

# Opinion

## Why isn't football treated like any other major?

Just when we thought Kevin Murray's controversial Datsun had driven into the sunset for good, the Dallas Times Herald prints an "expose" of everyone's favorite maroon and white team.



Loren Steffy

The paper has accused Aggie players of receiving "thousands of dollars in signing incentives and bonuses, weekly allowances, performance payments, car deals and other favors from A&M coaches and boosters..." following a two-month investigation of the 1985 Southwest Conference Champs.

Whether A&M is guilty of violating NCAA rules really isn't the issue. Other schools have been accused of similar un-

ethical activities. Some rumors say every school uses money or gifts to encourage young athletes to join their team.

If so many institutions violate the rules, perhaps it's time to rethink those rules. Why shouldn't collegiate athletes get paid?

College journalists, such as myself, get paid for working for the school paper, as do the advertising representatives. Collegiate hard laborers, such as hamburger flippers, bookstore cashiers and construction workers (some Aggies worked on the new chemistry building this summer) also get paid. Some campus police officers, who obviously get paid, are students as well.

Most students enter college to prepare for the career of their choice. They study subjects which pertain to that prospective career and subjects that have nothing to do with it. Some students spend their college years scanning dull

gray lines of textbook type. Others, such as myself, try to supplement their book time with hands-on experience.

The Battalion staff gets paid a regular — albeit miniscule — salary, but the jobs are in addition to coursework. Many journalism majors graduate without ever working for The Batt.

So why can't college football be handled the same way? Incoming students would pick their major — football — and choose an area of specialization, such as offense, defense, or special teams.

A degree plan would then be worked up in which the players would have to take at least 30 hours of non-athletic courses. This would ensure a broad educational base for our athletes.

Within the Athletic Department courses would be offered in specialized areas like Pass Receiving 106, Penalty Prevention 101, Handoffs 211, Quar-

terback Sneaks 324, Punt Blocking 440 and Special Topics — Unnecessary Roughness 485.

Once the athlete chooses a specialization, he is eligible to apply for the team.

If hired, the athlete is paid a starting salary — \$20,000 a year. The pay may not be great, but this is college. It's the experience that's important. The money for the team's salaries would come from ticket sales and, of course, donations from former students.

After four years the student graduates with a well-rounded education, hands-on experience and a familiarity with his future career. This experience would be great to put on a resumé. "Three years experience, quarterback, Texas Aggies, Texas A&M."

Of course, the students who study football for four years but don't play would be at a disadvantage, unless they

were looking for jobs as coaches. A career in coaching, however, the student would first have to get his coaching certificate.

The NFL could enhance the college football program by offering scholarships to aspiring collegiate players. The young athlete would get free contact warming benches, minimize trade and washing dirty jock straps.

And think what a nice addition players' diplomas will make to locker rooms. Of course schools would have to decide whether to offer a degree in science or a bachelor of science.

Given the scope of the program, most colleges it would fall under.

Loren Steffy is a junior journalism major and the Opinion Page Editor of The Battalion.

## Imagine

5 years after his death, Lennon's message lives

It was five years ago today when my mother came into my room to wake me up for school. Usually she said something like: "time to get up," or "how many eggs do you want?" On this day she said: "John Lennon was killed last night."



Karl Pallmeyer

The news was shocking. I had just discovered the Beatles about six months earlier and had developed an acute dose of Beatlemania. I bought all of their albums, read tons of books on them and learned how to play several of their songs on the guitar. Since I was drummer for the school band I picked up the nickname "Ringo" and adopted his drum playing mannerisms. I would stay up late to catch Beatles' movies on television and was usually seen wearing a Beatles T-shirt.

The news was shocking. I turned on the radio. The disk jockey was playing "All You Need Is Love" — a Beatles' song. After the song the DJ gave the details of Lennon's murder and put on another song, Lennon's "Imagine."

Although I had heard "Imagine" before, this is the first time I really heard it. I realized that "Imagine" was more than a song — it was a philosophy. I realized that Lennon was more than a Beatle — he was a prophet.

Throughout the day the radio played several Lennon and Beatles songs. They played "Help!," "God," "Revolution," "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," "Julia," "Give Peace a Chance," "If I Fell," "Instant Karma," "Dear Prudence," "(Just Like) Starting Over," "Across the Universe," "Mother," "In My Life" and "Love."

