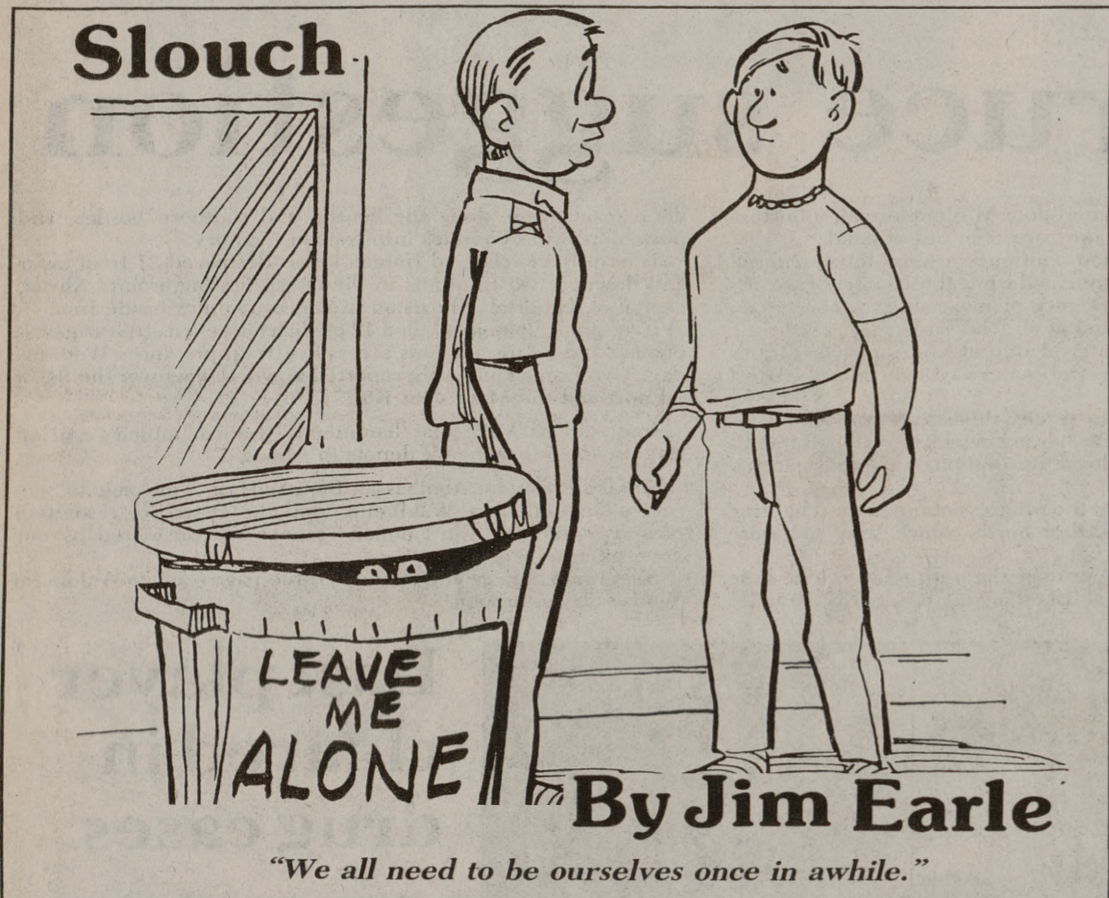


VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 2, 1980



'Agscam' investigation has pluses, minuses

"Agscam" is apparently over. For the time being anyway the investigation into alleged drug use by Texas A&M football players has run its course.

Eight players were investigated in the incident; six have been cleared of any wrongdoing. The other two have been suspended from the team, but are reportedly still in school.

Several concerns have arisen out of the entire affair, with Coach Tom Wilson receiving criticism and plaudits from all corners. Comments from both sides are appropriate.

First, Wilson's statements that he was going to "clean up this team, no matter what it takes" are admirable. They reflect a determination to fight head-on a social ill that is a rising problem in intercollegiate and professional sports.

It's an attitude that he hopes will demonstrate to team members, students, former students and administrators his resolve to help make the Texas A&M football squad as unique as the student body.

