

Opinion

Load, ready, aim, fire A&M

The Battalion (USPS 045 360)

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Have you ever asked yourself what makes a university great? Is it the student body? Is it the campus? Is it a nationally-ranked football team? Sure, all of these things are important in the making of a truly unsurpassed university, and Texas A&M possesses these critical qualifications in spades.

R. Lee Sullivan
Guest Columnist

Even better, the distance between A&M and other well-known institutions is getting smaller with each passing day. The milestone addition of new buildings like the parking garage (not to mention Clayton Williams' donation of the largest jewelry store located on any college campus in the Western world) ensures that soon nobody will be able to say that A&M doesn't have it all. Or do we?

Hold on a minute; I know what you're thinking: "Oh no, here comes another cheap shot at A&M for not having one of those guys running around on the sidelines at football games dressed up like a cartoon mascot." Get real. Where would we find anybody willing to wear a ten-foot collie costume? No, there's something much more disturbing missing from A&M, and its absence opens up a space between us and other nationally recognized universities.

Having the only pet cemetery on any college campus in the United States is not enough. We must redouble our efforts to make certain that A&M is recognized as being in the same category of corporate excellence as super-achievers like Lee Iaccoca,

Lawrence Taylor, Oliver North and Hollywood Henderson: world class.

The autobahn to the top of the intercollegiate Fortune 500 lies in mass marketing. Being world class, by definition, means being more like the rest of the world. Look how much A&M has grown since we let the opposite sex in and further allowed students of both sexes to join organizations devoted to something other than mechanized slaughter.

The success associated with this trend is beyond dispute. Growth is the operative of success here, and don't you forget it. More students and bigger bucks are what is at stake. By becoming more and more like the other world class universities, A&M will be more readily accepted by the entire country, get more publicity, sell more caps and T-shirts and get on national television more often. A broader market for A&M means a broader market for Aggies in general. And hey, that helps all of us.

There is one area, though, where a gap has developed between us and the other world class aspirants. We've got almost every important element they do at the other schools right here at A&M, except for one thing, and I'm not talking about a college of fine arts. I'm talking about something infinitely more crippling. The reason we missed this one, I think, is that we thought we had it covered already.

When the Albritton bell tower went up two years ago, it seemed there was nothing left between A&M and world-class status. Well, we were wrong. Leaving off the digital time-face was a minor mistake compared to what I'm talking about. Think. Think hard about what's missing from our bell tower.

I'll give you a hint: they have one t.u.

That's right. A sniper. Our bell has no sniper. Until we get one we're small potatoes. What would it cost? A couple of lives, that's all, but stop and think what it would mean: not just national, but world-wide exposure. Texas A&M University. This is the big time. If you saw "Full Metal Jacket," you know what I'm talking about.

So who do we get to immortalize Aggie Tech? Well, when Mr. Albritton put up his tower, the argument was it was his money and he was entitled to use it any way he wanted to. That's here, too. If some fish over in there is getting crapped out like clockwork and he's flunking out of mechanical engineering and happens to have a 14 with a Starlight scope and some match-loaded rounds, well, it's his weapon and he's entitled to use it any way he wants. Think of it: A&M permanently endowed reputation, the lucky assassin becomes an important part of Aggie lore:

"Beat the Ever Lovin' Ever Livin' Fightin' Texas Aggie Offense Fightin' Texas Aggie Defense Fightin' Texas Aggie Coach Jackie Sherrill! Fightin' Texas Aggie Mascot Bert Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of Ninety Eight! Fightin' Texas Aggie SNIPER Hell Outa t.u!"

Whoop!
R. Lee Sullivan is a graduate student in business administration.

Strike two, you're out

Well, well. For the second time in five years, the National Football League Players Association has gone on strike against the owners — but this time, the association says, the issues are different.

