

THE BATTALION
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EDITORIAL

REGENT REJECTION

The Board of Regents should reconsider and approve the Center for the Humanities.

Most major universities have a center dedicated to humanities research, but because of a recent misguided Board of Regents decision, Texas A&M will have to wait a while longer for one of its own.

The Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Study has outgrown its origins in the Department of English to include faculty from several departments in the College of Liberal Arts. To continue to flourish, the group needs to become an extra-departmental organization directly accountable to the dean of Liberal Arts.

Two weeks ago the Board voted to reject the IGHLs proposal, which would require no additional funds, to form such an entity.

The reasons for the Board's rejection are difficult to fathom. At least one of the Regents has stated that the Board is concerned that the new Center for the Humanities might engage in the revision of history.

Clearly, the College of Liberal Arts should strive to find and defend an accurate representation of the past.

But nothing in the group's eight-year record suggests its members are aiming to rewrite history with a politically correct slant. In fact, regents have acknowledged that the IGHLs has been doing outstanding work.

The words of praise for the group don't stop at the University's gates either. Respected academics from

across the nation have commended IGHLs for its insightful ideas and distinguished scholarship.

Unfortunately, the Board seems to think that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

But allowing the group to form a Center for the Humanities would enable its researchers to seek additional sources of funding outside the University.

Also, Texas A&M would benefit from having a distinct organization that could attract graduate students by offering associate fellowships.

Texas A&M has long been known for excellence in agriculture and engineering. Now, the rejection of the proposal calls into question the University's commitment to the humanities.

By rejecting the proposal, the Board is restricting academic freedom. The University exists to provide faculty and students with a forum for thought and experimentation. Preventing an already successful faculty group from growing denies it this fundamental purpose.

Clearly, creating a Center for the Humanities would benefit Texas A&M as a whole.

In a misguided attempt to prevent the revision of history, the Board has forgotten some history — the IGHLs has an impressive past, and the regents should reverse their decision to encourage the group's continued excellence in the future.

Summer reminds us to eat right

As the temperature soars into triple digits and classes literally go on for hours, it can mean only one thing: summertime in College Station.

With the onslaught of summer comes a marked increase in the heat, surpassed only by the fear of having to appear in a swimsuit and showcasing the body you have neglected all year.

At one point or another, all of us have vowed to somehow erase the indisputable proof of too many trips to Taco Cabana and the buffet table at Double Dave's. We have all felt the regret that comes with using a baggy sweatshirt as camouflage, and everyone has faced the painful realization of attempting to slip into that certain outfit that doesn't quite fit the way it did a few months ago.

Though the summertime can be cruel in what it reveals, it is a good time to actually fulfill the resolution to eat right after devouring one too many Super-Size Combo Meals.

One of the most important ways to accomplish the goal of eating right can be found at the front of the supermarket. We all know that fruits and vegetables — those colorful things we pass by in order to get to the ice cream aisle — are actually good for us. Un-

fortunately, because they are not always on sale six-for-a-dollar like generic macaroni and cheese, we tend to avoid them. But even though it is embarrassing to admit our junior high P.E. coach/health teacher was right, fruits and vegetables are a basic part of any healthy diet.

Just as eating the right foods can help in our diet, eating the wrong ones can make us wish spandex was never invented. We all have to satisfy that craving for fast food or cure a junk food fix by wolfing down something greasy and unhealthy. But, if McDonald's becomes less of a destination and more of a hobby, or if the delivery person comes to your apartment so often he chips in with the rent, then it is time to change eating habits.

The two main arguments in favor of continuing to eat unhealthy foods are convenience and taste. In terms of convenience, it takes just as little effort to pour cereal into a bowl or cut up vegetables as it does to rip open a box of Ho-Ho's. Besides, think of it this way — the healthier the food, the shorter the guilt trip.

As for taste, there are substitutes for every type of craving. Whether it be low fat frozen yogurt instead of ice cream or baked tortilla chips instead of fried, alternatives are available for most unhealthy foods. And though it would be a lie to say that a boiled potato will replace the urge for french fries, keep up with the substitution and sooner or later even Diet Coke

will taste as good as the regular kind.

Perhaps one of the most important keys to healthy eating isn't what you eat, but when. Granted, no college experience would be complete without making a food run at two in the morning — but guess where all the food stays when you go to sleep an hour later? Even though we all pretend that we won't eat breakfast the next morning to compensate, the empty Egg McMuffin cartons on the car dashboard tell a different story.

