

# Opinion

## Move over prime time, here comes Helms & Co.

With the new television season upon us, I wonder what the new fall lineup would have looked like if Fairness in Media had been successful in its attempt to takeover CBS.

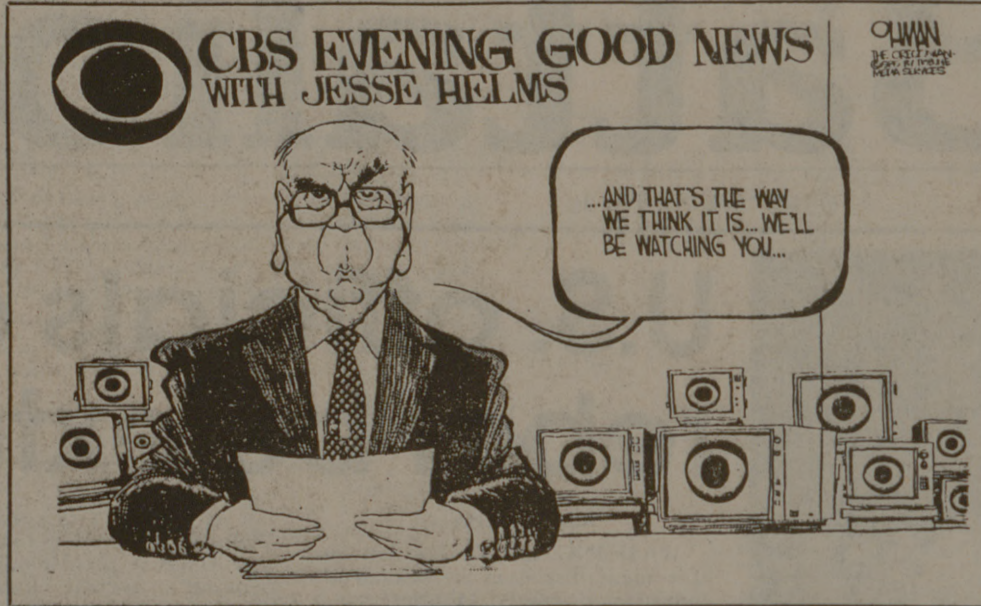


John Hallett

It might have looked something like this:

As expected, Dan Rather has been canned as news anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News because of biased reporting. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., will replace Rather. On the new CBS Evening News you can rest assured Commies are red and roses are blue. That's right, roses are blue because Jesse says so.

CBS has been taking a beating from NBC on Thursday night prime time. The new CBS lineup is designed to win



the ratings war and provide a wholesome alternative to booze, blues and black comedy.

To fill the 7 p.m. slot, CBS has made a bold move, buying the rights to the "Fall Guy" from ABC. Lee Majors has been dropped from the show and will be replaced by former President Gerald Ford. In a recent press release CBS announced Ford will perform all his own stunts.

At eight, CBS has opted for a new situation comedy starring First Lady Nancy Reagan. Mrs. Reagan told reporters the series, entitled "Nancy Knows Best," will show America that she does have a sense of humor.

CBS's own version of the NBC hit series "Night Court," called "Court of Last Resort," stars Attorney General Ed Meese as Judge N. O. Justice and Chuck Barris as the court jester. The series' producer said the show will make use of Meese's unique and sometimes humorous interpretations of the law. When asked if CBS was taking a risk with Meese, a CBS executive commented that after viewing tapes of Meese's Senate confirmation hearings, he had no doubts that Meese was born to act.

At nine, CBS will go with "Falwell's Follies," — the story of one man's crusade against evil, temptation and blacks' rights in South Africa.

Here are a few other programs we might have seen during the first week of the new season:

- "The New Adventures of Superman," starring Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, as mild-mannered Clark Kent. The 1985 version of the superhero classic will see the Man of Steel fight for truth, justice, and the 1992 Republican Party presidential nomination.
- "Lucky, the President's Dog." View power politics from inside the nation's biggest doghouse.
- The CBS Sunday Night Movie's

world premiere screening of "The King and I," starring Al Haig as the king of Siam.

• The award-winning program "60 Minutes" will remain on the air with several personnel changes: Pat Robertson, formerly of the 700 Club, will take over for Diane Sawyer, and Andy Rooney will be replaced by Paul Harvey. "On the Road With Charles Kuralt" will be dropped from the Sunday morning lineup. Kuralt, however, will stay with CBS doing features on rural America for "60 Minutes" in an attempt to make the show more family-oriented.

• A revival of "Three's A Crowd," starring White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler and President Reagan. Regan plays the nagging third party who destroys an otherwise amicable relationship between Heckler and Reagan.

• Tom Kennedy won't be back as host of the night time version of the popular game show "The Price is Right." CBS has replaced Kennedy with former Vice President Spiro Agnew.

• "Yogi and Friends." See: Yogi, Boo-boo and the whole gang return to Saturday mornings. Hear the voice of former Secretary of the Interior James Watt as the park ranger.

• "Name That Tune." James Watt keeps busy doing double duty for CBS, hustling melodies in his first stint as a game-show host. The Beach Boys provide the tunes.

