all speed.

Then I say the words co-caine and crack, what is the first image that mes to your mind? Is it the

some thug

gish inner-

addict bent

over smok-

peace pipe,

enjoying

his free-

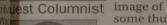
rushes

based co-

caine that

ing his

city crack





lunior business

in the 100 from his s to his heart, and then to state cham brain causing an immediate e three are real , and then, an equally powul crash?

ere," Wagners: Do you imagine a corporate cutive, a member of the Joint iefs of Staff, a chief executive cer, or even a former Presiom Page? ent of the United States? If you only imagine the former and the latter, I would be the one vest Texas elt better (ay that you too might be a e high — that is in your exctations.

s not 100 per At Texas A&M, we are in the ne did no cess of erecting a library in to keep h honor of former president orge Bush.

st, I wouldn if I didn't We hastily erect this building ight of the fact that there has able to play y would've e en recent evidence that clearlinks Bush, along with Oliver orth and Donald Gregg, to ch cocaine ring leaders as ngs, Sevinsalorwin Meneses, Enrique Mi-

d coaches Inda and Marcos Aguado, to er decision. ame a few. she appred Would Texas A&M rename or to accomplete stop construction on the liery courageorary if George Bush were int she has duicted as a drug super-kingpin? I

e is an weach ink not. Texas A&M would onist. But shimply find some way to justify capable of plae building, just as it has justited to and the ed the statue of Sul Ross. A&M ould say it was just another she feels the candal to scar the character of y Sevin will ood 'ol George Bush Well, this scandal hits home

was able to por me, for it is the very result of akes us a bie cocaine epidemic that has n," Harvey ent so many African-American mmunities spiraling down into it, and that har zones that provide the target ne realized br such television shows as Cops America's Most Wanted.

hear people talking all the e about equality and about hance in America, but is this re-

II Page

ive

Cut

997

Crysta

aid. "Spots We look at the dysfunctional the crack addicts, the rack babies, the drive-by shootggies preparack bables, the diffugs, and i match as and rampant drugs, and farkansas ow we find there may well be a rakansas of the diffugration of the same of the diffugration of the diffugrati aptain hope n enemy within. It as if our ve on last yountry declared war on us. In an attempt to expose the eyes set on ark alliance that has been created

e said. "The etween the Bush-led Nicaraguan ason goals, etwocratic force and the e of going. icaraguan Contras, Harley this years chlanger of the Executive Intellirear's, and rence Review magazine, and am chemistruanell X of the Nation of Islam h good frie te coming to Rudder Theatre at 7 ad [White] is am, to uncover the truth. According to the testimony of rique Miranda, Menesse's liaison olsey is expero the Columbian cocaine cartels, ce. Woolsey enesse obtained Columbian cogh act to foll aine from Marcos Aguado, a

caraguan pilot. aspiration for ey said. "She ey said. "She Aguado would fly planes to Co-g shoes to mbia, load up the planes with covill remain, and then fly to the United degree next lates, where he landed on U.S. olleyball will itary bases. Records presented n at A&M ontra hearings revealed that Gregg nite said. ^{It} ad Bush were fully informed on all tion. Hopel that Gregg

Aguado activities ith the team But the inbound flights full of cone could not have been cleared hout the involvement of senior ntagon officials as well. They too subordinate to Vice President

Men sh, as per national security decidirectives, creating the Special ations Group.

bush was put in charge of all ert operations. He became his vatchdog. For all of those of who think the CIA had someg to do with all of this, you're ing up the wrong tree. This el or of involvement goes all the up to the top floor.

o the next time you say that yone has a fair chance, look see what kind of obstacles e been placed in the runway ke broken crack pipes and erdermic needles

JPINION

Kevorkian lacks justification in assisted suicides nized him earlier if I hadn't been so hung over. But as I took my seat in the plane to return from the Thanksgiving break I was focused on my yogurt and Gatorade, an unlikely pair that works wonders the morning after a

night of overindulgence It wasn't until the engineering major flight attendant started the safety features lecture that I realized I was sitting next to Jack Kevorkian, Dr. Death himself. I tried to start up

a conversation. "Good morning, Dr. Kevorkian. What are you doing so far away from Michigan?" I asked.

"Well, you know how things go. It's the holidays, and I have a little time to kill.'

"Good one, Doctor K!" I laughed. "None of your sound bites do justice to your great sense of humor.'

I was nervous; I wasn't expecting to conduct an interview My scrambled brain worked to

conjure up questions for the doctor. "So what would you have done if you hadn't gone into medicine?" I asked.

