

# Opinion

## The Battalion

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### Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents. The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, Department of Journalism, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, Department of Journalism, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

## Heed the warning

Though the NCAA's decision to slap Southern Methodist University with a one-year death penalty is justified, the Southwest Conference will miss the team's presence. But of more concern to Texas A&M should be the implications of such a penalty.

Attending a university caught up in allegations that somehow have been temporarily sidelined should have Aggies considering the effect of any NCAA penalty on A&M.

SMU students and faculty have expressed concern about the impact the decision will have on student morale, enrollment and the university's reputation. As one SMU student told the *Houston Chronicle*, "Football is a big deal around here. It's going to be terminal boredom next fall."

Another SMU student commented, "College without football is not going to be the same. It's going to be hard to find things to do because fall semester revolves around football."

One can't help but wonder what the effect of such a decision would be on A&M — a University boasting unrivaled school spirit.

A&M's now-controversial football team generates more school spirit among today's Aggies than any other facet of this University.

Certainly, lesser attended sports events, Silver Taps, All-U Night and other school events couldn't possibly keep the blood of 98 percent of all Aggies running deep maroon.

Without a football program — winning or not — A&M could expect the same consequences that SMU will be facing in years to come.

Aggies — especially those in control of the Athletic Department — should consider SMU's misfortune a warning. For there but for the grace of the NCAA go we.

## As history and truth collide

At a dinner one night in Russia, a diplomat pointed to the ceiling and, without looking up, everyone at the table nodded. His was the universal reminder that there could be a listening device in the ceiling and we had better watch what we said. We did, and for a moment the conversation went dead. No one can kill a good discussion like Big Brother.



Richard Cohen

Maybe Reagan will be undeterred by the talk of subpoena and continue to confide in Morris. Maybe he will also, at day's end, jot down perfectly candid notes, complete with disparaging remarks about some of the people who crossed his path that day. I don't know. But it is fair to assume that with investigators seeking his notes and those of his biographer, the president will react much as I did in Moscow when a hand pointed to the ceiling. There are some things you don't want Big Brother to hear.

The demands of history and those of law are on a collision course here. Law should take precedence if it seems clear that a crime has been committed. That was the case with Richard Nixon's tapes and so they were subpoenaed. In the course of reading those transcripts, we not only learned quite a bit about both the Watergate burglary and the subsequent cover-up, but also how ugly Nixon could be. His offhand remarks — bitter, bigoted and mean — were shocking, but they had little to do with whether or not crimes were committed. He might well have talked civilly, and still have directed a cover-up.

With Reagan, there is still no evidence that he broke the law in selling arms to Iran or with subsequent diversion of some of those funds to the Nicaraguan contras. Absent that evidence, Congress ought to respect the right of a president to hold confidential meetings, make confidential notes and confide in a biographer without someone peering over his shoulder.

There are indications the Nixon precedent has not gone unnoticed in the White House. Notes and records for certain meetings seem not to exist — maybe for fear of demands that they eventually be relinquished. That's reprehensible. But the same fear of disclosure that chills the sneaky and deceptive will have an effect on honest and forthright people as well. No president would be quite as candid if he thought that his remarks could make the headlines a year down the road — and out of context, at that.

History is not an abstraction. It has real utility. It instructs, and the presidents of today are wiser for the histories written by and about their predecessors. What is true for them is true for us all. Congress will embark down a dangerous path if it subpoenas Morris' notes. In seeking the truth, it may ensure that we never get it.

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## Texas' Worst Litter Problem Is:

(Choose One)

A. Longnecks

B. Longnecks

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## Future of America should be cared for as such

I went home last week for a dental appointment, nothing exciting. What was exciting was seeing one of my best friends from high school, Stephanie. I used to stand next to Stephanie during drill team practice and we would talk about school, guys and the usual high school gossip. A lot of things have changed in the past four years.



Jo Streit

Stephanie and I started out in the same direction after high school. We both decided to go to college. I came here and she went to Southwest Texas State. As the saying goes, college isn't for everyone and Stephanie dropped out after her freshman year. She moved back home with her folks and attended a travel academy. She graduated and landed a job with an airline in Dallas.

She started dating her old high school boyfriend again and last summer they got married. Stephanie and her husband are expecting their first baby in a few weeks. She wants to stay home with the baby, but her financial situation won't allow it. After the baby is about four months old Stephanie's planning to start working again. One of her biggest concerns is who will care for her child.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of all mothers — married and unmarried — with children under six years old are working outside the home. According to

National Institute of Health data, the proportion of children under age six with employed mothers is expected to reach two-thirds by 1995. In addition, the recent census data show the number of children in single-parent homes is also on the rise.

