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## EDITORIAL **NCAA** ruling

## A&M must accept consequences

The NCAA announced on Sept. 10 that five Texas A&M University football players would be suspended from play for accepting payment from a 12th Man Foundation booster for work not performed. These uspensions vary commensurate with each individual's difering levels of knowledge, parcipation and moneys received. During the course of the CAA investigation, each athlete indicated that little or no work had been performed. Some were paid, for instance, while employed full-time elsewhere. Another was paid

while in College Station participating in football practice.
This investigation and the resulting punishment followed on the heels of an in-house investigation initiated by the University in January. Texas A&M was correct in acting swiftly and decisively on this issue. However, A&M's recommendations for punishment would prove later to be insuffi-dent in the eyes of NCAA Enorcement and Eligibility rep-

University. Even now, after a legacy of Jackie Sherrill and Kermit Davis, it seems that ours is an athletic program unable to function, either on an institutional or individual level, ac-

tional or individual level, according to NCAA regulations.

Therefore, it is disgraceful that Interim President Dr. E. Dean Gage is "angered and disappointed about the actions taken by the NCAA ..." These players knowingly and willfully broke the rules. How then in good faith can Texas A&M, a university purportedly comuniversity purportedly committed to integrity and compliance, question the NCAA?

As with anything, if a wrong or injustice is committed, one must expect to answer to a higher authority. Likewise, Texas A&M must expect to answer to the NCAA for these

Gage, saying that "we underwent a vigorous ... self-ex-amination," went on to call A&M's findings and recom-

mendations "appropriate."
Texas A&M University, however, is not its own judge and jury. The NCAA is. We This whole matter is an emmust recognize this fact and accept the consequences.

## Always look on the bright side of life

## People must learn to deal with what they can't change

Horrible ▲ No Good Very Bad Day" is one of those phenomenal children's books that is written for kids, but is

really aimed at adults. I am not by any means trying to minimize the perils of sand box fights and Cracker Jack boxes without prizes. But really, let's face it, most college students would kill for the opportunity to worry about how to

**IENNY** MAGEE Columnist

get out of taking a bath as opposed to ... just looking at a syllabus.

The problem is not that the crises that plague our lives now are any more traumatic than when we were five; the problem is that along the way somehow, we inherited a ghastly and evil mental characteristic — an attention span.

Seriously, look at children. At one moment they are prepared to end their lives over the demise of a 6-inch plastic turtle stat-ue and the next moment they have forgotten that the world frowned on the life of their

beloved possession.

Now, take an adult who breaks her manicured fingernail or witnesses his favorite football team get shamelessly beaten, and we are looking at a two week mourning period. As adults we have spent time and energy at perfecting many skills in our lives, and somehow, we all ended up experts at milking our bad days for all they are worth.

Well, I was having one of those "terrible horrible no good very bad days" myself this summer. I mean this was a record-breaking bad day. I had ants in my britches and

smoke spewing out of every hole in my head. Upon reflection, I am not exactly certain what I was so upset about. I was certain however, that my world was crumbling around me, and I was absolutely, thoroughly and deservedly miserable.

In the midst of contemplating ways to seek retribution on every living organism daring to inhabit the earth that day, I noticed a rather plain navy blue Accord drive past me. With an air of nonchalant innocence, neatly attached to the left rear bumper was a simple black and white bumper sticker. It read "Good Happens."

It was like a slap in the face. At that moment I realized how incredibly easy it is to be

negative. Most people have seen the more popular and cynical version of the "Good Happens" bumper sticker. I guess it was the rarity of this positive outlook that made an impression on me. Honestly, I was embarrassed for myself. I was embarrassed that I had allowed myself to fall helplessly into the hypnotic effects of negativeness

I am not sharing this experience of self revelation in the hopes of producing a campus full of cheery college students who dot their i's with hearts and belong to the smile Gestapo. But, I learned that being negative is a trap. It does nothing but magnify and post-

Being negative is the truest basic instinct

that most people ever actually act on. It all goes back to the first time we were ever denied a cookie. In an eerie and perpetuating twist of fate, we all learned the power of

whining, crying and all-out temper tantrums.

And by golly, the fact that it worked once was reason enough to file it away deep in our subconscious as the best way to deal with any of the little booby traps life sets in our path.

We all need to come to grips with one basic and unchanging truth — life is not fair. It never has been, and it never will be. And over time life delivers a personal remainder.

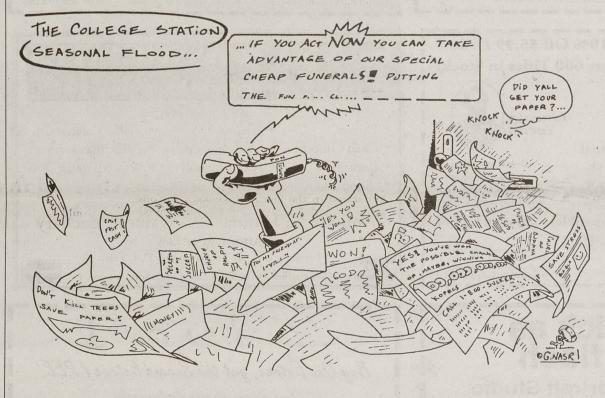
every time life delivers a personal reminder of the unfairness doctrine, we are faced with an option. We can scream, yell and go into mourning, or we can shut up and get on with

If there were one productive way to regress in adult development, it would be to loose that nasty appendage called an attention span. It's like dealing with zits. If you just acknowledge the fact that they are there and then leave them alone, it looks a lot better than when you spend hours in front of the mirror hashing it out with unmovable mountains

With all our incredible skills and intellectual ability, there are many things that exist outside the realm of human control. The only thing that preserves our sovereignty of self is the ability to control our reactions.

But when we allow the negative reaction impulse free reign over our lives, it is so easy to miss any good in the world - even when it is driving right past you.

Jenny Magee is a sophomore journalism major



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## Acquaintance rape: Crossing the line between 'yes' and 'no

learning seemed perfect for Jenifer. It was her rst semester away tcollege. She had ined a few roups that intersted her. She had et a lot of friends and was going to arties where the uys were interestg and the beer as free. One guy

emed particular-

interested in Jen-



ROBERT VASQUEZ Columnist

David was a good looking guy. He ad talked to Jennifer at one of the pares. Jennifer had even told one of her nds about him.

"He's tall and strong," she said. "He's these massive shoulders. And he's of the cutest smile. I swear, if I don't ss him tonight, I'll go crazy

That night at the party David paid se attention to Jennifer. And she loved He held her hand like he had before, nd he brought her beer. And more beer.

And more beer.

"He looked cuter every time," she said.

"I was dying to kiss him." Finally, she did kiss him. It was getting late, and everyone was wandering off into their corners of the house. David suggested that they too find a private place to talk. Jennifer liked the sound of it and walked with David to his car.

David's room was cold and dark so it felt good when he came to sit next to her. He sat awfully close. And then he kissed her. Just like she had hoped. And then he grabbed her.

Jennifer wasn't sure what she should do. Maybe it was an accident, she thought. Maybe he didn't mean to do that. She had jumped a bit when he did it, but she tried to shrug it off. She acted as if nothing had happened. And then he

did it again.

Maybe that's what they do in college,

Maybe wasn't she thought. But she knew she wasn't comfortable with it. Jennifer pulled away

David pushed closer. "What's wrong?" he asked.
"Nothing," she said. "I'm getting

David smiled. He kissed her again.

She tried to enjoy it. But it wasn't the same. Jennifer pulled away and told

David that she wanted to go home. "What's wrong?" David asked. "Doesn't that feel good?" He gently rubbed her back and held her firmly in place when she tried to move.

David said they should lie down, rest a

There had been no screaming. She hadn't fought him. She hadn't tried to get away. She had been very quiet and didn't stop his advances. Who would possibly call that "rape"?

little before driving her home. She was tired. He was driving. He was insisting. Why not?

