

# THE BATTALION OPINION

## Seven '-gates' of Hell plague Clinton

## EDITORIAL

### THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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**Michael Heinroth**  
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The president was exhausted: "Hillary, I'm going to get some shut-eye before we land back in Washington. Why don't you come on to bed?"

But the First Lady mumbled something about villages and health care, so the re-elected Democrat walked alone to the Air Force One presidential suite, crawled in bed, and drifted off to a land where everyone is a liberal ... well, almost everyone.

Suddenly, Air Force One jolted. Then there was an explosion which scattered the presidential plane over the Pacific.

And no, Salinger, it wasn't caused by a misfired from a U.S. Navy vessel. The 747 was made out of a bazillion parts, and one of the main things just gave out, caught on fire and brought the whole thing down.

Moments later, Clinton found himself holding a ticket and waiting in a long line. "This ain't nope," Bill whimpered as a tortured soul reamed from behind the iron gates.

It was Tricky Dick Nixon's turn to take the tickets that day. And with the spin of his poker he yelled, "Who's the whiner at the end of the line? Show yourself!"

The flames of Hell roared, and Clinton nervously answered, "It's just little ol' me."

"Well, I'll be damned."

"I think there's some kinda mistake here," replied Clinton.

"No, I don't think so," Nixon pointed the pitchfork at Clinton's feet and a fireball sent him jumping. "We've got a special place for you next to Senator McCarthy. The two of you could get along just fine." Nixon began laughing hysterically and sarcastically added, "Yeah, he just loved that socialized health care when you were promoting a few years ago."

Through the glowing red gates, Clinton saw a figure perpetually wiping laps in the lake on Oiler's early fire. He nervously wiped the sweat from his forehead and stuttered, "I... I... sw... sw..."

"Well, it was all Hill ... Hill ... Hillary's idea."



"And what about all these cabinet resignations? And scaring the elderly? And the scandals — Whitewater, foreign campaign contributions, Vince Foster's death, Travelgate, Filegate ...?"

Bill pulled himself together and shot back, "Oh, you're one to talk, Dick."

Nixon's eyes became red with anger, "Silence, you imbecile!"

The flames of Hell roared again from behind the gates and Clinton ran for cover.

"Come here, Bill. I need to know one thing before I take your ticket: Just tell me that Al was on the plane, too."

"Nope."

"Oh, you're a lucky one today. Not even the Devil wants the veep in the Oval Office. Just follow that staircase; it's a straight-shot to the Rose Garden." Bill jumped up, clicked his heels and raced to the steps.

The Devil was returning to his well-heated home after another day of prowling about the earth and was nearly knocked senseless by the hillbilly's joyous departure.

He stormed up to the gates and confronted Nixon. "What in Hell is going on?"

"Well, sir, we had Clinton in the line, but I

had to let him go."

The Devil looked pleased. "Good work, Dick. He's worth more to me in the White House. Besides, I have an appointment scheduled with him later this afternoon concerning troop deployments in Zaire."

Suddenly, the Devil felt the cool breeze of an oscillating fan Nixon had smuggled out of Hell's attic. "I've been lookin' for that thing. Put it in my office." With that, the Devil twirled his pitchfork, danced a jig, and began the long journey up the spiral staircase, which led directly to the White House.

As Nixon picked up the fan, he muttered, "I sure hope Bill remembers what happened in Somalia ..."

Suddenly, the landing gear of the presidential airplane met the runway at Andrews Air Force Base; it had all been a terrible nightmare. The president got dressed, and the First Couple stepped off the plane and into the limousine that would take them down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. The chief of staff met them at the front door. "Welcome back Mr. President. Don't forget, you've got an important meeting in a few minutes ..."

Bill straightened his tie; Hillary just grinned.

## SPEAKING OUT Students should voice their opinions at today's GUF forum.

Whether students are in support of the proposed GUF increase or not, they should take steps to educate themselves as to both the reasons and the ramifications behind the proposed increase.

Otherwise, students will have absolutely no room for complaints if the proposed GUF becomes a reality.

Tonight, Texas A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen will provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the GUF.

It would be easy to write off the proposed fee increase as just another addition to the seemingly endless list of fee increases.

It would be even easier to stay home and leave others to ask the questions, but students should take steps to learn about the proposed fee increase.

Whether the proposed fee increase actually carries merit, though, can only be judged if students educate themselves.

Students should not just see the obvious drawbacks of the proposed fee increase, but should take the time to learn more about possible benefits of an increase, such as continued academic excellence.

