

OPINION

# Batt loses its mentor

College newspaper staffs undergo drastic changes every semester. With each new editor, a new staff is hired. The Battalion is no exception. However, through each staff change for almost a decade, Bob Rogers, has remained The Battalion's unofficial adviser.

Tuesday, Rogers was named as the new editor of the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

"Rog" has been more than merely a journalism professor, he has given guidance to many students. He critiqued The Batt for our weekly review sessions and brought new meaning to the words "learn from your mistakes."

His advice sometimes has been solicited, sometimes not, but he always has respected The Batt's independence. Sometimes he has defended our independence against people who felt the paper should be under University censorship or control.

His presence in the newsroom, either to offer advice or comments or merely to exchange casual conversation, will be sorely missed. No longer will Battalion editors find a copy of the paper on their desks with "AAARRRGGGHHH!!!" written on the top in red ink.

Many students have had a dramatic impact on The Batt, and their graduations often leave the remaining staff feeling a little hollow. But Rog's unexpected move to the Eagle is an even greater loss.

We can sum up our feelings in Rog's own words: "Yuckers!" We're sorry to see him go, but we wish him well. The Battalion's loss will be the community's gain.

The Battalion Editorial Board



"HITTING ON THE BREAK, LOW BLOWS AND RABBIT PUNCHES ALLOWED. MAY THE DIRTIER MAN WIN."

# Mail Call

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 must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

# If pets reduce stress, why am I on edge?

I've read studies about the relaxing effects of owning a pet. People with high blood pressure are told that watching fish in an aquarium can help lower their blood pressure rate. Petting a pet is good for slowing a heart rate. Walking a dog is good way to relax after a stressful day.



Cheryl Clark

I have a kitten — Samantha. She is all the things a kitten is supposed to be. Cuddly, cute, playful, frisky. She behaves in the correct kitten manner. She chases her tail. She goes where she doesn't belong. She has managed to kill a rather large house plant, much to my roommate's dismay. She knocks things off the table and behind the bed. She attacks anything that moves under my comforter, including me when I'm trying to sleep. She instinctively knows that better food comes from the refrigerator than her Kitten Chow. I have already spent a small fortune on her shots and other ailments. I can't understand why I'm not more relaxed.

I compared notes with my fellow pet owners. Were they relaxed? Did they experience a lesser degree of stress after playing with their pets?

One kitten owner is constantly washing her pet to try to get rid of the fleas. Have you ever tried to wash a one pound kitten? It's not easy.

She has had the pet for about two months. In that time, she has climbed a tree several times to rescue the kitten. She and her kitten have had a definite clash of wills as to what the kitten is allowed to get on, such as the kitchen table.

The kitten wanted to play with her owner during Tom Cruise's dance scene in "Risky Business." I don't think my friend has an ounce of stress.

I know a new kitten owner who has

yet to give his kitten a name (good sign, huh?). So far all he says is how much the kitten meows and how clumsy the kitten is. He has definitely relaxed since getting the kitten.

Of course, cat haters will say these problems come from having a cat. Cats can't be disciplined or controlled. Anyone who has a cat can't expect to be relaxed.

So, I checked with dog owners. Are you a happier, more relaxed individual after taking care of Fido?

"Of course we are," yipped the dog owners.

One dog owner has strung barbed wire around her yard and put cinder blocks around the bottom of her fence to keep her pet from digging its way out of the yard.

Another dog owner has spent many early mornings chasing after her dogs. She has not one dog, but three. One dog would distract the owner while the other two escaped. While the owner was chasing the two escapees, the distractor took off. Yes, this friend is relaxed.

My roommate has a dog. One night she took the dog with her when she went to wash her car at the car wash. She pulled into the car wash, got out and went around to get the dog. The dog was pretty pleased with himself when he managed to lock the door all by himself. The keys were still inside too. Uh-huh, real relaxing.

Maybe I keep ignoring some of the more positive benefits Samantha provides because I keep having to take her to the veterinarian. She does love to cuddle. She's nice to come home to. She never questions or criticizes me. She's pretty loyal to me.

I can safely say that most of my pet-owning friends think the same thing about their pets. Most of the time they wouldn't want to trade their pets for anything in the world. Except when the pet locks itself in the car.

Cheryl Clark is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

# Good journalists are Christian journalists

EDITOR:

It seems The Batt and journalists in general are constantly being attacked for various reports and articles. Being such a powerful medium in service to the public, journalists should be under scrutiny and for the sake of the journalism profession, as well as the public, false reporting must be revealed and severely punished.