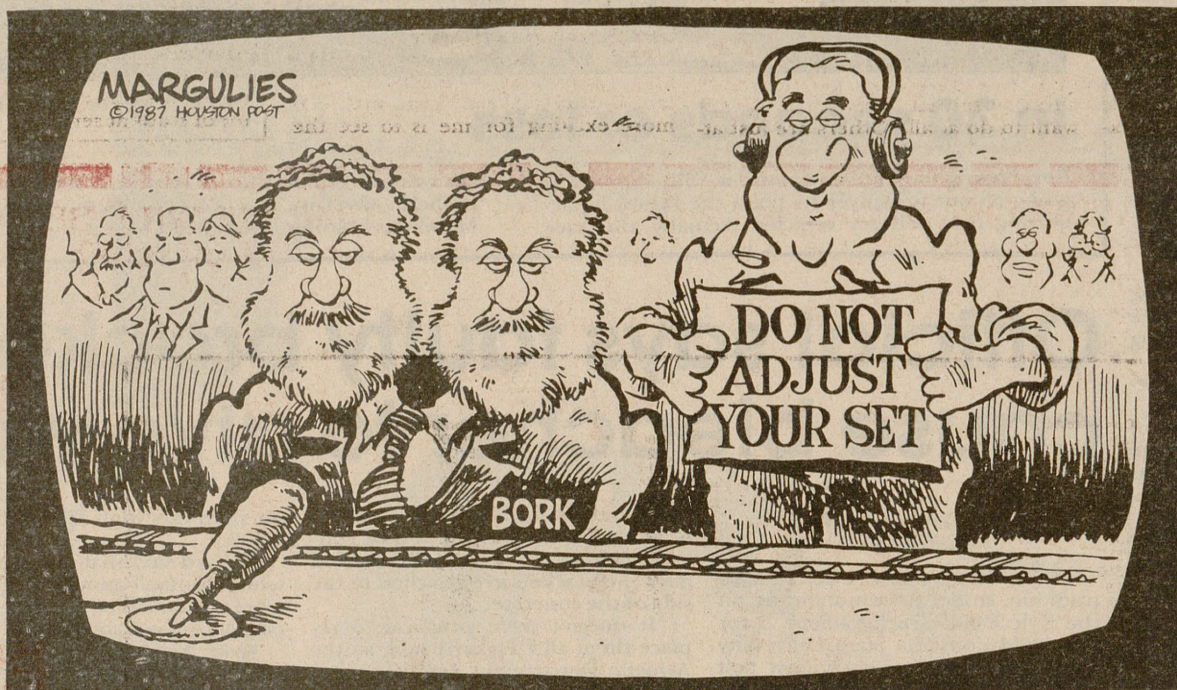
In the 1982 walkout, which lasted 57 days, the players sought a piece of television revenues. This year the key issue is free agency, a system that in effect would auction players to the highest bidder for their services.

Players who think the owners will agree to free agency may have taken one too many hard tackles. Free agency would cause salaries to skyrocket and allow the Bears and Raiders of the league to field great teams at the expense of the Packers and Bills.

Many of the players on the picket lines are there to show team unity — they couldn't care less about free agency, guaranteed contracts or pension benefits. There is nothing wrong with solidarity, but when the players earn an average annual salary of \$230,000, their efforts seem greedy at best.

The owners show little inclination to strike a deal — they're bringing in free agents to ensure that the season continues. And the strikers' behavior — throwing rocks at buses carrying free agents and brandishing shotguns at players who cross the picket line — hardly enhances their standing with the public.

The players may claim to have a noble cause, but this is one fight they can't win.



Welcome to beautiful Bermuda . . .

HAMILTON, Bermuda — A few months ago, I visited Bermuda and did not have a very good time.

Someone at a local private golf course made some rather crude remarks concerning my shorts being too short. I got into a shouting match with a hotel doorman because I called to a taxi without consulting him first, and a hotel bartender threatened to punch me out when I mentioned 15 minutes was a long time to wait for a drink.

I wrote a column about my bad experiences here and received mixed reactions.

Several readers wrote to tell me how they also have been treated rudely in Bermuda.

Others, including the Bermuda tourist agency, suggested I be thrashed by irate cricket players for my remarks.

The Hamilton newspaper even ran a story and headlined it, "Negative writer returns to island" — which is the subject for today's effort.

I have indeed returned to Bermuda to make a speech, for which I shall receive a check.

Otherwise, I wouldn't have returned to Bermuda.



Lewis Grizzard

I wasn't sure what to expect, so I got off my plane at the Bermuda airport dressed in a disguise. I wore socks.

I got to my hotel, the Southampton Princess, without incident. I checked into my room, bolted the door and remained there until the next morning.

It was then I ventured out of my room for the first time and went down for breakfast, which was no longer being served.

I asked for lunch.

"Lunch isn't served until 11:30," I was told.

"Then I'll just have a Coke," I said.

"No Coke," I was told: "The bar doesn't open until 11:00."

I went into a news shop to buy a paper.

"All we have are yesterday's papers," the clerk said.

"When do today's papers come in?" I asked.

"Late tomorrow," was the answer.

I went back to my room.

Later I ventured out again to play golf. This time I went to a public course and nobody made fun of the way I was dressed, except my playing partners, who thought my shorts, which came to just above my ankles, overdid it just a bit.

The next morning after breakfast there wasn't any coffee on my table, but I spotted a pot on a nearby counter.

I attempted to pour myself a cup, but a waiter snatched the pot away from me and told me to sit down, he'd bring me the coffee.

I did, and he did, and in a few hours I'll be on a plane out of here.