"Well, I always thought it might have been fun to be a lawyer," he said.

"Really? I agree. I want to practice law. Anything except criminal
— I couldn't stand defending guilty people," I said. "Me neither," he said. "But for

the good guys, I would make frequent use of the temporary insanity defense. That one can get anybody acquitted."
"Well then how come you've

never pleaded that in any of your criminal trials, Doctor K?" I asked. "Because I'm not temporarily

insane," he replied. I wondered to myself whether the most important word there

Columnist



Jeremy Valdez Senior chemical

I remembered some of the eccentric doctor's more embarrassing moments—like the time he insisted on wearing colonial garb and a pow-

was "temporarily."

dered wig to his arraignment hearing. Or the time he killed Judith Curren, a women who had stopped taking her prescribed anti-depression medication.

Kevorkian claimed that Curren suffered from chronic fatigue, immune dysfunction and a painful muscle disorder. Medical examiners, however, could find no evidence of any of these ailments. Authorities concluded that Curren suffered only from depression, obe sity and possible spousal abuse. All of these are serious problems, yet they are all non-terminal.

These recollections made me a little more aggressive. I decided to tell the doctor what was really on my mind.

"Doctor, something that's always bothered me is your lack of a bedside manner. After all, you were a pathologist. You probably spent most of your career looking at dead or diseased tissue through a microscope. You help patients make life or death decisions, yet your medical work dealt overwhelmingly with only

one side of that equation," I said. "Maybe so, but I have worked with a few live patients. And after all, every doctor goes through essentially the same basic training. I think that makes most of us pretty qualified," he said.

"I'm not sure I agree. I don't support assisted suicide, but I think that if I did, I'd want someone a little more charismatic to be the standard-bearer," I said. "A doctor's a doctor," he said,

looking away with impatience. "I know. But even though lots of people have told me to pull my

head out of my butt, I still wouldn't go to a proctologist for psychiatric

help," I said.
"Well, at least I'm not motivated by financial concerns,' he said. "I never charge people for helping them to commit suicide

fair. I know that if I were one of your patients and you were charging me for an assisted suicide, I'd be really tempted to write a bad check," I said. Then the doctor began to give his

ical profession to break the long established taboo against euthanasia. Doctors who kill the dying are practicing what I call 'medicide.' Lots of people argue over the right to life.' but the right to choose death is something that ought to be constitutionally protected in this coun-

try," he said. "Well, Dr. Kevorkian, I'd argue with you some more if I were in a better frame of mind," I said. "But I had a few beers last night and I've got a splitting headache. It's kinda hard to concentrate.'

A little glimmer appeared in the doc's eyes and he flashed a toothy grin. "Are you sure its not a brain tumor, or a

'Well, I think that's pretty soapbox speech. "I feel that it's time for the med-



big fat embolism? Because I could help you out with that." I told him

thanks, but no thanks. All I needed was a spoon for my yogurt.

Edited for content Wal-Mart fights against creativity

ooking for that new death-metal CD by your favorite group, "Vomiting Hemorrhage"? Well, you won't find it at Wal-Mart. But how about some Michael Bolton or Luther Van-

That's right, America's largest discount retailer, Wal-Mart, is censoring your enter-

tainment. Still. It has been happening for some time, but several specific cases have gained media attention lately

The title of the Nirvana song "Rape Me" was changed to "Waif Me." Cover art has been changed on CDs by artists ranging from White Zombie to The Black Crowes to John "not the Cougar anymore" Mellencamp. Countless CDs come with songs that have either been edited (311, Beck, Outkast, etc.) or dropped from the CD completely, which to my dismay has happened to Jackyl. Watch out Ratt and War-

rant, you may be next. In my own undercover investigation of the music department at the local Super Wal-Mart, I found stickers strategically affixed to the covers of all copies of various CDs, in one instance covering the connection between Siamese twins on Van Halen's "Balance," and in an-



Mason Jackson Senior

marketing majo

ering a cow nipple. Coincidence? I think not. More likely someone in the Wal-Mart hierarchy got excited at the site of a cow nipple and demanded it be covered likes cows "in that way." Artistic integrity is taking a major hit be-

other instance on Aero-

smith's "Get A Grip" cov-

cause the record labels are bowing to Wal-Mart, the single largest seller of pop music in the country. Do retailers have the legal right to do this? Sure. It's their store, and if censorship is the method they want to use to allocate shelf space,

then it is their prerogative. But it still isn't a good thing for us humans. Darth Vader, commander of the "Empire," was overheard saying, "I think what Wal-Mart is doing is great. It lowers public morale and makes the inhabitants of Earth

more docile and ripe for invasion. But the only reason retailers like Wal-Mart hold such influence over record companies is because of

the amount of music they sell. If more people realize that they may not be getting the real thing when they buy music at Wal-Mart then they might buy it

somewhere else. After all, no one says you have to buy your music at the same place you buy your maple syrup, condoms and car wax (which are separate purchases unless you're a superfreak.)