As these figures continue to increase, so does the demand for high-quality day care. To compound the problem, only an estimated 40 percent of working women in this country are entitled to paid maternity leave (generally lasting four to eight weeks). Parents who can't afford private day care often find 18- to 24-month waiting lists for subsidized child care programs.

The argument of whether women with young children should work is irrelevant because situations like Stephanie's don't allow the option. In some cases the mother's decision to return to work is a matter of survival. The family could not live without the second income. Like Elinor Guggenheimer, president for Child Care Action Campaign said, "fewer than 15 percent of all families fit the Ozzie and Harriet model — the male breadwinner with the stay-at-home wife and kids."

Although day care is most commonly used by working parents, there are other parents and children with special needs who seek day care services. For example, more than 500,000 babies are born to teen-age girls every year. Many of these young mothers depend on day care so they can continue their education or find a job. Day care also can help abused children by taking them out of the home for at least part of the day. This break can benefit both the child and parents by reducing stress.

Of course, the real issue isn't whether day care should be available, but rather how our country can promote and ensure adequate day care for families who want or need this service. Currently there are no federal regulations regarding the general health of children in day care. Federal regulations were proposed, but they were suspended in 1980. Recently, a number of bills by legislators have been introduced in Congress to establish better day care. They include:

- Public Housing Child Care Act — to appropriate grants for a program that would provide child care services in public housing projects.
- Child Care Assistance Act — to help states improve the quality and coordination of child care services and to provide financial assistance to families.
- National Child Protection Act — to promote safety for children in day care.

These measures are essential to quality day care. Although every state mandates licensing for day care, almost none of the states regulate these centers for fire, health and safety regulations.

In supporting day care legislation, we are working for the rights of children who have no lobby group of their own. But day care isn't just for children. For working mothers, fathers and even the people who don't have children. Because providing a healthy environment for children to grow up in is vital for our future.

Jo Streit is a senior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

## Mail Call

### Bunch of bownheads

EDITOR:  
BOWTOWN, USA — This is a simple letter directed to those students who are compelled to amble around this University wearing a grossly obnoxious uniform. No. Settle down, cadets. I'm not talking about the Corps.  
I am, however, referring to the female students who so frequently don those hideous bows — especially the silver and/or gold lame ones. They are, with their unsightly glare and far from inconspicuous size, the most ridiculous fashion trend since parachute pants or even bell-bottom jeans.  
Seriously, some small bows, worn for the purpose of holding one's hair back are easily acceptable. However, when these "fashionable" ornaments begin to rival the size of many weekend kites, one begins to wonder about a girl's safety. For example, the past few days have been rather windy; and yet, I still see these girls wearing their mammoth headgear.  
For your safety, and the fashion consciousness of others, please use this substantial amount of material to create something that is of worth. The possibilities are endless. For example, a new dress, drapes for your room, or a new satellite for NASA. Enough said, ladies?  
Greg P. Zweacker '89

### There's more to it!

EDITOR:  
The At Ease staff requests that gripes, complaints or sermons on "heavy-duty" issues be sent to *The Battalion* Opinion Page. Please forward this "suggestion" to the staff.

Please remember that a closer look at Greeks at A&M should also include traditionally black Greek organizations on campus.

There are four nationally recognized black fraternities and sororities in College Station: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta.

Like most Greek organizations on campus, we are dedicated to academic excellence and service to all mankind, but our special feature is a tradition of promoting sisterhood and brotherhood both on an undergraduate and graduate level. Service and community involvement is our theme and our actions locally demonstrate this.

We work closely with the Bryan Boys' Club, Bryan-College Station Jaycees, College Station Girls' Club and the recently developed Adopt-A-School program in College Station. Nationally, we contribute to the United Negro College Fund, the NAACP, UNICEF, and United Way — just to name a few. We can be seen on weekends washing cars, escorting children to various enrichment programs and hosting campus parties, open to all students.

Take a closer look; our bright sweatshirts, bumper stickers and ball caps are scattered throughout campus also.

In your effort to maintain objectivity in presenting Greek organizations, you failed to recognize Greek organizations, in particular black fraternities and sororities, dedicated to service.

Delritta Hornbuckle '87

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.