

opinion

Letters

B-CS in need of a listener-responsive rock radio station

Editor:
Wake up, 92-KTAW.

When it comes to having a good music radio station, B/CS is a desolate wasteland. Since 92 is the only modern rock type station in the area, my comments are directed specifically to 92. 92 is devoid of any sense of responsibility to its listeners. It seems 92 is only interested in earning another advertising dollar for its sponsors. Has 92 forgotten about its listeners? What about playing some music for a change? I thought the purpose of a music-oriented radio station was to play music with a few commercials thrown in every so often. 92 plays commercials so often that they rarely play more than two songs without three to five commercial interruptions. I like most of the music they play — when they actually play it. However, they can bag the Sunday night jazz altogether.

In my opinion, 92's DJ's are pitiful. They interrupt the beginning and the end of every other song with some sort of extraneous nonsense that is of no use to listeners. If the DJ's need to say something, let them do it before or after, not during the song.

92 needs to wake up and realize that they are not attracting any listeners. Students merely tolerate 92 because they have a monopoly on rock music airplay in this town. I thank God for the invention of cable radio because, although I may have to listen to 92's garbage in the car, I can go home and listen to Houston's KLOL and 97 Rock. These stations play commercial-free blocks of music without some DJ constantly injecting meaningless remarks. Granted, these stations are not perfect, but they are light years ahead of 92. Also, the country stations such as KILT-FM and KIKK-FM have picked up on the values of playing commercial-free blocks of music. So I ask, "92, what's your excuse?"

Furthermore, why do you keep playing that ridiculous UPI World News every hour? If I want the news, I'll read the paper or watch TV, but I don't want to hear it on a rock (or music in general) radio station. True, most radio stations do have a brief news program at various times during the day, but not every hour, and especially not UPI World monotone. 92 should play commercial-free, interruption-free, DJ-free, blocks of music and let some other medium or station deliver the detailed news.

"92, wake up to what KLOL, 97 ROCK, KZEW, C101, etc. did a long time ago. If you do, you will attract more listeners and gain local support. If you don't, I'm going to figure out a way to put cable radio in cars and pack your mudd."

D. Kuldell Petty '85

team questioned

Editor:
I have a few questions concerning the 1983 edition of the Texas Aggie football team.
Question #1: Why do we still lose after four supposedly great recruiting years?
Question #2: Why do we still lose when we supposedly have the best coaching staff money can buy?
Question #3: Why do we repeatedly run the ball on third down and long?
Question #4: Why do our cornerbacks give 10 yard cushions to the receivers? Don't tell me its to prevent the big play; i.e. an OSU 43 yard touchdown pass at the end of the first half.
If anyone knows the answers to these questions, please let me know.

Lawrence A. Smith '85

Falwell defended

Editor:
Concerning the Falwell uproar:
Because the very nature of the conservative outlook is less fiercely outspoken than that of the politically liberal or radical, the silent majority is less apt to express itself in print.
Now for our side.
Despite what our outraged liberals might have you believe, what actually took place at the Falwell program was the airing of some very basic political and biblical beliefs by a respected conservative leader. Apparently, having fasted all summer, some students perceived this as an opportunity to rant, rave, tear their hair, and exhibit various other productive behaviors.
Sorry guys, hate to burst your hot-air balloon, but Texas A&M is still, basically, a very conservative school.
Of course the radicals and book-burners of this world get more press; any journalist can tell you that an event is "newsworthy" when it's "unusual" or "different"...

