

Presidential Legacy at Texas A&M Another Bush Library would build campus and community unity

The excitement of George W. Bush's inauguration does not seem to be limited to Washington, D.C. A better or worse, the 43rd president will be the United States for the next four or eight years. That time will need to be recorded and guarded — what better place than at Texas A&M? The Board of Regents recently adopted a resolution asking Bush to consider A&M locating its future presidential library at A&M. Building the future George W. Bush Library at A&M would symbolize a presidential legacy



MARIANO CASTILLO

and further promote research and academics at the University.

The significance of having a presidential father-and-son pair should not be underrated. Such a pair has happened only once before, and it may never happen again. Having both libraries in the same location would physically and symbolically demonstrate what the two presidents shared and how they differed.

Furthermore, it would facilitate research for presidential scholars. A complex of such magnitude would attract more prominent speakers to campus. Students in recent years have been able to listen to distinguished guests associated with the Bush Library. It would be a service to students if they had

more opportunities to meet people who influenced the course of the nation.

The number of visitors would also increase, giving more notoriety to the A&M community. Visitors bring in money and, more importantly, prospective students. Recruiting top students and increasing diversity on campus would be more effective.

Members of the Bush family are not strangers to A&M. George Bush Drive extends alongside the University and leads to the George Bush Library and Bush School of Government and Public Service. Former President Bush speaks frequently on campus. President Bush supported A&M students personally after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. President Bush

was honored by the Ross Volunteers when he was governor. Both have been guests on the reviewing stand during Corps of Cadets march-ins.

The ties between the Bush family and A&M are obvious. It would be a sign of strength and

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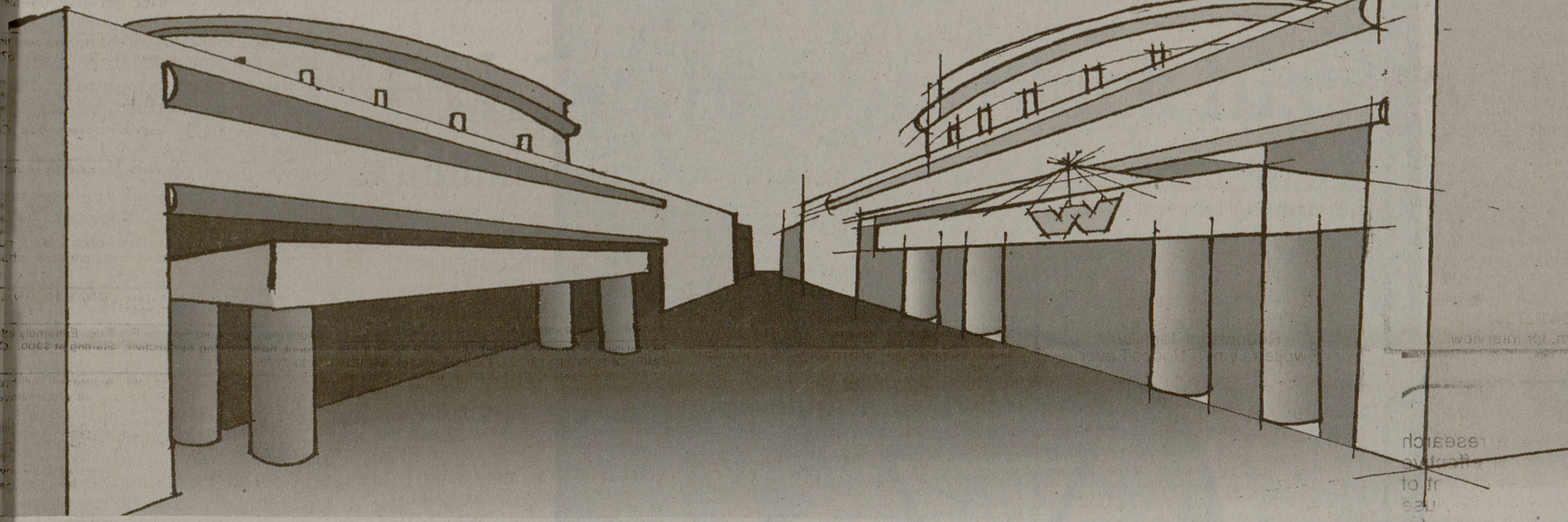
Texas A&M's Vision 2020 aims to make A&M one of the top 10 public universities in the

nation. A second presidential library would catalyze the process.

Since the opening of the Bush Library, A&M's academic standings soared. The library attracts scholars, researchers and faculty. A second presidential library would make A&M an undisputed center for academia and research, a reputation the University longs for.

Asking President Bush to hold his future library is not greedy, selfish or too dreamy. A&M is a completely logical location where the Bush family legacy can grow along with the University.

