

varese
fight

I stopped Julius an. 29 at Manchester, cated he does not want with Tyson again. e reports that Tyson al- Warren in a dis-uld pay for some jewel- rchased in London in on denied the reports, would not comment from Glasgow for week, attended the fight, peared to be a redness eye. aid 40,000 tickets were or the fight, but 20,000 ed. There had been ght would happen right of the match.

ere questions about tal and physical condition said he had trained weeks. His training had for several days so nd the funeral of Darryl d who was murdered in Y., two weeks ago.

*nox Lewis.
fight me
idy yet. I
m rusty."*

— Mike Tyson
heavyweight boxer

241 1/4 pounds, struc- count of five, obvious- on was him in a flash four or five shots to the tree John Coyle then halted the fight. n moved around the ref- ded two more punches he was elbowed aside up and pushed Tyson men rushed into the crowd booted, not because actions but because the

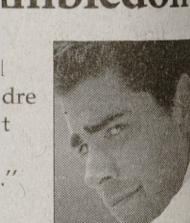
terrifying," Larkin said

ing display of power, lenthless."

, who will turn 35 July three of his six previous still was expected to a better fight than Fran- never had a chance to and went to a hospital for treatment of a lefty, probably sustained

two quickest victories ed in 30 seconds against er in 1986 and in 37 sec- Robert Colay in 1985.

imbledon



SAMPRAS

the Williams sis- t will attract plenty in Wimbledon begins

ed to previous pretty special memories of added pressure." pionship in the past er bid for consecu- h Open champion and Serena.

with the London n tournament, but her game is well

int Sunday by no threatened to ot among the 16 the top 15. t does not follow

deserve to be seed- don title and a ning Monday

when he felt a s about whether it other. ay, hit for an hour ent.

cold, damp weather my stretching and beat. He's 46-1 at a record Davenport

OPINION

THE BATTALION

Get on the bus

Much-needed improvements give commuting students list of reasons to use new shuttle buses

In 1982, the first personal computers were introduced, Steven Spielberg's *E.T.* made audiences dream of aliens, and over half of the buses currently driving around Texas A&M rolled off the assembly line. Almost 20 years later, computers have become household staples, NASA is studying water and bacterial life forms on Mars, and A&M's shuttle buses are horribly outdated.

Last week, Bus Operations unveiled plans to replace the 59 buses that service A&M by Spring or Fall 2001. The new buses will be more comfortable, with spacious seating and, in answer to the prayers of thousands of commuting Aggies, air conditioning. Besides increasing passenger comfort, the replacement buses will be more environmentally responsible.

Most of the buses A&M currently employs were built before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established standards on automobile exhaust. As a result, A&M's shuttles are notorious for emitting black, choking smoke from their tailpipes. Needless to say, Bus Operation's introduction of new buses is a much-needed improvement to the A&M campus, the sur-

rounding community and the environment. When the new shuttle buses debut on campus, commuting Aggies should adopt them as a viable way to get to class.

A&M's buses have become an eyesore on and off campus. Their dark trails of billowing exhaust are not only an ugly sight and a health hazard, but also a disgrace to the

University's image. The lack of air conditioning on most of the buses keeps the shuttles from

being embraced by commuting students. These students instead drive their own cars to campus, creating more air pollution. The buses, meant to be an alternative to driving to campus, actually motivate students to use their own vehicles.

But as Bus Operations has made the effort to improve bus conditions, students need to respond by purchasing bus passes and using the new shuttles.

Students currently disdain and ridicule the idea of riding the bus to school. Taking the bus to class may not sound as attractive as driving one's own car, but ask students who take the bus how they feel about the blue-lot parking situation, and the advantages become quite clear. Opting for the bus rather than their cars saves commuting students from hours of waiting like a vulture for somebody, anybody, to leave a parking space. In the mean-

time, the blue-lot parking fiasco will be improved if more students ride the bus to their campus classes. In addition to saving one's sanity, taking the bus can also help save the ozone. While ecology is not a main concern for Aggies, there are certain intrinsic rewards a student reaps from knowing he or she is doing something to protect the health of the environment.