Other stores also engage in this type of censorship. Blockbuster is one of them. They refused to carry the

and made the director cut out nearly a half hour of bad acting. Yet they inexplicably carried the full version of "Tango and Cash."

We must show these stores that we don't want them making these decisions for us. We can do this by voting with our pocketbooks

In the end, Wal-Mart will listen to its bottom line, not to uptight wackos like the Christian Coalition. But I'm not advocating a boycott of Wal-Mart altogether.

The everyday prices are too low and in the end you readers will listen to your bottom line, not to an all-knowing all-seeing columnist such as myself.

But please buy your music elsewhere. There are plenty of options, even for those in rural areas, where Wal-Mart is the only major store. There are always music clubs and, with the invention of cars and the construction of the national highway system, civilization is never far away.

All you have to do is speak up and in this world, money talks.

MSC fee increase deserves support The University Center needs our help Guest Columnist flation and repeated increases in the minimum of the columnist flation and repeated in the co

Chris Williams

ter needs our help. Tomorrow, Student Government will hold a referendum on a proposed increase in the Student Center Complex Fee.

The Student Center physical operation of the MSC, the Rudder Complex and the John J. Koldus Building.

These facilities, in turn, support our student activities program by providing space for offices, meeting and events, besides offering a convenient place to hang out. Most of us visit the University Center once a day, whether to eat, cash checks, study, visit the bookstore, check our mail or sleep.

When you really take the time to think about it, the University Center is the "living room" of Texas A&M.

Here's the bottom line. Right now, each student pays \$24 each semester for the Student Center Complex Fee.

That's far below other public universities in this state. The proposal under consideration in the referendum would increase that amount by six dollars over a threeyear period.

In other words, the fee would be increased by \$2 in Fall 1997, \$2 in Fall 1998, and \$2 in Fall 1999. This would bring the total amount of the fee to \$30 per student per semester by 2000. Please understand that this fee is per semester, NOT per credit hour. If this proposal passes, then three years from now we would each be paying \$30 a semester for the University Center, which is still less than other public universities in Texas.

So, now that you understand why we have this fee, let me explain why we're being asked to vote on this proposal. By law, any increase in this fee must be approved by student vote. That's because it's a student center, and it's only right that the students

should control the funding. However, this fee has not been increased since 1992. Since then, the cost of operating the University Center has increased substantially, mostly due to in-

increases in the minimum wage. The University Center staff has made every effort to offset these rising costs by increasing revenue from sources other than student fees, but after nearly five years, they're running out of options. In addition to the norcommunications major

mal operating costs of

the University Center,

a number of renovations need to be made, and the money just isn't there to fund them.

Obviously, if we choose not to support the referendum, the University Center must either increase its revenue from users of the facility or reduce its expenses by cutting services. This would most likely create some difficult situations. Up to this point, the University Center has avoided using student groups as a source of income, but if the referendum does not pass, they may have little choice.

If student groups are charged for their use of the University Center, we may be saying goodbye to some of our most traditional programs, most notable those of MSC OPAS, MSC Town Hall, or even Class Council events such as Ring Dance.

These programs typically have very small profit margins, and usage charges could make them financially impossible. Some student groups might not even be able to meet in the University Center if they are charged for usage. When our University Center ceases to be accessible to all student groups, it ceases to be a true student center.

I hope that each one of you reading this will take the time to study the issues involved with this referendum and make an ed-

I hope that sometime before you vote, you'll take the time to visit the University Center and reflect upon what it means to you. I know I will. I have no great love. for fee increases ... but I will support this one. I hope you will too.

Chris Williams is the Memorial Student Center president



A&M senators don't

represent students I'd like to express my frustration with the Student Senate. In the very election in which students elected these representatives, over 60 percent of the students voted in favor of the yell leader referendum. Yet, these same representatives voted to

table the bill.

It is no wonder only 10,000 students vote in student elections when this is the kind of representation they have to look

forward to. I'd like to encourage students to encourage students to think twice about re-electing senators who are more concerned with their own personal agendas than the voices of the very people that put them in office.

Summer Belleperche Class of '96

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

edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Let-

ters may also be mailed to:
The Battallon - Mail Call
O13 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

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