

# I have what it takes to be a Regent

A simple solution to the Board of Regents' increasing unpopularity

Dear Board of Regents, I may have found a solution to some of the problems that have been plaguing you recently.

**CHRIS STIDVENT**  
 COLUMNIST



and we students eventually were stuck with the bill.

Fortunately, you guys have the power to jack up our fees whenever and wherever you choose, with a minimum amount of debate. We students are completely powerless, we can just whip out our checkbooks and ask how much we owe this time. I like your way of doing business, and I want in.

I'm also proud to say that I know a little something about sweet-heart business deals.

If Barnes and Noble, the company managing the A&M bookstore, wants to fly me or my girlfriend to New York for free, set me up in fancy hotels and give me tickets to Broadway shows before "persuading" me to sign by the "X," I'm all for it.

The Tenneco Power Generation Company began a power plant here in September 1993 under some similarly shady conditions. According to a state management audit of the project, former Regent Ross Margraves "effectively circumvented established lines of authority" when dealing with the project. Hey, I guarantee I'll be looking the other way the entire time.

I know, you guys are thinking that I sound almost too perfect to be true. "This is all good and well," you might say, "but the really important thing is - can he drink?"

I'm sure many people remember the stink made last year, when two Regent secretaries were indicted on felony record tampering charges. They were attempting to cover up the longstanding Regent practice of creative-

ly describing alcohol purchases as "food, soft drinks, ice and cups." At that time, purchasing alcohol with state funds was illegal.

My tolerance for alcohol may not be up to Board of Regent levels just yet, but I swear it's only because I have to stay sober in order to go to my classes.

I know how to "party down" just as well as the next guy, and I can always stay limber enough to itemize my purchase as "food and beverages (wink, wink)" when somebody asks me to head over to the grocery store and pick up another keg of beer.

As you can tell, my philosophy appears to be strictly in line with your own. Why worry about the students, or consult with them before drastic changes are made in policy or what it is going to cost them to go to school?

Hold some token "public" forums over the fee increases during the summer, when seven students are living here, and then consider the other 42,000 of us to be fairly warned and informed.

Like you, I am under the sad and ridiculous impression that the administration and its bloated bureaucracy is more important than the students of Texas A&M.

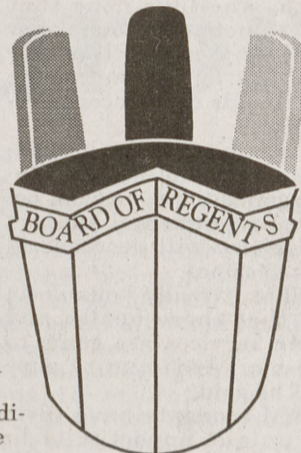
Anybody who tries to tell me that academics are the sole reason for the existence of this University system is talking into a deaf ear as far as I'm concerned.

So, I ask you not to be afraid of letting a student into your club.

Look no further, I am your student liaison. You'll say "screw the students", I'll say "how much?"

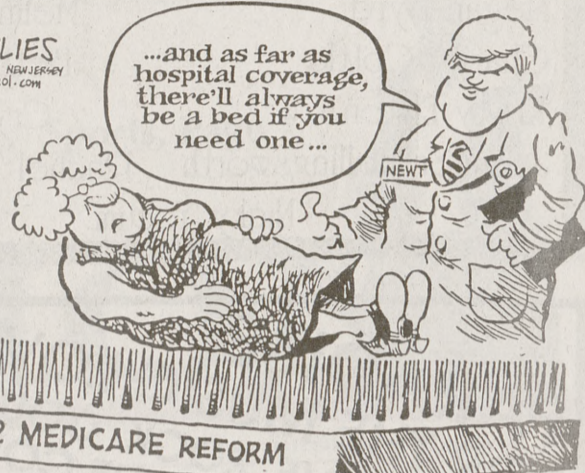
Oh yeah, and can I have another beer?

*Chris Stidvent is a English and philosophy major*



MARGULIES  
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...and as far as hospital coverage, there'll always be a bed if you need one...



G.O.P. MEDICARE REFORM

THE BATTALION  
 Established in 1893

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## EDITORIAL CARING CHOICE

Texas A&M is in great need of a campus child-care center.

If you build it, they will come.

Last Friday, when several Texas A&M architecture students boasted their proposals for a campus child-care center, University administrators took notice.

Although the display was only part of a class project, the idea of a campus child-care center has been around for years.

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution last December that called for such a center, but its future still remains in limbo.

