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THE BATTALION  
Established in 1893

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EDITORIAL  
NEVER FOLD

The media should not cater to terrorist or government demands.

Last week, the New York Times and the Washington Post printed the manifesto of the Unabomber in an effort to put an end to the 17-year random string of mail bombings.

The Unabomber, whose identity is unknown to authorities, promised to end his bombing streak if the Times and Post would print his 35,000-word essay.

This decision not only affects both newspapers, but all media organizations, as well.

Caving into the demands of a terrorist sets a dangerous precedent. The media can be persuaded by threats to "bend its rules." In this sense, last week's decision does not put an end to the violence but rather leaves another unpredictable door open for more threats of violence to bully the media.

The decision to print the manifesto also exhibits questionable logic on the part of the two papers. Obviously, the Unabomber is not a rational human being, which makes the decision all the more interest-

ing. The papers have no guarantee he will keep his promise.

The Houston Chronicle reported the newspapers made their decision under persistent urging from the Justice Department and the FBI. For these government agencies to make such a request, there must be details not known to the public.

The media has always prided itself on being independent of the government. Giving in to such a request seems to go against that basic philosophy.

While standing up for the freedom of the press — which includes deciding what is fit to be printed in a newspaper — in the face of threats of violence, may seem like a romantic ideal, it is an ideal that has served the media well in the past. There is no need to shelve it now.

The media's main purpose is to objectively report news to the public. By succumbing to other interests, such as the Unabomber or the government, the media fails.

College athletes don't deserve pay

If you watched the football game Saturday against Colorado, you might have seen the commercial with the characters from Coach explaining how the graduation rate for football players is continuously increasing.

That's a good thing to know, since football players should actually be going to college for an education and not for any other reason.

Last semester, I mentioned to a friend that Texas A&M is one of the only major universities that does not pay our student body president.

Somehow, I received an unexpected, unrelated response of, "Well, football players should be paid before student body presidents." In disbelief, I questioned from where such reasoning came.

The justification was based on faulty reasoning like: Our University monetarily profits by having a winning football team. These players deserve to share in some of the wealth. Another argument was they are out on the field every day risking injury which could completely ruin their future as a professional athlete.

Also, many are on scholarships which they could lose if unable to fulfill their duties as a football player.

Other myths include: Many would have to drop out of school if they were not on the football team because they would not be able to pay tuition. And finally, they do not have time to hold a part-time job since football practice takes up so much time.

All of these arguments are full of fluff. Beginning with the first, I didn't know Texas A&M was now incorporated. Often we complain about teachers focusing on research and ignoring their responsibility to teach the students.

Paying football players is another example of people forgetting our University is an institution of higher learning.

Besides, football players receive enough perks on the side to compensate them for their work. For example, football players



ERIN FITZGERALD  
COLUMNIST

living off campus receive a monthly stipend for living expenses.

I will only briefly remind you that the university lost millions of dollars by being put on probation for certain perks given by former students. Remember Greg Hill?

As for risking bodily harm that could be detrimental to their future — do football players not have a major field of study anymore?

Perhaps they have promising futures as professional athletes, but having a major should at least count as a back-up. If football players are seriously injured, that is a risk they take for receiving a free education for playing football at an excellent University.

If a football player were to lose a scholarship, he would simply have to find another means to pay his tuition.

No one would have to drop out of the University because he could not pay for tuition. That is why there is such a thing as financial aid and student loans.

Many non-athletes have financial constraints and manage an education.

Oh, and God forbid a football player should have to rely on his academic ability to receive any other scholarship.

Assuming football players must meet the same academic requirements to be admitted into A&M, they have just as much potential to succeed as any Aggie.

On the other end of the spectrum, student body presidents do deserve a salary.

Every student elected to this position has spent years at our University working up through the ranks, contributing to campus life, until they are finally elected by their peers to represent the student body.

Their position may not bring in the bucks, but they do spend numerous hours working for unselfish goals to benefit fellow Ags.

The only perk our student body president has is free parking.

This is hardly compensation for the many hours spent in their office and in meetings. In comparison to other universities, this "perk" is hardly worth mentioning. Along with parking, the student body president at t.u. receives \$500 a month and tuition is waived.

However, I am only playing the devil's advocate when I suggest that our student body president should be paid.

While I do believe our student body president contributes more to the University than football players, paying him is unethical.

As the position now stands, a person must be willing to devote an entire year of their life, traveling to A&M Mother's Clubs, meeting with Dr. Southerland, and speaking to various student groups on campus.