The forum will provide students with opportunities to learn more

about the proposed fee and Bowen to gauge student reaction.

Armed with information, Bowen will explain why the proposed fee increase is so crucial for continued academic excellence at Texas A&M.

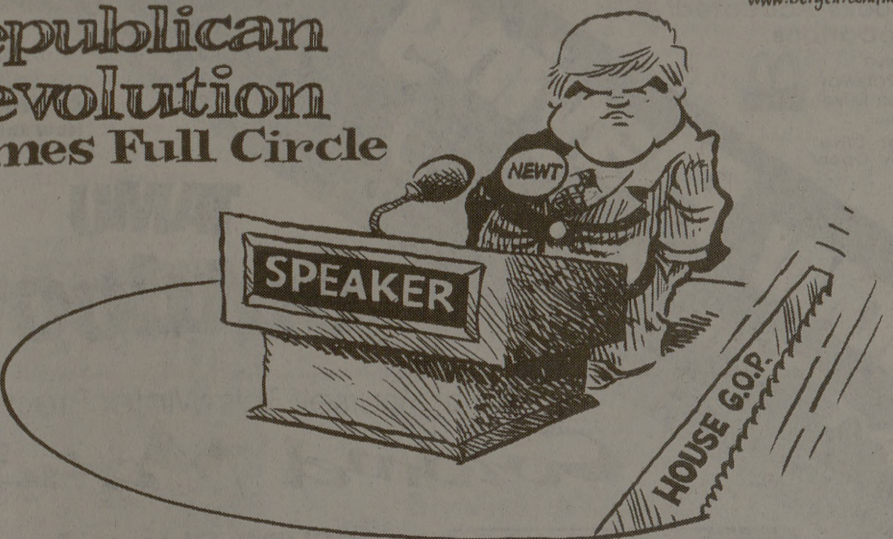
Armed with questions, students can educate Bowen more fully about student concerns and feelings about the proposed fee increase.

Few students take the time to understand where their money is going, yet are often quick to complain about what they see as wasteful spending by the University. When the University demands more money, some students wonder how a University can afford to install grass on Kyle Field but can't even give professors a well-deserved pay raise.

The forum will give students the opportunity to better understand the difficult situation the Texas Legislature has created for the University. Moreover, students can learn exactly how the University is funded.

Students agonize for hours over how to pay for their purchases — shouldn't they take an hour to learn about the thousands they spend each year on education?

## The Republican Revolution Comes Full Circle



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## West Campus requires services

Westward expansion seems to be the latest trend at Texas A&M. First, the College of Business, the Rec Center, and shortly the George Bush Library and Reed Arena will move West Campus addresses.

Texas A&M now has to complete the puzzle to make West Campus a more useable and jubilant place. As it stands, there are pieces missing, including a sufficient bus system, adequate parking, additional dorms and better food.

There is an obvious problem with accessibility to the off-campus busing system. Though it works great for main campus, it is inconvenient for West Campus.

For those of us who call West Campus home, riding the bus to campus to then catch another bus to West Campus is a little ridiculous. It takes the people 20 to 30 minutes to be picked up and dropped off on campus. It then takes another 10 to 15 minutes to walk to the other side of campus or catch the bus to West Campus.

And unless people have a spare two hours to make a round trip, they can forget going home. But there is a simple solution: Two drop off points — one at the present stop and one at some central location on West Campus. Once empty, the bus could swing back around and make two separate pick-ups.

Those who forgo the inconvenience of the busing system should be all too familiar with the lack of convenient parking. There are currently zero parking spaces on West Campus for faculty or students. As it stands, the current "Fish Lot" is already used for West Campus students, limiting commuter parking.

Even Olsen Field's "park-and-ride" system is frequently overcrowded, leaving people waiting for buses, again relying on the timing of bus routes.

Therefore, the Rec Center lot is often used by students with blue tags, not to exercise, but to go to class. What space is left after all of this is faculty parking.

West Campus also lacks sufficient 30 minute parking spaces for quick stops. Another simple solution: Add parking garages. Assuming there are no further delays,

### Columnist



**Sean McAlister**  
Senior accounting and  
finance major

a two-thousand car Fish Lot parking garage will be completed in two years. On the flip side, for the next two years, expect construction to congest parking even worse.

Business, ag, or bio-med students who live on the south side of campus may have a better chance of sprouting wings than making it across campus in 20 minutes.

