

OPINION

Woman's lies may hurt many others

A woman who knowingly sent an innocent man to jail for rape has finally decided to tell the truth after six years, saying she has found God and now understands the evil of her ways.

In 1977, when she was 16, Cathleen Crowell was afraid she might be pregnant after having sex with her teenage boyfriend. So she ripped her clothing and scratched her body, said she had been raped and made up a description of her "attacker."

Gary Dotson had the misfortune of matching that description. Crowell picked out his photo from police mug shots and said he was the rapist. Dotson was sentenced to up to 50 years for kidnapping and rape.

Crowell, now married with two children, says she wants to right her wrongdoing "to the extent possible."

At least Crowell had the courage to finally come forward and exonerate Dotson. But how can anyone make up for six years spent unjustly in prison?

And, in the larger picture, how will Crowell's lies affect the treatment of future rape victims?

Rape is a horrible, psychologically-damaging crime. Progress has been made in recent years to treat rape victims with more understanding. Counseling rape victims and having them examined by police officers of the same sex are steps taken to try to reduce some of the shame and disgust associated with being raped.

Progress also has been made, at a painfully slow rate, to dispel social stigmas about rape victims — that they are promiscuous and asked to be raped, or that they weren't actually raped but are just trying to get someone in trouble.

The Battalion Editorial Board is afraid Crowell's immaturity and stupidity may have serious, long-lasting, negative effects on society's view of rape and its victims.

In the future, conscientious police officers and jurors probably will look harder — as they should — before assuming guilt of rape suspects. But will they do so at the expense of the victims?

Will they treat rape victims suspiciously, with little or no respect?

If so, fewer women will come forward to report rapes. And the problem only will get worse.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Where did Bum's convictions go?

I have a confession to make — I always harbored a secret admiration for Bum Bright. Although I frequently criticized his actions concerning controversial issues at Texas A&M, I could never deny that Bright was a man who stuck to his guns. In short, he had guts.



Loren Steffy

Tuesday, Bum Bright traded in his guts for chopped liver. He resigned his position as chairman of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, claiming that Gov. Mark White controlled the votes of the board. Bright, who was not re-elected as chairman, also complained about the election of Joe Reynolds as vice chairman because Reynolds is not an old Ag.

"As a consequence of our new officers of the board, and based upon the governor's statement to me that he controls the board, I feel that it is inappropriate and serves little consequence for me to continue to serve on the board," Bright said. "I just see little purpose in continuing to function on the board in a minority role..."

However, Gov. White hit the proverbial nail on the head when he said, "I would not have thought his (Bright's) loyalty to Texas A&M would have been limited to serving as chairman of the regents board."

What happened to Bright's deep-rooted convictions? Where is his traditional I'm-not-going-to-budge attitude towards insurmountable odds? This guy will unyieldingly fight hopeless battles to keep women out of our band and homosexuals off our campus, but if he can't be the head honcho, he's going to pack up his marbles and go home.

Bright's feeling that a "minority" would be inconsequential shows a featurist attitude. Anybody who believes Aggie idealism as strongly as he does, should not allow himself to be lenced merely because he finds himself in a minority role.

By walking out of the regents' meeting, Bright conceded victory to the people he said would be "a detriment to the University. If Bright truly A&M's best interest at heart, he would have stayed on the board and acted as a watchdog to these detrimental changes. Bright has handed A&M over to the majority he so adamantly opposed without a fight.

An inconsequential role is better than a non-existent one. Let's face it, Bum man like you is only as inconsequential as you allow yourself to be.

Loren Steffy is a sophomore journalism major and a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

Business takeovers nasty business

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Once upon a time there was a sweet thing called Red Riding Hood, who owned Little Red Riding Hood Inc., a small company that made children's dresses. One day she was walking down Wall Street when she met a great big wolf (Amalgamated Wolf).

"Where are you going, Red Riding Hood?" the wolf asked.

"To Grandmother Pizza's office with this new issue of stock which I hope will make her well."

The wolf thought to himself, "What a tasty morsel. I could eat Grandmother Pizza for breakfast and Red Riding Hood Inc. for lunch."

The wolf then said, "Where are your Grandmother's offices?"

And Red Riding Hood replied, "In the World Trade Center building."

The wolf then said, "Would you like to have a hot pretzel from the stand over there?"

"Why not? They are not expecting me at Grandmother's board meeting for a half-hour."

Whilst Red Riding Hood was eating her pretzel and drinking her soda the wolf sped off to the World Trade Center.

Will this university ever learn that brains are more important than bricks?
Richard Braastad, '83

Teachers should join the 'bread line'

EDITOR:
"Professional" is a funny term.

As a doctor, if you lost over 50 percent of your clients, your license would be revoked.

As a lawyer, if 90 percent of your clients disliked your service, a bread line would be the result.

