

opinion

Sherrill Criticism and praise

Editor:
This letter is referring to that letter written by Richard H. Fosberg '78 who legitimately blamed Jackie Sherrill for a poor football season.
That's right, Jackie Sherrill did inherit a team that won the 1981 Independence Bowl and a team that was expected to contend for this year's SWC title, but when you put on a new pair of boots, you have to wear them a while to break them in first!
Sherrill is a human being just like the rest of us Aggies and the best thing that we can do to help him out right now and in the future, is to have faith in him. As for you, Richard Fosberg, how can you blame a good Christian man for trying so hard to make good things happen for Texas A&M.
You are a former Aggie; have you lost the Twelfth-Man spirit for your school? You were wrong in cutting down the coach. If you seem to know so much about football, then get yourself in a posi-

tion to change the things you want to change; if not, then quit taking cheap shots at someone who is trying very hard to please us all.
Look where Jackie Sherrill has come from and what he has done in the past. He does know his stuff, I'm telling you. Good things just don't happen, you have to make them happen. Any real success story started from the bottom and worked its way up to the top.
We have to support him all the way, through thick and thin. And in a couple of years the rest of the nation will be looking to see where this University is located on the map, because the Texas Aggie Football Team is going to be "Hell on Wheels!"
I don't know of any other person that has tried so hard not only to keep the Aggie Spirit going, but to improve it! So let's be supportive in any way we can, because Jackie Sherrill is one cool man!

Matthew Coale '85

Editor:
This is an open letter to Coach Sherrill.
Jackie:
The purpose of this letter is not to criticize your bringing to life the tradition of the Twelfth Man.
We recognize the fact that the Corps of Cadets is one of the strongholds of tradition at this university. We also understand the impracticality of trying to pick a kick-off team from the entire Twelfth Man. Therefore, we wish the Corp kick-off team the best and support it as the Twelfth Man's representative on the field.
What we do take exception to is the credit and praise given the Corps for the building of bonfire without mention of

the major role played by the non-regs. The entire Twelfth Man, cadets and civilians, earned those spots on the kick-off team for the Corps.
We don't want to get into a numbers war over who had more folks at bonfire. We just want everyone to know that the civilians worked at least as hard on bonfire as the cadets. Most of the "cadets" you were wiring stack with that Wednesday night/Thursday morning were civilians and two of those redpots getting busted were civilians. Remember Jackie, the Twelfth Man is 36,000 strong, not 2,500.
Now let's pick cotton in '83!
Andy Slavin '85
Steve Nordstrom '86
Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by 106 other signatures.

Editor:
First off, we'd like to start by saying that we think Jackie Sherrill's arrival at Texas A&M is the best thing to happen to this University since they allowed women on campus.
Like everyone else, we were surprised and delighted to hear of his planned "Twelfth Man" kickoff team. However, we were stunned and disappointed to hear that it is to be composed exclusively of members of the Corps of Cadets.
Contrary to the popular myth seemingly widely held by the news media (and now by Jackie), the Corps does not have a monopoly on Aggie Spirit. While they MAY be the "backbone of Aggie Spirit," they certainly aren't the muscle.
This is particularly true when it comes

to what obviously so impressed Jackie: the building of Bonfire. Thousands of non-regs, ourselves included, give of their time and energy to show their Twelfth-Man Spirit and desire to beat the HELL outta t.u.
It is not our purpose, in this letter, to demean the Corps or to widen the rift between non-regs and the Corps. After all, WE are the Aggies, the Aggies are WE. But Jackie said he was, "impressed with their attitude and devotion to the school. It's what the Twelfth Man is all about." Well, look around, Jackie, and give the non-regs some credit!
Gig 'em
Bill Holt '85
Steve Killam '85
Gregory Coleman '85

Editor:
I address this letter to Jackie Sherrill in reference to his proposed Twelfth Man kickoff team.
Coach Sherrill, I have supported you whole-heartedly throughout a less than perfect football season. Yet, when you restrict tryouts for the Twelfth Man kickoff team to members of the Corps of Cadets, I have to disagree. Perhaps you need a bit of coaching in what it means to be a member of the Twelfth Man.
The Aggie Twelfth Man is composed of all students, Corps and non-reg. While it is true that cadets in the Corps show outstanding spirit, I can think of more than a few non-regs who are as equally as dedicated.
Then why deny them of this very special opportunity? One of your reasons for limiting the kickoff team to cadets was that the original Twelfth Man, E. King

