

Rape: a reality at Texas A&M

Rape — it's a reality that too often people here try to deny. But unfortunately, rape does occur at Texas A&M.

Last week, a 25-year-old from Bryan was found guilty of aggravated rape of two Texas A&M students.

Judge Tom McDonald Jr. said he will decide punishment in about two weeks. The maximum sentence for this crime is life in prison. Life in prison doesn't seem nearly enough for what this man did to these women and to their families.

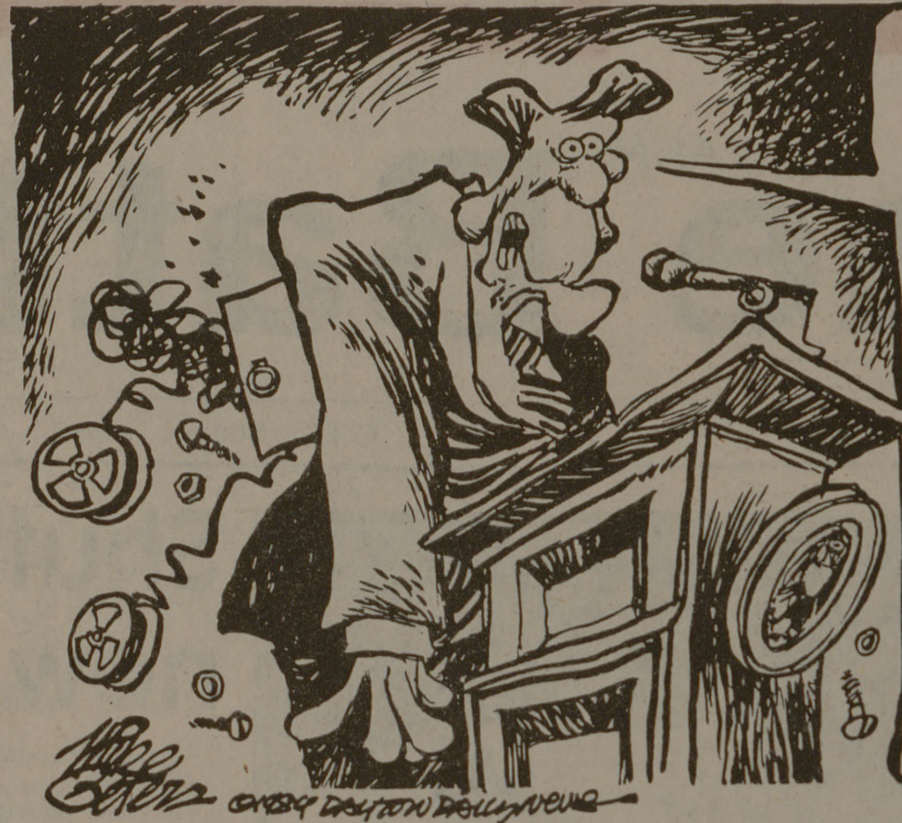
But since it's all the law will allow, we'll have to settle for it. Judge McDonald shouldn't settle for anything less. Let's make sure that this man doesn't rape again.

More importantly, let's make sure that all Texas A&M students are aware of the dangers of rape; that it can occur to them. Many fine programs are presented from time-to-time on the Texas A&M campus. Attend them.

The office of Student Affairs presents rape awareness programs throughout the semester. To hold such a program for your dorm, organization or just a group of friends contact that office. The programs are free.

We must acknowledge that our area is not a crime-free oasis. The best defense is to be aware.

The Battalion Editorial Board



ARE YOU BETTER OFF... BEEP... NO NEW TAXES.. NO NEW TAXES.. BEEP CLICK... THERE YOU GO AGAIN... WHIRL BEEP, HI... I'M BETSY WETSU... CLICK BUZZ THE NUMBER YOU HAVE REACHED IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE... BEEP

An unnatural fear of insurance salesmen

I've always heard about insurance salesmen in whispered conversations by adults. Insurance was grown-up stuff and I never listened. I never thought I would have to deal with LIFE insurance.

Angel Stokes

But it happened two weeks ago — my first encounter with an insurance salesman.

