

## Aggies end season with biggest victory

The Aggies went to Austin Saturday as underdogs. They brought with them a dismal record and only one well-played game the entire season — against TCU — to boost their spirits. They left Austin with an upset victory over the University of Texas and a winning season.

They left Austin winners.

An entire season of stumbling and bumbling was erased from the minds of football fans with one game — one victory. All the mumbling about firing Jackie Sherrill has ceased. He's redeemed himself, at least until next semester, in the eyes of Aggie football fans.

The streets of Austin and College Station were overflowing Saturday with wildly celebrating Aggies. The fans couldn't have been happier, it seemed, or celebrated any harder if their team had just won the national title. To these victory-starved fans, beating Texas was just as good.

The A&M football players and football fans have been hungry for a victory. Now they can end their season with two impressive, consecutive wins and all the previous miserable Saturdays can be forgotten.

The future of Aggie football looks brighter. A&M has beaten two nationally ranked teams. We're hoping that momentum will carry over to next semester. Maybe U.T. was the light at the end of the tunnel.

**The Battalion Editorial Board:**  
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## Friend needs understanding

Charles and I had known each other for about four months. In the impersonal atmosphere of the military it wasn't really a short time when you consider that young enlisted airmen (I was in the Air Force) average approximately two years on an assignment before they receive orders sending them to a new base.

John Hallett

For the past three months we had been roommates in an enlisted barracks on base. Socially, we didn't do very much together, but we did develop a good rapport as roommates.

Charles was a social outcast of sorts because of some deep-seated emotional problems he encountered as a child that had left him scarred and extremely sensitive. This left me as one of the few people he had to talk to.

My concern for a fellow human being created a role conflict that often left me feeling guilty. I wanted to spend more time around the barracks to help him when he needed a friend but was unable to because of other important obligations, not to mention work. In the Air Force, work is not centered around a nine-to-five routine.

One night Charles approached me looking very distraught and asked if we could talk. It was already 1:30 a.m. and I had just gotten off work. I had to be back at 8 a.m. but sure, why not? What's sleep anyway? Charles suggested I sit down and set my drink on the table because what he had to say might shock me. And he didn't want me to hit him over the head with a beer bottle.

"John, I'm a homosexual," Charles said with tears streaming down his eyes. After saying that, he stared at me for a long, silent moment watching for a reaction. I gave none, and finally he continued. He tried to explain that he wanted to tell me from the beginning but he was afraid of getting kicked out of the service and, as far as I was concerned, losing a good roommate. He assured me that

he didn't feel attracted to me and hoped that I wouldn't feel funny around him. Unbeknownst to Charles, I had suspected this for the past month and a half.

Charles had brought up the subject of homosexuality several times, discussing recent events that had taken place locally, sounding me out. What tipped me off first wasn't the topic of conversation but the way he vehemently condemned homosexuality as an unnatural act.

I became more suspicious when he continued to bring up the subject, at various times, finally adding that people were wrongly assuming his sexuality because of his gentle and sensitive manner. I had explained to Charles that while I don't advocate homosexuality, I believe in the rights of others and that what people do in the privacy of their own homes is none of my business. I try to understand that each individual is unique and that their way of life isn't wrong just because it's different from mine or I don't agree with it. As long as they don't try to involve me in that part of their lifestyle, I can remain their friend.

At no time did Charles act in any manner that made me feel uncomfortable prior to his revelation. He didn't stare in an unusual way, nor did he do anything that might have been construed as coming on to me. Perhaps the most important thing that helped me in dealing with Charles was my feeling of security. Charles did not pose a threat to my masculinity.

Charles spoke of his past, painting a rather grim picture. A childhood of beatings by his father and being labeled a fag and a sissy long before he discovered his sexual orientation. He tried to conform to his parents' standards but found that his expectations were not those of his parents. His father was not one to express emotions and found that quality in Charles unmanly.

At 12, Charles began to perceive his sexuality. He saw himself becoming everything his father had been calling him

for years. Charles didn't want to be different, to be looked down upon. His security made him sensitive to how others saw him. He tried to reach out, to help and understand. And when one reached back, or so he thought, he attempted suicide. At 12-years-old.

Since the first attempt, Charles tried to take his life twice more. He couldn't handle all the rejection he encountered nor the pressure to conform from those who tried to help.

Obviously my experience with Charles didn't occur while I was in the Air Force. None of the military would allow those who have attempted suicide to join. Charles isn't his real name. But what happened was very real.

Charles wasn't ready to "come out of the closet." He'd rather be normal than no one would ever find out. He turned everything about Charles' life on its back on him. He needed understanding to build his self-esteem. Those who know him need to understand that. He needs the support of those around him without the pressure to change no matter how well it might be. Maybe he'll never be changed. But he will always be a being.

John Hallett is an assistant reporter for The Battalion.

## LETTERS:

### Tired of excuses about GSS issue

EDITOR:

I'm really tired of hearing about the dispute over the GSS, but I haven't heard the real reason why it has not been recognized. One reason has been voiced, "I don't want to give money to this kind of a club." HOGWASH! The student with this comment has obviously jumped on a bandwagon without much thought. I'd like to know if he/she even knows what kinds of clubs exist and are now recognized by the student body. We, as students, "give" money to many organizations on campus, and the nature of these organizations exists in a broad range of interest. Unless this student has made a special effort, he/she has no idea of what is being supported.