David lay down first. And then she, on the other side of the bed. He scooted up next to her. And then he kissed her. It was only a kiss.

Jennifer was tired. His kisses felt

But this isn't right, she thought. Some-

thing's wrong.
"David ... stop," she said. Her voice was so quiet, so soft. David didn't stop. He gradually removed all her clothing. And he massaged her. And he kissed

her. And then he raped her. There had been no screaming. She

hadn't fought him. She hadn't tried to get away. She had been very quiet and didn't stop his advances. Who would possibly call that "rape"?

Jennifer would. And she did. She wasn't sure how it happened. She just knew that she didn't want to have sex with David. She had told him "no." And

he took it anyway. Jennifer is not one isolated case, but a representative of thousands of women who have been raped by someone they

thought they knew. One study found

that one out of every five college students

in the United States has been a victim of sexual assault. Dennis Reardon, a coordinator in the Department of Student Affairs, said fe-

Between the first day of school and Thanksgiving, incoming students are es-

male freshmen are the most likely to become victims of acquaintance rape

pecially susceptible to new influences. This freedom to test the limits of excess, mixed with the driving desire to fit in with the new crowd, often leads students to make crucial first-time decisions at a point when their judgment has been discarded with reckless abandon. The consequences are sobering.

Texas A&M has organized a program to help rape victims. Whether it be acquaintance rape, attempted rape, or any other type of sexual assault, counselors at the Center for Drug Prevention and Education in the Beutel Health Center are there to help. The service is free and completely confidential. If you would like to talk with someone or simply have a question, call 845-0280.

In the dark hours of morning, under the hazed influence of alcohol, the defining lines between right and wrong — between "yes" and "no" — blur all too quickly.

The rude awakening comes when daylight separates gray affairs into black and white. And the players find themselves on the wrong side of the line.

Robert Vasquez is a senior journalism major

# SEPT 21

#### It's A&M, not NFL

I could care less about who wins the National Football Championship or who is the starting quarterback. Nor do I care

what the AP voters think. The point is that Texas A&M has a damn good football team that has not lost a season game since Tulsa ('91).

Screw all you wannabes bitching about one season loss in three years. You probably weren't even at the game - not to mention down on the field in front of wall-to-wall Oklahoma fans.

Remember, this is not the NFL - the athletes are here to go to school.

> Dan Selters Class of '94

### MAPS not necessary

We students continually wonder why our fees keep rising annually. An example of the problem can be observed with the article in Thursday's Battalion, "Student Government to implement MAPS".

What our student government plans to do is venture into the local high schools and "inform" them about different cultures. Whether this knowledge is good or bad is not the issue. The problem: money collected from our tuition and fees is funneled away from the people who front it.

What's next, a MAPS fee added to our bill? Let's stop this before the program gets out of hand.

> David W. Britt Graduate Student

#### Freshmen not at fault for decline of Howdy

In response to Cecil Bleiker's suggestion that the Class of '97 is unaware of the traditions such as Howdy, we would like to speak up for all the freshmen who

do uphold this fine Aggie tradition. We can only wonder how Mr. Bleiker came to the conclusion that the Class of 97 was the cause of this decline in friendliness on the A&M campus. We were not aware that a survey was taken to establish that the Class of '97 does not say howdy

As a freshman, I brought back from Fish Camp all of the pride, spirit and traditions I learned from our counselors, speakers and fellow freshmen.

Since classes have started, I too have been amazed at the blank looks I receive when I greet someone with a howdy. But I have been more amazed that it is the upperclassmen not returning my greeting just as much as "fish."

After many visits to the A&M campus last year, I could not wait to be a part of A&M and carry on its traditions. Imagine my disappointment upon my arrival here this year that people cannot return a simple howdy.

I understand and share in your disappointment at the declining friendlines on campus, but it is unfair of you to label the Class of '97 as the cause

> Amy Kohler Class of '97

Accompanied by 13 signatures