He called me at home. Using all the arts of persuasion, he convinced me I should find out more information. We set up an appointment.

I (ahem) missed it. He called again.

I thought I was prepared. I'm not a push-over. I've interviewed all kinds of people. I knew he wouldn't be able to rattle me.

But I was wrong.

First of all he was young. Now when I think in-

urance salesmen, I imagine a rotund, bald (Greek formula on the fringe) man, who's just a little too slick. But my insurance salesman has an average build, lots of dark wavy hair, and is just a bit too slick.

"I want to get to know you a little better, so let me begin by telling you a little something about myself," (or something to that effect) he said.

Now I know this stranger a little better. An A&M graduate, class of '82, with one of those business degrees. He worked in a bank for a while, now he sells LIFE insurance to the college market.

Then he asked me about myself. Such in-depth questions as:

What investments do you have — stocks or bonds? A savings account?

What are your plans for the future — dating anyone special? When are you graduating? Are you interviewing? How much money do you expect to make when you get out?

Well, money and I have a roller coaster relationship. On paydays and whenever Daddy decides to send money, I'm a happy person. But by the time the end of the month or the end of money (which usually comes first), I'm not a happy person.

In other words, I have never invested in stocks or bonds or anything else. (Unless it's wearable, edible or makes me happy.)

At least I can say I have a savings account. Never mind that it only has \$11.54. Also never mind that I haven't balanced my check book with my monthly statement in five years. It gives me a headache; I'll do it when I graduate and become a real person.

I refuse to answer the "dating anyone special" question. I've been avoiding my grandmother on that one for years.

No, I'm not interviewing. Graduation isn't until

December. Why plan ahead? And I'll be lucky if start out at \$12,000. (He looks amazed at that one.)

Then we got down to business. For a mere \$36.55 per month, I could have an insurance policy complete with disability rider, accidental death rider and many other benefits. All this so that when I die my beneficiary can get \$50,000.

What a bargain.

I gathered up the nifty brochures with numbers and graphs and arrows, thanked the man and said "I'll call you after I think about it." (Equal to the proverbial "the check is in the mail.")

Just in case he calls I've trained my roommate to say: "Are you the LIFE insurance man? Oh, Angel just moved to outer Mongolia."

Angel Stokes is the assistant entertainment editor of The Battalion. And no thank you, she doesn't want a piece of the rock.

Take advantage of MSC programs

carpe diem (Latin: enjoy the day) - theme, particularly of poetry: enjoyment of the pleasures of the moment without concern for the future.

Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum
Reader's Forum

art by seeing it.

Don't complain that your curriculum doesn't allow for music appreciation courses: get dressed up and go experience the London Philharmonic with OPAS in Rudder Auditorium. Learn now that, even in friendly AggieLand, you don't applaud when the orchestra conductor pauses between movements.

The costs in time and money are too great to pick up these "educated people" skills later on.

I read over the past few weeks that columnists Cyndy and Karen want to go on a "wholesome" date. What could be more hip than an Aggie Cinema movie favorite or a Cepheid sci-fi classic? The Town Hall And Basement concerts are unbeatable. An MSC Craft Shop class or an After Hours short course (in older days, Free U) has sparked many a friendship/romance. The Madrigal Dinners are perfect ways to say "Merry Christmas."

If for no other reason, treat yourself to something special because you deserve it. Your friend or your professor probably does, too, so invite him/her along to that Broadway play or that Great Issues lecture. Just remember, college is a fantastic opportunity to try for pennies what you'd have to take a 12 percent loan out for later on in life. The MSC programs here are to reach out and touch your mind and heart, not your pocket-book.

Are you really learning, seeing, and experiencing everything a college student should? There is a whole lot more to life than books, beer, and ballgames. Find it all right here at your student center. See you at the show!

Pat Wood, a senior civil engineer from Port Arthur, is President of the Memorial Student Center.

Aggies can one-up the poets of old. There is a way that we, here at Texas A&M, can enjoy the pleasures of today in order to enhance our future. Of course, I am talking about the smorgasbord of campus programs that are available.