• "What's My Line." See Supreme Court Justices Brennan, Burger, Blackmun and White as the enigmatic panelists who drill guests into submission.

John Hallett is a senior political science major, a columnist and News Editor for The Battalion.

## 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.

### Silver Taps needs no advertisements

EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to something heard on a local radio station recently: "All you Aggies! Don't forget Silver Taps tonight! 10:30 in front of Sully's statue."

Since when has it become necessary to use public advertising to get Aggies to attend such a long-standing tradition as Silver Taps? The disc jockey treated it as if he were announcing another open bar at the Roxz or a linen sale at Dillard's. He might as well have added "be there or be square" for the tone he used.

Nine out of 10 Aggies know (or at least they should) that Silver Taps falls on the first Tuesday of every month unless otherwise notified. It's not some kind of feature entertainment that Aggies are treated to, and it's disrespectful to take it so lightly. It is a special, only-at-A&M kind of tradition that many take seriously, and others evidently do not.

This applies to other traditions as well like Muster or bonfire. If this continues, then I guess we can look forward to hearing ads like: "Be a good Ag. Remember to stay off the MSC grass today!" or "Hey guys! Don't forget to kiss your date tonight at midnight yell practice!"

If traditions needed PR, they wouldn't be traditions; they'd be just another random event. I doubt the parents, friends and relatives of the deceased want to exploit their loss by sharing it with all of Bryan-College Station on the airwaves. I don't think a memorial service needs advertising, now or ever, and I hope we don't in the future hear that "ad" again.

Victoria H. Larroca '88

### Let's be civilized

EDITOR:

This letter is in regards to the "O-ratorium" held in front of Rudder Fountain on Oct. 10.

I believe that NOW brings to the forefront a number of valid issues. However, it's a shame that loud-mouthed, obnoxious women who confuse screaming with persuasive oratory give the organization a bad name.

As an educated individual, I am perfectly willing to lend my ears, and possibly my support, to any person who can speak rationally, appeal to my sense of logic and do so in a dignified manner. But I have no desire to subject myself to the shrill ravings of a red-faced woman with a pubescent demeanor. It is my suggestion that the individuals of the organization in question could further their cause by acting like the educated adults they are supposed to be.

Marc G. Montry '85

### Core of the Corps

EDITOR:

Congratulations for producing a well-balanced collection of articles entitled "At the core of A&M" in the Sept. 27 issue of At Ease. Your reporters did an outstanding job of identifying key characteristics of the Corps of Cadets that have given it national recognition and that indeed make it the "core" of the school, despite its relatively smaller size than in past years.

Many of us "old Ags" believe that by de-emphasizing ROTC and by providing for the acquisition of special skills to balance the rigor, many more students would elect the Corps and share in the unique experience that has meant so much to many thousands of former students the world over.

With better understanding of the needs of young people for mean-

ingful experiences that will help them become better prepared to compete successfully in the world beyond campus, we may yet see substantive changes occur. And your articles will have helped increase the awareness necessary to get more people thinking about both protecting and improving A&M's oldest and greatest asset.

Norman J. York II  
Class of '57

### No stopping NOW

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the decision of the University to reinstate gynecological exams and treatment at the A.P. Beutel Health Center. It pleases me to know that the administration has responded to the vocalized needs and wants of the students. However, as the Houston Chronicle reports, these exams will be a "secondary priority" and will come only "if time permits."

Although this may have been a sincere attempt to meet the students' needs, one more general practitioner who is to treat all other cases first will only bring us back to the sorry state we were in before the cutback of Sept. 1. We all understand the cutbacks in budget the health center has encountered, so this request is also an appeal to expand the health center's budget in order to allow them to meet the gynecological needs of approximately 14,000 female students.

We must hire a licensed gynecologist who will be able to treat gynecological needs first and also have time to counsel clients on other methods of birth control, as the pill is not for everyone.

Be it known that NOW will continue to fight for a full time gynecologist who will definitely have time to attend to the needs — both physical and psychological — of the students and faculty of A&M. Anyone who is interested in this cause is welcome to attend our next meeting today in 402 Rudder Tower.

Amy Genette  
Vice President  
TAMU NOW

### A better alternative

EDITOR:

It has been about a month and a half since the new seatbelt law has been in effect in Texas. Proponents of the legislation argue that it is up to the state to play the parental law-maker and save lives through the mandatory use of seatbelts.

While it is true that seatbelts do save lives, the question is, who is the law for? I ask this question because there is a safer alternative: air bags. After extensive research, air bags have been proven safer than seatbelts. The only problem with air bags is the cost of installing them in new cars is too high for the auto industry to justify.

The Secretary of Transportation passed a law requiring mandatory installation of air bags by 1990 in all new cars, unless states comprising 2/3 of the population require the use of seatbelts. However, this law does nothing for the actual stallment of airbags, all it does is let the lobbyist manipulate our state representatives into requiring the use of seatbelts.

If our state Legislature was so concerned for our safety, then why is it that we have only a seatbelt law when a safer measure has been discovered, researched and perfected? It does not make sense to be required to wear seatbelts when there is a safer alternative. It is obvious that our state enacted the seatbelt law for the auto industry's interest and not for the safety of its citizens.

Donnie G. Gartlan Jr. '86

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