

# opinion

## Complaints, praises for satirical issues

Editor:

We're glad that you inserted Monday's "humor supplement" upside-down in The Battalion, otherwise we would have never found it. We were unable to find the humor. You said it was subtle, but six mentions of "precious bodily fluids" is not subtle, it is juvenile.

In the editorial in the straight pages, you claimed that the Aggie Rag was patterned after the Deadly Texan. However, a Battalion staffer was overheard telling his English professor that you were "going to show the Battalion how it's done." If he meant you were going to show them how to put out a parody, you missed the boat. It seems that they showed you how it should be done by coming out the day after the Rag.

Overall, the Aggie Rag lacked not only humor, but also originality. The Emily Latella and Francisco Franco jokes were straight out of old Saturday Night Live episodes. Some jokes, such as the apathy bill which was not voted on, were even older. The editorial policy was merely a tame version of the policy from the first Battalion. The photographs were not even original, obviously taken from files. At least you could have had an original staff picture.

According to the editorial in the Rag,

it seems that you had the same purpose that those who put out the Battalion had, yet when it came out, you lambasted it. Do you feel that something out of the ordinary is acceptable only if you do it?

The Shear Trash advertisement was impressive. We would have thought you would fear repercussion from Shear Class. That shows that at least you have got some gall.

Your excessive apologies for offending anyone led us to believe that you actually wanted some people to be offended. It seems that the only group you came down hard on was SWAMP. This was probably due to the fact that they displayed last fall's issue of the Battalion and the rumor that they produced the same. Yes, some of us are members of SWAMP and no, SWAMP is not responsible for the Battalion. Probably the only people who were offended by the Aggie Rag were those who read the entire six pages, hopelessly looking for intelligently written satire and not finding any.

Frank Irwin  
Graduate Student

Editor's Note: The advertisement that appeared in The Aggie Rag was for "Trash," not "Shear Trash."

Editor:

To: The editors, staff and mentality of the Battalion

I myself am not a conservative-redneck-superpatriot type by nature, therefore I can somewhat humorously relate to your satirical publication. However, I have a problem with what I perceive to be your goals. If you want to poke fun at the abundant supply of narrow-minded, conservative hypocrites in the world, that's one thing. But if you are somehow trying to make a stand for rational, mature and sensible human behavior, then you are missing the boat. By

offering negative satire without anything constructive, your publication reeks of smug, self-righteous cynicism. Say something constructive if you want to effect any real change around here.

P.S. Though there are indeed plenty of seemingly hypocritical or fanatical religious types around for you to make cynical jibes about, your anti-intellectual presuppositions about Christianity are not warranted by any philosophical, historical or psychological evidence.

Unanonymously,  
J.R.C. Robinson '83

Editor:

Congratulations to the staff of The Battalion for publishing The Aggie Rag. I was genuinely surprised to discover that you have so many clever, talented writers on your staff. The Aggie Rag was an example of satire at its very best, and you should all be proud of your ability to parody the University with subtlety and wit.

Good satire, written without malice, is probably the most difficult kind of writing, but you managed to do just what you set out to do — you made us think, and you made us laugh at ourselves. And you did it tastefully, without resorting to crude, vulgar language.

Bad satire, however, serves no purpose, and The Battalion, which came out

one day after The Aggie Rag, was the epitome of bad satire. It was tasteless, crude, unimaginative, unoriginal, and worst of all, BORING. The Battalion staff used absolutely no humor or subtlety. In fact, the only purpose The Battalion served was to give a few obnoxious students and faculty members a place to write dirty words. Come on, people — that's what bathroom walls are for.

To all of you who contributed to The Aggie Rag, congratulations and thank you for a truly humorous parody. And to the so-called writers of The Battalion — give it up. You don't know what satire is, and you never will.

Starla Bradley  
Graduate Student



"NO, WE ARE NOT LAX ON CORPORATE POLLUTERS AND MY NEXT ADMINISTRATOR WILL ERASE THAT MISCONCEPTION"

## Lights out to express dissent

by Dick West  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Don't be misled by narrow interpretations of a federal appeals court decision giving demonstrators the right to sleep in tents they have permits to erect on National Park Service property.

