

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"We wouldn't have known that you did anything wrong in your halftime routine if you hadn't told us."

## The debate that wasn't

Rather than the scheduled debate, 900 people witnessed a slaughter in Rudder Theater. ERA opponent Phyllis Schlafly was the priest who led ERA advocate Katherine Brady, the lamb, to the sacrificial altar.

Tuesday night's discussion between Schlafly and Brady was a disappointment. The problem was not that either side's views were unsubstantiated; the problem was that the speakers' debating skills were unequal.

Schlafly, a polished lawyer and chairman of Stop ERA, has spoken against the Equal Rights Amendment for nine years. She confidently voiced her views with well-practiced points and rebuttals.

She repeatedly alluded to facts and figures regarding past legislation and discrimination suits which she said would not be helped by any such equal rights amendment.

In contrast, Brady seemed to have some difficulty organizing her thoughts. What she did say made sense, at least to the ERA advocates in the audience who cheered her on, but her debating skills were no match for Schlafly's. Her ineffectual delivery made it impossible to consider seriously



Jane Brust

some of her arguments.

Indeed, ERA proponents such as myself may have felt shortchanged in that the pro-ERA side of the discussion was something less than provocative.

Rule #1 in debating is to know the debate subject backwards and forwards. Brady seemed to know her subject forwards, but she was not quick to respond to Schlafly's questions or to those from the audience. She did respond, with substantiated views, but significant pauses before several responses were indicative of a lack of debating experience.

I can't imagine that her presentation changed anyone's views against the ERA. But then, it appeared that most members of

the audience arrived at the program with their opinions already formed.

Nonetheless it was refreshing to attend a program on a controversial political subject along with numerous people willing voice varying views.

And those views were voiced. A group of about 20 proponents of the amendment donned white shirts and pants with ERA sashes and buttons and made no bones about whose views they favored in the program.

Both ERA proponents and opponents hissed and whooped and applauded when points were made in favor of their respective views. However, while Aggie audiences are known for a frequent lack of courtesy for speakers, each speaker was allowed to make her remarks without necessary interruptions or rudeness.

The scheduled ERA debate was a tremendous program for the University community. And, it was well-received, evidenced by a crowded theater and persons listening in the outer lobby.

It's a shame the undeveloped debating skills of one speaker kept the program from turning into the provocative exchange of ideas it could have been.

## More important issues should be letters topics

I've just read the last disappointing letter to the editor about which I'll remain silent. Why do I find so many letters to The Battalion to be puerile and exhaustingly boring? Well, I suppose because I'm surrounded by 35,000 college students at the age in their lives when they are most politically, socially, religiously, and ethically aware, who can't think of anything better to bitch about besides poor bonfire turn-outs, bad Ags, and misused dormitory laundry rooms! I hope that isn't actually the case and that it only appears that way. Because if it is the case, there's something seriously wrong with this University.

The catalyst for my "anger" (that's a euphemism for "rage") was most definitely the response which Noe Gutierrez's letter elicited from the student body. The moment I finished the first paragraph of his letter, I knew that all hell would break loose in the letters section for a while. But a week of pitiful misinterpretations? The letters were more insults to their authors than to Noe. I hadn't realized how exigent the situation is on this campus. Understand me, I'm not focusing the blame on The Battalion, nor the administration. I'm preaching to the students! We're never again going to have a circuit like The Battalion through which we can holler about anything which aggravates us. Don't waste it on ultra-local trivialities. Don't waste it on petty bickering over what a fellow student had to say.