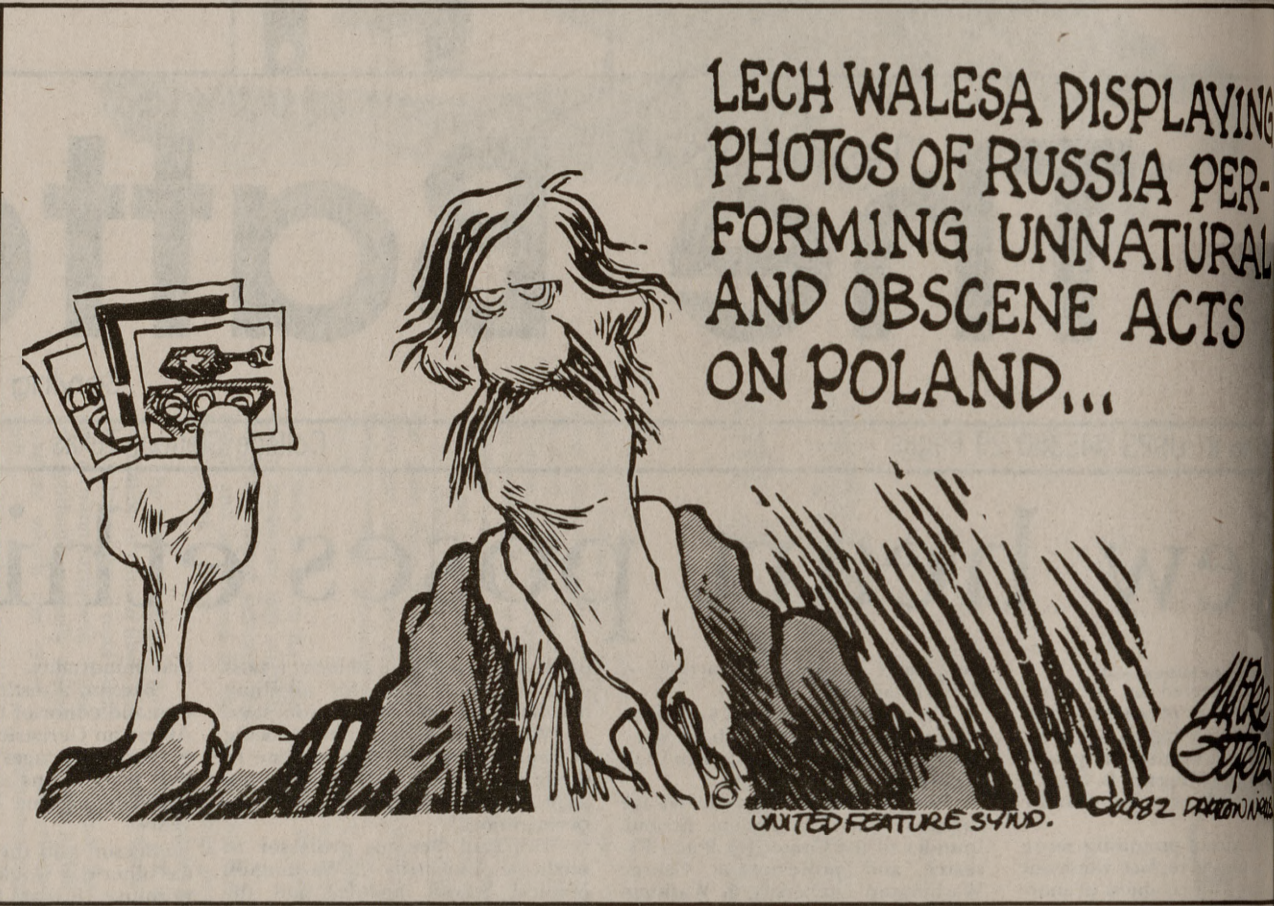
Gill, was a cadet. If our administrators used this sort of precedent in determining admissions, Texas A&M would still be a male military college and not one of the fastest growing universities in the country.
Your other reason was that the Corps' support for the University impressed you. Coach Sherrill, I am deeply sorry that the non-regs support of this University has not impressed you, because it has succeeded in impressing others for many years. Perhaps next fall you should visit Sbis on a Friday night before a home game and hear and feel the Aggie spirit.
I hope you will consider opening membership to the kickoff team to all members of the Twelfth Man and give some of these great guys an equal chance to demonstrate the spirit of Aggieland.
Mary Gately '85
Vickie Ormsby '85