A major constitutional issue was at stake in this case. Make no mistake about that. Military snoozers the country over may sleep better at night because of the outcome.

The ruling implies that sleeping may be a form of protest that is protected by the First Amendment.

That is exactly the point sleeping activists have been trying to make for years.

It is evident that grabbing a little shut-eye may be a way of expressing yourself and therefore is covered by the first speech guarantee. Anytime you see demonstrators sawing logs you can be pretty sure they are trying to get a message across.

The message may be only a tacit plea for quiet in the vicinity. But they are

nonetheless exercising their constitutional right of free speech — particularly when snoring.

I myself happen to be a fairly eloquent sleeper. And while I seldom demonstrate against anything, I agree that keeping me from the arms of Morpheus denies me a means of self-expression.

Does not the late Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech still live in memory? And is not dreaming a natural part of slumber?

Of course it is. You don't have to be a federal judge to understand how sleeping and demonstrating complement each other.

Some Constitution experts try to argue that a demonstrator must be talking in his sleep before he is protected by the free speech amendment. That interpretation patently is too strict. The very act of falling asleep can itself speak volumes.

Suppose a potential campaign contributor dozes off while a senator is announcing his candidacy for president.

The message thus imparted is, I submit, more meaningful than any comment

he might make to political opponents. Or what about a drama critic nodding during the second Broadway opening?

His droopy eyelids surely tell about his opinion of the play. The review he might write.

Sleep is indeed a pithy form of expression. Or can be when performed as a subtle snoozer.

Is the demonstrator sleeping on his side? Is he snoring or curled up in a fetal position? Is he breathing through his mouth or through his nose?

Each of these variations gives a different shade of meaning to the message. It is striving to convey about the message which he is sleeping.

Since very few park service rangers are trained to distinguish between a snoring demonstrator and a demonstrator who merely knits the ravelled ends of his shoelaces, it is well to give all snoring the benefit of the doubt.

How wise of the Founding Fathers to have recognized that principle when they were drafting the Bill of Rights.

## Letters: More coaching complaints

Editor:

This letter pertains to the new three-year contract awarded basketball coach Shelby Metcalf. Granted, he is the winningest coach in SWC history with 186 victories, but combine this with 110 losses, you obtain a winning percentage of only 59 percent: an F by A&M standards. His overall percentage is slightly better at 66 percent (324-214), but still a D. Although Metcalf is not a student, some sort of system judging his success must be implemented.

Some may argue Shelby's ability to recruit outstanding high school prospects justifies his continued employment here at Texas A&M. Many believe these recruits come to this University because of coach Metcalf.

Although anyone who read the article about freshman Doug Lee in The Battalion a few weeks ago realizes that players such as Lee come here because they know their chances of playing extensively as freshmen are much greater here than at basketball powerhouses. Take the case of Jimmie Gilbert, who was recruited by two 1982 final-four teams, Houston and Georgetown. Some say he came to A&M because of coach Metcalf. Or was it because he didn't want to play back-up center for three years behind Olajuwon and Ewing of Houston and Georgetown respectively? And what happens to these great recruits of Shelby Metcalf? Ask Rudy Woods.

A possible alternative to Metcalf would be the coach of the Lamar Cardinals, who consistently wins 20 or more games a year and attends the NCAA post-season tournament with smaller less talented players than TAMU. So it would appear that the Texas A&M 'sixth man' must be content to watch Houston and Arkansas play on TV for at least three more years. Thanks Shelby.

Jeff Williams  
Scott Cupples  
Walton Hall

## Corps disturbing exams

Editor:

On the Wednesday before spring break,

starting at 5 p.m. when I was taking an exam in the Academic Building, my concentration was broken several times by companies of Corps members who were (loudly) singing their jodies as they were passing by. My performance on the examination was definitely adversely affected by the recurring disturbance they created. I do not mean to imply that the Corps should not go on runs at all but this is a big campus and if the members of the Corps must sing their jodies there is no need to run past buildings where exams are possibly being given.