Or as an engineer, if 52 percent of your clients were not satisfied with your work, and used phrases like "he's arrogant, not at our level, boring, no eye contact, confusing, and only in for the money," you would lose all future contracts.

These are only numbers; teachers deal with people. As professionals they must base their practice on sound and proven educational research and methods. The collecting of homework that is neither corrected nor returned to the student, the addition of 20 points to a 20 point quiz to penalize students who do not follow the teacher's preferred method, and the threatening and chastizing of students who seek tutoring demonstrates one thing... perhaps it is time for them to join the bread line.

Michael Coad

D.G. responds to fraternity challenge

EDITOR:
Dear Gregg Langford,

In response to your letter in the March 26 Batt, we'll start off by saying that D.G. is not a frat. Never claimed to be, never will. We do not have rush parties, membership dues, or those cute little pledge pins. Webster defines a fraternity as "a student society, designated by letters of the Greek alphabet." The letters D and G are not Greek. They stand for Major Clarence R. Cavis and Lieutenant Arthur E. Gary, the first two Aggies to sacrifice their lives in WWII. Their initials are proper and should always be capitalized.

ter. He dashed into Grandmother Pizza's office and ate poor Grandmother up.

Then he pulled the curtains and sat in her leather chair.

Red Riding Hood was ushered in by the secretary.

"Good morning, Grandmother."

The wolf did not reply.

"Oh Grandmother, what big ears you have."

"The better to hear all the merger rumors on the street," the wolf replied.

"Oh, Grandmother, what big eyes you have."

"The better to read everyone's latest financial report."

"What big hands you've got."

"The better to grab all your assets with, my dear."

"Grandmother, what big teeth you have."

"The better to eat you with!" And with that the wolf sprang out of his chair and made a lunge for Red Riding Hood, who easily sidestepped him and knocked him to the floor.

"What are you doing?"

Red Riding Hood sat on the wolf's stomach and said, "I'm taking you over."

Now that we settled that little misunderstanding, do you not read The Battalion? There was an announcement congratulating Davis-Gary, among others, for contributing the second highest amount of blood of all the large organizations at Texas A&M. We were second behind the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Was that not a service to the community?

We also constructed picnic tables for the City of College Station at the new Southwood Park. That is a service, wouldn't you say? Also, Langford, pictures are available of the children we sponsored through the Village of Hope. Gosh, that might even be considered a service to the world, huh Gregg?

Now you mentioned in your letter that D.G. was suspected of destroying the private property of some of the local fraternities. We believe the key word in that statement is *suspected*. By the way, there was an incident where two fraternities trashed another fraternity's house, while they forcefully held members of that fraternity against their will in doing so. Are we being blamed for that too?

As for your sign, it said nothing about the Bryan Boys Club. It said — Vote for Paddy Murphy, Student Body President — and had your organization's Greek initials on it. This in no way advertises a fund-raising event for charity, but instead, shows a total lack of regard for University policy concerning non-recognized organizations and election campaign regulations. Simply put, it was a sure fire way to provoke a confrontation between Greeks and Northgate residents. We hope the sign didn't affect the election process. We would hate to think that best person for the job didn't win because of your illegal and improper sign.

As for us, we are proud of our "Red Ass" reputation and what we stand for, and we will continue to stand, as all Ags should, till the very end.

That's our reply and we accept your apology,

The D.G. Association
Randal Reiley

"You can't take me over," the wolf cried. "I'm five times bigger than you are."

"Size means nothing," Red Riding Hood said. "The only thing that counts is how much money I can raise in control."

"Where could you find enough dough to buy a great big wolf?"

"I'll make a leveraged buyout. I'll off your head and sell it to a museum, your coat to a furrier and your teeth to a key chain company. It's all here in prospectus."

"The SEC will never let you do it!" Red Riding Hood retorted.

"Wait," the wolf said. "Why can't I make this a friendly takeover? Give me a golden parachute and I'll never eat you again."

"Sorry, but it's too late," and with that Red Riding Hood cut open the wolf's stomach and out popped her grandmother, who had a grin on her face.

The grandmother said, "It worked, I knew we could get control once he got fat and cocky."

Red Riding Hood said, "Where do you get that 'we' stuff, Grandma? spinning you off to Standard Oil of New Jersey."