In conclusion, may I say I have not experienced half the hassles in Bermuda as I experienced before, and that may or may not be directly related to the fact I have spent a lot of time in my room, have never complained about a single thing, and have sat down and shut up whenever anybody told me to.

Had I had the same attitude any of the three times I've been married, one of them just might have worked out.

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Mail Call

AIDS paranoia uncalled-for

EDITOR:

I just heard something in a management class that really disturbed me. We were discussing the various types of medical tests employers may ask potential employees to take, and the AIDS test was mentioned.

The instructor noted that recent court rulings have prevented discrimination against those who test positive for AIDS. When the students heard this, they were outraged. Their sentiment was, "Who cares about the rights? We (the coworkers) don't want to become infected."

It's amazing to me the lack of knowledge this class of juniors and seniors has about AIDS. AIDS cannot be spread through casual contact. AIDS victims are still human beings and still a part of society. They need jobs more than ever to help pay medical bills, and they do not deserve to be outcasts because they are sick.

I'm not downplaying the seriousness of the disease. AIDS is a definite threat. But ignorance about the disease is an even bigger threat.

Julia Rosprim '88

Double vision for No. 9

EDITOR:

It has been brought to my attention that the Aggie football team is unique in another aspect — we have two No. 9's, and the one I saw on the field during punt and kickoff returns was not Craig Stump. I apologize if I have brought any undue attention to Mr. Stump or to the other No. 9. Again, I apologize for my mistake: my anonymous callers were right; I should have checked my story. One cannot, however, fault the honesty of my sentiments trying to thank someone.

Nadine Miller '87

Shhhh!

EDITOR:

It would be a disgrace to resort to placing monitors in the library, reminiscent of grade school, for the simple reason that an intolerable number of supposed adults amazingly have not learned that noise must be kept to a minimum in one. The level of noise consistently present in any areas with tables virtually destroys their potential as study areas, even with earplugs. It's extremely childish to disregard a library atmosphere, presuming it to be a social hangout and not an academic facility.

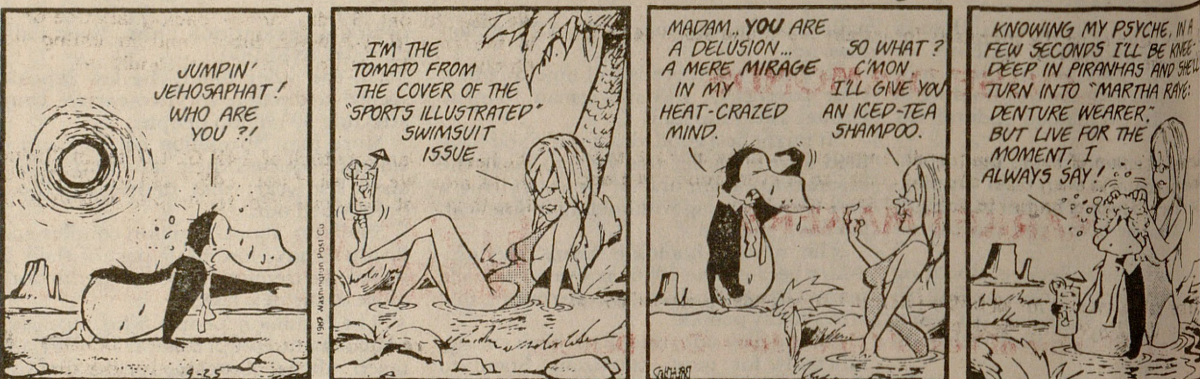
Serious study involving book retrievals requires a reasonable degree of silence. Please, if you are not intent on studying in the library areas, not aside for discourse, don't trash them for other people. You might be one to need that silence yourself, assuming you don't flunk out. There are plenty of other places where you can socialize all you care to.

D.S. Stevens '86

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit 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.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



By Mary-L...

Staff V... Along the Mi... southwestern New... toric pueblo ruin al... is gradually being... understood.

Every summer... years, Texas A&M... come to the site... field school, and... archeology and th... ans, the students... about themselves.

"It taught me a... ion of archeology... anthropology ma... says. "I think it wa... ence I've ever had... What began as a... spect some arche... developed into an... project.

"In the beginnin... naive about what... says Dr. Harry Sha... or of anthropology... the Mimbres field-

"But now, after... amassed so much... we're at the point... stop that and start... "We've got to in... process the inform... amount of material... each season is consi... Houses, tools ar... been recovered, as... mark" of the Mim... tilled painted pote... "It's a reference... ological materials... process all that stu... anything gets cata... inventoried," he sa...

"We want to tr... past life ways an... about the people a... "Once we begin to... change through ti... understand and e... changes are taking...

The Mimbres... funded by Natio... Earthwatch and co... ters interested i... Shafer says. He est...

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