

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I can see it in your eyes that you're ready for football season again."

Painful loss was inevitable

It had to happen. It was painful, but maybe it was inevitable.

The Aggie football team and Jackie Sherrill lost.

After all the hullabaloo about Sherrill's salary, Aggies everywhere had great expectations for the season.

The 38 to 16 loss to Boston College Saturday successfully — maybe only temporarily — brought Aggies back down to earth from the regions of outer space which we had been inhabiting.

Already, someone has placed hand lettered signs around campus which say: "Bum, next year buy Jack Bicknell" (the Boston College coach), and "Bum, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how much you pay the coach."

But, one game doesn't show a coach's worth. The players on Sherrill's team, except for the freshmen, were recruited by Wilson. The seniors have played under three coaches now: Bellard, Wilson and Sherrill. It isn't always easy to adapt to new systems.

New coaches need time to build programs, and players need time to adapt to new systems. Eventually, Sherrill may guide an A&M team to some sort of championship, but in the meantime we have restrain ourselves from expecting miracles.



rebeca zimmermann

Even experienced sports writers expect great things from Sherrill and the Aggies this season. Sports Illustrated picked the Aggies 15th in the nation in preseason top 20 picks. Skip Bayless, sports editor for the Dallas Times-Herald, picked Texas A&M to finish the year as national champions.

After years of losing seasons or just barely missing a conference championship, it's difficult to remain rational in the face of stellar hopes for a talented new coach to turn the team around.

But, for our sakes and the football team's sake, we have to try to remain rational.

Sherrill seemed calmer after the game than most fans. And although the team lost, Sherrill scored a major victory with the student body — he kept the football

team on the field for the training game yell practice Aggies had lost.

I've been going to Aggie games since 1969, and this was the game that I can remember staying on the field for yell practice.

Student body reaction to the previous approval and delight. It was louder at the post-game yell practice during the game.

OK, Sherrill lost his first game to the fans, were disappointed — loudly so. Everyone except the Aggie was disappointed.

But, we, as Aggies, can forgive everything at the sight of the team and the head coach "sawing the horns off" with the rest of the end of the game.

It made you feel proud to be a team and a coach who had enough to stay for yell practice, despite the gust and jeers. It was quite impressive.

So, we've come down from our high and landed with a thud. Now we stop screaming for national championships. Sherrill needs a chance with his team, strengthen the good and work on the bad points.

The familiar cry of "Next year here" isn't valid yet, but someone's determined to keep the Aggie bands.

Letters: Sign-up demolition derby

Editor:

Have you experienced the latest sporting event which I call the "Human Demolition Derby" or HDD for short? This sport is very similar to the football game called "Kill the Man with the Ball." Next semester, I am going to start my own business and sell football pads and equipment to participants. This should be a good investment due to HDDs increasing popularity. It occurs every weeknight at 6 p.m. and if you haven't guessed by now, the sport is better known as Job Interview Sign-up.

Today's sign-up method is done by randomly placing companies in different lines. At 6 p.m., these companies and line numbers are called out and sign-up is on a first-come-first-served basis. This is very similar to "Kill the Man with the Ball."

I always believed that the whole purpose of the interview process was to give everyone a fair and equal sign-up opportunity but this is not occurring due to line-cutting. There may be only 20 people in front of you during a pre-line set-up but after the line number is called out there will probably be more than 40 people in front of you. (Pre-line set-up is the method of gambling and forming a line prior to knowing what companies are going to be in that particular line. This gambling has become extremely popular as more and more people try to get interviews.)

The other main problem is the sign-up location. This is on the second floor of Rudder Tower. This room is about the size of a small backyard. Now imagine having a family reunion with about 300 people. I think the problem is quite evident.

My solution to these problems is that all interview sign-ups should be done by

lottery. Dorm sign-up has changed over to this method and it is working quite well. Students would enter their ID number for each company they wished to interview with and some sort of drawing would be held.

I sincerely hope something will be done very soon or next year we may be paying to watch students play HDD.