## Reader's Forum

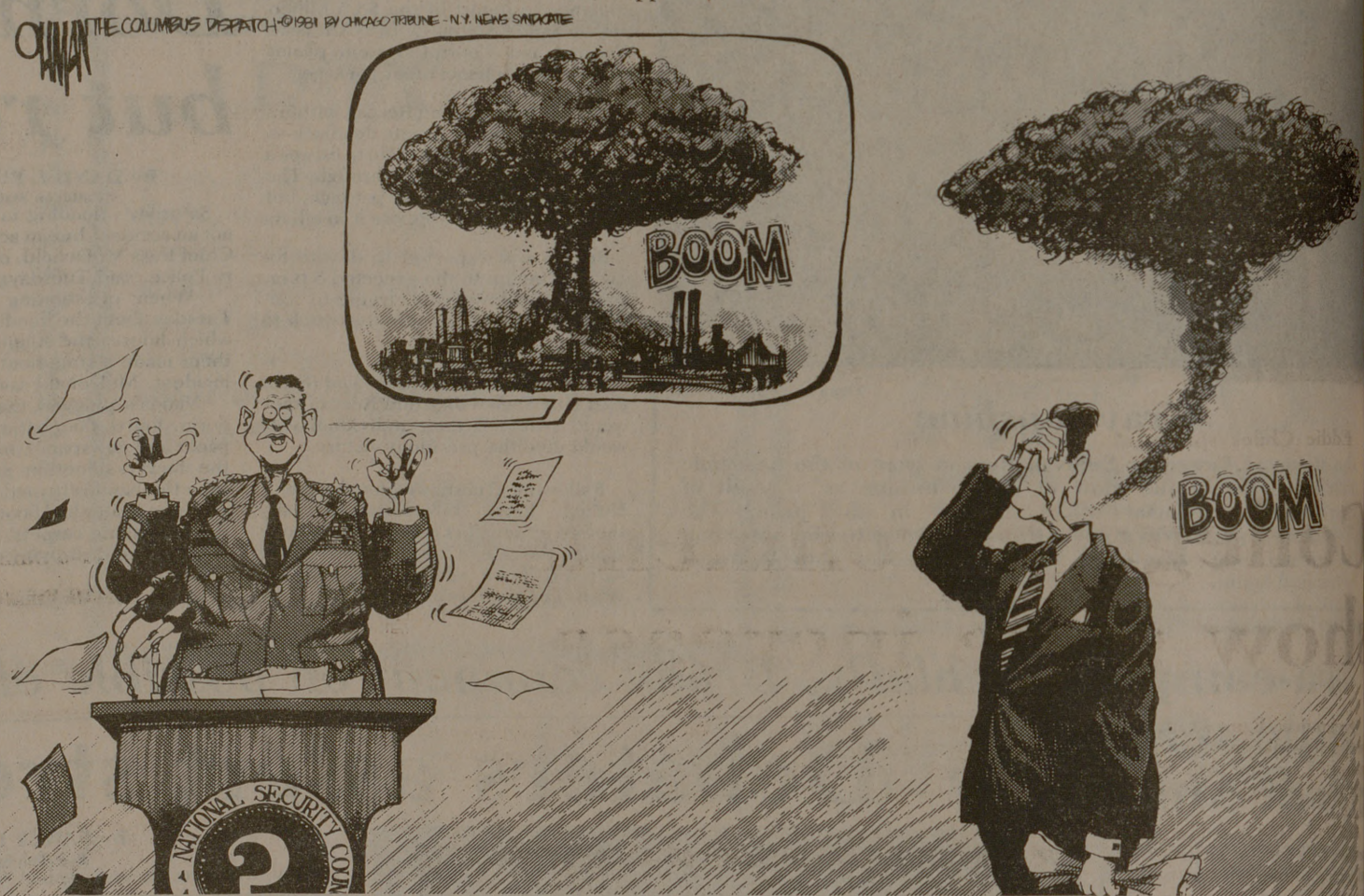
I'm not asking for a revitalization of the anger of the sixties, but if Kent State had happened yesterday, would the response to that in today's Battalion be but a murmur compared to the roar over savage frat rats invading the campus? Judging by today's letters, it would.

These letters are only a manifestation of the attitudes here at Texas A&M. We need to take a critical look at those attitudes. Do they promote the individuality a person desperately needs during his or her college years? Do they reflect a responsive, responsible student body? Are they indeed our attitudes and not those that we have literally been "brain washed" into accepting?

To those who will inevitably convey to me the message, "Why don't you leave if you don't like it?" I answer, "Some of us are here to change things."

Dave Spence

Editor's note: Spence is a sophomore English major at Texas A&M.



## It's your turn

## Students stay cool despite Rice fans

Editor:

I'm not a letter writing person, but I must say how proud I was of all of you who attended the Rice game on Saturday. In spite of the obscene signs, yells and other garbage coming from the Rice students' section, you kept your cool and ignored it all. To do otherwise would have been exactly what they wanted.

It is not surprising to me that the quality of this institution, its growth, students and spirit are the envy of higher education all over the country. Your behavior during the game was a perfect example of that quality.

We won a lot more than the football game on Saturday. I'm proud to be an Aggie and I'm proud I work for you.