Editor:
I suppose that having a losing season in a transition year proves that Jackie Sherrill is a deficient coach. Take no account of his excellent record at Pitt.
Of course, we will discard the fact that Tom Landry had losing seasons in his first years coaching the Cowboys (America's Team).
Also discard the fact that we played teams at their best. Boston College tied Clemson the week after they beat us. Texas Tech narrowly lost to number-one-ranked Washington after they beat us. Houston barely got by us. SMU, Texas, and Arkansas (all in the top ten)

had the hometown advantage and are simply very good teams.
I don't think it was complacency over a fat contract that led Sherrill to work on bonfire or go for the Twelfth Man Kick-off Team. In addition, his innovative thinking and boldness in calling plays has added excitement to a previously boring Aggie football game of run, run and run. Sherrill was under a lot of pressure and I, for one, think that he has responded well.
Go get 'em Jackie.
Kirk Barker '85
Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by 11 other signatures.

Editor:
Dear Jackie Sherrill:
On behalf of those of us who've supported you this season, I'd like to thank you for kicking 33,000 members of the Twelfth Man in the face. I'm referring to your "precedent-setting decision" to form a Twelfth Man kickoff team, and permitting only Corps members to be a part of it. You referred to "their dedication ... their attitude and devotion to the school," and how it impressed you, while you worked Bonfire.
Mr. Sherrill, a good many non-regs also worked Bonfire (voluntarily). Many of us non-regs have as much "dedication"

and "devotion" to Texas A&M as cadets. I respect the Corps, but non-regs outnumber the Corps. We are just as much a part of the Twelfth Man as the Corps of Cadets.
Granted, the original Twelfth Man, E. King Gill, was a cadet, but that was when Texas A&M was synonymous with Corps of Cadets. Give non-regs a chance — we're part of this University.
Frank Reister '84
Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by four other signatures.



National or corporate security

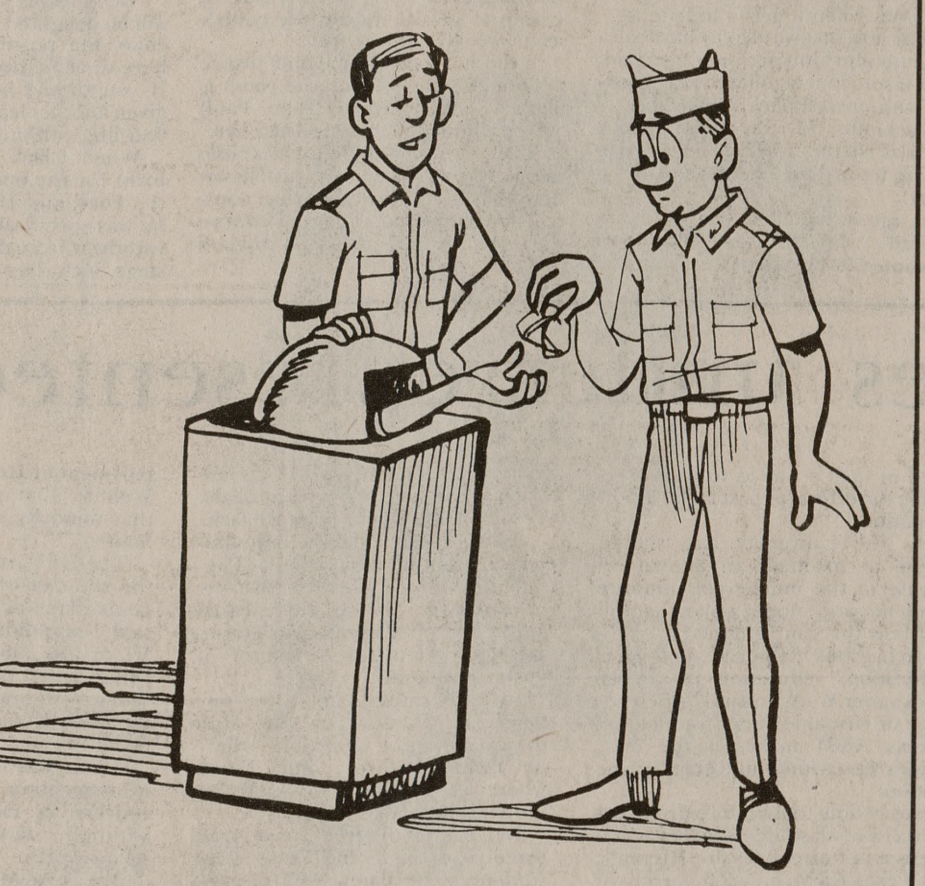
by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

