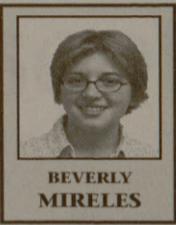


## Bulworth in the White House?

Warren Beatty is and always will be an actor. Recent buzz has had him as a possible Democratic presidential candidate, but this would be optimistic at best. The idea of Beatty running for president barely looks good on paper. He has been an actor, writer and director, but this hardly qualifies him to be a city council member, much less the federal government. Reagan may have done it, but keep in mind that Reagan was not that great a president and had advisers. Lots of advisers. Was it mentioned that he wasn't that great a president? However, one good thing might come from his Warren Beatty fiasco. As a dyed-in-the-wool liberal Democrat, he can read apathetic Democrats what the party stands for. Al Gore and Bill Bradley are frontrunners so far, but they spend so much time courting the middle that they've changed the intent of the Democratic Party. Beatty could use his star power and standing in liberal circles to instigate



BEVERLY MIRELES

meaningful policy debate which the already splintered party needs more than a pretty new face if it is to form a strong party base.

As television writer Rob Long commented, "Warren Beatty is the crazy sister the Democrats have been hiding in the attic for eight years, and he's coming downstairs in the middle of the wedding reception to frighten the guests."

The strange thing is many people have jumped on the Beatty bandwagon.

### "The idea of [Warren] Beatty running for president barely looks good on paper."

Although a recent California field poll determined Beatty would only get about one percent of the popular vote, some have argued that with more exposure, Beatty would get more votes.

Why? No one knows anything about Beatty except his finance reform manifesto, otherwise known as *Bulworth*, and yet many

of them seem to think that he could be "The One."

Has the Democratic party been so humbled by the Bill Clinton experience that they would turn to the man from *Shampoo*?

It has been a difficult eight years under Clinton, but one would hope that it would take much more than a traumatic experience to drive the Democrats to an underqualified actor.

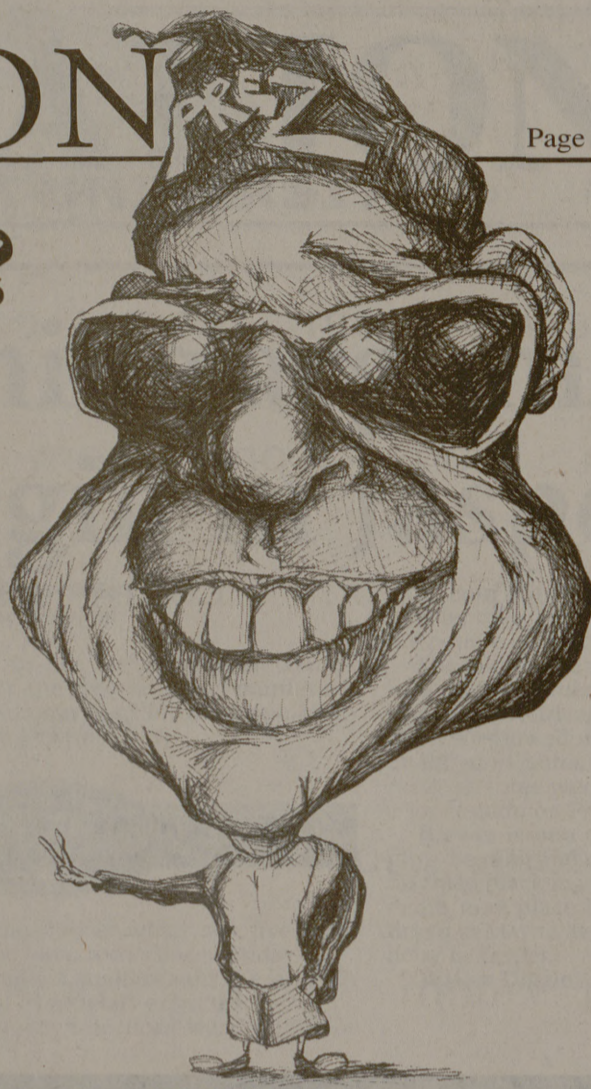
If anything, people seem drawn to Beatty, if not to his politics, because he can play the part. It isn't beyond him to play a good president — he is a good actor.

But one is more likely to see him in a movie playing the president than actually being one.

Just imagine it. He would give moving speeches, help the homeless and stop teen violence in one fell swoop. It makes a pretty picture and an appealing one for Democrats so primed for a leader they would take the "Time to Make the Donuts" guy if he were free.

Warren Beatty has a few good ideas to share, and if he is wise he will spout them to anyone who will listen.

But he should not run for president. Bill Bradley and Al Gore have a



MARK McPHERSON/THE BATTALION

difficult enough task ahead of them without Beatty siphoning off attention and voter support.

The American political process is a difficult one. When a candidate isn't skirting the important issues, they are having to bow to lobbyists, polls and political "experts." Beatty may be one to make the talk-show circuit with charm and charisma, but there is no way he could make it through the rough-and-tumble of the U.S. political system without being seriously disappointed.

