

# 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.

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## New on page 2

Three new features make their *Battalion* debut this week, beginning today with the editorial cartoons of Ben Sargent. We'd like to tell you a little about the authors.

Sargent, the editorial cartoonist for the *Austin American-Statesman*, received the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartoons in 1982. He was named "Outstanding Communicator" for 1981 by Women In Communications Inc and also has received awards from the Texas Women's Political Caucus and the Headliner's Club.

Sargent will be joined by Mike Royko, longtime columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*. Royko, in addition to winning the Pulitzer Prize, has received the Ernie Pyle Memorial Award for human interest reporting and the H.L. Mencken Award, among others.

Donald Kaul has spent 18 years working for daily newspapers, most of them as a columnist for the *Des Moines Register*. He is now a commentator on the weekend edition of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and a columnist for the *Tribune Media Service*.

Of course, *The Battalion* will continue to print local columns from staff members and other A&M students, faculty and staff. We hope the addition of these three features will give the page added scope — and give readers something to think about.

## Mail Call

### Don't criticize what you can't do

EDITOR:

I'm a little tired of hearing the "opinions" and "viewpoints" of your writers concerning the 12th Man kickoff team. If students share these opinions, they have every chance to prove themselves better than the current players. After all, it is a voluntary program — anyone who thinks that he (or she) can do so much better is welcome to try out. Anthony Wilson said the bragging at yell practice was uncalled-for because team members haven't proved that they "can do it." I say you shouldn't criticize what you can't do, either. Anthony, are you listening? As for Tammy Hedgpath's article, if you can't look to your school newspaper for support, who can you turn to?

What has happened to the famed unity and spirit of the Aggies? Is winning a game all that is important? I thought that the 12th Man was the essence of Aggie pride. If A&M is as "different" as it claims to be, then why are students so ready to get rid of the guys that help make it different? I think it's about time we gave them some support instead of all the criticism.

Liz Wenzel '91

### 12th Man team deserves support

EDITOR:

I would like to comment on the "stats" in the Oct. 13 issue of *The Battalion*. It seems to me that you are forgetting the true meaning of the 12th Man kickoff team. The 12th man is here to stick behind the team through the good and bad. If the kickoff team is giving up a few more yards than before, then try to encourage them more, not say drop the whole thing. This tradition is known throughout the nation. We have a special group of players that represent the student body. I believe that the spirit is alive and here to stay. Giving up on the 12th Man team is just as bad as sitting down when we fall behind. So let's stick behind the team as we have done with all the other great traditions on this campus.

Blaise Walker '91

### Time to end the bird bombs

EDITOR:

I have one small request to make of this University. I'm not going to ask anyone to give up bonfire so Bambi and his friends will still have a place to call home. I'm not going to ask for the elimination of grode stories from Midnight Yell Practice for those people who think "grode" is a four-letter word. I'm not going to ask the virgins of A&M to risk losing their purity by involving themselves in the nightly "immorality" (yeah, right) of the Chicken.

The only thing that I now ask of this world-class University is this: Can something, anything, be done to rid the campus of all the birds that infest the trees between the MSC and G. Rollie White coliseum, or is it an age-old tradition that visitors to our campus must leave with at least ten bird bombs on their car? Am I asking too much?

Doug Miller '90

### Quit breaking our tradition

EDITOR:

We excused it the first time. We excused it the second time. But the third time is the last. C.T.s, stay off the grass in front of the All Faiths Chapel. It has become a Puryear Hall tradition not to walk on the chapel grass. We have yelled many times for you to get off the grass when you are running to Thursday yell practice, but you haven't.

Q: So why did you do this?

A: Puryear, not being informed to the highest degree of accuracy, we hesitated to articulate for the fear that we may have deviated from the true course of rectitude. In short, Puryear, we are very dumb C.T.s, and we did not know.

We hope this gets our point across. In addition, we demand that all non-regs, including the residents of Law Hall, uphold this time-honored tradition.

Ian Birbeck '89

accompanied by 64 signatures

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.

