The Battalion Editorial Board

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THE MEDIA EXPLAINS HEALTH CARE Having won the symbolic power of the 'centrist' label, the plan is now gathering political THE CLINTON PLAN: to be, what is it going to take for Clinton to get Moynihan on board? momentum.

SINGLE PAYER: Critics call it 'unrealistic

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Class evaluations Students should see results

With registration comes the ress and fear of signing up for class taught by a professor ou would rather avoid like the ague. By the time you find out the prof doesn't relate well o students or just reads straight rom the book, it's too late to rework your schedule.

Students should demand to know more about the professors who will be teaching them, and teacher evaluations could be just the tool students need to find pertinent information about their future profes-

The Texas A&M system, owever, will not allow it.

The evaluations we fill out at the end of every semester go directly to the department and then to the teacher some time during the next semester. Stuents are never given a chance see their peers' evaluations

A&M system allows a student to to meet this need.

obtain on a professor is past grade distributions. Once found in the YMCA Building, this information can now be found at Henderson Hall.

Grade distribution is an important criterion for many students when choosing a professor, but it certainly is not the most responsible and accurate indication of a teacher's capabilities. Students should be able to find out about the instructor's teaching philosophy, amount of class discussion and lecture quality.

By reading other students' evaluations, or even a summary of them, registering students can have a better idea of what exactly they are getting into.
Students should know not only

what kind of grade they're likely to receive, but also they need to try to find out how much they will learn in their classes.

Releasing past evaluations to The only information the students would be a great way

Urgent words recall horrors of past Holocaust survivor leaves message for future generations

was 14 years old when the Nazis marched into my village. It was 1939 when the Nazis came to Kenyen, Poland," Mike Jacobs said. "The first thing the soldiers did was throw the prayer books and scrolls out of the synagogue into the streets. They closed the synagogue and it was made into a horse stable.

His Polish accent was heavy, making the words that much more urgent. He is now an old man who remembers vividly those horrors of 50 years past; yet the faces of his dead family have faded from his mind

"I went to the big square to watch a concert one evening. When I got there, the Nazis had taken two hostages, one Jew and one non-Jew. They were put up to a wall and shot.

It was the first time he saw someone murdered. It wouldn't be the last.

"I remember going into the buildings and hearing the babies crying and wondering why the mothers were leaving them behind. Sgt. Holtz [a German soldier] told us to take the babies to the large building. I can still feel the warmth of the babies in my arms. I can still feel the crying," Jacobs said as he held out his arms as if carrying a baby.
"I was happy because I thought that these

babies were going to live, that they would be taken to Germany to grow up and never know their parents or what happened to them.'

Jacobs and other boys took the infants into a room. Soon after, he saw a soldier standing in a window throwing out dolls as soldiers on the ground shot at them like clay pigeons.

"But I realized that it wasn't dolls they were shooting out of the air. It was the babies. Every shot and silenced scream marked

ROY L. CLAY

Columnist

the shot of an expert marksman.' Later they found a young child crying on a corner. As Holtz reached for his pistol, Jacobs said he stood in front of the child and begged Holtz not to do it. The soldier told him if he didn't get out of the way then he would suffer the same fate, but it didn't matter to him. He had to do something to stop it. But his effort was in vain.

"Holtz fired six rounds into the little child, but the child did not die. So, he picked the baby up by the foot and dashed its head against the wall," Jacobs said.

After the cold, starvation and torture of the Polish ghettos, the Jews were separated and sent to other ghettos or concentration camps that littered Europe. Most of Jacobs' family were taken to the hell known as Treblinka, where they were exterminated.

Jacobs ultimately arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau. He remembers thinking how won-derful this new place was. It had a huge bakery that burned all night. He told his companions that if the Nazis asked, he would tell them that he was a baker. The camp also had its own doctor who wore a spotless white medical coat and inspected the ranks of new arrivals as they stepped off the train.

