

## EDITORIAL

### THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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## HEARING AID

The Student Senate should listen to what students have said.

Government, of, by and for the people. A cherished tenet of democracy? Not at Texas A&M.

Especially if the Student Senate chooses to ignore the 63 percent of students that voted in favor of yell leader runoff elections last March.

The bill would require a runoff election for the top five senior yell leader candidates and the top junior yell leader candidates.

And if recent comments are any indication, the senators that the student body voted into office last spring just don't have too much faith in its opinions.

One senator went so far as to describe student voters as "uninformed" and "uneducated." Tonic, isn't it, considering the voters were the same students who elected the senators in the first place.

If senators are going to cast doubt upon last semester's voting, perhaps they are better off simply not asking for the student body's opinion in the first place.

Why waste their time if the student body is only composed of voices who aren't educated and intelligent enough to make decisions for themselves?

Even more disgusting is the fact that it has taken the Rules and Regulations Committee seven months to simply discuss the issue of the proposed bill. The bill failed to make it to the Senate floor after being voted down 11 to seven by the committee after being hotly debated for nearly two hours.

If the Student Senate truly wants to represent the students, maybe it should start listening to them.

Yell Leader run-off elections

## City of College Station should pick up pace

A few weeks ago I had to go to Northgate to do some shopping. For the first time, I attempted to drive my car and find a parking spot in the Northgate area.

I would have been better off trying to turn around and go home. Northgate is one of the most poorly designed sections of College Station, if not Texas as a whole. Some measures have been taken to correct the problems, but not nearly enough is being done to remedy the situation. Parking is only one of many problems encountered at Northgate. Streets are nearly impassable because of the cars parked on either side of the street, and navigating the narrow roads manages to stress out even the most serene Aggies.

Church Street is a good example. The road is full of potholes and bumps, and one must constantly avoid not only pedestrians, but cars parked on either side of the road.

The streets behind the Dixie Chicken are even worse. Gigantic Pepsi trucks pick the most convenient time — noon — to park their hulking masses blocking off 75 percent of the street and backing up traffic.

Wait, it gets better. Once a person has managed to maneuver his vehicle between the huge Ford F-350 dually pickup trucks that seem to be perpetually parked behind the Dixie Chicken, he is faced with the question: Where the hell am I going to park my car?

The makeshift dirt and gravel parking lot behind the Chicken? How about the parking lots of the various restaurants at Northgate, including Fitzwilly's and Freebirds? Good luck. Besides, if you're not a paying customer of the restaurant you are parked at, parking service will be happy to take a space for your car at their facility — but it will cost you 50 cents to get your car back.

Perhaps you don't mind walking a bit, so you decide to park one of the various churches that inhabit the Northgate area. There should be plenty of parking there, thinks the average citizen. Not too many peo-

ple attend services in the early afternoon on a weekday. Moreover, churches are known for catering to the needy (in this case, needing a parking spot).

Don't count on it. Unless you're a Presbyterian and have something to do at the church, you can't park in the Presbyterian church spaces. And if you're not a practicing Methodist, the church's parking spaces are off-limits. Again, park there and risk the wrath of the tow truck. Never mind the fact that these spaces are usually unfilled during the day.

So the parking situation is horrendous at Northgate. Why not just walk there?

Most would agree that sidewalks come in handy when walking along a main road such as University Drive.

From McDonald's to Shadow Canyon, however, there is a sidewalk that seems to disappear, then reappear, then disappear again.

And this sidewalk, when present, is a whopping 3 inches from the right lane of University Drive.

Sometimes you can actually feel the car whiz by your arm as you're ambulating towards Northgate.

Most Aggies, however, have enough common sense to walk far enough from the road. I'm assuming these Aggies are sober, though. Northgate does have more bars than craft shops, so on an average Friday or Saturday night, many an inebriated Aggie will be forced to stumble along the thin strip of concrete that is 3 inches from speeding vehicles.

Northgate is due for a facelift and renovation in the near future. Let's hope they make it more accessible to the average citizen, instead of making it look like buildings were haphazardly lopped next to each other.

So far, construction has taken place in front of Northgate Cafe and Freebirds to repair the sidewalk and parking along University Drive, but these aren't the areas that need the most work.

## Only elephants in danger belong to Class of '97

Last week, I proudly braved my fear of large predators and took a picture with an adorable elephant during the E-Walk festivities.

The E-Walk committee did a tremendous job bringing the turtles to our university. Unfortunately, future classes may not get the opportunity to strike poses with our trunked friend. If the United States does not take the lead in supporting a renewed ivory trade in Africa, elephants may disappear.

Wildlife preservation efforts for the elephant began in 1989 when legal export sales of elephant tusks were outlawed by Western nations. Lax poaching laws had led to the destruction of half the elephant population, and radical animal-protection groups rallied the ban, showing pictures of dead elephants to beef up membership rolls. Western governments pledged to give millions of dollars to replace the money countries would lose from their legal ivory trades.