The attitude does appear to be carrying over. Wilson has received a lot of support for his stand from those he has intended to impress. Team members for the most part support Wilson's efforts.

However, it seems as if Wilson may have jumped the gun a little in his initial suspension of three players, and in the subsequent statements to reporters about the extent of team members' involvement with drugs.

The dismissals of Elroy Steen, Cal Peveto and Darrell Adams were termed just that — dismissals. One athletic department official, when asked if the three would be reinstated should a University disciplinary panel clear them, replied, "Hell, no."

A fable for our times

By WILEY GILMORE
Battalion Reporter

Lissen up, Ags. I've got a fable for ya. Once upon a time, there was this Aggie football team. It was a good one.

Everyone had high hopes for this Aggie football team. The players; the students; every county agent from Wills Point to Crane; every Daddy Big Bucks from Houston to Midland.

But things turned sour in a hurry, and progressed to rancid and thence to rotten.

A last-minute score zapped the Ags in the first game of the season on national TV. Then came three more losses by an aggregate of 16 points.

This preseason powerhouse faced a battle to avoid a losing season.

"Why?" intoned the press. "Injuries and inexperience," answered the coaches.

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

It's that kind of hasty judgment, action and statement which bring to mind whether justice was indeed meted out in this case.

Even Wilson's statements about cleaning up the team sound a little grandiose in light of the total of two suspensions.

For the two players who were found guilty by a student affairs hearing, the hearing was merely a formalization of what they should have expected for getting caught.

But for Darrell Adams, who was cleared of any wrongdoing, it's the kind of "guilty until proven innocent" action which really serves no purpose, and which could hurt a man's attitude and reputation for years.

It's entirely possible that Adams' innocence led Wilson and others to investigate five players prior to any more formal suspensions. That much is a credit to the coach's desire to be fair. And while those five are still associated with "Agscam," they are implicated to a lesser degree.

However hasty Wilson's actions seem in hindsight, it's hard to believe he thought he was doing anything to deliberately hurt the team or any players. But he's nonetheless dealing with players' futures in the episode — and a future can be irreparably harmed by hasty reaction.

"Wait 'til next year," croaked the county agents.

"New coach!" bellowed the Big Daddies. "Farmers fight!" roared the Twelfth Man. Game No. 5 shaped up as another Farmers Fizzle, with Ole Army facing 11 seconds on the clock and needing a touchdown to win.

The Aggie quarterback retreated to pass; he scrambled; he ran; time ran out; TOUCH-DOWN!

Well, didja like that, Ags? There's more. In this fable, the Aggies won the rest of their games, the Southwest Conference championship, and the Cotton Bowl.

But, ya know sumthin', Ags? That warn't no fable.

The team was the 1967 Texas Aggies. The month was October. The opponent in game No. 5 was Texas Tech.

Fish, non-regs not lesser

Editor:

In regard to Albert C. Gross' letter that appeared in *The Battalion* on Sept. 25, 1980, why does he decide to exclude members of the Corps of Cadets? Don't get us wrong, the Corps is an important part of this University and sets it apart from other schools. However, are "all freshmen and most non-regs" lacking in respect for the traditions of this fine University? We don't think so. If the freshmen were told it is a senior privilege to "walk on the wood," they probably wouldn't be on the "wood." There are other traditions that have "roots" in Kyle Field. The yell practice that was held after the Aggie football team was outscored was missing some members of the Corps of Cadets. There were many "non-regs" reminding the Corps members of the yell practice, but they left anyway. There are "bad Ags" in all academic classifications, the Corps of Cadets, and the "non-regs" of this University. We are tired of being considered "lesser" Aggies just because we are freshmen and/or "non-regs!"

Richard A. Blair '84

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 13 other signatures.

A letter to the faithful

Editor:

Keep your spirit high and you will triumph. A hundred and four years of courage and tradition can not be undone. Good luck in the upcoming weeks and beat the hell out of Texas Tech.

Frank Charles
James Schumacher '80

Brown victim of 'injustice'

Editor:

It is necessary to bring to your attention a great injustice which is being perpetrated upon one of the most respected members of the Horticultural Sciences faculty here at Texas A&M, Dr. Oswald Brown.

