

# DeFrank's Grudge Hurts Only Aggies

There are some people who just simply refuse to accept the facts of life.

Ever since Tommy DeFrank was fired as editor of the Battalion last October he has been running Texas A&M into the ground at every opportunity.

His caustic statements have not only hurt the Journalism Department at Texas A&M, an innocent bystander since the department has no jurisdiction over student publications, but they have hurt the University and the student body as well.

DeFrank has let his personal grudge against the administration interfere with logical thinking. He is an excellent student academically and has won many awards in the field of Journalism, but his actions ever since his dismissal by the publications board have at the least been irresponsible and vengeful.

DeFrank fails to understand that every time he knocks Texas A&M, he is only hurting the prestige of the school and lessening the value of his diploma, for himself and for those who go to school here. He calls himself an Aggie, yet he stands ready to deliberately tear down our school. He has presented his one-sided case before groups in Houston, Pittsburgh, Fort Worth, and Huntsville. Until now, no one has challenged his constant and persistent flow of degrading remarks about Texas A&M.

DeFrank claims that he was censored by the administration. The one thing he fails to bring up is that it was not a student newspaper that was censored, but rather it was a small clique of six people — six people who did not have the support of the student body or the majority of journalism students in DeFrank's manner of running the Battalion.

For a period of several years, there had been a self-perpetuating clique — a dynasty — in control of the Battalion. The clique made sure that only people to its liking worked on the Battalion. It also made sure that one of its members was named editor the following year. The clique of which DeFrank was a member excluded any student who showed more potential than members of the clique.

Last year, the Battalion clique caused two freshmen journalism scholarship winners to resign from school. They were Larry Uphshaw and Joe Lemming. One went to the University of Texas and the other to North Texas State. They both stated, and their reasons are on file in the Journalism Department, that they were resigning because the Battalion clique had excluded them from working on the "student" newspaper. They felt that it was essential for a journalism student to be allowed to work on a student publication.

The present Battalion staff has 12 people, more than any other Battalion staff in the last three years, and gladly welcomes anyone who has a newsworthy contribution.

In short, we believe that the firing of Tommy DeFrank was necessary in order to end the self-perpetuating dynasty. It was a group which spoke only for itself and which did not have the best interests of the school and of the student body at heart. Their dismissal has opened new avenues of experience for A&M journalists and has helped to strengthen the unity and harmony of the student body.

\* \* \* \*

We feel that DeFrank and every school in the Southwest Journalism Congress which voted for the unjustifiable censure of Texas A&M University owes the A&M student body, as well as this staff, a written apology.

## THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; John D. Cochran, College of Geosciences; Dr. Frank A. McDonald, College of Science; Charles A. Rodenberger, College of Engineering; Dr. Robert S. Titus, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Page W. Morgan, College of Agriculture.

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"I stepped that off! You threw that golf cart far enough to break Randy's shotput record but I don't think it'll count, because it weighs more than a regulation shot!"

# Ex-Editor DeFrank Claims A&M Could Be A Berkeley

Ed—The following article is taken from the Feb. 24 issue of "The Houstonian," student newspaper of Sam Houston State College. It reports on a speech made there by Aggie senior Tommy DeFrank. It is only one of the many speeches given by DeFrank since being fired as Battalion editor that, while containing many obvious errors, has done much harm to our school, our student newspaper, our journalism department and our student body.

By BOB GILMORE  
Houstonian Staff Writer

"If someone at Texas A&M doesn't wake up, they're going to have another Berkeley on their hands," Tommy DeFrank, an A&M senior who was fired as editor of the student newspaper last fall, told the Sam Houston Forum Tuesday night.

"General Rudder (Maj. Gen. Earl Rudder, president of Texas A&M) seems to think the whole world is one, big infantry division and he's the commander," DeFrank said.

"He's unpopular with the students, he's unpopular with the faculty and he's unpopular with the townspeople. I didn't get fired

because I violated any ethics of journalism. I got fired because I crossed Earl Rudder."

DeFrank was dismissed along with two other student editors Oct. 10 after an editorial hassle with A&M Student Publications Board Chairman Jim Lindsey.

Lindsey refused to allow the publication of a story concerning progress in organizing political clubs on campus in the A&M newspaper, The Battalion, DeFrank said.

When DeFrank protested, he was demoted from editor to student editor and Lindsey assumed the editor's title. On Oct. 10, the Student Publications Board voted to fire DeFrank and two other Battalion editors, touching off a storm in Texas and national newspaper circles.