Most students are earth-conscious enough to realize the exhaust from A&M's older buses, combined with that of thousands of commuting automobiles, harms the environment. These same students should see that realization as motivation to get on the bus.

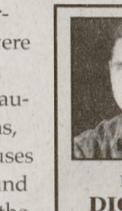
The improvement of Bus Operations and future shuttle buses is another benefit of more Aggies taking the new busses to class. Too often, A&M's current buses go out of service or break down in the middle of their routes.

With new buses, maintenance costs will certainly decrease. Not only that, but if there is an increase in bus pass purchases, the extra revenue will most likely go to keeping these new buses up to par and to replacing them when the time comes.

Bus Operations may not be underfunded, but the increased revenues will help ensure that, 20 years from now, future Aggies will not be looking at the same busses showcased last week and scoffing at them.

The University's Bus Operations has done its part by investing in the future and unveiling the next generation of A&M shuttle buses. Commuting students should return the favor and, by using the new buses, improve A&M's parking, their own sanity and the earth's fragile environment.

Eric Dickens is a senior English major.

ERIC
DICKENS

JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

School board forsakes students, future teachers

A reasonable person would think that after hiring and firing three superintendents in four years, the Dallas Independent School District's (DISD) school board would have gotten its act together.

Apparently not.

Two weeks ago, board members confirmed that they are considering firing Superintendent Bill Rojas.

Hired last year after a long-winded selection process, Rojas was billed by many on the school board as the magic pill for the DISD's many ailments. Such an endorsement was unexpected because the district was recovering from the scandal and incompetence that dogged Rojas' predecessors — including former Superintendent Yvonne Gonzales, who was convicted last year of pocketing \$16,000 in district money.

Media coverage of these high-profile wrongdoings has made the DISD a laughingstock. It is impossible for the DISD to expect this negative attention not to dissuade graduates from Texas A&M and other universities from coming aboard as teachers.

In the seven years that Rojas was the superintendent in San Francisco, he was known for his forceful and authoritarian style of leadership. When he was hired by the DISD, board members were attracted to his leadership.

"We need a leader, someone who has a vision. We sure would like to see [Rojas] come ASAP," DISD board member Kathleen Leos said last August.

The honeymoon quickly ended, however. Labeled by many on the board as uncooperative and single-minded, Rojas has managed to isolate himself with his autocratic ways.

The lack of patience and overall incompetence the school board is displaying is pathetic.

DAVID
LEE

Charged with providing an adequate education for the DISD's 158,000 students, the school board is unable to grasp the complications of firing another superintendent. Not only are the needs of the students being put on the back burner yet again, but the quality and worth of a DISD education is being compromised.

The corruption and chaos in the DISD could easily persuade a Texas A&M graduate with a teaching certificate to teach elsewhere.

Ultimately, the board should get off Rojas' back and let him do his job. Despite having questionable communication skills, he has done exactly what he was expected to do to get the district back on track.

For example, the DISD recently passed a district audit given by the FBI and the accounting firm KPMG. This was the district's first acceptable audit in three years. In previous years, criminal charges of mismanagement, fraud and conflicts of interest were brought against people in the district's administration.

During Rojas' first year, the DISD was issued a clean bill of health, said George Williams, a DISD board member.