# Women's crying shows cunning, not weakness

We are facing one of the most important political questions of the day: Because Rep. Pat Schroeder, who is a woman, cried when she announced she would not seek the presidency, does this mean women are too weak to hold that office?



Lewis Grizzard

I would like to offer my opinion on that subject, but first I'd like to say I am not attempting to stereotype the entire female population.

My opinion is based strictly on my personal experience in dealing with women.

Although I've been married on a number of occasions (July 17, 1966; April 8, 1973; February 10, 1980), I haven't married even half of the entire female population despite the fact I often felt I had while writing out alimony checks.

If the women I have dealt with over the years can be used as examples, I would say then that when women cry, it certainly doesn't mean they are weak.

It means they are cunning and know how to get exactly what they want.

I can't handle a crying woman. There is something deep inside of me, likely put there by my mother, or a girl in my third-grade class who cried until I agreed to share my grape popsicle with her, that causes me to turn weak and lily-livered the moment a woman begins to cry in my presence.

All my ex-wives were outstanding criers. They could summon tears in a heartbeat and render me helpless.

"It's time you got dressed," would be her opening line. "We're going to dinner at mother's."

"I'm not going to your mother's for dinner. She always serves that green soup that looks like pond scum and asks me how much life insurance I have."

"You promised you would go."

"I promised I'd go if hell froze over." Breaking into tears now, "You don't love me."

Beginning to weaken now, "Oh, I love you. I just don't like green soup."

Sobbing now, "How could you be so cruel to my mother?"

Defeated, I give in. "OK, I'll give your mother's, but I'm going to take the bathroom during the soup course."

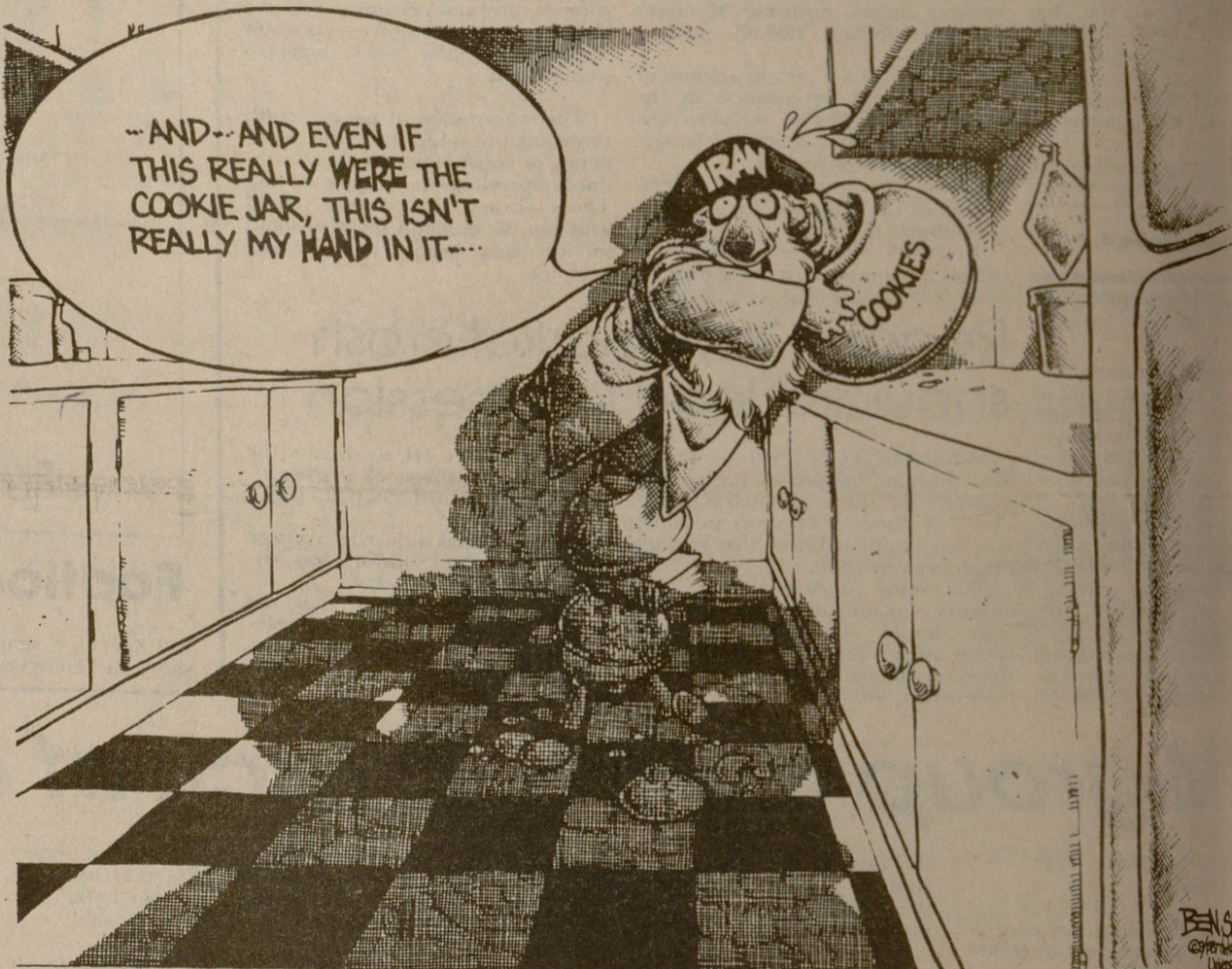
The tears dry up immediately, and the next thing I know, I've got pond scum soup in my mouth discussing my mother-in-law how much insurance I would get if one of my arms got cut off.