"A good journalist has got to be allowed to think for himself," DeFrank said. "My firing was not to punish me, but to get me out of his (Rudder's) hair."

After his dismissal, DeFrank prepared "a detailed study" of

Editor "Battalion" Texas A&M University

Dear Sir:  
Tuesday morning I looked up at Old Glory soaring and snapping in a very fine spring breeze.

Indeed, she looked old. She looked as if she might have been in another battle at Old Fort Henry. The outer edge of the flag of our country was ripped and tattered and frayed. The bottom red stripe was snapping in a completely different cadence to the other stripes, owing to its' almost complete separation from them. The center white stripe had a very obvious, large, gaping hole in it. . . . Perhaps it was caused by a stray RV bullet? The present flag in the Sbsa area should be exchanged for a new one, or at least one in better condition.

We owe it to the Corps and Non-Regs — to A&M, and to our Country. Surely one could not think otherwise.

Thank you. I remain  
Sincerely yours,  
Robert S. Logan  
Walton I-16

freedom of the press in more than 80 daily college newspapers. The editors and advisors of each newspaper were questioned as to policy and possible interference by university administrators.

A list of 15 controversial editorials was presented to each paper with DeFrank specifically asking how many could not be run because of editorial policy.

Texas A&M's Battalion reported it would not run 14 of the editorials.

"The Battalion is not a newspaper," DeFrank said. "It's a publicity sheet for the college." DeFrank told the Forum members that Gen. Rudder refuses to "take 'no' for an answer."

There is no protest, he said, because the majority of the university's personnel is military or formerly military.

As civilian enrollment increases, however, dissatisfaction will increase, he said. "When protest increases, and it is increasing, A & M could become another Berkeley."

## MSC Committee Sponsors Benefit

The Memorial Student Center Travel Committee is sponsoring a benefit presentation of "We've Never Been Licked" in Guion Hall Friday night, at 7:30.

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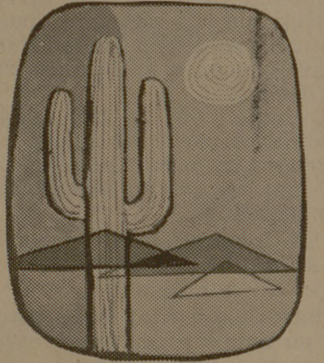
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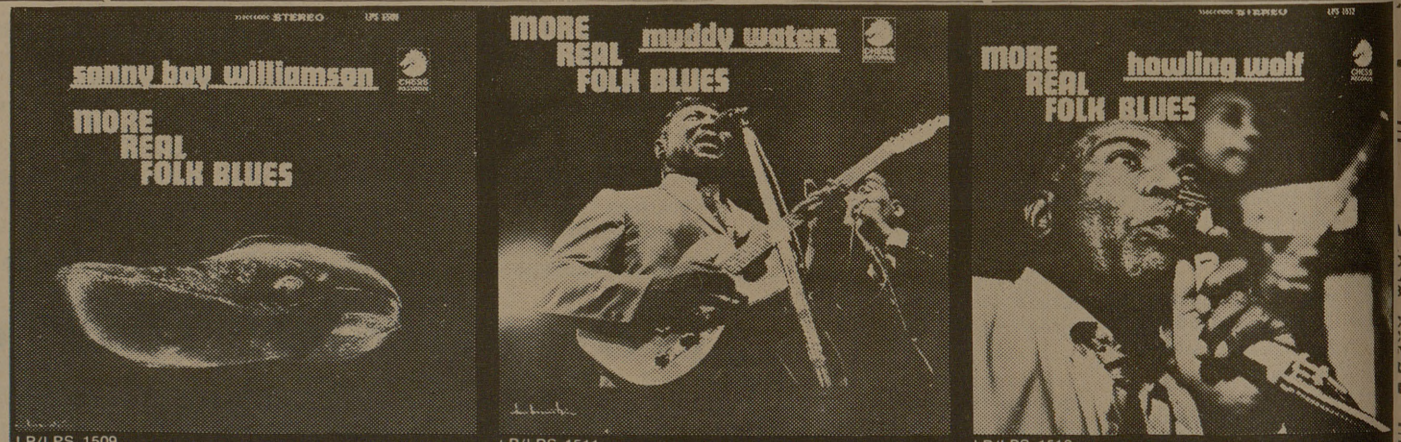
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