

Stallings—aye and nay

Editor:

I have just read another account about the events of last Thursday night. My fervant desire is that someday administrators will be held as accountable for their decisions as head coaches are.

If this ever came to pass, I am sure some vigilante committee would call a midnight meeting and pass judgement on the three responsible men who made a rotten decision Thursday night.

Charles H. Elliott '64
★ ★ ★

Editor:

As you say, the release of Coach Gene Stallings came as no surprise to anybody except Gene Stallings. President Jack K. Williams and the Board of Directors met last Thursday probably for one thing only: to decide the fate of then Coach Stallings. That's exactly what they did. What's wrong with that?

When do you, Mr. Editor, suggest they hold the meeting. Before the game? During the game? Christmas Day? Maybe the first or last day of Spring training? How long did you want the Board of Directors to keep Stallings thinking he had a job, when actually he was going to be released? Also, what did you expect the Board of Directors and President Williams to do? Did you want them to stick around all week for press conferences? "Too, the board hadn't found a replacement for the man of which they so quickly rid themselves." Just what do you mean? Should the Board of Directors first find a replacement and then fire the coach? It would look pretty bad, hiring a new coach before getting rid of the old one.

Do you suggest the Board of Directors give him a \$10,000 going away banquet? Then you could criticize the way so much money was spent to get rid of a coach.

Maybe this wasn't the easiest job for the Board of Directors, and I don't believe this was very easy for Stallings to take. But maybe in the long run it was. Stallings won't have all that pressure put on him by the Former Students and present students, since he's not a coach here anymore.

We tend to look for Stallings' good points now that he's leaving. Why didn't we see them before? Were we too busy criticizing? We, most of the students, didn't treat him or the team very well, either leaving the game two minutes into the fourth quarter or not even coming to support the team. When the team was losing, many times I witnessed the half filled stadium almost before the game ended.

Yes, maybe the student body and supporters could take a lesson from Gene Stallings.

Louis Rodriguez '72

Nothing was wrong with meeting to fire Gene Stallings—except the timing. Stallings went the whole Thanksgiving Day game knowing he would find out whether he would leave or stay right after the game. He thought, based on a statement he said came from President Williams, that his contract would be extended. The pressure was probably terrible.

Then he had to face the press, which must have seemed to him like a pack of vultures, while our administration seemingly split for the hills.

Texas Tech and many other teams have coincided the firing of a coach with the hiring of another. It certainly looks better that way and takes some pressure off the man that was fired. A&M could have done that.

We didn't ask for much from the board. No foofraw or embellishment, just tact.

—Ed.
★ ★ ★

Editor:

There are many of us who were quite proud of what Gene Stallings was doing for A&M and its athletes. Now a few "win happy" people have let him slip through their fingers—never to help the program again. We are sad.

Few of us doubt that he will have an easier time getting a coaching position than the Athletic Department will have finding another coach to sacrifice to the media.

Thank you Mr. Stallings—we will miss you very much.

Lynna B. Harding '63



"I thought I'd flock th' room for Christmas and lost my head!"

Bulletin Board

Tonight

MSC Radio Committee will meet at 7:30 in the Art room of the Memorial Student Center. This is the final meeting for the semester.

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 student vote

With the placement of Bruce Clay's name on the ballot for the College Station City Council election Dec. 14 the student vote hassle has all but ended.

What started out as an argument over whether students could vote in local elections has ended up with students voting and one of them in the elections. A&M and College Station have followed a nationwide pattern in reaching this point.

But the time has come to analyze the true power students have in the local elections.

The strength of the student vote lies not in electing a student to the council, but in acting as a somewhat blockish swing vote.

The student body could very easily elect a student to the council. Only a relatively small amount of the students voting would be more than enough to win the election, but would the student be effective?

Probably not. As has happened before, the student, usually more liberal than the other council members, is ignored. Indeed, councils that have never agreed on anything before have banded together to kill student proposals or overpower student members.

No student would be efficient on the council if this were the case. In fact, he would probably be working against himself since the council would be leery of anything he did or any vote he cast. Above personal success, the student councilman would not represent the students fully.

The power lies with the students voting for candidates from the community.

If we are to speak realistically, we must say that the students as a unit will tend to favor one side. Though we would expect students to vote for all sides, they will be more liberal than the average small-town, central Texas citizen.

By using this unitary vote the students can dictate the attitude and values taken by local government. They can make it more favorable to the university and to the student outlook.

This is the power, not in having a student on the council.

Utilizing the swing vote will also allow the community the majority of the representation, and such it deserves. The average student lives here only nine months of the year and is little affected by such things as streets, sewers and schools—the essential parts of a community.

Now one might well ask, why not elect an entirely student city council? Isn't that really power?

Indeed it is, but it is power perverted. The local government exists not just for the students and not just for the community. It exists for both. A council needs members of the community with their experience and it needs students with their side.

Another point is that if the students did elect the entire council the community would probably provide a backlash at the next election and come up with an anti-student council. The students would defeat themselves.

If the students are to use their power, which is considerable, they must use it wisely. The election of a student merely because he is a student or the election of an all-student council would scarcely be the wisest thing to do.

Consider this when you go to vote in the Dec. 14 elections and those to follow. Remember where the power lies, and use that power.

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.

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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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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

EDITOR HAYDEN WHITSETT
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WACO, Tex. (AP) — The plan to take most of the natural salt pollution from the Brazos River received additional support in Waco Wednesday as 20 cities, counties, state agencies and organizations voiced opinions in a public meeting.

The 20 joined 22 others, including a large number of state and federal officials and agencies, which had given their support earlier to the plans being completed by the Corps of Engineers based on studies made by the Brazos River Authority and other agencies in the last 20 years.

Col. Floyd Henk, Fort Worth district engineer for the corps, conducted the meeting — the second of three being held through the Brazos Basin to get a grass roots opinion of the corps' plans.

Col. Henk, in a brief description of the plan, said it calls for

the construction of four dams on tributaries of the Brazos from which the major portion of the salt pollution is derived.

He said the dams would create reservoirs to completely block from the Brazos the flow of salt brine in a salt flat area located in King, Kent, Stonewall and Dickens counties in North Texas.

He said construction of the projects would keep most of the salt from the river and improve the quality of the water so that it could meet the needs of the people of the basin for many years.

Col. Walter Wells, general manager of the Brazos River Authority, in his statement supporting the project, looked toward future needs for water but also outlined some of the problems the salt pollution is causing in Central Texas now.

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