The push to save the elephants has been successful — too much so. There are now 600,000 elephants roving around Sub-Saharan Africa harming both themselves and the Africans. Herds in Kenya's national parks have destroyed about 90 percent of the woods, and have caused 12 other species (including giraffe) to disappear.

The elephants are also destroying crops all over the continent in their forage for food and water, wrecking infrastructure and terrorizing

### Columnist



Aja Henderson  
Senior political science major

villages. In addition, many elephants are dying of hunger.

There are 80,000 starving elephants in Botswana, a nation about the size of Texas. The elephants that do find food are dying from malaria and other diseases because of their overconcentration.

Why won't powerful Western nations let the Africans control the herds, helping their weak economies in the process?

Powerful nations with financial muscle seem to be more concerned with protecting an image of Africa as some kind of natural picturebook rather than allowing the people to use this natural resource of the ivory trade to help feed their people. That's no tall order, considering that the World Bank classifies half of Sub-Saharan Africa as living in "absolute poverty."

There is also something called eco-imperialism at work here. The United States will pump about \$138 million this year alone to the countries in which it has pressured the leaders to ban elephant hunting. Our country has no business committing taxpayer money and sticking its nose in affairs like this.

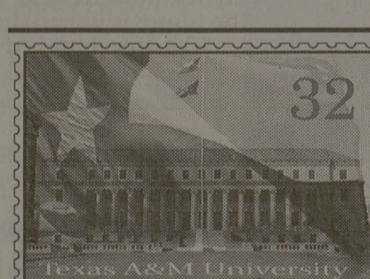
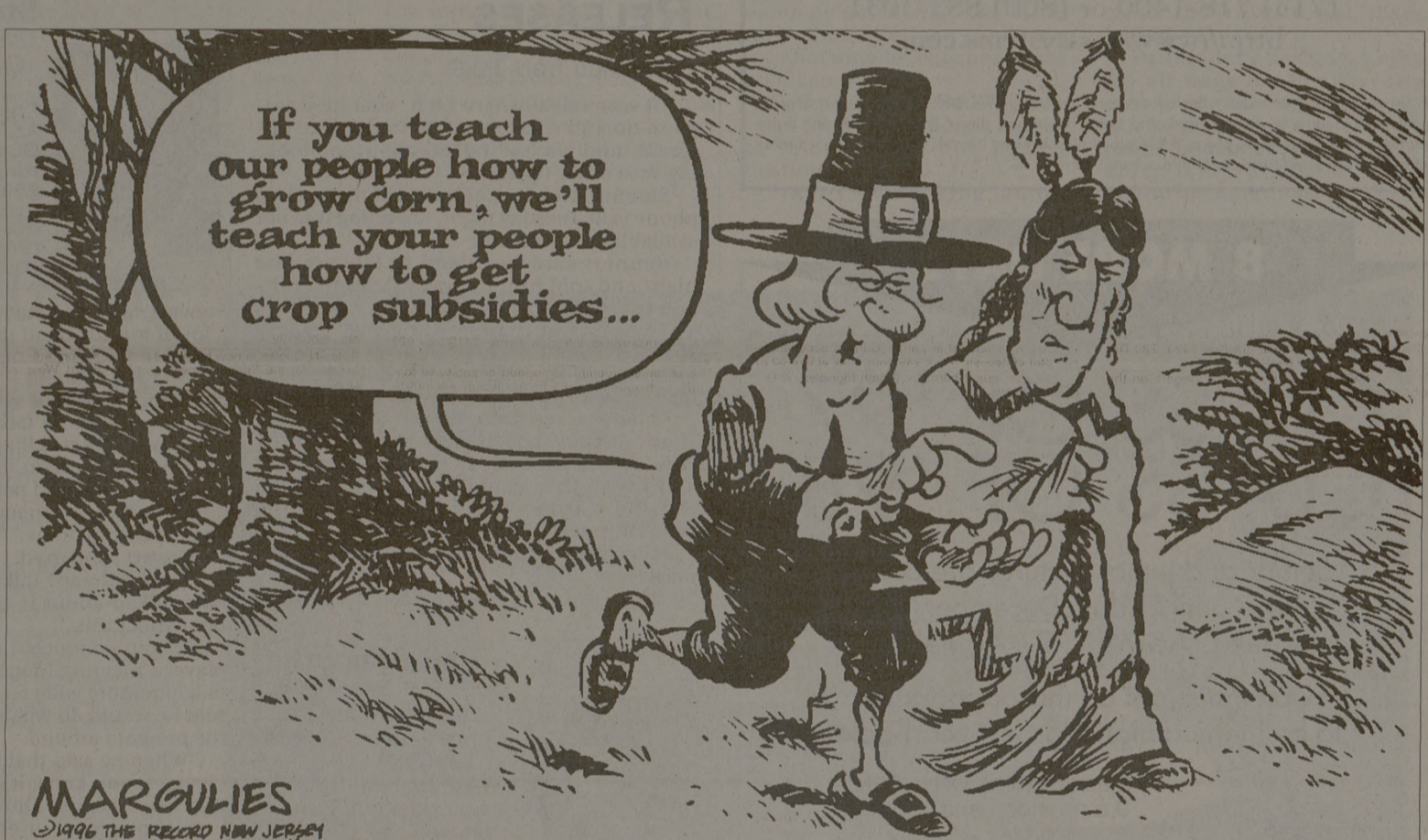
But killing off elephants seems like a sure way to bring them to extinction, right? Wrong. Hunting of a targeted species has achieved extreme success.

The reason is that when the wildlife is of value to the people, they will make sure that the animal continues to exist. Consider Zimbabwe, one of the few nations that has resumed ivory trade with tight anti-poaching controls. The elephants trample their crops and are a public nuisance, but residents just try to scare them away instead of shooting them. This is because they own the elephants and profit from them — they are allowed to sell permits to big-game hunters to hunt them.

Eleven southern African nations now want to resume the ivory trade, with strict anti-poaching measures to prevent the black market fraud that previously demolished the elephant population. In the meantime, by reducing the herds, everyone benefits. The elephants will become healthier and reproduce, the African nations will be able to support their impoverished people with the wealth of the ivory trade (there are 500 to 600 million tons of ivory already stockpiled), and the United States will be able to put the millions of dollars it is using to finance the present fiasco to good use elsewhere.

How long will this nation bully poor countries and flash its badge as the Official World Cop? The United States and other Western nations need to stop playing Mother Nature and lift the ivory ban, allowing Africans to legally reduce the herds in the way of their ancestors.

**If the United States does not take the lead in supporting a renewed ivory trade in Africa, elephants may disappear.**



## MAIL CALL

### Coaches deserve the blame for loss

I would like to thank R.C. Slocum for the job that he has done. He saved the program when it seemed that it was destined to fall into the world of mediocrity. I am also grateful for the good recruiting and the Southwest Conference championships. I would also like to thank him for the clean program he has run. In this day and age of crooked underhanded dealings in college programs, he has not fallen victim to the many pitfalls of big time college athletics. He has not tarnished the reputation of this great University, and for that I am truly thankful. The things that he has done in the past are admirable, but he has run his course here at Texas A&M.

Several reasons have come to my attention as to why he should offer his resignation tentative end of the season (now).

1. The team has not performed well in big games during his entire tenure as head coach. Losses to Florida State, Notre Dame (2), Oklahoma, Colorado (2), Kansas State, BYU and of course Texas (2) have all overshadowed victories over the TCU's and Baylor's of the world. The victories are nice, but

are forced to see extensive playing time early in their college careers. Once again where can these problems be traced to besides the coaching staff?

It seems that the team has been playing "not to lose" instead of playing to win. Blame for this must be put on the coaching staff, and who is responsible for the coaching staff, Slocum.

Travis Dabney  
Class of '96

### Evangelist's visit causes confusion

Regarding Lisa Fox's Nov. 21 Mail Call concerning the evangelist Tom Short's recent campus visit:

I was saddened to hear such a gross misrepresentation of my message. Not only did I not say that "Hitler didn't go far enough" in his treatment of the Jews, but I cannot fathom how anything I did say could have possibly been misconstrued in this way.

For the record, let me state what I believe about Jews (as I would have stated when speaking on campus recently). God loves Jews. His Son, Jesus Christ, was a Jew as were nearly all biblical writers. But no one is going to heaven simply for being born Jewish, Catholic, Baptist, etc. Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from our sins. He died for Jews and Gentiles alike. If we desire to have our sins forgiven, we must put our faith in the Messiah God sent to be our Savior—Jesus. Failure to do so leaves us unforgiven by God.

This is the clear teaching of the Bible. I stand by it without apology. Saying that God will judge Jews in the same manner as He does the rest of the world is not anti-Semitic. Although much of what I believe and teach may be controversial, it is not anti-Semitic or "lambasting homosexuals" to point out someone's error and tell them of God's desire to forgive and change them.

Concerning Hitler, perhaps it will put Fox's mind to rest to know that I believe him to be a demented, demon-possessed, evil man. His life demonstrates moral relativism at its worst. His contention that anyone is in any way less than human ought to revolt any decent person—yes, even those who make the same argument in favor of aborting babies in America. In examining Hitler, there is much we can learn not to do—including falsely accusing those with whom we disagree.

Tom Short

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