo for the convention.

I didn't know this, but the term "job fair" comes from the Latin phrases *takis dolaris wastis temoris*, which loosely translated means, "steal your money and waste your time."

I'm not bitter. This job-hunting stuff is just getting to me. And I've only begun. But there's hope. One friend I know was waiting tables between interviews with advertising agencies and public relations companies. Three months after graduation, he was still pounding the pavement and handing out resumes.

Finally, he found the perfect job. He got a job at an advertising agency in Dallas, servicing a major account for Pepsi Cola. His hard work, his perseverance, his education had all paid off. He had proven his merit to the interviewer and got the job he deserved.

So, he left a note saying goodbye to his friends at work and asking them to pick up his last two shifts, since he would have to leave for Dallas immediately.

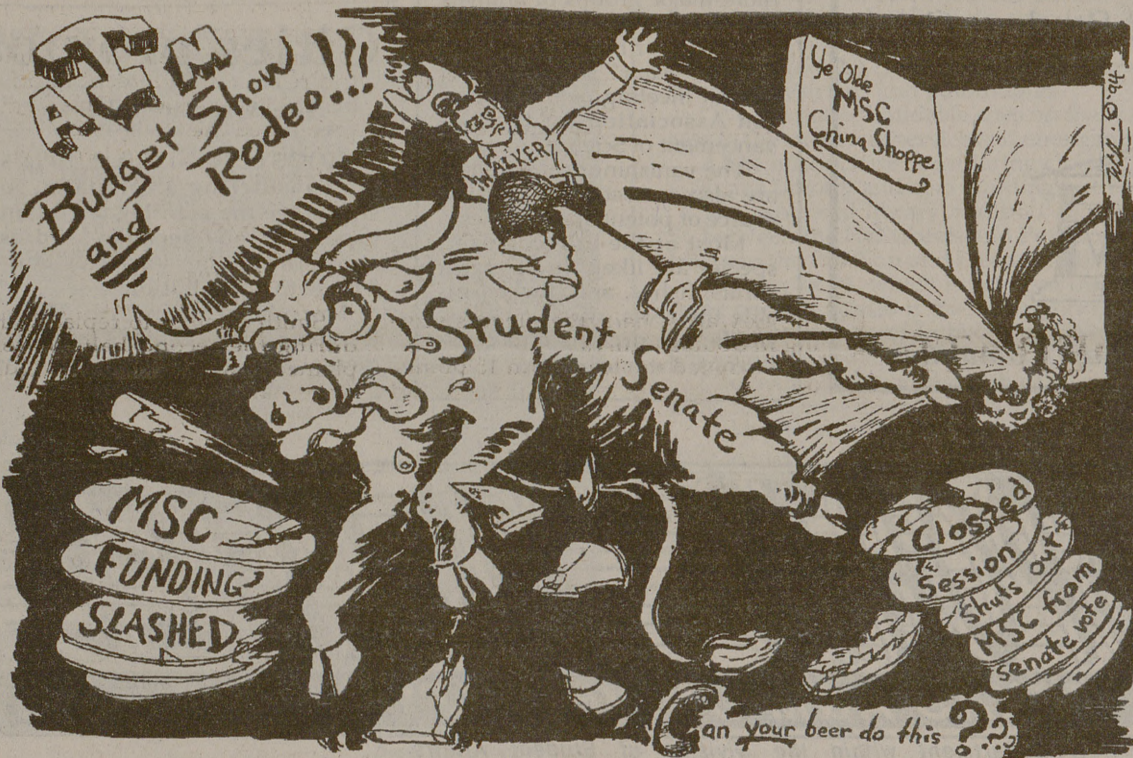
"Please pick up my last two shifts," the note read.

I couldn't believe it. He had a great job with a great company. And he couldn't spell the word "two." He's a great guy. And he'll probably do a great job. But he couldn't even spell the word "two."

That gave me hope. I thought, "If he can do it, then so can I."

I mean, I have my share of faults. Don't get me wrong. But at least I can spell.

Robert Vasquez is a senior journalism major



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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

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## Suggested MSC funding cuts impact all of student body

The Student Senate's decision to cut MSC funding was probably one of the most important decisions this year. The finance committee has suggested a cut in the MSC's student services fees allocation totaling approximately \$400,000. I think it is imperative to address you, the students of Texas A&M, whom this action will affect the most.

Your student services fees cover a variety of activities and services, including the Health Center, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Student Counseling Services, Student Government, sports clubs and many others. The largest portion of these fee al-

LORRAINE WHITEAKER  
Guest columnist

locations goes to the Memorial Student Center.

You are probably thinking, "So what? The MSC gets a budget cut. It doesn't hurt me. The MSC should just deal with it."

This makes sense. After all, just what has the MSC ever done for you? How could a budget cut for the MSC make your life any different? And most importantly, why should you possibly care?

Chances are that you have attended MSC-sponsored programs.