So let him make his enigmatic speeches about presidential politics, and let him write liberal editorials in the *New York Times*.

But he should leave the presidency to the real politicians. They may be seriously flawed, but they are a better option than letting a novice take the reins of the nation.

Beverly Mireles is a junior microbiology major.

## Goths have rights, too

With Vision 2020, as A&M University is making to enrich in College Station by promoting diversity. However, despite all their good intentions, as A&M and the city of College Station have failed to recognize a segment of the population. The area's Gothic community is in shadows, so to speak. Despite the ever-present push to diversity, the reality is there simply not enough businesses, services and local resources to appeal to A&M's "children of the night." A quick tour around town unveils the pale, white truth that local businesses regularly fail to address the consumer needs of Texas



ERIC DICKENS

Goths. For example, summers in Texas had enough for us all. Imagine your unbearable it is for our black friends. And what would better relieve the heat on a summer's day than a cool, refreshing outhouse from Zuka Juice?

The owner and manager of Zuka Juice on Texas Ave., Marcia Nelson, proudly states her berry-red beverages cater to all kinds of people. Nelson will quickly tell you the libean Passion and Strawbandrinks are two of the business' most popular selections. But where are the blood-and-andy mixes the Goths of College Station demand?

Nowhere on the menu board could a thirsty, sweat-drenched th-lover find a cooling blend of juices and chilled, sterile sod. When asked whether there are any plans to include such a beverage, Nelson flatly responded, "That's really gross." They might like the Zukaccino," admits Nelson, "because it coffee in it."

Zukaccino aside, Zuka Juice, so many other businesses, to serve the masses of heavy black mascara-wearing customers. Another sad example of how businesses have turned their backs

on the Gothic community can be found in that towering edifice of pastel-based commerce, Old Navy. College Station merchandise manager Karre Stevenson said her store sells to every kind of customer. For example, Old Navy's new "Tech Vests" have been selling well.

That may be true, but these vests, unfortunately, are not available in black. So what kind of ebony-colored clothing could Old Navy provide its pain-fixated customers? The answer is woefully short.

"We have some black Old Navy jeans," Stevenson proclaims, "but mostly just in the men's." So what is a young, dark mistress of the night supposed to do when she needs that fashionable black ribbed tee with matching jeans? Apparently she must suffer and go without if Old Navy has it their way.

Do they carry any leather clothing items? What about high-fashion chain and spike accessories? And don't even bother looking for dungeon equipment at Old Navy.

The untold revenue produced by the program comes from well-to-do alumni who return each season with deep pockets and good intentions. If the team does not do well, those alumni might

The only hopeful sign on the horizon for cargo pants-loving Goths is that for Halloween, the store will introduce a line of T-shirts with pictures of ghouls and ghosts on the front. With any luck, these will be the Old Navy Item of the Week.

Living a life centered on pain, agony and death is hard enough, but when the city of College Station fails to acknowledge the commercial needs of its macabre friends their life becomes even more difficult. Goths are humans, too. If they cut themselves, do they not bleed? Until the city's people, local businesses and Texas A&M University itself openly embrace Gothic followers, these unfortunate souls will continue to live a tortured life empty of smoothie enjoyment and zipped-front style but full of rejection and misunderstanding.

But then again, maybe they like that.

Eric Dickens is a junior English major.

## Football funds

Too many people look at the newly constructed "Zone" and see a colossal waste of monetary resources.

But the simple economics of the football program and the University mean football pays for itself.

That does not mean Shane Lechler pays someone \$50,000 a game to bang punts inside the 20-yard line.

It means that through ticket prices, advertising and television revenue, the Aggie football team makes enough money to cover travel expenses, equipment costs, scholarships and, incidentally, other varsity sports.

Football is the only sport at most schools that makes a profit, which pays for other sports in turn.

The problem with all of this is how the administration is approaching the reopening. The tower was closed after Charles Whitman killed 14 people with a rifle from atop it in 1966, and over a dozen UT students jumped to their deaths from it.

The reopening has naturally

## VIEW POINTS

brought media attention back to the tower, and UT's response to it has been totally inappropriate. Instead of trying to downplay these situations or remembering those that died, they have embraced the notoriety.

All of these newspaper articles and TV pieces on Whitman and the suicides are not going unnoticed. Even though the school has taken some precautions to prevent a repeat, it would not be very difficult for someone to copycat Whitman's killing spree.

Or does UT's administration seriously think that no student will try to take a dive off of the tower again? Fences can be climbed.

Situations like those mentioned cannot always be avoided. However, UT's gleeful acceptance of the media's nosing around will not be helpful.

If something does happen again at the tower, the administration will be at least partially to blame.

— Mark Passwaters

## T-sip tower

In the next few months, the University of Texas at Austin will reopen its famed clock tower.

Closed for almost 30 years, the school's administration feels the time has come for it to reopen.