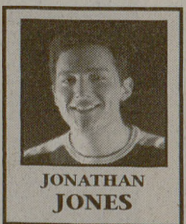
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ADRIAN CALCANELO/THE BATTALION

Jackson versus Clinton: A lesson in morality

Whether one thinks Jesse Jackson is a state troublemaker or a rights hero, it is time to give the man some credit. Unlike the former president he used to spiritually advise, Reverend Jackson recently stepped up to the plate and assumed responsibility for his actions. Though he has lost a bit of his moral authority, Jackson has not broken any laws. It was revealed that Jackson provided Karin Standish, whom he met through the rainbow/PUSH coalition, a house in Los Angeles, \$40,000 to move from Washington to \$10,000 a month after she became pregnant with his child. When the National Enquirer broke the story three weeks ago, he immediately admitted his mistake and asked for forgiveness. Everyone errs and deserves an opportunity to right past wrongs. Vowing not to disappear, he emerged before a cheering crowd of supporters and said, "The world is no place for a champion. The world is no place I will wallow on." After admitting his bad judgment and reconciling with his family, Jackson has every right to enter public life.



JONATHAN JONES

lives of others. Clinton zipped up his pants, argued strategy with Hillary and sent out government employees to lie for him. Examining the statements of both men as scandal surrounded them highlights the point that Jackson is a model of morality compared to Clinton's rich history of falsehoods, fabrications, perjuries and personal destruction.

Jackson said, "I am the father of a daughter who was born outside of my marriage." Clinton said, "That is not true. That is not true. I did not ask anyone to tell anything other than the truth. There is no improper relationship." Jackson said, "This is no time for evasions, denials or alibis. I fully accept responsibility, and I am truly sorry for my actions." Clinton said, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms. Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie. Not a single time. Never. These allegations are false." Jackson said, "My wife... and children have been made aware..." Clinton said, "I misled people, including even my wife." Jackson said, "I have asked God and each of them for their grace and understanding throughout this period of tribulation." Clinton said, "[The Republicans] never apologized to the country for impeachment; they never apologized for all the things they've done."

Jackson's recent statement indicated this matter will not be discussed further as he takes time to heal with his family. In contrast, a plea bargain was announced recently with regard to the Lewinsky perjury matter. It is not in question that Clinton knowingly provided false testimony to a grand jury, for he has finally admitted as much. And that's just a tiny part of one scandal surrounding the Clintons while they were in high positions of responsibility to the public. It is unjust for opponents of Jackson to take pleasure in a sin as serious as adultery, especially with a child involved. The family deserves privacy and respect. However, legitimate questions concerning. Some feel he causes trouble where no problem exists at all. Heated and polarizing opinions about Jackson's past actions should not disallow praise for taking responsibility in this case.

Jonathan Jones is a junior political science major.

Pride or Treason

In response to Richard Bray's Jan. 30 column

No Sir! Our Southern Heritage is not blind pride, and flying The Stars and Bars is incomparable to treason. This flag is a cherished symbol of freedom and has been flown during the Persian Gulf conflict, both World Wars, when the Berlin Wall fell and by people of all ethnicities throughout the world as a symbol of freedom from an oppressive empire. In order to understand, you must study the political happenings of the time.

Southern freedom was severely restricted in the compromises before the Civil War between the North and South. The abolition of the slave trade in 1808 in the U.S. brought more harm to the Northern pocketbook than the Southern way of life as Northern merchants sponsored this. The free territories that were joining the Union as states restricted slave owners from owning land. As the slave trade was now illegal, the North desired an even balance of power in government.

Each state was considered a member of a larger union. If you join a club and pay dues, you may also disassociate your membership. The dictionary definition of a union is self-explanatory, and as the original 13 colonies sought independence from an oppressive tyrant so did the Southerners. Upon seceding from the Union, the Confederacy was not the invader. Fort Sumter rid the South of hostile military presence. It was the North that invaded the South in the First Manassas.

Following is the true meaning of the Stars and Bars as quoted in *The South Was Right*: "The supreme powers (government) cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword because the whole body of the people are armed and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops." However, much blood was shed, and many Confederates died with a fire in their hearts that is no longer in the hearts of many Americans. As General Lee said years later: "Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand."

Bentley Scott
Class of '02

Mail Call

Pride or Prejudice

If you criticize the Confederate flag for being a symbol of treason, then shouldn't you also consider the American flag as a symbol of treason against the British? Or think about the Texas flag and how we declared independence from Mexico.