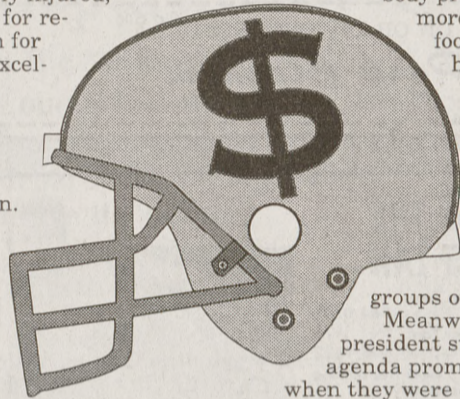
Meanwhile the student body president strives to accomplish the agenda promised to the students when they were elected.

Our current Student Body President Toby Boenig isn't interested for being compensated for his work.

"I don't really care (to be paid). I think the student body president position is one which gives back to the students everything they've gotten out of the University. As Aggies, we strive for something which is greater than ourselves. Serving as student body president is another way of doing that," Boenig said.

Those who advocate that football players should be paid for their "services" to this University should take that to heart.

Erin Fitzgerald is a senior English and political science major



Politically incorrect

PC is wrongfully labeled a liberal phenomenon

That's it, I'm putting away my flag-burning kit, getting another draft card and joining the John Birch society. Once again, the conservative element has chosen to beat us poor liberals over the head with that big ugly monster of political correctness.

It's gotten to the point that I can't take it anymore, so I'm defecting to the other side.

James T. Evans, self-proclaimed "reformed liberal" and author of the wittily-titled book *Where Liberals Go To Die*, descended on our campus last Tuesday night. He brought with him some conservative propaganda and misconceptions about the origins of the PC movement that have been floating around out there for quite some time.

As Evans was there at the behest of the right-wing Conservative Coalition and the somewhat sinister-sounding Students for America, I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting into before I crept in and slunk into a seat near the back of the room.

Evans began by letting us know that he was going to "loosen us up from the rigors of political correctness," by creating a "Tough Questions Safety Zone."

The working assumption was that political correctness was a repressive hallmark of the liberal movement.

Only in a room full of strict conservatives could an individual speak his or her mind without fear of the "feeling" of liberals reproaching them for being culturally or racially insensitive.

To soften us up, we were first treated to some horrifying anecdotes concerning incidents in which proponents of the PC movement had imposed sanctions and fines on those who unwittingly might have offended another person.

A woman trying to sell her house was fined because the advertisement she wrote contained such descriptions as "a lovely view of the river" and "a short-walk from town." This was considered offensive both to the blind and to those who were "differently abled," in that they couldn't walk.

We were then led down the slippery slope from this ridiculous incident to making connections with fascist countries such as Czechoslovakia during the late '60s.

The implication was that, once again, we can't allow the liberal PC proponents to tell us what we can and cannot say, because sooner or later they will be telling us what we can and cannot think.

I guess if Clinton and his PC cronies stay in power, we'll be living in a society with a strong resemblance to George Orwell's 1984 or Stalinist Russia.

These sentiments are echoed in the recent letter sent by the College Republicans urging alumni to withhold donations from the University because of the new "liberal" atmosphere prevailing on our campus.



CHRIS STIDVENT  
COLUMNIST

According to the now infamous missive, "if I as a student in a Political Science class argued that homosexuality is an unnatural lifestyle... I would be punished by being sent to sensitivity classes." Once again, those compassionate liberals are restricting our right to free speech under the guise of establishing a society in which nobody is ever offended by anything that anybody else says.

I was damned mad by this point and just about ready to start voting for Pat Buchanan and the true patriots of the Republican party, when I realized something. What is going on here is not only misleading, but a colossal missing of the point. The PC movement has been pinned onto those sorry liberals for so long that we've all forgotten a fundamentally important fact.

Political correctness, which involves telling people what they should and should not say, is just plain censorship. It's the repression of the free exchange of ideas, ostensibly

because those ideas might offend the tender sensibilities of somebody else.

Censorship is not a liberal phenomenon. It never has been and it never will be. It is a bastion of conservatism that mas-

querades under the guise of "warm fuzziness" and an artificially elevated respect for other-

er's feelings. True liberalism protects our right to say whatever we want, whenever we want and wherever we want.

If somebody is accidentally or intentionally offended, a true liberal either apologizes or simply doesn't care.

And then we have the American Civil Liberties Union. These yellow liberal bastards have defended the free-speech rights of despicable organizations like the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party.

As idiotic and backwards as these groups are, they are still guaranteed their right to peaceful self-expression. What the ACLU and its liberal proponents represent is equal-opportunity defense of the right to free expression, no matter what it is that is being expressed.