Don't give in to the lazy man's lie that A&M is intellectual and cultural wasteland. That's bunk! The Memorial Student Center, through its thirty-three committees, will sponsor over thirteen hundred all-campus programs this year. These programs educate, entertain, culture and challenge. Take advantage of them.

Instead of becoming a TV basket case over Bobby Ewing's blindness on "Dallas," open your own eyes and check out the upcoming Buckley-Galbraith economic debate, the myriad of Political Forum speeches this fall, the SCONA China lectures, and the challenges during Racial Awareness week.

There will be hot bars and cold beer until you're too old to dance and drink, but you won't always have the opportunities to laugh with Bob Hope, take great ski trips with MSC Travel, jail your best friend at the All-Night Fair, or buy your whole Christmas list at the Lost & Found Auction.

Culture. Let's face it: if you don't learn cultural competence here, where else will you get it?

Drop by the MSC Art Gallery and Rudder Exhibit Hall and learn about

LETTERS:

Bible quotes used incorrectly in attacks

EDITOR:

I would like to comment on Daniel Holland's rather typical anti-homosexual letter. Daniel quotes the Bible in support of the nonrecognition of gays. I usually disregard such letters as quoting the Bible out of context and go on to the next letter about hazing or some other perpetual topic. But as I had some extra time while my wife was fixing dinner, I decided to see exactly what Daniel left out.

He quoted Romans 1:27 as saying "... The men abandoned the natural function of women and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts . . .", and verse 32, "... and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

I dug out a Bible to see what was in verses 28-31, which conveniently were left out.

These verses speak of men who "did not see fit to acknowledge God . . . who are filled with every kind of wickedness: maliciousness, greed, ill will, envy, murder, bickering, deceit, craftiness. They are gossips and slanderers, they hate God, are insolent, haughty, boastful, . . ." etc., etc., etc. Then comes verse 32 (the one Daniel quoted) which says they deserve death.

The most interesting part is the verses immediately following, in Romans 2:1-3.

"That is why every one of you who judges another is inexcusable. By your judgment you convict yourself, since you do the very same things. 'We know that God's judgment on men who do such things is just.'"

Do you suppose, then, that you will escape his judgment, you who condemn these things in others yet do them yourself?

Why didn't you give us the whole story, Daniel? The one which says that any of us who have had greed or ill will,

who have boasted or gossiped, also deserve death (and therefore, nonrecognition).

Perhaps we judged a bit too quickly, isn't that so Daniel, or have we never had that taste of envy. You should know better than I (being a very religious person, that is) that he who is without sin can cast the first stone.

Joe Becker
Graduate Student

Many responsible in abuse of booze

EDITOR:

In regards to the letter written by Kim Manganaro:

I agree that adults should be responsible. I also believe that adults should be responsible for their actions. However, there are people who claim to be responsible and are not.

It makes me just sick to think that one of our responsible adults might just be served one more drink by a responsible adult bartender that knows for a fact that he/she is drunk, then that responsible adult gets into his/her car, has a head on collision, kills not only himself, but whomever he/she hits.

Now I believe that there are possibly two people that are responsible.

One being the bartender for not having better sense than to continue to serve a drunk, two, the drunk who no longer has responsibilities. Another possible person or persons that were irresponsible were his/her buddies that let the drunk get into that condition or encouraged it and let him/her drive a car.

Yes, it is true this is a Me Generation, it is pretty obvious you are a part of it. Sometimes it is our responsibility to look out for our friends and loved ones, even the drunk in the bar.

Sometimes others put the drunk on the road. I would hate to think that one of those "responsible adults" was looking out for my best interest, especially if I was incapable of doing so due to the responsible condition I got myself into.

Yes, people should be more responsible, all people, including bar owners. I choose to believe that we all share in the

responsibility when a person's life is in danger and if you know this is so, choose to do nothing, are you not your self being irresponsible?

May I add that it is illegal to serve drunk. Responsibility does carry over to others Kim, it is called maturity.

Terri L. Oliphant
Bryan

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$12.00 per semester, \$35.25 per school year and \$53 per year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2811. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.