Of course, the ultimate foil to maintaining any semblance of a healthy diet are the numerous all-you-can-eat buffets. Sure, we tell ourselves that we are going to eat in moderation, but by the third trip to the buffet, all moderation is hidden under a mountain of fried rice or pizza crust. After leaving the restaurant, everyone vows never to eat that much again. So why not follow through with that promise?

Obviously, the food we eat and the way we eat it play an important role in our health. No one should become a Richard Simmons disciple and eat only fruit and rice cakes three times a day. Life isn't worth living if it doesn't include a Twinkie now and then. By watching what we eat and when we eat it, however, we can fulfill the promise of eating right we've all made — well, all except for those combo meals.

Steven Gyeszly is a Class of '99 finance and sociology major



STEVEN GYESZLY
COLUMNIST

Quitting Senate might help Dole get hired as president

Well, he finally did it. Bob Dole took off his tie and resigned from the Senate, ending a distinguished, 35-year career in Congress. So now it's all or nothing for the war hero from Russell, Kansas.



MICHAEL HEINROTH
COLUMNIST

But what does this really mean for Dole's chances of ousting our chameleon president?

Well, getting out of an extremely unpopular institution can only help Dole. Honestly, no one is getting extra points for being a member of Congress lately. These guys are wearing paper bags over their heads as they walk up the steps of the Capitol. (Well, maybe not. But some of them ought to consider it. Listen up, Ted Kennedy.)

And not to offend any of my young Republican readers out there, but Dole had to get the hell away from Newt Gingrich. Daily photographs with the controversial speaker of the House weren't helping the Dole '96 election campaign. Ol' Newt started off strong, but the self-appointed revolutionary leader failed to maintain order. And now his popularity ratings are down there with Charles Manson.

Possibly the greatest benefit of leaving Congress is that Dole can now offer his vision for America without compromising it for the sake of passing legislation. He is now free of the constraints the role of majority leader imposed.

The question is not whether he has a personal vision for America. Rather, it's whether he can articulate his vision to the common voter. Dole comes from a generation marked by quiet caution. Clinton, on the other hand, emerged from an era of activism. If the ex-senator plans on winning the election in November, he's got to speak up.

No, I'm not suggesting that he should grab a picket and start chanting rhymes in front of the White House. But Dole has to get out there and not be so... well, stiff. Only Al Gore is more wooden.

The content of Dole's resignation speech was a move in the right direc-

tion. He was serious, but also reflective and emotional. Gone was his trademark monotone delivery. Very impressive.

And Dole's public speaking will improve as the presidential campaign heats up during the long summer months.

This past Saturday, in fact, he delivered an excellent speech at the State Chairmen Meeting of the Republican National Committee. He didn't sweat bullets or misread the teleprompter — remember his response to the State of the Union Address? He didn't even refer to himself in the third person.

What he did was speak from the heart about honesty and character. And he took a few comical shots at his opponent. Dole joked, "We don't give out advance copies of my speeches because [Clinton] will give them before I do."

But the long-serving senator from Kansas who wants to "return integrity to our government" is at least 16 points behind Clinton in the latest polls. Many claim it's an impossible gap to close.

If the ex-senator plans on winning the election in November, he's got to speak up.

Clinton did it four years ago against George Bush, though. And he wasn't even the favorite going into the Democratic primaries. Before anyone could say "Whitewater," then-Governor Clinton, leader of our nation's only Third World state, became President Clinton, leader of the Free World.

But no, I'm not bitter. Not at all. By the convention, Republicans will unite behind their presumptive nominee and the ex-senator will now be able to devote all his energy to defeating Clinton.

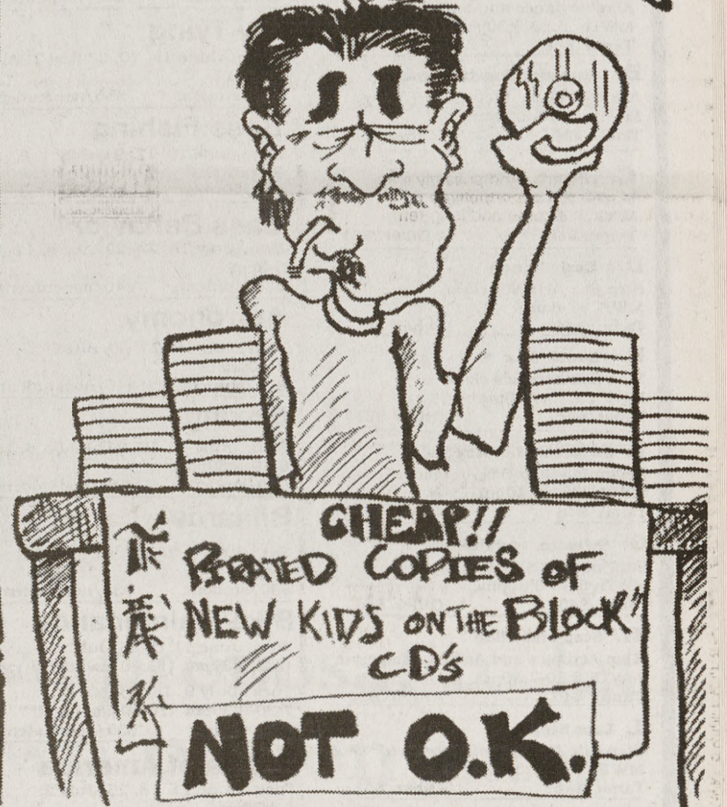
The fight will be bloody. Both Dole and Clinton are veteran campaigners. They both know what it takes to win.

