

Opinion

Listen up, Brian

B. ARGENT
Co-Ed of the A&M Student
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My initial reaction to Brian Frederick's column in Monday's *Battalion* was to run out, buy a scapel and confront him in a dark alley. But in order to avoid the label (literally) of a castrating "amazon," I picked up my pen instead.

Patricia Brubaker
 Guest Columnist

First, I couldn't help but see that Mr. Frederick wanted to give the impression that feminists are amazons, that is "tall, strong, masculine women." (Yep, I looked it up!) This idea makes me remember a conversation I heard between two males. A guy was telling his friend that a girl had displayed some interest in him, but he hesitated to ask her out because she was taller than he was. His friend looked disgusted and said, "You don't want to go out with someone who can beat you up, do you?" I thought no, he probably doesn't, but then neither would I. Does this make me a "tall, masculine woman" Mr. Frederick?

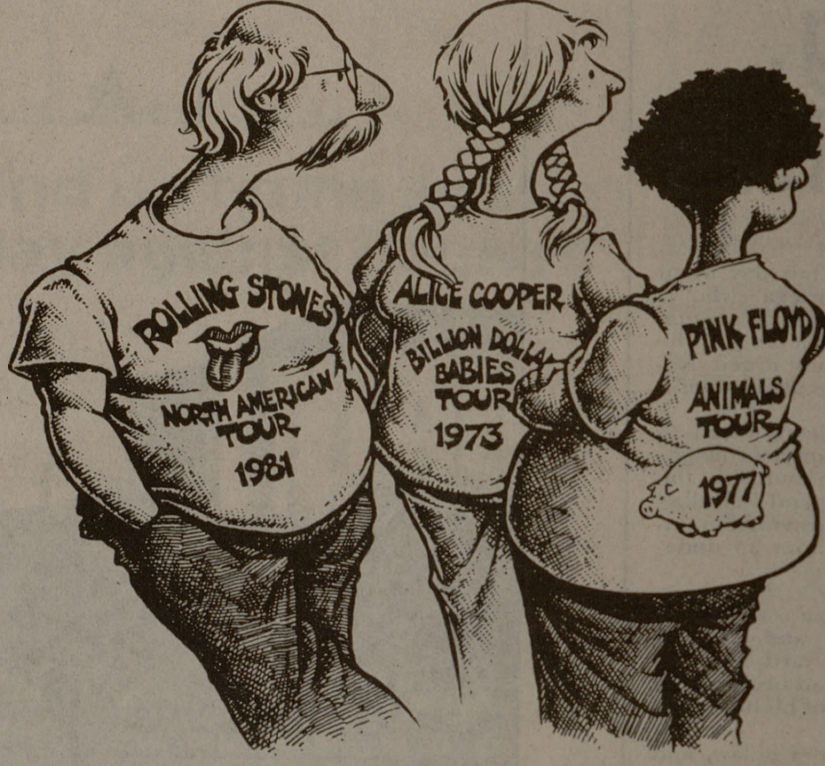
Now for the deeper point Mr. Frederick tried to make: the idea that by letting females into an all male club would be an infringement of males' rights. I had thought by now that everyone was well aware of the fact that men have been supressing womens' political, economic and social freedom throughout history. The most obvious example of how our political freedom had been denied is the fact that women didn't have the right to vote until 1920. Unfortunately, we have been and still are being supressed economically. According to S.A. Basow, a researcher in the field of Women's Studies, a woman's earning power in 1983 was 63 percent of a man's. According to a New York Times article, the earning power of a woman has improved to 70 percent in 1986. You are probably thinking, well, hey, that's pretty close and just look at the

improvement! But to use Dr. Muehlenhard's, a professor of Psychology at A&M, example: Say in your English class men could only make 70 percent of the grade of the women. Now say that the average grade of the women at the end of the semester was a 90. That would mean, Mr. Frederick, that you could only make a 60 in the class. That doesn't seem fair, now does it?

I accept the fact that men might want to make associations with other males, free from the scrutiny of females. I even accept the idea that these associations could be beneficial. However, I am reminded that some exclusive groups (cults) ridicule their opposition by dressing up as them and role playing in order to make a mockery of the opposition's beliefs. I also can't help but recall some facts about male clubs. Often these clubs aren't just a chance for the boys to get together play volleyball and eat barbeque. In fact men often use the club to make business transactions.