Crossing Wellborn reminds me of Russian roulette, only using cars and trains instead of bullets. Couple this with the recent demolition of Law and Puryear residence halls, and there is a perfect opportunity to kill two birds with one stone.

Building a dorm complex on West Campus would offset the loss in housing capacity brought about by the demolition of the halls. It would also put students in close proximity to their West Campus classes and help them avoid the Wellborn death trap.

No one will argue a lack of real estate. Future public service students could even reside in the vicinity of the George Bush Presidential Library complex. New West Campus dorms would also provide added convenience to the Rec Center for fitness-minded Aggies. And what a place to hang out — after all, where else is there a pool on campus?

This presents yet another problem: lack of food. Besides the snack bar in the Rec Center, the overcrowded Ag Cafe presents the only opportunity to grab a quick meal between classes.

Additionally, the short hours of the Ag Cafe are a big problem at dinner time. The steady increase in the number of students on West Campus warrants the development of another food establishment, possibly something like the Underground. An even better solution would be to include a cafeteria or food court in the dorm complex previously proposed.

West Campus is the future of the University, a fact established by the projects under way. To ensure the University maintains its convenience with an ever-expanding student body, problems like these need to be addressed. Though some may never see these projects become realities, future generations will benefit from the plans made today.

## Students should provide input

Tonight at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater, University President Ray Bowen will discuss the proposed General Use Fee Increase.

The proposed GUF increase for 1996-97 is an additional \$10 per credit hour, raising the fee from \$24 to \$34.

For students, this is a substantial amount of money.

No student is ever overjoyed by fee increases, especially when it appears they are an annual event, as it seems on this campus.

Two points need to be addressed to fully understand the issue: Why the administration feels Texas A&M needs this fee increase, and what students can do to address their concerns over the continued rise in scholastic costs.

Students at Texas A&M want to continue the excellent education they currently receive.

To continue this academic excellence, Texas A&M needs appropriate financial resources.

Texas A&M is below peer institutions in professor salaries, paying only 92 percent of the average salary.

If the University does not receive the appropriate funding, the quality of education at Texas A&M will decline.

Hesitant as I am to support another increase

### Guest Columnist



**Carl Baggett**  
Student body  
president and senior  
accounting major

in student fees, I believe it is necessary to continue the quality of education we enjoy at Texas A&M.

What has caused the need for continual increases in student fees in recent years?

The Texas Legislature has decided it wants students and their families to pay a higher share of educational costs, which has resulted in a 110 percent increase in student fees over the last five years.

Unfortunately, until the University receives more funding from the state, fees will continue to climb.

Students should talk to their hometown state representatives and senators and voice any concerns they have about the need for funding higher education.

Although Texas A&M is a "bargain institution" (cheaper than all but 8 of our 32 peer institutions), I am afraid we are going to out-price many potential Aggies if fees continue to increase.

I strongly urge all students who have questions or opinions on the proposed GUF increase to come to the forum tonight.

This will be the only time students will be able to share with Bowen and other administrators their views on the GUF increase.

Once here, they have to work just as hard as anyone else to graduate. No department at A&M lowers its graduation standards for anyone.

If things were truly equal and affirmative action had run its course, then one would see a fairly equal representation of a state's population in one of that state's leading public universities.

Last time I checked, Texas was far from being only 3 percent African-American and 8 percent Hispanic.

Jairo Santanilla  
Class of '96

## MAIL CALL



## Races should be equally represented

Regarding Jon Apgar's Nov. 19 column, "Equality hindered by race-based treatment":

In a perfect world, everyone would have the same educational opportunities: Racism and discrimination would not exist, racial slurs and jokes would not be uttered, and African-American, Hispanic, and Anglo men and women would be paid equally for the same job performance.

Unfortunately, most of us live in the real world, and those who believe that the above "perfect world" exists are sadly mistaken.

Racism and discrimination do exist, and racial slurs and jokes are uttered and do hurt.

There is a vast difference in the educational opportunities given by rich school districts and poor school districts.

Apgar was correct in stating that "minorities are at a disadvantage in terms of precollege educational opportunities."

This leads to a lower number of minorities who aspire to attend universities.

Subsequently, the number of minority college graduates is low.

This is a concern since education means more earning power, and more earning power means more political power ... power to make politicians listen to your concerns and needs, and to have them appropriate money and resources to address these concerns and needs.

However, things might never change on their own with the present college graduation levels of minorities.

Affirmative action programs and minority scholarships may help minorities get into college, but contrary to myth, minorities don't get a "free ride" through college.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

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For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.