He later found out that the clean white coat belonged to Dr. Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death," who selected those sent to "special treatment." The "bakery" was a crematorium that processed the bodies of men, women and children after they choked for 30 minutes in the gas chambers and died.

But there was a purpose to the killing at Auschwitz. People's bones could be made into fertilizer. Their hair, shaved off before entering the chamber, was made into rugs and mattress stuffing. Human fat was made

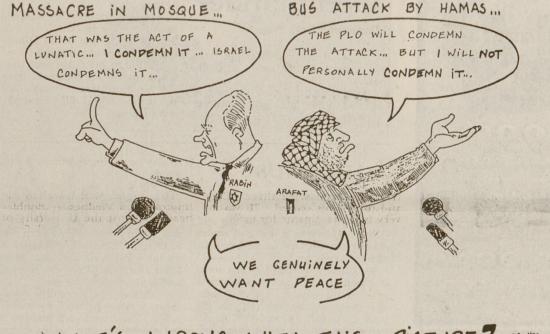
Jacobs survived Auschwitz. He lived through the fate that took the lives of his entire family. Why does he speak of these terrible accounts of human degradation and evil?

Because we have to remember. There are people who would have the world believe that the Holocaust never happened, that six million Jews and five million non-Jews simply vanished into thin air, and in 30 years there will be no living witnesses to refute their claims or tell of the atrocities of Nazi Third Reich.

Your children and your grandchildren won't have the opportunity to listen to a Holocaust survivor," Jacobs said. "You will have to teach them. You have to say, 'This is what one person can do to another if you don't speak out.

It is our duty to humanity to remember and to teach. If we don't, the same thing may happen again — and that would be an unfor-

Roy L. Clay is a senior history major



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? OF THE

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff.
Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the

opinions of the authors.

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.

We reserve the right to edit letters and guest columns for length, style, and accuracy.
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State budget ranks criminals over law-abiding citizens • In some central shower areas, all 30 to

the Texas prison system is eating the state's budget for lunch. If something isn't done to alleviate the problem of paying to house, feed and entertain a monstrous number of prisoners, the meal will be over before the law-abiding citizens can get to the table.

One could argue that things like the state's education, welfare and even transportation systems should come first in line for budgetary allowances. However, in the wake of the success of the 1992 Ruiz prison-reform lawsuit, the prison reform ovement has mushroomed from a cry gainst prison overcrowding to a growing st of grunts and moans about being deprived of cable television and being served inedible" food. And the state, crippled by ts fear of the growing number of prison rights lawsuits, has placed itself in a head-lock trying to provide "the lawful caliber of acilities" to too many prisoners and no way to pay for them.

To begin with, the idea that prisoners have rights is an oxymoron. When people commit crimes, they relinquish their rights in the moment that they violate the law. es, we live in America, where everyone

JENNY MAGEE

Columnist



our money on programs that benefit the citizens who obey the law, instead of those who break it? Why should law-abiding citizens, especially the state's children, handicapped and elderly stand in line behind prisoners on the state's financial priority list? What kind of message are we sending to the people of this state anyway? It would be interesting if the state had to

explain its prison funding decisions to a child. Perhaps the explanation would go something like this: "We're sorry, sweetheart. We know your school needs better equipment and your teacher should have a better salary. We are going to spend your mommy and daddy's tax dollars to buy

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comfortable beds and television sets for all the thieves, murders and rapists. We hope you don't mind.'

And if this child was particularly naive, maybe legislators and bureaucrats could appease him with the promise that the thieves, murders and rapists would now be safely off the streets for a good six months. However, if the state tried to explain to

this same child some of the findings from a year-long audit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice by Comptroller John Sharp, they might become a little more tonguetied. According to an article in the Houston Chronicle, Sharp's report made 224 recommendations to alter the current wasteful practices that could save taxpayers \$740 million dollars during the next five years.

Some of the problems cited in Sharp's report are as follows (let's see how the state explains these to a child):

• An average of one prisoner every two months is paroled accidentally because of faulty record keeping. "Hey kid, change that promise of keeping criminals off the streets for six months

to two months.