One of the services to the public by the press is its continual surveillance and reporting of activities of elected officials. Journalists who have exposed "big time" wrong-doing include political cartoonist Thomas Nast's expose on New York City's Boss Tweed, and more recently, Watergate.

The press can't afford to report only what people want to hear. This idea closely parallels an event from the Old Testament of the Bible. The ancient nation of Israel had rejected God's laws; consequently, God called a young man named Jeremiah to be his prophet, i.e., to "tell it like it is." He said, "A horrible thing has happened in this land — the priests are ruled by false prophets, and my people like it so!" (Jeremiah 5:30-31). People were hearing what they wanted to hear, and they liked it. As Jeremiah said, "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there" (Jeremiah 6:14). Therefore, I applaud the Batt and journalists who "tell it like it is."

This brings up another problem which I alluded to earlier — what about when the press is wrong. Is the press to blame for that? Yes, but it is also the public duty of every citizen to watch the press and take action to correct the wrongs of the press. Lawsuits against newspapers and reporters are appropriate when the press has overstepped its bounds. The First Amendment doesn't guarantee the right to print anything about anybody, anytime, with impunity. False reporting deserves punishment.

Recently, there was a Batt editorial which criticized the Boy Scouts for tea-

ching reverence for God. The journalist who wrote that piece was wrong in his thinking. If the editorial had simply said that the Boy Scouts teach reverence for God and let the reader draw their own conclusions about the rightness or wrongness of that fact, then the editorial would have been acceptable.

If the editorial had said that teaching reverence for God was right, then the editorial would have been commendable. I am disturbed by this anti-God/anti-Christian editorial opinion. It would be much better for everyone if journalists simply stated objective facts or at least presented both sides of the story, rather than expressing ungrounded (and even destructive) opinions which erode public confidence in the press.

"To be truthful" should be the cornerstone of a journalist's work. Let the evidence be gathered and the truth be brought out for all to see.

Too often journalists attack Christian principles (and principles/morality, in general) with little understanding of the issues. American freedoms, such as free expression and free press are founded on Christian principles.

In conclusion, I applaud the press for uncovering deceit and making truth known. I admonish the press for creating deceit and attacking principles which are the foundation for a free nation, for free expression and a free press. If a journalist wants freedom of expression, then he or she should be embracing Christian principles, not attacking them.

A Christian wants to know the truth as much as anyone. Of course the ultimate truth for a Christian is derived from the Bible. It was Christ who said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). How often is this "truth" distorted to only the last six words?!

Murphy Smith

# Philosophize, but don't vandalize

EDITOR:

We feel that the free expression of personal, political viewpoints is one of the great freedoms offered by this wonderful country. But when this expression takes the form of the defacement of public property, we think it's "bad bull."

Such were our feelings Tuesday, August 6, when we were greeted by the "Shadow Family" painted on the ground in front of the Academic Building. Along with the "family," various messages concerning Hiroshima were scrawled on the stone benches — even old Sully had a message strewn in front of him.

Was vandalism necessary to get the message across?

Greg Schulle '84  
Ariel Tarrago '87

# Looking for Peter

EDITOR:

I was wondering if you can help me find a high school classmate. We have heard from almost all of them but Peter Ghiglieri, born October 14,

1936. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. James Ghiglieri. Our last contact with him had his home listed as College Station, Texas. He was going to attend University of Texas in El Paso (medical school). Would anyone in your town happen to know of him and where he might be contacted?

He attended Beeshnell Prairie High School in Beeshnell, Ill. I would be very happy if anyone can tell me the formation of him.

Joyce Brewer  
413 W. Adams  
Abingdon, Ill. 61410

# China's nuclear step

EDITOR:

Too often in today's press the reference to nuclear power is associated with nuclear proliferation, and the July 25 Battalion Editorial Board was no exception.

They said, "China says the technology will be used to develop a commercial energy program, not to enhance its existing nuclear arsenal" and then try to persuade the reader that China will not hold to their side of the bargain.

In reality China is getting little, if anything, that could be used for the production of atomic weapons. It is "little" because the shipment of uranium might be included in the pact. Yet even if this fuel is delivered, its presence there is inconsequential since they have domestic resources for retrieving uranium.

To a country that already has the bomb, any technology that might assist them would already be known to them. Even if this knowledge was denied them they could gain it by sending students to American universities.

As was mentioned, this is a business transaction. One that I believe to be very important to the nuclear power industry and to society. Nuclear power is a step forward to a society that is energy independent.

Robert Martin  
Class of '87

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