For most of this century, the lines separating corporate America and the federal government have been rather murky. More often than not, little has divided the two worlds.
After all, in 1924 the Democratic Party — not the GOP — took a man right out of Wall Street, lawyer John W. Davis, to be its standard-bearer. Eight years later, the Democrats even contemplated drafting Owen D. Young, chairman of the board of General Electric, as their nominee.
While not-so-blatant a scion of corporate America presides in the White House today, the interests of Big Business continue to command attention at the highest levels of government. In the past year the Reagan administration has not only tried to preserve corporate tax giveaways but has also weakened numerous regulations and enforcement procedures that were designed to help consumers. America's ambassador in Dacca even pressured the Bangladesh government to reverse its threat to ban American-made prescription drugs that are already outlawed in the U.S.
Indeed, the delicate question of whether government's primary role is to serve the interests of business remains valid and troublesome.
President Reagan is sure to beg the old question when he embarks this Tuesday (Nov. 30) on a five-day, four-nation tour of Latin America. Reagan will remind debt-ridden Latin neighbors — Brazil and Costa Rica among them — that pursuit of the free-enterprise ethic will make their dreams come true. By implication, however, he'll also advise that free enterprise is a game to be dominated by U.S.

interests; those who challenge that assumption can't be allowed to play.
To what lengths an American president will go to satisfy the corporate constituency is the subject of an article by investigative reporter Seymour M. Hersh in the December issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. In excerpts from his forthcoming book on Henry Kissinger and the Nixon White House, Hersh describes for the first time what steps our government pursued in 1970 to keep "Marxist" Salvador Allende Gossens from becoming president of Chile.
Though Kissinger has written in his memoirs that "the Nixon administration did not view our foreign policy interests through the prism of the financial concerns of American companies," the *Atlantic* article suggests something else.
As early as 1963, of course, then Chase Manhattan chief David Rockefeller had organized a group of prominent U.S. corporate executives — at President John F. Kennedy's request — to help promote democratic institutions in Latin America. In Chile, the Business Group for Latin America (as the organization was known) joined the Central Intelligence Agency in supporting anti-communist media, church groups and politicians, who included Christian Democratic President Eduardo Frei Montalva (1964-1970).
When it became clear in 1970, however, that Chileans might select Allende as Frei's successor, several U.S. corporate heads worried that their fears of socialist-inspired nationalization would come true. As a consequence, they augmented their efforts with extraordinary pressure on Nixon to take whatever action necessary to defeat Allende. As Hersh's four years of research have led him to con-

tend, the president obliged.
"There is compelling evidence," Hersh writes, "that Nixon's tough stance against Allende in 1970 was primarily shaped by his concern for the future of the American corporations' assets, he believed, would be seized by an Allende government."
After a Sept. 14 meeting that saw Pepsi Cola president Donald Kendall who had strong business and political ties to Chile, Nixon put pressure on CIA to "get rid of Allende." For intelligence director Richard Helms, contends, the presidential dictum was to order to assassinate if necessary. U.S. efforts, Allende was eventually elected that fall. He later died in a 1973 military coup, but there is no evidence that the U.S. administration directly involved in his death.
Since 1970 some multinational corporations seem to have learned that nations generally place self-interest ahead of ideology. To sense this need only consider the Cuban embargo who guard Gulf Oil's refineries in Angola.
"Large multinationals have learned that they can't predict or control the course of a social revolution," said Robert B. Barnett, coauthor of "Global Reach," a prominent critique of their activities. "Our government seems to still misunderstand them."
Indeed, how well this and future administrations respond to nationalist U.S. movements may always be in question. Whether the Reagan White House can distinguish, however, between a legitimate national security threat and what merely annoys U.S. business interests remains to be seen.

Slouch By Jim Earle



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