Here we have Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole and their Republican henchmen. These pseudo-fascists recently supported a bill that would censor certain portions of the Internet. No real free exchange of ideas being promoted here.

Politically correct thought and the censorship that it entails belongs in the conservative tradition.

Any Republican who wants to take aim at the roots of the political correctness movement might as well shoot himself in the foot.

Maybe I'll be a liberal after all.

Chris Stidvent is a senior English and philosophy major

Strange visit

IRA's Gerry Adams has nothing to teach Texas A&M

According to the Student Programs Office of the MSC, Gerry Adams of the Irish Republican Army and president of the Irish political party Sinn Fein is coming to Texas A&M.

This is in conjunction with a conference by the Wiley Lecture Series on the state of Ireland.

I have to wonder exactly what we can learn from a terrorist.

Gerry Adams is famous for the bombings which he apparently orchestrated in an attempt to gain political independence from Great Britain.

For more than two decades, his movement has struck terror in the hearts of Irish and English alike. Tourists and citizens of the United Kingdom have died at the hands of this man who will come to speak at Texas A&M.

For example, in one weekend, the Aug. 14, 1995 edition of the Glasgow Herald reported that "youths threw petrol bombs, set vehicles alight and stoned firefighters. In Armagh, crowds threw bottles and bricks at police and firefighters."

One fireman was injured, and police cars and several buses were damaged. In Belfast a bus was hijacked and set alight by a man with a handgun. In London, crowds hurled petrol bombs and damaged shops. A crane at a new shopping centre was set ablaze.

These examples all occurred during peace talks, thus they were just plain old riots. Imagine what life was like when Gerry Adams wasn't in the mood for



LYDIA PERCIVAL  
COLUMNIST

peace. In many cases, Adams' groups preferred to blow up pubs and their busiest times. In short, his actions were de-

spicable. So how much money did the Wiley Lecture Series pay to bring this terrorist here?

Understandably, Wiley Lecture Series was not able to comment on the cost of bringing in Adams because the affair is "under contract," so I called the American Programs Bureau, Inc. It listed his honorarium anywhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Wiley Lecture Series receives no student fees, but they are an organization of the MSC's Student Programs Office.

The idea that a terrorist is coming to Texas A&M through Texas A&M seems awful.

I do not disagree with bringing speakers of other ideologies. Bring in a communist and I would be interested to hear how someone can justify believing in an ideology which seems to have failed all over the world.

But please do not bring in a terrorist under the auspices of education to this University.

There is nothing to learn from Gerry Adams (unless you need a tip on blowing up your professor's car in order to avoid that chemistry test that is growing near).

I understand that Gerry Adams isn't still blowing people up today. So what?

Let's say a miracle occurred

and President Clinton was actually successful in foreign policy regarding Bosnia.

Let's pretend that a peace accord was struck today and all the shelling would end. In a few months would we bring in Slobodan Milosevic to speak to us on why he believed genocide was justified in the midst of his civil war? I hope not!

If Hitler hadn't killed himself, maybe the Wiley Lecture Series of 1950 could have brought him to speak at A&M.

Okay, maybe Gerry Adams isn't Hitler, and some even go so far as to consider him a patriot.

I was telling a friend in Washington, D.C. about Adams coming here and he said he feels Adams is a freedom fighter, not a terrorist.

But is blowing up innocent civilians having a beer in a pub in any way to fight for freedom?

Perhaps anarchists would say that if accused bomber Timothy McVeigh is convicted he was a freedom fighter against a tyrannical government.

I have to wonder how we would feel if some university in Ireland decided to invite McVeigh to speak to them. I would be pretty ticked off.

So why should we bring Adams?

However, there is a positive side to Adams' coming here.

Somebody should alert the FBI to come and search the audience because the Unabomber might show up to pick up some tricks of the trade from an expert.

Isn't it nice to know A&M can be of some service to the world?

Lydia Percival is a senior political science major



MAIL CALL

Ags shouldn't tear down AIDS signs

Many people have recently spent hours putting up fliers to promote events that we are organizing with AIDS Services of

Brazos Valley, in connection with AIDS Awareness Month.

As I was walking through Blocker today, I noticed that a number of posters I had put up were no longer there. These posters were advertising a fundraiser and had a red ribbon to support AIDS-related issues.

I understand that there are some who see this ribbon and connect it with certain emotions and prejudices they have with AIDS.

However, I do not see the success achieved in removing these posters. They were costly to make. They are also the result of months of hard work to organize this event. I am dismayed that these were removed, and hope they will be returned.

If you see something that you do not agree with, ignore it. Or read the information: You may learn something.

Ignorance is no excuse for stupidity.

Jennifer Schmidt  
Class of '95