It seems all that has occurred here is a gross misunderstanding which will have nominal effects upon ourselves, but extreme repercussions on Dr. Brown and all future horticultural students.

The administration has seen fit to refuse to grant Dr. Brown tenure because he has not brought any benefit to the university system in

the form of research work. I have learned from a very reliable source that Dr. Brown was under the assumption his duties here were to be solely to instruct and teach students. But unfortunately, in the eyes of the administration, Dr. Brown is not worthy of permanent residence here at Texas A&M.

So students, the burden of proof rests on our shoulders. I believe I am speaking for everyone when I say that Dr. Brown's classes have taught me the most practical and necessary talents required from a future Horticulturalist. His benefits as a teacher are in my words, indispensable.

This University is nothing without students and it's time that we take a hand in directing what Texas A&M is to become.

This letter will be accompanied by a petition and be sent to the administration concerned. The petition is located on the Floriculture/Ornamental Horticulture club board in the Plant Sciences Building. Your name will carry weight and any help you give will be appreciated.

Robin D. Fuller
Sarah Haynes

A plus for 'Warped'

Editor:

We are glad to know a new tradition has been started at Texas A&M and thank Steve McDaniel for his "Letter a-la Keeton." (Remember her and her complaints on panties in the pickup?) Now, people are not only trying to control the behavior of others in public but are trying to control what we read as well. Just what is so stomach-turning about a comic strip with a kissing couple? (Notice Mr. McDaniel did not specify why it made him sick.) What's next? Will you try to censor other newspapers and magazines to protect our virgin eyes? How about making it unacceptable to kiss in public? (Yes, people actually do what is in that particular comic strip.)

O.K. Maybe this is a little severe, and maybe the "Yes, ma'am!" comment wasn't necessary in the last frame. But for Pete's sake, give us a

chance. There are those of us who don't take their hats off in a football field. Even strip does offend a few people, it couldn't be THAT serious; serious enough to warrant an entire strip. What would you replace it with anyway? Unfortunately, "Thotz" is gone. Let's try to get along with what we have.

Noe Gutierrez
Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 28 other signatures.

Leave traditions to the

Editor:

This is in reference to Albert C. Gross to the editor on Thursday, the 25th. I wholeheartedly agree that there should be no rudeness shown to anyone performing a group of people. This is common knowledge usually shown anywhere. But Mr. Gross really shock a nerve on your second page.

First, Mr. Gross who ever heard of taking their hats off in a football field when and how was Kyle Field made a stadium. We probably figured out how it probably happened when a couple of C.T. together at midnight yell and decided every one to take their hats off, to prove "special supremacy," no doubt. Second, there is not "wood" in Kyle Field, but referring to the aluminum seats, how are supposed to get to them, walk over them and pray that we don't accidentally touch aluminum? Now about yell practice, it's not that loses. How can you yell your heart out for that loses? Maybe if we show the team we really feel after they lost that they need something about it.

There are many things which happen that can happen at only military schools they are forced to do so) but Texas A&M military school anymore (although it was one at one time.) But now it is a University where ordinary people would like to get an education and not be ridiculed following a few "improvised" traditions.

Russell C. Halvorsen

Warped

AT LAST, I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING WITH CHANGE FOR A \$5. NOW I CAN GET QUARTERS FROM THE COIN MACHINE.



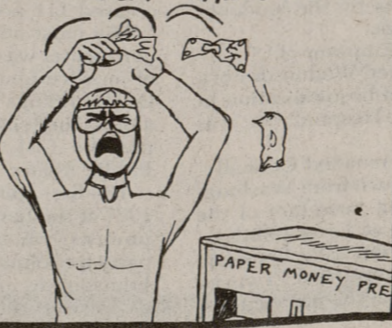
OH NUTS, ALL THESE BILLS ARE WRINKLED LIKE USED KLEENEX! THE MACHINES NOT GONNA TAKE THESE.



HEY GREAT! THEY'VE INSTALLED A DOLLAR BILL WRINKLE-PRESS, I CAN...



WHERE AM I GOING TO GET THE CHANGE?



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

U S P S 045 360

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, to make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number, and be typed.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, *The Battalion*, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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