Some opposing students feel the basis is not good enough (i.e. sexual preference). Since when did we starting ranking reasons, good or bad, dealing with people finding commonalities among themselves. There must be some string to connect those that wish to socialize. Biologists have the biology club. Does this mean they do only biology? Obviously not, they socialize, party, and have informative seminars. All organizations are formed on one facet of a person's life. This explains how we can be in many clubs and organizations all at the same time. Who cares what brings people together.

If we want to evaluate and scrutinize clubs, let's do it by looking at what they have done. If we attempt this, we might see some organizations embarrassed.

I say let's deal with real issues like discrimination! Certainly, none of us do this, do we?

### Don Hollingsworth Women's sports need more support

EDITOR:

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Texas A&M Women's Volleyball Team on a great job this season. In spite of the NCAA denying this very talented, nationally-ranked team a spot in the tournament (which we all know you greatly deserve), you should be proud of yourselves.

Secondly, I'd like to praise the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team on their successful start of their season and wish them continued good luck.

I'd also like to say "good luck" to the A&M Softball Team on their way to their third national championship in four years.

But the basis of this letter is to express my feelings on the lack of support for the Women's Athletic Program. For a school so rich in spirit, why isn't more of it shown in the support of women's sports. Granted, this year produced larger crowds at the volleyball game, but there should have been more people there to support a nationally-ranked Texas A&M team. If the football or men's basketball team happened to be ranked, I'm sure that more people would be there supporting them. Well, Women's Athletics should be given equal support. A lot of people missed some great action this past volleyball season - and for Texas A&M students it didn't cost a thing if you brought your ticketbook!

It's bad enough that the Athletic Department itself is lacking in its support of Women's Athletics; let's overcome that by supporting the Lady Ags more this year and in the future. Nationally-ranked teams are hard to come by and Texas A&M's Women's Athletic Program has two of them, as well as 2 National Championships in the past 3 years.

Thanks again to the Volleyball players and go get 'em next year and good luck again to the basketball and softball teams.

Wally Simpson  
 Class of '86

### Band practice needed; suck it up, Aggies

EDITOR:

I'm writing this letter in response to Kelley Johnson's letter on Nov. 28 concerning the Band's Friday morning marching practice.

Kelley, I take it you are one of the people who is "subjected to this rude awakening every Friday morning!"

Can't you see that no matter when the practice is scheduled, some people will be sleeping while others won't?

So suck it up, Ag! Move off campus or to the north side and ask Santa for some earplugs.

Dallas Morris  
 Class of '88

### Senior asks help in finding lost ring

EDITOR:

Hey Ags:

The other day during Elephant Walk, I lost my senior ring. If you've found it, I sure would appreciate having it back.

You can contact me at 260-0684 until the end of the semester or at P.O. Box 4385, College Station, 77844.

Linda J. Carney  
 Class of '85

### Stop Torture Week: speak out Dec. 3-10

EDITOR:

Torture.

It didn't end with the Middle Ages. It isn't confined to the Soviet Union or Iran. Over one third of the world's governments systematically torture, according to Amnesty International's published report, *Torture in the Eighties*. In Turkey, Sema Ogur told of being suspended from a ceiling pipe by her wrists, beaten on the soles of her feet, and subjected to electrical shocks. She was forced to listen to the screams of her husband, and was threatened with rape and later beaten in his presence. In Chile, Lucia Guillermina Morales was beaten, and then, in the presence of her daughter tied naked to a metal rack and given electrical shocks. Pakistani police suspended Mohammed Ejaz Dhatti, a

## ... more letters

24-year old student, by his feet and beat him until he lost consciousness. In the U.S.S.R., Anna Chertkova, aged 57, has spent the last 11 years in a psychiatric hospital because of her membership in a Baptist congregation. Hospital personnel regularly inject her with Sulfazin, a powerful anti-psychotic and pain-inducing drug. The list goes on and on.

Amnesty International has launched a Campaign to Abolish Torture. We believe that continuous pressure from our government and from tens of thousands of individuals worldwide can influence the offending countries, by publicizing their disgrace and warning them that political and economic sanctions may follow. The U.S. has taken an important step with the passage of the Joint Congressional Resolution on Torture, signed by President Reagan in September. You, too, can help, by participating in our letter-writing campaigns and supporting other activities of the TAMU AI Campus Network (check our bulletin board in the Student Program Office, Room 216 MSC).

December 3-10 is Stop Torture Week. Here in College Station we are free to speak out — and silence is inexcusable.

Alex M. Madonik  
 Department of Chemistry

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 The Battalion is published Mondays through Thursdays during Texas A&M regular semesters except during summer and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$3.25 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$100.00 per year. Advertising rates furnished on request.  
 Our address: The Battalion, 216 Red  
 Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2611.  
 Second class postage paid at College Station, TX.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, 77843.