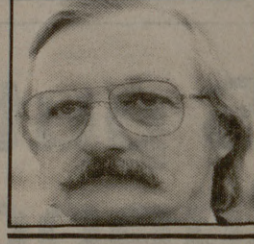
Finally, your use of terms "idiotic" and "trivial" when speaking about feminist ideals bothered me. But then, if my drive for equality and independence seems idiotic, you'll have to excuse my trivality. After glancing at your column one final time before burning it, I caught the part where you implied that a female leader in boy scouts would no doubt provide an inappropriate example of how to guide a boy into manhood. In case you haven't noticed, the only thing that makes one "male" is the possession of a penis — all little boys have one. I wanted to reassure you that all it takes for a boy to become a man is time to grow up. So my advice to you, Mr. Frederick, is to just give those hormones a little time to kick in, and, if you're like everyone else, it won't be long before you grow up, too!

Patricia Brubaker is a sophomore speech communications major



We have really messed up this year's Olympic Games

Is it just me or are the Winter Olympics a dud? Admittedly, I've never been one of your big fans of the Winter Games. To me, watching someone slide down a patch of ice at 90 mph compares unfavorably with waiting for a bus. Still, in other years there has been a certain entertainment value, a sense of excitement. Not this year.



Donald Kaul

For one thing, nobody American wins anything. Well, hardly anything. A couple of gold medals here, a silver there, a bronze, but it seems that every time they set someone up as a hero, he or she falls down. Or whenever a goal is scored, we're listening to a dumb interview with a sex therapist.

They even managed to mess up the figure skating a little, mainly by letting Dick Buttons talk. If I wanted snide, mean-spirited commentary, I'd have watched the Republican debates. They should give Buttons a hockey puck to chew on during competition. And I thought announcer David Santee's trick of going up to Brian Orser, the Canadian figure skater, moments after he'd come off the ice, shoving a microphone in his face and saying — "I've got good news for you and bad news. You skated great but you lost. What's your reaction?" — should win the Howard Cosell sensitivity award.

Could it be that television is eating its own? The Winter Olympics used to be a modest little event for people who wore

leather shorts and yodeled. But now it has become an enormous television extravaganza that encompasses the world. Even places without snow or ice send competitors to the Games.

That means the opportunity to sell a lot of ads presents itself. Giving television a chance to sell ads is like bleeding in front of a Great White shark. They did suppress their feeding urge during the men's figure skating, allowing some 25 minutes to roll by without a commercial, but the incident only served to underline how seldom television permits the drama of a sport to play in its natural rhythm. It is a medium that has a unique ability to make everything into a lesser version of "Let's Make A Deal," which it seems to have done with the Winter Olympics.

Of course, if any sporting event deserves to suffer from overcommercialization, it's the Winter Games. Even in the old days the competitors were almost shameless about making themselves walking billboards for products they endorsed. Now, it seems, the games are dominated by film companies, ski manufacturers and equipment firms. That seems tacky, somehow.

Even without television, however, I would find the games dull. A few of the events are exciting, but most are more in the category of tedious. For example:

Compulsory figures — The reason this part of the figure-skating competition is compulsory is that no one would do it of his or her own free will. Skaters do slow, slow figure-8s, then the judges get down on their hands and knees to see how well it was done. More thrilling than this is cattle-judging at the Iowa State Fair. I think they should make the skaters do their figure-8s the hard way

— two 4s — or forget about it.

Cross-country skiing — I know it's difficult sport and you have to be in great shape and all that, but I'd rather watch a mailman deliver catalogs than watch people ski across country. That one of the Olympic events that make commercials look good.

Biathlon — This is the National Rifle Association version of cross-country skiing; boredom interspersed with moments of shooting. It would be improved if they allowed the contestants shoot at each other, but they don't.

Luge — Which is what we used to call kids named Luigi back in my neighborhood in Detroit. It involves lying down flat and sliding down a chute on the back of your neck. It has all the disadvantages of being shot out of a cannon backward, but none of the charm.

Then there are the contestants uniforms, which range from mere bad taste to bizarre. One of the nice things about skiing used to be that skiers looked good in their gear. It made you want to be like Jean-Claude Killy when you grew up. Now skiers look like sausage with leprosy; pink with blue swirls, diamond patterns rampant on a field of fuschia — and that's just the men.

It's enough to make you long for the days of black-and-white television, keep waiting for the Jamaican bobsled team to show up in Hawaiian shirts and sandals but, no, everybody wears those slick suits in which you have to be Jane Fonda to look good and which prove that few people look like Jane Fonda.

I think what these Olympic Games are lacking most is a sense of humor, unless you count the guy who thought up the Dr. Ruth sex-on-skis interview. Which I don't.