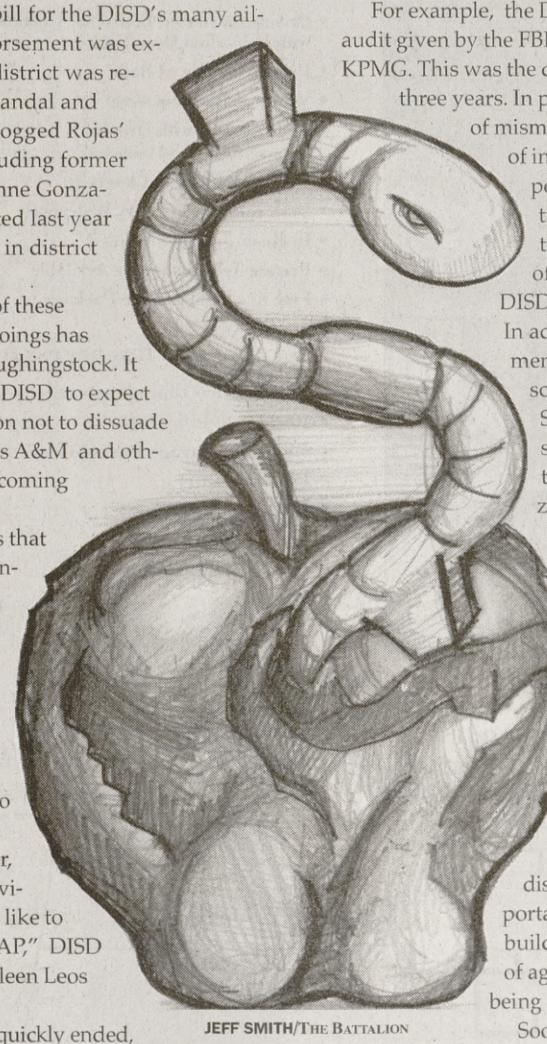
In addition, Rojas has been instrumental in establishing charter school contracts with Edison Schools, Inc., a New York-based school privatization firm. Initially hired to encourage privatization, Rojas has found that many of his supporters on the board have made a sudden about-face.

Now, embroiled in lawsuits with groups representing teachers and juvenile finger-pointing, the Edison plan is floundering, and the school board is unfairly diverting the criticism toward Rojas.

Meanwhile, one-fourth of the district's students are taught in portable buildings, and many other buildings are approaching 100 years of age. These and other problems are being pushed to the side.

Sooner or later, the school board has to regain its sanity. It must understand that, while this political struggle is going on, the students are suffering and potential teachers are going elsewhere.

David Lee is a senior economics and journalism major.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

NYPD has right to boycott Springsteen

In response to Amber Rasco's June 22 column.

Amadou Diallo was a man who died because of a mistake under stressful circumstances, not because he was an African-American.

Rasco ridiculous says that the NYPD is ignoring the voice of the American people. First of all, boycotts are routinely used by organizations to voice their stand on a specific issue. Jesse Jackson regularly calls for boycotts on anything that does not coincide with his political view. Did he deny Texaco its constitutional right to speak its mind when he called for a boycott of its gas because of racial issues? Of course not.

The NYPD is exercising its constitutional right to speak out against Springsteen's message, just like any other organization has the right to do. Second of all, Bruce Springsteen is one man — not the voice of the American people. I would venture to say that the majority of his listeners do not even know the subject of his song "American Skin."

If you look at the circumstances surrounding Diallo's death, you would see that it is the NYPD that is being "shunned" and "disgraced," not music. A jury of seven men and four women (of which

Mail Call

eight were white and four were African-American) acquitted the four officers involved, but Springsteen seems to think the incident was racially motivated, and goes on to stereotype the entire department. I applaud the NYPD's constitutional right to ask for a boycott, and I plan to do so myself.

Dustin Stewart
Class of '03

Police deserving of praise, not criticism

In response to Amber Rasco's June 22 column.

I do not believe that Rasco understands where her and Bruce Springsteen's freedoms are coming from. They are the result of heroes fighting against those who would infringe upon such freedoms.

Rasco can not possibly know the fear of standing in the dark, facing the unknown, and having to make split second decisions in order to save your life or the life of another. She should thank the law enforcement community.

Springsteen on the other hand has some answering to do. Where is his controversial song detailing the life of the underpaid police officer who died protecting the public that ridicules him? What about the verse that talks about the spouse

he left behind or the child that will grow up without him? You will not hear such a song when there should be a whole box set of such memorable tunes.

No, Springsteen has found a way to get his name in the lime-light again by taking sides against the law enforcement community. Police officers are just people as are rock and roll stars and column writers. Who deserves more respect: those who criticize and hide behind their "freedom of speech", in order to judge and tear down or the heroes who remain unsung, underpaid and unwanted until they are desperately needed? With that said, who would you rather be? Not very, fair is it?

Joshua Balay
Class of '03

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 O14 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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