Randy S. Reed '83

Bike stolen

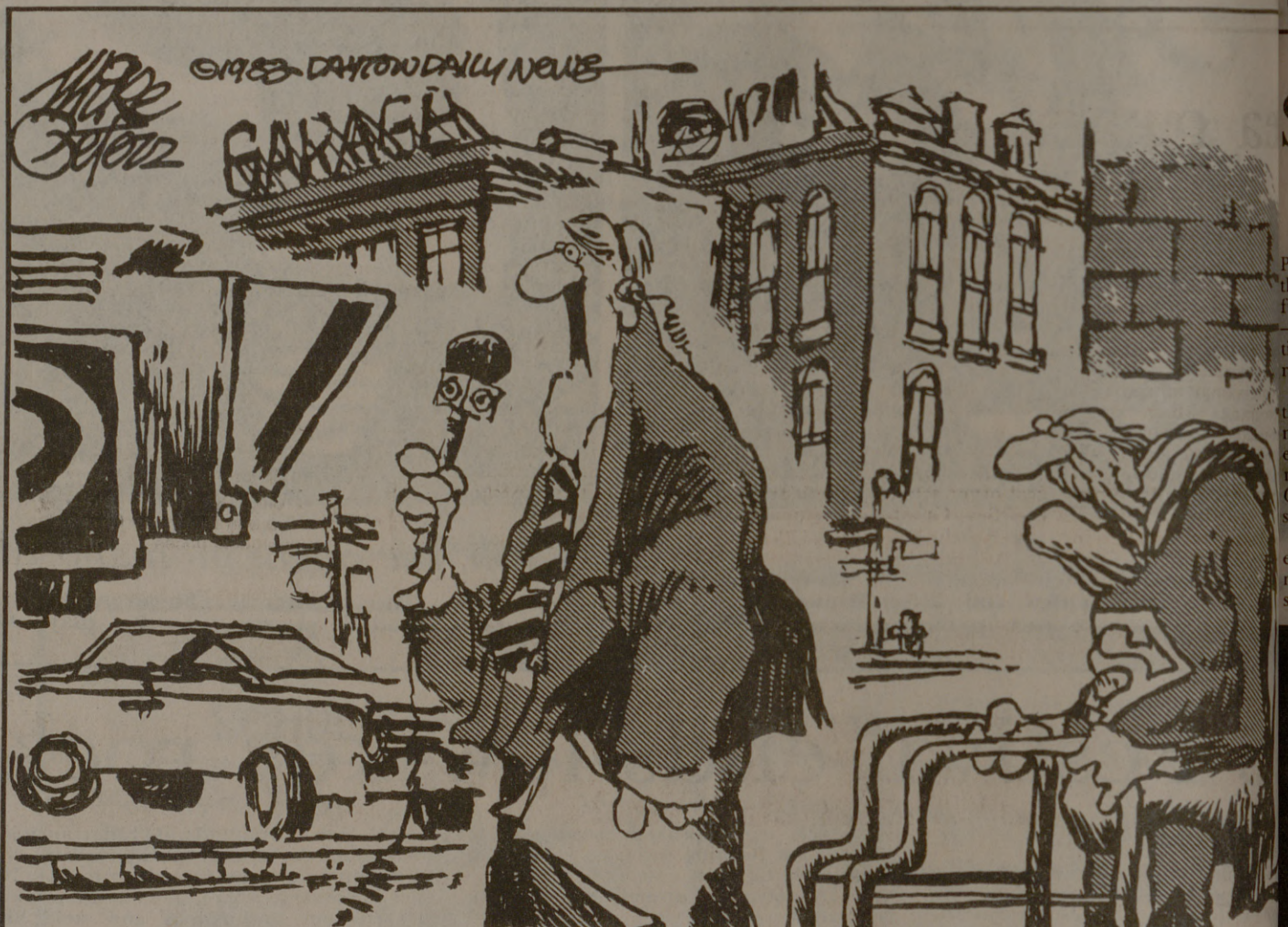
Editor:

I'd like to thank all the good Ags who saw my bicycle being picked up and carried away Thursday from the MSC. The wheels were locked together, so it must have been rather obvious to someone that something was going on.

The bike wouldn't be worth much to anyone else. It only has three speeds and has been rebuilt several times in the past 20 years. You see, the bike belonged to my father — he bought it shortly after I was born. When I was old enough to ride it by myself, he rebuilt and gave it to me. Thursday, it was lent to a friend who has no car, no bus pass and no bike, and later it disappeared.

If you've got it, I hope you can realize that it means more to me than transportation and return it to where you got it. If you saw it being taken or have seen it since (it's red, with a black seat and white handle bars, with a Wichita Kansas bike plate on the back) please let me know. It would mean a lot to me and my father.

Tracey Taylor
696-3062



THERE YOU HAVE IT, DAN... TESTIMONY FROM A MAN WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE FLOWN BEFORE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

Reaganomics: Is it working?

by Donald A. Davis

United Press International

Democrats who are hoping to make Reaganomics the major issue in the November election might want to start thinking up an alternate strategy.

For when President Reagan comes down from his California mountaintop next week, he will have in his pocket some strong numbers to back up his argument about how the economy should be run.

Interest rates are falling fast and inflation is down, giving Republicans solid statistics to cite. While Democrats will continue to hit hard at the tremendous unemployment rate and other unattractive parts of the president's program, the man in the street will react positively to the recent economic developments.

It is at this moment that Reagan plans to start his attack on the campaign trail, to keep reminding voters that their wallets are getting fatter.

However, even while administration sources are claiming "a moderate recovery is under way," the president is playing a cautious hand.

Continued good economic news could work wonders at the polls two months from now, but he knows well that the numbers that have shifted so quickly in his direction could just as easily boomerang before election day. He will make no statements that might come back to haunt him.

Economists disagree — as they usually do on most things — on the reasons for the sudden improvement in important indicators. Few, however, assign the success to the president's financial austerity program.

That alone will not prevent Reagan from telling voters that he must be doing something right in Washington because his policies are bearing fruit.

The administration has carefully laid the groundwork for defending the high rate of

jobless America by calling that particular statistic "a lagging indicator." In other words, most of the rest of the economy must be bubbling healthily along before the administration can be brought to task for the nation's unemployment woes.

In the meantime, Reagan will continue to express sympathy for those out of work in order to defuse the problem on the campaign trail.

In all, Reagan is resuming his role as the Republican Party at a particular time. While no seasoned politician would dare claim the Republicans will

big sweep of House seats in November, borderline candidates are sleeping knowing that Reagan's economic policies out of the doghouse as long as the interest rates remain lower than they have for

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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.

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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 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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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