• 43 percent of inmates released are back

behind bars within three years

"Hey kid, if you never go back out on the streets again, you might be safe."

To begin with, the idea that prisoners have rights is an oxymoron. When people commit crimes, they relinquish their rights in the moment that they violate the law.

• The prison system pays \$3 a gallon for gas sold at its own gas pumps. Some prison units have more cars available than employ-

'Hey kid, maybe if we had had better schools 40 years ago, we would have learned math better.

 Senior managers live in free housing maintained by white-coated inmate servants who cook, clean and baby sit.

"Hey kid, you know the prisoners aren't the only ones who have rights.

60 shower heads are turned on simultaneously even if only one inmate is showering. Hey kid, well, uh,.. uh.. More than \$3 million in inventory is

"Hey kid, listen. If you don't tell any-

rey kid, listen in you don't ten any-body about all this, maybe we could take you to a baseball game, okay?"

First of all, we question the importance that the state places on housing criminals. Next, we should question the fact that the agency in charge of these criminals, which employs 28,000 people and receives \$4 bil-lion in state funds during the next two years, is not far from being criminal itself. And, while we're at it, we might as well get to the root of the problem and question the whole Texas prison system itself. For a state that has more criminals than many small countries, we can logically deduce that we are putting far too many people in prison, and once we get them there, we treat them far too well.

Jenny Magee is a sophomore English and journalism

Equality, education Women's Week goals

• The first Women's Week (March 27 through April 1) was an unqualified success, and the planning committee thanks all those who helped organize events, provided financial or moral support, or took part in this historic week. We're grateful for the strong support from the University administration, the Faculty Senate, community organizations, and local and state officials.

This support was especially evidenced by the diversity of the groups who partici-

pated in the week's events. We were particularly honored that Gov. Ann Richards officially proclaimed Texas A&M's women's week, noting that "Texas women have left an indelible imprint on ... politics, religion, education, business, sports, and civic involvement.

Our goal for this first ever women's week was to celebrate women's accomplishments, not to emphasize gender differences. There was no intent to isolate ourselves; rather we sought to strengthen our connection based on shared interests, information and ideas, enjoy our successes, and look ahead to future challenges. It was good to see a number of men at our

events, and we are particularly grateful for the assistance and encouragement we received from President E. Dean Gage.

As we plan Women's Week 1995, we hope that at some point we'll be "out of business." Gender, racial and ethnic equality is a goal sought by all of us at Texas A&M - women and men, students and faculty, professional and support staff. But it's going to take us a while to get there. In the meantime, we believe celebrating women's accomplishments encourages women to greater achievements, educates everyone about women's contributions to the institution, and builds relationships that advance the cause of equality.

Chair, Campus Climate Task Force, Status of Women Subcommittee Texas A&M Faculty Senate

• In response to Aaron Tuttle and James Staley's letters to The Battalion, we would like to educate the public about the purpose of Texas A&M's Women's Week and the platform of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

First of all, women have always been suppressed. We are a minority, if not by members, then by lack of equality. For example, if you have taken at least one history class you would know that women were denied the right to vote until the early part of this century while white males took this privilege for granted.

Second, the purpose of Women's Week at Texas A&M University was to educate females and males about women's issues that are not addressed or recognized as often as they should be. To receive a broader understanding of a topic, you must educate yourself on its full spectrum.

Finally, to redefine the misconceptions written in the letters, the purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. Our main objective is not to redefine the act of sex, nor to conquer men. Just equality.

In the past there was no civil rights movement to speak for women as there has been for African-Americans and other victims of discrimination. NOW serves this purpose and is dedicated to the proposition that women are human beings, who, like all other people in our society, must have the chance to develop their fullest human potential. We believe that women can achieve such equality only by accepting to the full the challenges and responsibilities they share with all other people in our society, as part of the decision-making mainstream of American political, economic and social life.

Paula Fedirchuk Graduate Student

Shari Hunt Vice President, Texas A&M NOW Class of '93