I began to realize that two major themes permeated all of Lennon's

songs: Peace and Love. I began to appreciate Lennon and the Beatles even more.

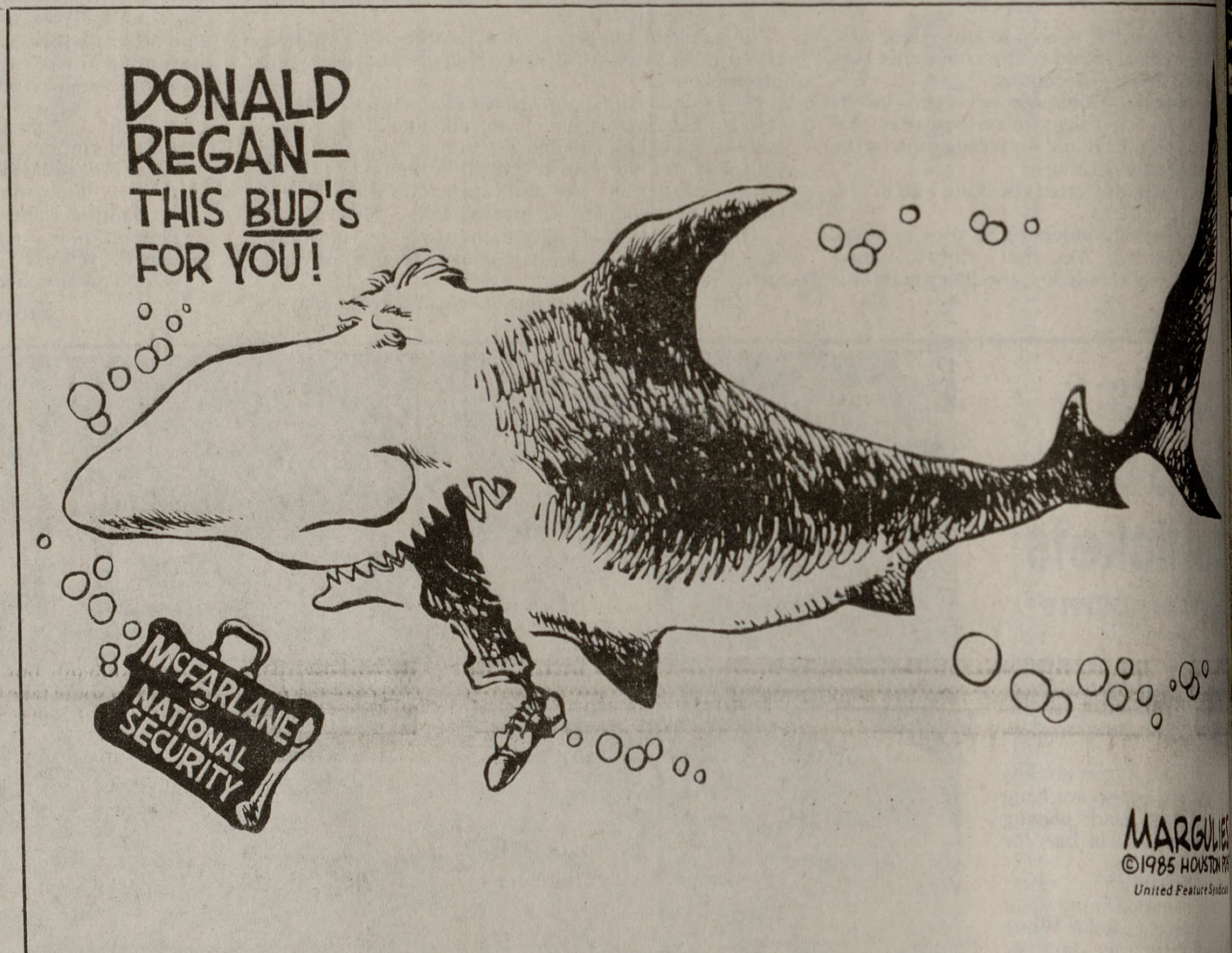
The Beatles made some of the best music in the history of mankind. Their music was both commercially and artistically successful. The Beatles, as an image, had an influence that changed human culture for years to come. When the Beatles broke up they pursued individual careers. George Harrison more or less retired from the spotlight and concentrated on developing his spiritual self with an occasional album. Ringo Starr has had a semi-successful career in music and film. Paul McCartney went on to make millions off songs and albums that are highly popular but intellectually and spiritually empty.