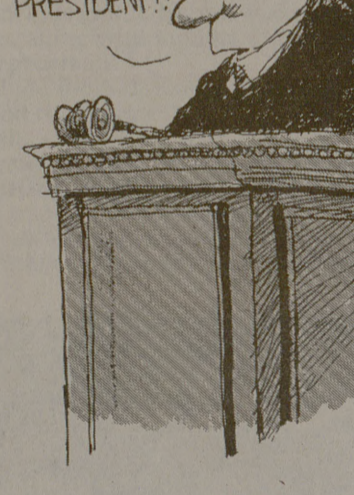
The problem with all of this is how the administration is approaching the reopening. The tower was closed after Charles Whitman killed 14 people with a rifle from atop it in 1966, and over a dozen UT students jumped to their deaths from it.

The reopening has naturally

I AIN'T ANSWERING NO QUESTIONS ABOUT NO COCAINE. LET'S JUST SAY I'VE MADE MISTAKES IN MY YOUTH AND LEAVE IT AT THAT...



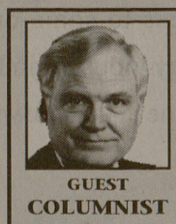
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT?!



MIKE LUCKKICH ALABAMA CONSTITUTIONAL

## A&M president speaks out against binge drinking

Today marks the start of a nationwide education campaign to raise public awareness of the dangers of high-risk and binge drinking by young people. I want to publicly give my full support to this much-needed initiative.



GUEST COLUMNIST

University presidents throughout the country acknowledge the biggest problem they face concerning student welfare is the abuse of alcohol.

This is no different on our own campus. Although difficult to admit, Texas A&M has a very high rate of student drinking and driving and high-risk alcohol use. Tragically, our campus has experienced alcohol-related deaths and in-

juries. These are facts that cannot be denied.

Efforts by administrators, staff and faculty to raise awareness through education campaigns and awareness programs can only do so much.

The real work must be done by the students of A&M if any significant change is to occur.

Every time there is an opportunity to use alcohol, you have a choice. You can choose to be responsible, which may mean no use of alcohol at all. For most, this is the best choice. Beyond this, if you choose to drink, you can set appropriate limits on the amount you drink.

Generally accepted guidelines for safer use of alcohol include having no more than one standard drink per hour, and no more than four drinks at one sitting for men or three per sitting for

women. Research has shown that people who use these guidelines rarely have any difficulty with alcohol or its subsequent effects.

Last year, a campuswide task force studied the campus environment concerning alcohol abuse.

A number of recommendations followed which are in the process of being applied. These include a substance-free housing option and a Universitywide action plan for education and prevention of alcohol-related problems.

Our hope is that through education and guidance these efforts will reduce the amount of high-risk drinking on our campus.

However, the ultimate solution is not what a task force says. It is what you say and do when it comes to your use of alcohol and that of your fellow Ag-

gies. Take care of each other. Do not let alcohol disrupt your college education or the experience of being an Aggie.

Join with me in the vision that will show that Texas A&M is a campus environment free of alcohol abuse and its effects in the classroom, in student residence communities (on and off campus), in our time-honored traditions and in those activities that are the social fabric of our campus.

I can think of no better place to deal with the education and experiences needed to overcome alcohol abuse in our society.

I wish all of you a safe, joyous and productive year — and a future free of alcohol-related problems.

Dr. Ray M. Bowen is president of Texas A&M University.

## MAIL CALL

### Fish Camp feedback

In response to Eric Dickens' Sept. 6 column.

Did *The Battalion* forward a copy of Eric Dickens' article about Fish Camp to the "bevo camp" counselors in Austin? Or is that "13-0 camp"?

Oh, wait, they don't have a camp, do they?

But where do they learn about all the t-sip traditions? Wait a minute. What traditions? Since our traditions are not followed by anybody, I think it would be great if we taught freshmen "reality."

Let us change the name to "2 percent" camp. We could teach them all the traditions, then tell them not to follow any of them.

Better yet, we could call it "hippie camp" and tell them how going to school in Austin would have been a better choice.

It is a good thing we have never known anybody who came to Texas A&M for the tradition, and we will have to remember to stop saying howdy.

Thank you, Eric, from all of Moses Hall, for reminding us that daily life at Texas A&M is "not much different from anywhere else in the world."

Joe Williamson Class of '01 Accompanied by 72 signatures

### Respect Silver Taps

Traditions like Silver Taps are what set Texas A&M apart from any other university in the world.

It saddens me to see such an honored and solemn tradition turned into a social event.

The atmosphere around Rudder Fountain and the MSC Tuesday night was appalling.

Not only were Aggies talking, but they were laughing and cracking jokes. Paying our respects to Aggies who have passed away should not be a matter taken lightly.

My heart goes out to the friends and family members of those honored who had to see disrespectful students having a good time after an event where their loved ones were only moments earlier paid a tribute.

Is it really such a sacrifice for us to keep quiet and respect those members of our Aggie family who have passed away?

Bea Benavides Class of '01 Accompanied by 2 signatures

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

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The *Battalion* - Mail Call  
013 Reed McDonald  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX  
77843-1111

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