For many graduate and undergraduate students at A&M, finding affordable day care for their young children can be a problem.

According to Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, the University supports the idea, but finding the money to build and maintain the child-care center is a question that has yet to be answered.

Still, it is nice to see that administrators are taking the idea of a child-care facility seriously, as evidenced by the positive response from

the plans submitted by the architecture students.

In addition, by using low-cost resources, such as architecture students, the University will better be able to finance the construction of the center.

As an added benefit, the architecture students are getting hands-on experience in their class by designing the plans.

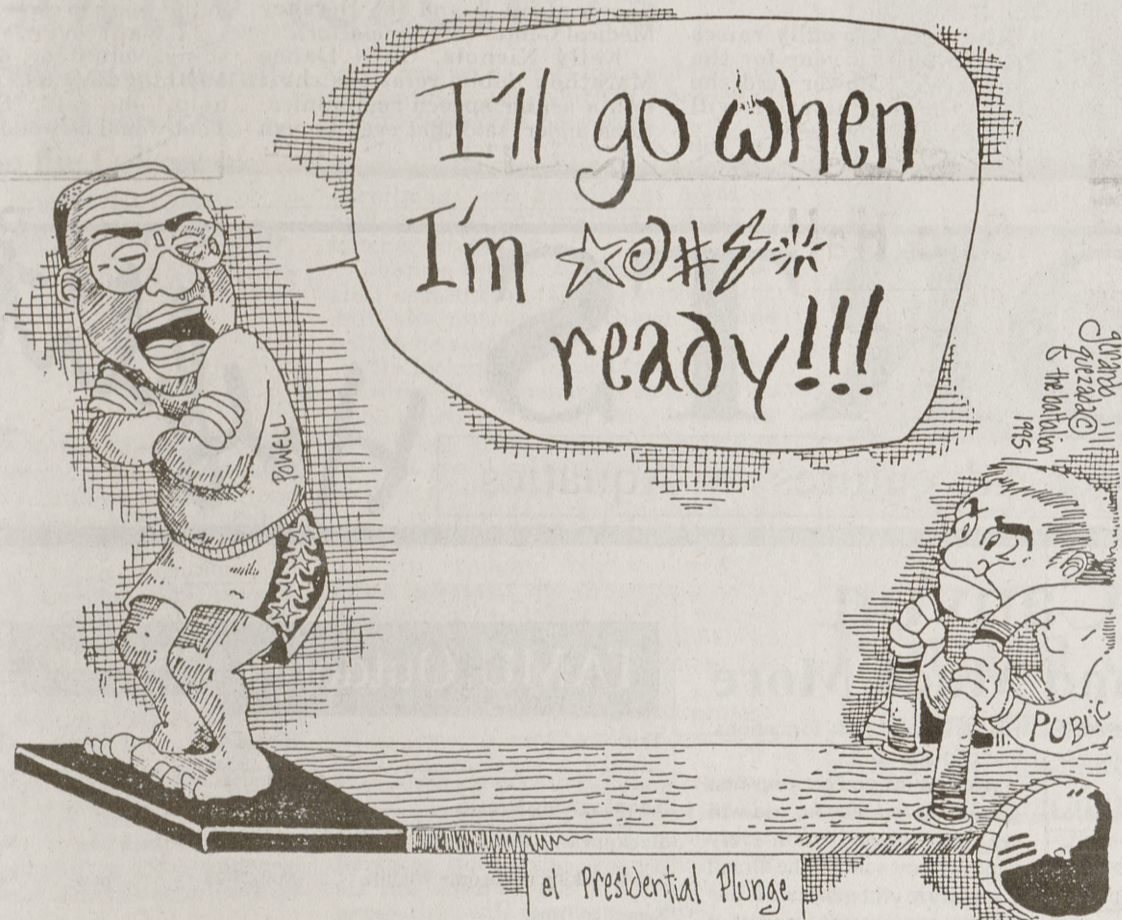
Now it is time for the administration to build on the Faculty Senate's resolution and the work of the architecture students.

The child-care center should become a serious focus for the administration, even if it means cutting other construction or improvement projects to finance it.

Being a full-time student is hard enough for students without children, but for parents, it is especially difficult.

The child-care center would be of enormous benefit to these parents, and send a message to them that the University cares about their needs.

The child-care center should no longer be a field of dreams, but a building of reality.



# Jesus Christ taught liberal ideologies

Christianity and conservatism have become inextricably linked. Most Republican politicians are Christian, and most Christians are conservative.