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Mail Call

Students against democracy

EDITOR:
 I was walking through the MSC on Tuesday afternoon and stopped by the anti-apartheid booth. They were distributing an article titled, "The African National Congress Needs Your Help." Well for all of you who do not know what the ANC is and who they are affiliated with . . . that's right "The South African Communist Party." If you need proof of this fact, please write your congressman. Contrary to what you see on TV, there are blacks in South Africa who want to peacefully (like the Zulus — the largest ethnic group in South Africa) work with the Botha government to solve the problems of apartheid. I have a suggestion to the "Students Against Apartheid" club. They should change its name to the "STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID AND DEMOCRACY."

I also suggest that if you are involved with "STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID AND DEMOCRACY," that you write your congressman and ask for a copy of the newly updated bipartisan report on how economic sanctions are only hurting the blacks in South Africa.

I guess now that we have communists on campus we really have our goal of being a "world-class-university" just like that little school in Austin.

Dick Lonquist '87 and James Cecil '88

A little knowledge . . .

EDITOR:
 I read with great interest Mr. John MacDougall's column "Who needs ethics when you have an MBA?" in the Feb. 24 issue of *The Battalion*. While I fully agree with Mr. MacDougall's point concerning the importance of ethics, I strongly disagree with the implication that MBA's who do not have an ethics course are unethical. Using the same logic, Aggies who have not taken coursework in Religion/Theology are atheists.

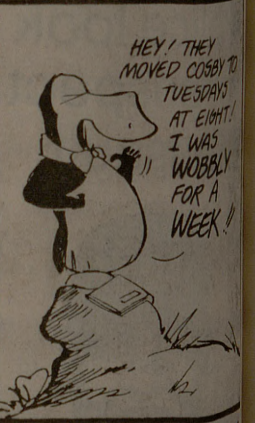
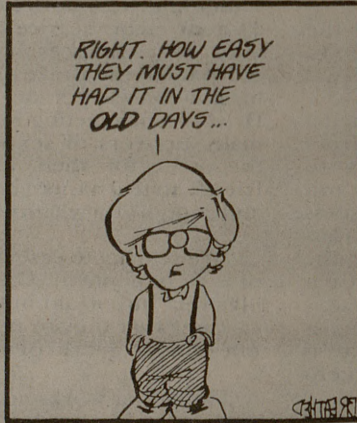
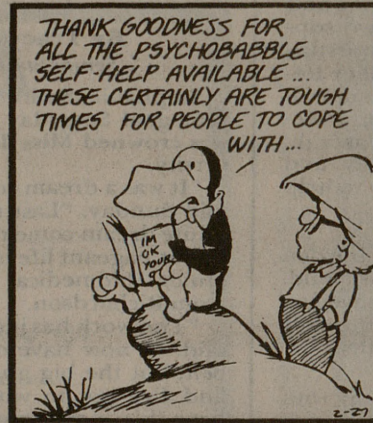
Mr. MacDougall's column also serves as an illustration of the adage "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" since it contains several important omissions. First, the Texas A&M University MBA Program contains twelve hours of electives. These electives may be from ANY area of the student's choosing. Second, a significant question exists as to how and when ethical values are acquired. Mr. MacDougall's article does correctly point out that rather than requiring a specific course in ethics, our approach has been to offer multiple opportunities for the coverage of business ethics. Mr. MacDougall may be interested to know that a summer Faculty Task Force identified four MBA curriculum areas where ethical issues have been discussed.

In summary, while I agree that ethics are indeed an important subject, I believe that Mr. MacDougall's column leads to an unwarranted and erroneous conclusion. Finally, I submit that Mr. MacDougall's own label of "oversimplified questions" may be a most appropriate description for his column.

Dan H. Robertson, Assistant Dean and Director of Masters Program

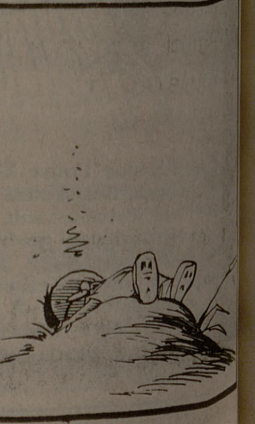
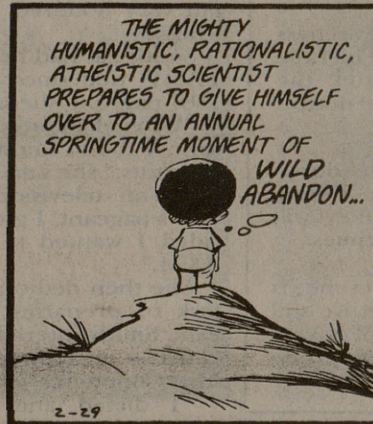
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BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

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