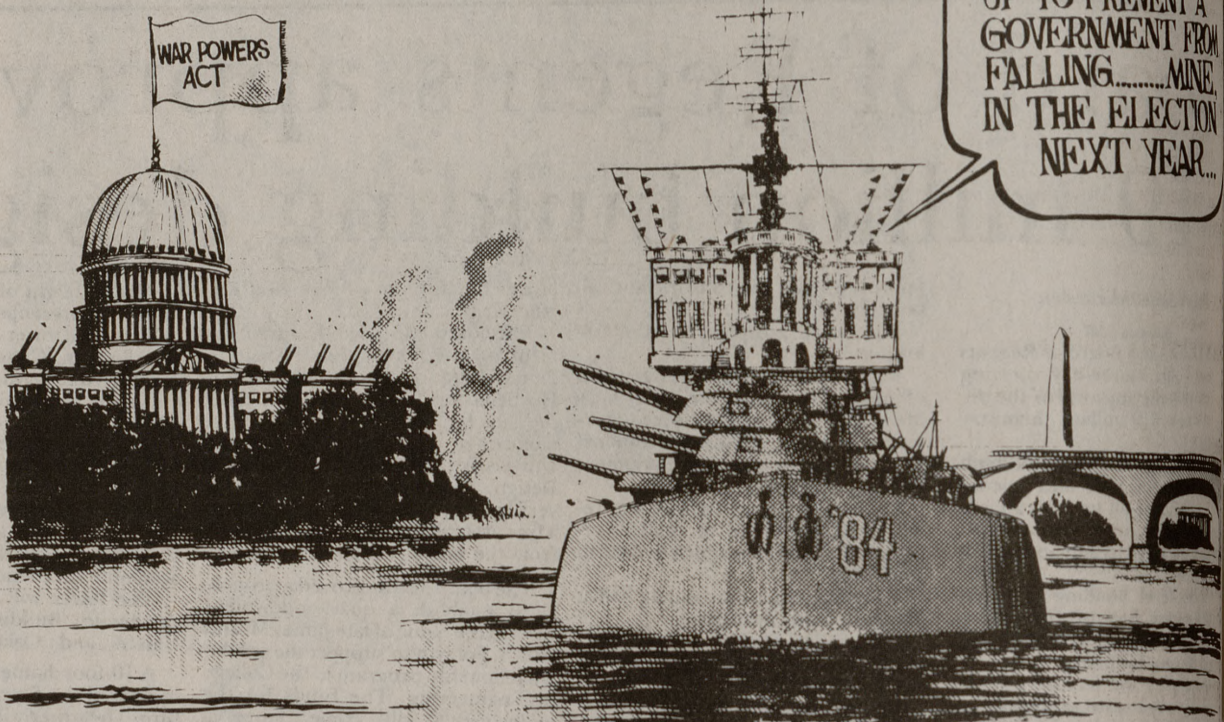
Outside the norm.
But don't think the norm doesn't exist, simply because it doesn't make front page copy for The Battalion.

Finally, I would suggest what would seem to be a point of simple common sense: When questioning an individual in his field of expertise do not attempt to "trap" him unless you really know your subject. (File this away under "101 Ways to Save Face and/or Keep your Job", you may need it.) For a student, transparently lacking any knowledge of Old Testament law, culture, or society, to demand of Dr. Falwell a 60-second capsulization of the differences between Old Testament and Soviet histories was completely assinine. (Ever asked a grad assistant to explain a detailed computer program to you in one minute or less? Get real!)

Christ Jesus said to "suffer the little children," but when do the children grow up?

Kim Norris '85

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Dorm life can be a chore for the uninitiated resident

The other night at yell practice I overheard an off-campus Aggie shouting to the on-campus students, "Off Campus Aggies, isn't it great. You get Sbsa, we get steak."

Well, since coming to A&M, I have discovered dorm life isn't all it is cracked up to be.

All my high school years I heard fairy tales about the challenge and excitement of dorm living: all-night beer bashes, group games, fun-loving pranksters and just an over-all party life.

Welcome to the real world.

Besides not being able to rely on Mom for keeping food around, I have had to learn to pull myself out of bed. Getting up at 6:20 a.m. isn't easy to do after spending the majority of the night at the Chicken.

I also have had to learn how to do laundry. So far I have a beige shirt that has turned a peculiar shade of blue and a white shirt that is now an odd shade of pinkish-maroon.

When I first moved into my dorm room, I wondered what kind of animal had lived there the previous semester.



kari fluegel

Hairballs were waltzing across the floor, while spiders were jitterbugging on the ceiling.

Since then, my roommate and I have cleaned and decorated the room, but it still looks as if someone blew their nose on the wall.

Not only are the walls disgusting to look at; they aren't too successful in providing privacy. The walls are so thin that every time a phone rings, I have to listen to it several times before I can determine if the ringing phone is ours or the next door neighbors.