**SHANNON HALBROOK**  
 GUEST COLUMNIST



rich, so why should the rich help the poor? Why should wealthy and middle-class Americans let themselves be taken advantage of by the crafty, welfare-dependent underprivileged?

Liberals just want to rape the people in society who have the intelligence and toughness and virtue it takes to be financially successful.

How would Jesus have responded to this argument? Perhaps the same way he responded in Matthew 19:21 - "Go and sell that thou hast and give to the poor."

Strangely, nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus mention a sacred virtue of the wealthy.

In fact, if we assume the Bible to be an accurate record of Jesus' ideas, it seems that he was radically opposed to personal wealth. To Jesus, money didn't show virtue until it was given away.

In this sense, zealous fiscal conservatism is inherently unchristian. Which means there is something decidedly hypocritical about a member of Congress cutting welfare and federal aid programs, then claiming to worship the same Jesus who called for unprecedented charity, compassion and giving.

A man who was more liberal than any Democrat on Capitol Hill. A man who saw the importance of helping others.

The leaders of this revolution call themselves Christian, but must not be familiar with Jesus' teachings.

Because contemporary conservatism - and especially the vigor with which these congressmen practice it - lies in direct opposition to them.

It seems that if my Republican congression-

al representatives were truly Christian, they would have at least tried to find other ways to help the poor, rather than happily slashing funds and ignoring the human suffering that lay in their wake.

Even more contradictory is the way Christians in the public support these politicians.

To them, a commitment to end abortion and television violence is what makes a Christian. They have ignored their Congressional leaders' - and their own - erosion of compassion in the interests of more timely and political causes.

But compassion is not an outdated thing. It is not a political thing. And it must never be sacrificed.

**The conservative revolution calls itself Christian, but must not be familiar with Jesus' teachings.**

Of course, it can be argued that Jesus was neither an economist nor a legislator.

He lived long before capitalism and long before American democracy.

Perhaps Jesus' teachings were meant to be interpreted merely on a personal level, rather than on a governmental or social one.

Besides, the compassion that Jesus called for is impractical for our modern capitalistic society. It would bankrupt the federal government and might actually fulfill the doomsday warnings of the Republicans.

But these arguments certainly do not justify totally abandoning the underprivileged. Doing so is merciless and cruel.

And, of course, very unchristian.

*Shannon Halbrook is a sophomore English major*



## MAIL CALL

Adams offers A&M lessons in peace

order to resolve the disputes of his region.

*Mark Klobas  
 Graduate Student*

It would be sad to think that the views Lydia Percival expressed Sept. 26 column are representative of the majority of the students at Texas A&M. If they are, then they will miss a unique opportunity.

The Wiley Lecture Series is presenting a forum discussion on the problems in Northern Ireland, and will have two speakers presenting opposing views on the situation. To have the head of the political wing of the provisional Irish Republican Army here to represent their side is a valuable opportunity to learn their view of the conflict.

Gerry Adams is hardly the sadistic homicidal mastermind that Percival portrayed. He is not involved in the direction of terrorist activities, nor has it been proven that he personally conducted acts of terrorism.

His involvement in a group such as the IRA may be reprehensible, but to hold him personally accountable for all of the IRA's actions is ludicrous.

As for what he could teach us now, how about the value of turning to peace? I've never believed that violence is an acceptable method for achieving political goals, which is why I applaud the end of the IRA's campaign of organized terrorism and their willingness to join negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland.

We have a lot to learn from a man who agreed to stop fighting and turned to discussion in

**Dial-A-Ride leaves student stranded**

I rode my bike to West Campus thinking that it would still be light by the time my meeting was over, but it ran long. I called Dial-A-Ride to take me to the Commons. They assured me that there would be a place for my bike on the bus.

I had to meet her at the Fish Camp Route stop on Agronomy. This place is unlit, unpopulated and unsafe. We are told to use such programs as the Guard Room and Dial-A-Ride for safety.

Nevertheless, with mace in one hand, I rode out to wait for her. When she arrived she told me that she could not allow me to ride because of my bike.

I was told that even though the bus was empty I would take up too much room. She said they do occasionally allow bikes, but not this night because she had several people to pick up.

I asked her what I should do. She flatly stated, "Well, I guess you should ride your bike." I was locked out of my building, alone in the dark, faced with the long trek from west campus to the Commons. These programs are for the safety of the students. I am angered they forgot that.

*Misty Mitchell  
 Class of '99*