If any of my ex-wives became president, she could get Jane Fonda confirmed for the Supreme Court, a bit of timely bawling.

But don't worry. None of my ex-wives will ever occupy the Oval Office. They are busy with careers far outside of politics, and the other is a liberal Democrat who cried when I refused to vote for George McGovern.

(Actually, I finally did tell her to vote for McGovern if she stopped crying. I lied. The secret ballot is an essential foundation of democracy.)

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## Student parents need understanding

Students with children: almost a contradiction, or at least seen by society as improper, impractical and perhaps unacceptable. She who was my wife went to classes here with a child inside. She was pregnant with the child I am taking care of now as a separated parent. Her pregnancy was looked upon with scorn on campus then, and now that I am taking care of my son I find very little understanding of my situation.

Dharam V. Ahluwalia  
Guest Columnist

This is not a unique situation; it is just different. There are students on campus with children, and some of them are the most dedicated, most serious students. Not long ago, a young mother brought her two daughters to the computer terminals late at night, and you could see the mother finishing her homework and the children sleeping on spread-out towels.

The purpose of this column is to

bring attention to a small segment of the student population. This small group has recently started an on-campus group called "Students with Children." Their goals can best be stated by quoting a paragraph from their newsletter, which reads:

"Many a time . . . students are married and both parents are going to school. But many a times the parent in question is single, separated, or divorced. There is homework to be done, classes to be attended, deadlines to be met, the personal pain of separation or divorce to be overcome, bills to be paid, a living quarter to be found, diapers to be changed, a baby-sitter to be found, and the list goes on."

It is to these students (like myself: I have to grade quantum homework, do my own homework, pick up my son, etc.) that the group provides a meeting place to discuss ideas, an environment of encouragement and understanding.

The group wants to establish on-campus day-care facilities to serve

students, faculty and staff with children. The group also holds informational talks and activities for students and their children.

Apart from these activities, the group publishes a newsletter, "Journal of Students with Children," in which members can exchange ideas, express concerns. In it, members keep a record of their emotions, thoughts, and perhaps it will be difficult of finding a room where you have a child.

It is hoped this introductory group brings greater understanding among us all, students with children without. It is hoped that those who have felt a need for such a group now know that such a group exists. More information regarding the group can be obtained by calling Dharam V. Ahluwalia at 845-8520.

Dharam V. Ahluwalia is a graduate student.

by Berke Br...