John Lennon spent his life as an artistic and philosophical statement. He and his wife, Yoko Ono, would hold various "happenings" in the cause of world peace. Lennon's music, which didn't make as much money as it used to with the Beatles, told of a better way of life.

Lennon was killed by Mark David Chapman, a disturbed man. Chapman was the product of a society that often scorns those with new and different ideas. Many other men before Lennon were killed because their ideas did not fit in well with the stagnant society in which they had been trapped. Socrates, Jesus Christ, Joan of Arc, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Steven Biko are just a few who were killed because they said or did something that would have helped the world if only more people would have listened.

John Lennon wanted the world to be a better place. If people would give peace a chance or realize that all you need is love, the world would be a better place. Imagine.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.



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## Mail Call

### Vandalism experienced

EDITOR: I'm writing in response to the letter submitted by Elaine Pahmiyer and Angie Buechler. I, too, have unfortunately experienced vandalism done to my car. And although I don't agree with everything Elaine and Angie said, I do agree that it has to stop.

As far as paint scratches go, I would have gladly traded that in for the damage done to my car! Now, I don't drive what these ladies termed "nice cars," in fact, I drive a 1979 Ford Maverick. However, I'm proud of it because when I bought it, it had no dents, no rust, it ran great — and I paid for it all myself. Today, however, that story is a little different.

About a week and a half ago, I walked out behind Davis-Gary and Moses Hall where my car was parked, only to find a disaster. The entire roof of my car had been caved in (by force), bending the frame inside my car and chipping the paint off the exterior. In addition to that, a large dent was put in the rear of the passenger's side, also causing the paint to crack and chip from that area.

Now, I don't know of anything that might prompt anyone to do this kind of damage; but the repairs will be coming out of my pocket, and like Elaine and Angie said, "Come on, Ags, this has to stop!"

Teresa Mallary '89

### Resting easier

EDITOR: I feel compelled to offer my sincerest thanks to the brave and vigilant University police officer assigned to the third deck, 50-yard line area at the game on Thanksgiving Day.

This man courageously made his way through the beer- and wine-drinking fans down to the young woman who sat in front of me. He sternly lectured her on the dangers of throwing cotton balls, warning her that someone could get hurt (perhaps a stray cotton ball could fall in one's beer or Coke causing one to choke after a particularly large guzzle).

Later this same dedicated officer braved the crowd — again making his way past open beer cans and wine bottles, not to mention the whiskey flasks making the rounds — and removed a banner (I am certain it, too, was posing a great health risk).

I don't know about anyone else, but just the idea that this officer was being ever-watchful to be sure we were safe from killer cotton balls and banners helped me rest easier.

E.L. Taylor

### Defeating their purpose?

EDITOR: Karl Pallmeyer, in his Dec. 5 column, asserted that the movie "The Canterbury Tales" uses sex to make a statement, therefore it is art" and not pornography. However, less of a film producer's intentions, however, what I consider pornographic is a characteristic not of the film projected on the screen, but of the film that rolls in the viewer's mind.

The assessment is private. But if my intention for a film is pornographic, it doesn't matter what the viewer sees. And I don't want to fool myself into believing that I've created in a film for the sake of its "artistic statement" my true motives are quite different.

The Student Art Film Society would be following recruitment policy if, as Pallmeyer reports, it is "trying to attract more members." I think that the students who have viewed "The Canterbury Tales" but have shown no interest in the activities of the Society prior to the showing of this film are probably interested in sensual entertainment, not art.

And if the Society's goals are as noble as yours, they would perhaps have us believe, they may actually be defeating their purpose.

Although "The Canterbury Tales" is obviously not the actors and actresses on film are quite real. I would think they were performing "The Canterbury Tales" on stage, would it still be considered art?

Paul R. Koch  
Graduate Student

### Pallmeyer's obsession

EDITOR: I'm tired of Karl Pallmeyer's obsession with plagiarism. Webster. Please stop it! (I'm referring specifically to the column of Dec. 5)

Karl, plagiarism is defined as taking and using another's own ideas or writing of another (Webster's 11th Edition, Merriam-Webster, p. 534 — the same dictionary you use for your column).

Patrick Eidemiller  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Actually, Karl prefers the Oxford English Dictionary of the English Language.

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The 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 accompanied by the address and telephone number of the writer.

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