Carolyn Adair

Director of Student Activities

Well, Spence I don't know where you got your ideas, but it certainly was not from going to school here. The Aggie Spirit is one in which group feeling is suggested but the individual still has the right to choose his own course of action concerning his or her feelings. If one misses midnight yell practice does everyone he knows, who did go, call for his execution? It is highly doubtful that you got your impressions of Aggie life from the majority of students attending here. But I do suggest that you re-examine your view due to the fact that it sounds like more of a fraternity viewpoint rather than that of a true Aggie. If after this re-examination you still feel that Texas A&M is repressing your individuality, I can only remind you of the old Aggie saying: HIGHWAY 6 RUNS BOTH WAYS.

Jim MacCarthy '83

step off. Something unfortunate happened during the half-time show at Rice on Saturday. We don't know what occurred, and we don't really care. What we do know is that we love you anyway, Band. You are the greatest!

Carla Rheudasil '81

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by signatures from 135 members of Neeley Hall.

## 'Random' ticket policy

Editor:

Now that I am a senior at Texas A&M, remember how it was when I was a freshman and sat in end-zone bleachers, or a lucky, the horseshoe at home football games. As freshmen, we were all told that we would get better seats when we got to be seniors (with rank comes privileges?). Since then, the Athletic Department has changed its ticket policy, tickets being doled out "random," instead of first-come-first-serve. The reasoning behind the change, we were told by the Athletic Department, was to eliminate the night-before campouts and early-morning mob scenes the days tickets went on sale. This "random" ticket scheme is supposed to give more people a better shot at getting better seats throughout their years here at Texas A&M.

I went to get my tickets at 1 p.m. Monday afternoon, and was informed by the person behind the ticket window at G. Robbie White that the only tickets left on the second deck were goal line or worse. Is this an example of "random" selection? If tickets were picked up purely at random, the chances of selecting a ticket between the 30 yard lines would be 2 times better than selecting tickets goal line or worse. Having nothing but goal line or worse raises some questions, as well as a few eyebrows. I'd like to know the Athletic Department's ticket office's definition of "random."

Jeanne Boubel '81  
Tim Carlin '81

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.  
Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

## LETTERS POLICY

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

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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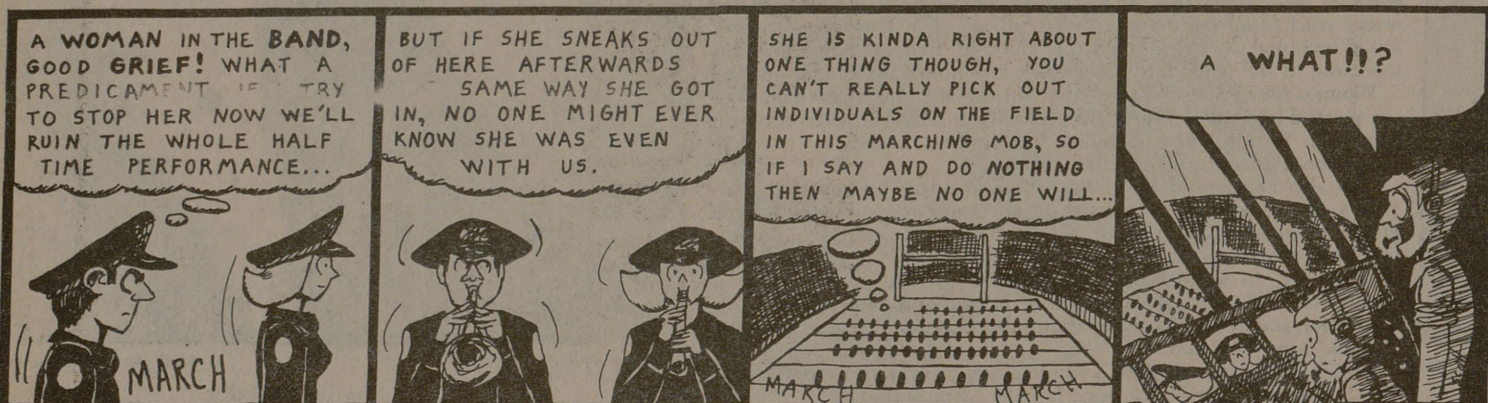
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## Warped



## By Scott McCullar

Cindy Berg '82

## Our Band is still best

Editor:

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band is certainly one of the finest and most spirited organizations on our campus. When they march and play, every Aggie stands a little taller, and the pride radiates from his face because he can say, "That's our band, and they are the best!"

We are indeed proud of our band and stand behind them loyally every time they