Not only do the phones sound as if they are in the same room, it is impossible to hold a normal phone conversation without the neighbors being able to hear every intimate detail.

Dorm life usually also includes and/or picky neighbors. It is not uncommon that a dorm dweller has to turn down the stereo to complain about a noisy neighbor.

The other night my roommate and I were up late playing cards. The radio was low, and we were talking and laughing quietly. Suddenly our next door neighbor knocked on the door and asked us to be quiet. I guess we were shuffling cards too loudly.

When sharing a bathroom with three other girls, it can get a little difficult to keep track of each others belongings. One time a towel hung untouched for a week because no one knew to whom it belonged. It was a perfectly good towel, since I hate to see anything go to waste, I finally took it down, washed and claimed it as mine.

Activities which are constantly going around the dorm tend to interfere with various other habits — like studying, usually is rather difficult to concentrate on the lobes of the brain when you have "An Officer and A Gentleman" or "The Wars" on television in the Common Room.

Dorm life isn't all bad though. I would admit it is kind of fun to short-sheet your roommate's bed.

Kidney stone patient victim in brutal war with kidney

by Art Buchwald
United Press International

I had a kidney stone attack in Evensville, Indiana. I wouldn't have mentioned it except that an alert Associated Press urology correspondent picked up the story, and it made the AP wire. So many people have written in asking what a kidney stone attack really feels like that I decided to try to explain it in terms that the layman can understand.

A kidney stone is about the size of a tiny pebble to everyone except the person who has one. To this person it is the size of the Rock of Gibraltar. In fact, many people when they get a kidney stone attack scream out, "I've got a piece of the Rock!"

There are two kinds of kidney stones. One is made up of uric acid, and the other of calcium. Doctors can differentiate between the two, but patients can't, nor at the time of an attack do they give a damn. If you've felt one kidney stone, you've felt them all.

This is what seems to happen as far as the victim is concerned. He is going along minding his own business when suddenly, out of nowhere, a mountain forms in the kidney which, as I said, feels like the size of the Rock of Gibraltar.

The kidney reacts angrily to this interference with its function and tries to push the rock into what might be described as the Suez Canal. Obviously the Suez Canal cannot accommodate the Rock of Gibraltar, and without any warning war is declared between the kidney and the rock.

An urgent message is sent on the hot line from the kidney to the rock. "Unless you get out of our canal immediately, we will attack with everything we have in our organ."

The rock sends back a one-word reply: "NUTS!"

The patient, who is a horrified neutral spectator to this exchange, tries everything to achieve peace. He paces up and down, rolls to and fro, and eventually tries to climb the wall in hopes that the kidney and rock will come to their senses.

Using diplomatic tactics, the patient tries to persuade the rock that if it will just move a few inches down the canal, the kidney will not try to break it up.

But the rock is adamant and demands tremendous concessions in exchange for withdrawing from its position.

"How do I know," the rock asks, "that if I move from where I am now I will not be driven into the sea?"

The victim assures the rock the kidney has no intention of pushing it into the sea. All the kidney wants to do is live in peace with the lower part of the body. As long as the rock doesn't try to prevent the kidney from doing its work, the rock can live in the bladder for as long as it wants to.

If negotiations fail and the rock refuses to move, then a UN doctor is called in who immediately fires a volley of Demerol or some other painkiller into the bloodstream.

This does not stop the war between the rock and the kidney, but it gives some shelter to the innocent, while their kidney tries to push the enemy out of its territory. This can only be done with gallons of water which the kidney forces against the rock.

If the good guy (the kidney) wins, the rock will retreat and even sue for peace. If the rock is able to repulse the water attack and hold its own, then the kidney

will have to surrender, which means handing over negotiations to the Blue Cross.

It would be nice to report that a whole kidney stone has it a battle other would learn their lesson. But unfortunately this is not the case. Even though the kidney moved the enemy to a safe place, distinctly heard, in my Demoral stupor the rock say to the kidney, "I may go down the drain, but there's a lot more of us where I came from."

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I just can't keep my mind on my studies!"

The Battalion

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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 and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

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