Dole had to resign to move ahead with his campaign. His seat in Congress was holding him back, and he knew it.

No one understands more than Bob Dole himself that this is his last chance to capture the highest office in the land. But then again, I'd rather live in the White House than Russell, Kansas, too.

Michael Heinroth is a Class of '96 political science major

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FOR DUMMIES



Hunger for money strikes all people

School sucks. I've been here for three years and I have hardly learned anything I will actually use out in the real world, academically that is. Sure, I have done a lot of maturing and learned a great deal of independence and leadership, but where does that show up on my transcript? Don't get me wrong; I love Texas A&M with all my heart. I wouldn't trade my experiences here for anything. I just hate classes.



DAVID BOLDT
COLUMNIST

Every semester, I have a week when I have four tests, when every extracurricular activity I'm in has an event, when I'm out of money and my sort-of girlfriend calls me a meathead for not taking her out. It is at these times every single semester that, while popping a whole box of Tagamet, I ask myself the ever-nagging question: Why am I here? Why are we all here? No, it's not so we can go to the Chicken, get drunk and play bones every night.

The real answer to this question is painfully obvious, but no one wants to admit it. Unfortunately, as with many wonders in our society, it all comes down to one thing: money.

You may say you don't care about money. Of course you don't; you have it. Whether from loans, financial aid, a job or those good old parents, all of us here have money. Let me tell you about two people — one who has more money than most of us and one who has less — who both care very much about money.

First there's Brian, a homeless man I got to know while parking cars on lower Greenville in Dallas three years ago. Brian was an honest man; I would send him to buy things for me from the corner store, and he would always bring me back exact change. He had an honest fencing business until bad luck and bad weather put him under and forced him to beg for money to feed himself, his wife and his son. He constantly applied for jobs, but he was never hired because he stunk and wore dirty clothes. Some others and I gave him what we could, but it was never enough.

Brian cared very much about money. He saw firsthand

what the lack of it could do to a family.

The other person I will call Ed. Ed is the CEO of a multibillion-dollar electronics corporation. He fought to get a patent on the diameter of the power cord plugs that run his electronic equipment. That way, if the cord breaks, customers must order the part directly from Ed's factory for over twice the price a store like Radio Shack would sell it. Ed fought for the right to make sure his multibillion-dollar-a-year company would make just a little bit more.

Obviously, Ed also cared very much about money. His greed made him think about it every day — just as Brian's hunger made him do the same.

The fact is that all of us at this school have dreams of what we want our lives to be like in the future. No one dreams of a life like Brian's, so we all need money to make our dreams of a comfortable life come true. I'm willing to admit that I'd like to be rich someday and I think deep inside most people wish for the same. But those who don't care to be rich certainly don't want to be poor.

You may call me a snob and a yuppie and say that money doesn't buy happiness. Well you're right; it doesn't buy happiness. My rich and unhappy uncle is living proof of that. But money does buy opportunities. Opportunities to raise a family in a safe environment, opportunities to send your kids to college and give them the economic boost to get their lives going, opportunities to make your parents comfortable in their last days on this earth.

The point is, the need for money is the hand society has dealt us, and a good education is the most crucial step in obtaining a full house. Even if you don't learn anything useful in class, the diploma will almost guarantee you a better job than one you would have without it.

Why do you think distinction is made between blue-collar and white-collar workers? White-collar workers generally have college degrees and make more money even though blue-collar workers, who generally lack degrees and make less money, often work just as hard.

Yes, money doesn't equate happiness, but the lack of it almost always equates suffering.

David Boldt is a Class of '97 marketing major