When you went to the movies at Rudder, you were participating in a Film Society Program. When you saw that really good band over in DeWare, Town Hall was the group that brought them to A&M. Did you attend Pageant, All Night Fair or Variety Show? If you didn't, your roommate, your sweetheart or your best friend probably did.

The MSC strives for diverse programming. Town Hall brings in musical guests from Alabama to Belly. OPAS presents The Preservation Hall Jazz Band and "Man of La Mancha" this season. Nova spon-

sors College Bowl and weekly open gaming. Cepheid Variable presents AggieCon, the largest science-fiction convention in the Southwest. Film Society screens blockbuster movies and alternative "sleepers." SCONA, MBA-Law, ALOT and the other committees each provide a wide range of programming for a university-wide audience.

There is more to programming than just presentation. Networking, communicating and event planning are just a few of the

**How does the Senate suggest the MSC take up the slack? People simply will not volunteer to take on the intense workload that the MSC staff is paid to do.**

skills that the MSC strives to instill in its students. MSC committees are open to all students at A&M. As such they give you,

the student, the chance to work with some of the most extraordinary people in the world, from famous authors to U.S. presidents.

And now the Senate finance committee suggests cutting the MSC student services fees allocations. How do they suggest the MSC take up the slack? For starters, they suggest cutting student workers from the Student Programs Office. They propose cutting a graduate student Committee Advisor, removing secretaries and dismissing support staff. The support staff, advisors and student workers are integral to its ability to function efficiently. To put it bluntly, people simply will not volunteer to take on the intense workload that the MSC staff is paid to do.

Finally, the Senate finance committee suggests the elimination or reduction of allocations to several committees. This seems sound at first glance because these particular committees charge admission to their events. Raising prices will make up the difference, right? Probably not.

Most of the committees involved have

already "maxed" their ticket prices. Raising them further would make the given program non-competitive with similar events in the surrounding area. Also, higher prices tend to make students shy away from events. Increasing prices is therefore not a viable option.

So, what can be done? This is where you come in. You can call your senators — you have senators representing your class as well as your college. Their phone numbers are available in the Student Activities area of the Koldus Building.

You can call Dr. Southerland, vice president of Student Affairs. You can attend any open meetings of the MSC committees. You can call the Student Programs Office for more information. Or, you can just sit and hope that someone else will do it for you — and then gripe next year when your ticket prices go up and the services provided go down.

Lorraine Whiteaker is the chairman of MSC Cepheid Variable

COLLEGE STATION, TX  
 Feb 21  
 1994  
**MAIL CALL**

**Race should play no part in admission**

I'm writing in reference to the story on minority recruitment in The Battalion Monday, Feb. 14. I agree with old Ag James Courtney, Class of '67: "All we need to do is take the best students" — that is accept students that meet the University's entrance requirements period, no exceptions! Nothing more, nothing less.

Paul Parrish, dean of the College of

Liberal Arts, was simply using rhetoric to give the impression that he really wants to do something about minority enrollment percentages.

All we really have to do is take the race section out of all applications and forms, and never ask about it. If all these politically correct people really want to make a change, why don't they stop talking about color. After all, that's the problem — Look Beyond Color! We are all created equal; let us all start behaving that way!

Joe G. Grace II  
 Class of '95

**Jesus didn't speak against homosexuals**

Jesus, believed to be the closest link between God and man, spent three years roaming about spreading the will of His Father. In this time he said nothing about homosexuality. Not one word! Jesus never said that homosexuals were in danger of facing the wrath of hellfire. He instead issued this warning to the religious bigots and hate mongers. Jesus spent his life demonstrating God's love for all people; the oppressed and outcast were often the recipients of His greatest miracles.

Jesus did say, "Judge not lest you be judged."

We live in a society that is plagued with problems far more severe than two individuals of the same gender falling in love with one another. One-third of all teenage suicides are related to questions and fear regarding sexual orientation.

These are children who, when looking for love and support, come across the trash that is spewed about in the name of God, and choose death over his judgment. I have lost my patience for people who pick a few verses out of context from the Bible, support them with a "Bubba" mentality, and then design a God that will best suit them. We are all sinners down here.

Yes, I am gay. Should I consider myself lucky that my hands are not singed from my body every time I pick up my Bible or set foot in my church? No, because God made me this way.

Mark Allen Martin  
 Class of '94

**Ag aided by strangers**

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 16, I learned the definition of a true Aggie. I fainted at the Northgate

post office, and I awoke to find several people surrounding me, all concerned for my health.

Robert (someone I had never met) had propped my head up on his backpack. He wiped my face down with wet paper towels. Phil, another unknown face, sat beside me and reassured me that everything would be fine. The post office employees called the ambulance and provided me with cold water to drink.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank Robert, Phil, the employees, the paramedics and everyone who took the time and effort to help out a fellow Aggie.

I will never forget you. I just hope that one day I can do for someone else what you did for me. Thank you once again!

Jeanette Carter  
 Class of '96