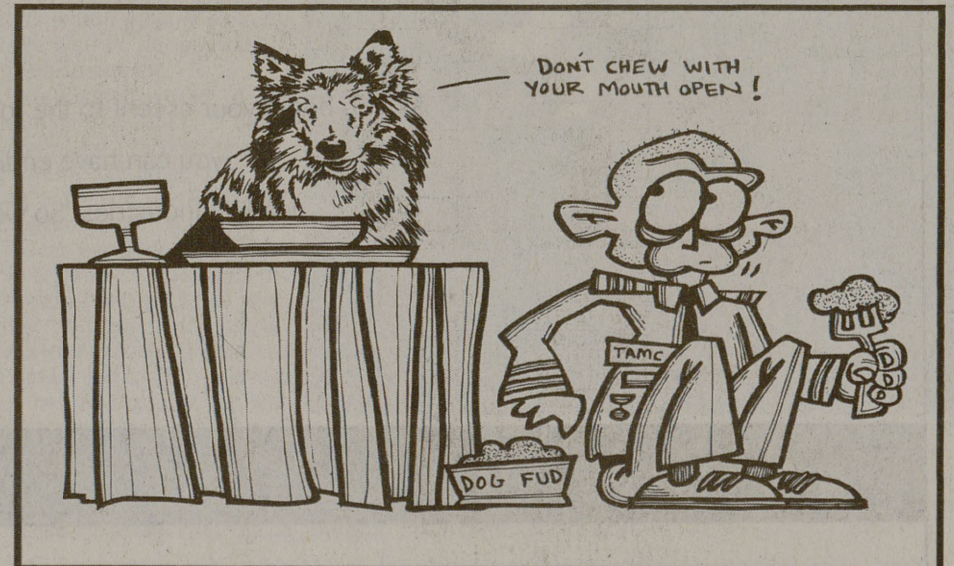
Time and time again throughout history people have fought and died for their beliefs; calling this treason is absurd. Standing up for someone's own rights and beliefs against an intrusive government is anything but treason.

It is sad to see a state disregard its rich heritage in an attempt to gain revenue. If this country is so set on material values then there are other problems that need to be addressed.

In conclusion, before someone prints an opinion article about a flag, they should first know their facts. The Stars and Bars flag, which is the official flag of the Confederacy, that was referred to in the article was not the flag in question. The flag that is being questioned in Georgia is the Confederate battle flag, the two flags are different and have different significance.

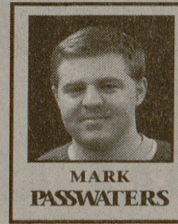
Tyler Dunman
Class of '03

CARTOON OF THE DAY



THE UN-CARTOONIST

Harry Potter is innocent



MARK PASSWATERS

Historically, the French noticed things that escape the eyes of the rest of the world. They have, for instance, found Jerry Lewis movies amusing. They have also figured out

how to surrender with more grace and skill than any other country on the planet.

Now the French have discovered something else that has somehow slipped by the rest of the world: Harry Potter is a sexist pig. According to Pierrro Bruno, professor of social theory at Dijon University, the fictional young man is a "politically incorrect sexist" and a "dangerous role model."

Bruno has apparently spent too much time in Dijon's fine wineries. Harry Potter — and his creator, J.K. Rowling — should be given praise for enticing a generation of children away from video games and television and into reading. It is a great shame that there is always someone who could not recognize the greater good if it were to run him or her over.

Bruno does not stop at calling Harry, who was unable to defend himself during this senseless skewering, sexist.

Bruno declared, "Harry Potter may look like an intellectual with his glasses and unruly hair, but ... he is only too clearly the hero of a political allegory for the triumph of the socially ascendant petite bourgeoisie." Bruno neglects to mention that Potter is not only a fictional character, but he is also eight years old. It is also highly unlikely that any of Rowling's target audience knows anything about class warfare.

Bruno goes on to bemoan that Rowling did not imitate "such great French writers as the structuralist Roland Barthes and the unreconstructed Marxist sociologist Pierre Bourdieu." Maybe this is because children do not have any interest in Marxist-Leninist theory. Harry Potter's stories take place in a world of fantasy, an idea that holds the interest of kids. Of course, some would say that this idea helps Bruno's case, as the belief in a Marxist utopian society is also a fantasy.

Coincidentally, a few facts derail Bruno's arguments entirely. It is highly unlikely that Harry Potter would be sexist, considering Rowling is a woman. In addition, Harry's best friend — and the only person who shares in all of his adventures — is Hermione, a girl. It is even more unlikely that Harry would be espousing bourgeois views, considering Rowling started writing Harry Potter stories for her children to read because she could not afford to buy them books.

It is astounding to think that a supposed academic would oppose anything that causes children to read more. Books have been fighting a losing battle against MTV and Playstation, so any efforts that are successful in getting kids to read should be praised.

Reading allows children to expand their horizons and consider things that they would not have been able to fathom otherwise. A love of reading often inspires a love of learning, causing a more intellectually capable society.

Perhaps, the threat of a smarter society is exactly what caused Bruno to complain. A better-educated public would quickly see that the Marxist theory which Bruno advocates is a time-tested failure that is not worth the paper it is printed on. It would be wonderful if a young boy from a fictional book helped educate enough people that it caused a flawed, inhumane form of political repression to be sent off to never-never land.

Mark Passwaters is a senior electrical engineering major.