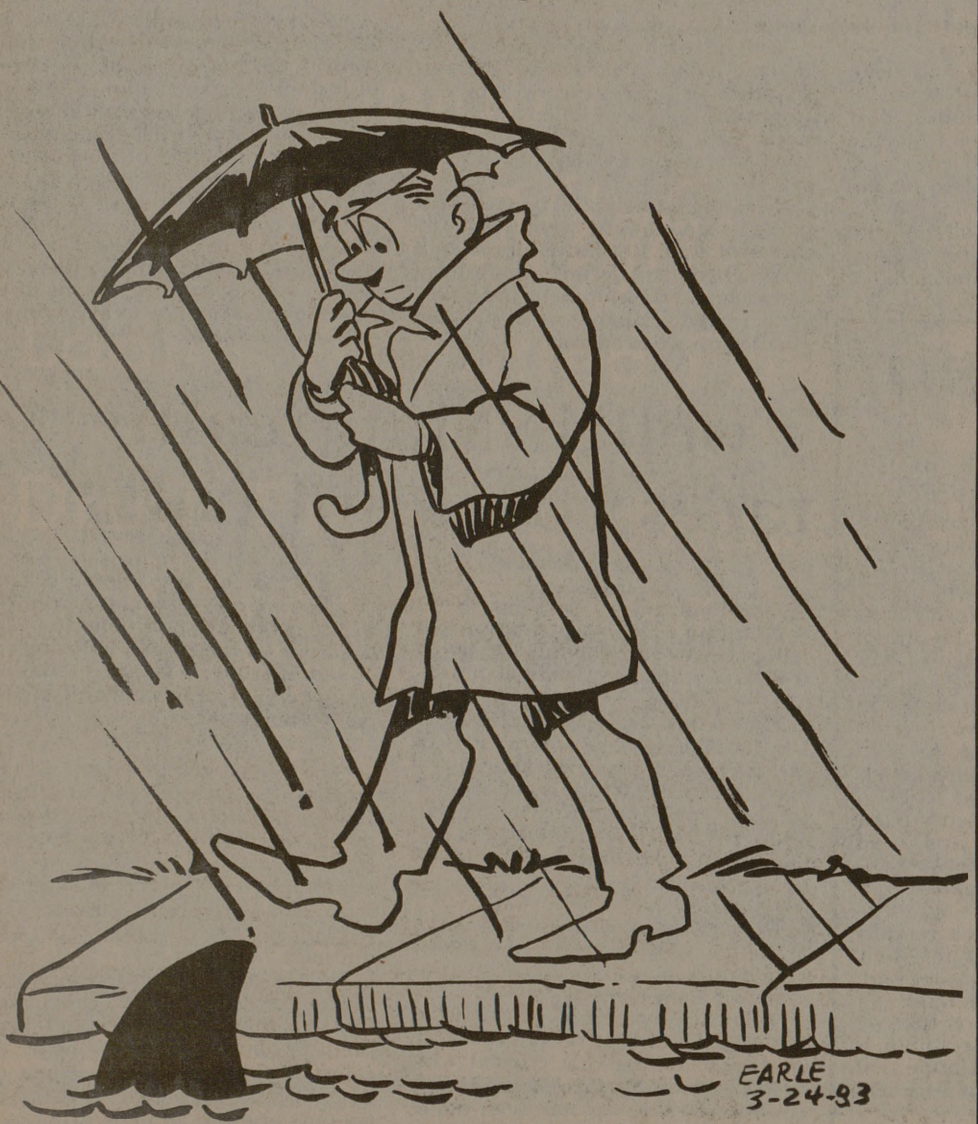
I'm sure I'm not the only one who was disturbed during the exam. Disturbing classes and exams is not the only problem that Corps runs present to non-regs. Last semester, a fairly large traffic backup was caused on a Houston street when drivers

were forced to wait while several companies of Cadets crossed. Such a show of disregard for the importance of other people's time and the business traffic backup could have been avoided by using a little more thought in planning the run and staggering the time at which the individual companies crossed the street.

Again, let me emphasize that I am saying that the Corps should not only saying that if the members of the Corps wish to maintain their level of esteem among non-regs, they must make an effort to be more considerate when organizing Corps activities that might interfere with non-reg activities.

Marvin K. Miller

## Slouch By Jim Earle



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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photographing within the Department of Communication.

Questions or comments concerning circulation matter should be directed to the editor.

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

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843; or phone 261-1.

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