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board
Brigid Brockman, Editor
Shelley Hoekstra, Managing Editor
Ed Cassavoy, City Editor
Kellie Dworaczky, News Editor
Michelle Powe, Editorial Page Editor
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff
Assistant City Editors.....Kari Fluegel, Rhonda Sinder
Assistant News Editors.....Cami Brown, John Hallett, Kay Mallett
Assistant Sports Editor.....Charean Williams
Entertainment Editors.....Shawn Behlen, Leigh-Ellen Clark
Staff Writers.....Rebecca Adair, Cathie Anderson, Marcy Basile, Tamara Bell, Brandon Berry, Jeff Brady, Dainah Bullard, Ann Cervenka, Michael Crawford, Mary Cox, Kirsten Dietz, Cindy Gay, Pete Herndon, Trent Leopold, Sarah Oates, Jerry Olin, June-Rang, Tricia Parker, Cathy Rich, Marybeth Rohsner, Walter Smith
Copy Editors.....Jan Perry, Kellen Smith
Make-up Editors.....Karen Block, Karla Martin
Columnists.....Ed Cassavoy, Kevin Inda, Loren Steffy
Editorial Cartoonist.....Mike Lane
Sports Columnist.....Dale Smith
Copy Writer.....Dale Smith
Photo Editor.....Katherine Hunt
Photographers.....Anthony Casper, Wayne Grabein, Bill Hughes, Frank Irwin, John Makely, Peter Rocha, Dean Saito

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2030. Advertising: (409) 845-2011.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843

LETTERS:

Support of refuge act encouraged

EDITOR:

What does it tell us about our country's policies when one woman's humanitarian actions are viewed as so threatening that she is faced with five years in prison, ordered to leave the church-sponsored shelter where she lives and works, and forbidden to speak to the press?

This woman is Stacy Lynn Merkt, a volunteer in the Sanctuary Movement that aids refugees fleeing Central American violence. She and Jack Elder (Director of Casa Oscar Romero, a Catholic Church-sponsored shelter in San Benito) were convicted last month of conspiring to help two Salvadorans enter the country (The Battalion, 3/27/85, p.4). These courageous individuals have continued to act on their personal religious convictions despite repeated prosecution by federal authorities, and I doubt that they will turn back now.

Their imprisonment should be a signal to the rest of us to speak out in support of their cause, in support of temporary asylum in the U.S. for refuge from persecution; how can we turn our backs on this heritage?

Write to your representatives in Congress, urging their support of the Moakley-Diconcini bill, which would grant "temporary extended voluntary departure status" — that is, temporary asylum — to political refugees from El Salvador now in the U.S., thus reaffirming the U.S. Refugee Act of 1980. And come talk to us about the Sanctuary Movement at Political Awareness Day at the MSC, Wednesday, April 3, 1985.

Alex Madonik

Gay rights debate will not go away

EDITOR:

On Tuesday, April 2, Houston City Councilman John Goodner and TCLU Executive Director Gara LaMarche will debate the civil rights of homosexuals. Great Issues and Political Forum are promoting this program with posters, but some people are thwarting this effort by tearing the posters down.

I'll assume that it's not because they want them for souvenirs — they're in-

stead reacting to the topic. To them, I say, "What an intelligent response!" If you choose to ignore this and try to keep it from others, that doesn't help your stance one bit.

"Gay rights" are being discussed and debated whether you approve or not. What you can do is make your viewpoint known. That is exactly why GI and PF set up this debate, with an audience question and answer period. Our committee members have various viewpoints — we are not endorsing one side or the other. However, we have questions that we want answered and we are optimistic that many people feel this way. False optimism? I don't think so. Intelligent discussion will be heard long after the ripping of cardboard fades away.

Glenn S. Murtha
accompanied by 6 signatures

Brazos Beautiful, Inc. thanks Ags for help

EDITOR:

Brazos Beautiful, Inc. is very appreciative to two air science classes that chose to do their community service project with us. David Tribo, Dam Hampton, Raley Marek and Randy Smith spent approximately 3 hours at Williamson Park in Bryan dismantling obsolete swing sets. Blistered hands and tired bodies did not dampen their enthusiasm. THANK YOU..

Justin Powers, John Johnson, and Scott Norwell used 3½ hours of their free time picking up trash off University Street in College Station. They started on Tarrow Street and continued up to 29th Street. These Ags picked up 12 bags of litter.

THANK YOU AGGIES FOR HELPING TO KEEP BRAZOS BEAUTIFUL. WE APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Sincerely, Diane Mills
Executive Director

Pretty buildings aren't everything

EDITOR:

This past weekend I visited A&M for the first time in approximately one year, and saw, for the first time, the Albritton tower.

STA
Cons
exhib
held
By T
The Tex
ors will
sponsored
relation-
The ex
to 4 p.m.
Langford
Jeff Hun
for the ch
chapter wa
regular for
to have an
the exhibit
convention
"This is
an exhibit,"
of our 250
convention
ded to sho
missed."
The cha
for the eve
this semest
"It's bee
work," Hun
the membe
in major
preparation
group effo
The exhib
science may
"We hope
neering stu
struction stu
dents from
a background
be intereste
through the
struction so
SHOP ALL
E
loc
Be
wit
of
THE
A st
for
org
thro
Cle
Mill
non
for
Ton
rem
cle
skin
Mo
Diff
Mor
for
skin
Co
bel
Col
Def
Lav
Bui
lie
lash
of
lips
Lip