

Listen up

Bonfire pollution and the environment

Editor:
Air pollution from the bonfire was visible more than 15 miles west of Bryan on Highway 21 last Wednesday night. Does that set some sort of new record? This wasn't the tallest bonfire—maybe it was the "pollutingest"? At least it was the stupidest in view of most peoples' greater awareness of the meaning of environmental degradation.

We persist in driving our gas monsters to see an abortion like this which we pass off lightly as being just a small amount of air pollution that will be quickly dissipated into someone else's air. Then we are quick to add that this is only a one night stand and the real polluters are those heavy industries in Houston and Birmingham.

Make no mistake about it, this lunatic fringe comprising a fanatic 25% of the student body who perpetrate this monstrosity on the rest of us speak loudly in our name, demonstrating symbolically to the whole state of Texas where our school stands on environmental issues.

Ray Quinn '70

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"Mind you, I think we can come up with a system for exams, all I'm saying is that in case all else fails that we might experiment with studying!"

Gripping

One of the more interesting insights into A&M student and former student thought presented itself recently with the firing of Head Football Coach Gene Stallings.

Before Thanksgiving it was hard to find someone who wanted Gene Stallings to remain as Head Coach. Now, after he has been fired, it is hard to find someone who doesn't want him back. With the exception of our Board of Directors, that is.

It could be that suddenly everybody has changed their mind about Stallings. Or perhaps they feel that all the trouble it is going to cause just isn't worth it. We doubt both of these.

If anything, it is that students and old Ags have to find something to gripe about. Anything at all will do—the food, long-hairs, CTs, Batt editors and Gene Stallings.

In a way it is understandable why they gripe. For the students there is nothing else to do, except study, and that is no alternative. The former students, on the other hand, must put up with teapigs—and that is never an alternative.

Because of all this, we are forced to draw the conclusion that an Aggie is happy only when he is gripping, definitely an odd state of affairs because all he ever seems to do is gripe.

We wonder at what the results would be if they put some of the energy expended by gripping to different uses—like trying to change what they are gripping about.

Bulletin Board

Tonight
Sophomore Class will meet in room 241 of the Physics building at 7:30.

A&M Sailing Club will meet in room 105 of the Geology building at 7:30.

Port Arthur Hometown Club will meet in the Military Science building at 7:30.

Thursday
Student Senate will meet in the

Library Conference room at 7:30.
Eagle Pass Hometown Club will meet in room 2B of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30. Group picture will be made.

San Angelo-West Texas Area HTC will meet in room 3B of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30.

Model Airplane Club will meet in room 146 of the Physics building at 8.

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.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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involved in: the Student Y Association, MSC Committees, academic and social clubs, political groups and programs with the dorms (as Ramp 10) to name a few.

True, not all coeds are unfriendly. Many are very friendly and active on campus. I am speaking of the girls who continually study their shoe-tops.

So, come on "Maggies," let's continue that great Aggie tradition—friendliness!

Carole L. Key '72
★ ★ ★

Editor:

I read the article, titled "Poisoning: Predator Cure-all", in the November 17 issue of the *Batt* with interest and a tinge of anger.

I do not know what Mr. Hayes' background is. Therefore, I do not know how he is qualified to

Issues of Batt being sought by Archivist

University Archivist Charles R. Schultz is looking for the following issues of *The Battalion* in hopes of composing a bound volume of them. Anyone who has copies listed is urged to contact Schultz at 845-1951.

- Volume 64
- No. 57, Fri., Jan. 10, 1969
- No. 62, Fri., Feb. 1, 1969
- No. 62, Tues., Feb. 4 (?)
- No. 64, Thurs., Feb. 6
- No. 65, Fri., Feb. 7
- No. 66, Tues., Feb. 11
- No. 67, Wed., Feb. 12
- No. 68, Thurs., Feb. 13
- No. 70, Tues., Feb. 18
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- No. 78, Thurs., Feb. 18, 1971
- No. 122, Tues., May 4

write on this subject. I realize that I am a bit prejudiced toward wool growers' and lamb producers' since I live in the Edward's Plateau Region of Texas, (the largest sheep producing area) and have worked sheep most of my life. Possibly seeing the warm, bloody carcass of a lamb killed by a coyote or dog would change the mind of Mr. Hayes in favor of poisoning predators, especially if he owned the lamb.

Mr. Hayes states that the cattlemen are not as fanatical about predator killing as the sheepman. This is true. There is very little problem with coyotes killing calves. But, Mr. Hayes, there is quite a bit of difference between a 200 lb. calf and a 30 lb. lamb. The young lamb is very vulnerable to attack because of his size. The newborn lamb is not much bigger than a full grown jackrabbit and he can't run as fast as an ordinary human. Since the wool-growers' are the ones who suffer the greatest losses by livestock predators, they naturally should be the principal recipients of predator control programs.

Supposedly, wild predators will eat small game before they will attack lambs; I say supposedly because I don't see the difference it would make to a coyote whether he ate rabbit or mutton. If this is true; therefore, the predator must turn to some other form of

nutriment during periods of low rabbit population. This last year the drought caused a sharp decrease in the rabbit population. The number of lambs killed by predators also increased markedly during this period. There seems to be a correlation.

Mr. Hayes stated that only 1.68% of the total sheep population on public land was killed by predators in 1970. This could be true, but consider that while one large portion of the range might suffer no losses certain other regions may be suffering 50 and 60% losses. For instance a rancher in the San Angelo, Texas area suffered less than 1% of their lamb loss due to predators. On the other hand a rancher in the Alpine-Ft. Stockton area lost 40-50% of his lamb crop due to predators.

One type of predators which Mr. Hayes did not mention is the dog. I would say that I am a dog lover but dogs are one of the greatest menaces to sheep. Dogs will rove in packs and unlike coyotes and other natural predators they kill for pleasure and not for food. Many times these dogs will mangle sheep leaving them to die. The ranchers' only recourse is poison which shows no favor to any predator; therefore, many natural enemies are killed because of the unnatural enemies, the dogs.

John P. McMinn

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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz