

# Opinion

## Mail Call

### Fire in a crowded library?

EDITOR:

Now that Dr. Hoadley has had an opportunity to respond to Dr. Hickman's letter, I would like to bring up a couple of issues on behalf of a friend who is employed at the Evans Library. Both involve serious safety concerns.

As most of the public knows, the outside of the library is being repaired because of safety — the adhesive used to attach the bricks to the outer structure of the library retained moisture and caused the superstructure to deteriorate. In short, the brick facade was falling off. To prevent possible injury to passersby, a barrier was erected around the part of the building covered by the bricks. The facade problem is limited to the new portion of the building, the Evans Library, as opposed to the old portion, the Cushing Library.

Erecting a barrier probably seems like a good solution to this problem, but some serious side effects have been overlooked. If you go to the fifth floor of the library, where one cannot access Cushing, and look at the fire exits, you will find that all four fire exits have signs that state: "DO NOT USE THIS FIRE EXIT." Hmmm. Well, what fire exit is available then? None. The only option is to use the central stairway, which is too narrow, considering the amount of use the fifth and sixth floors get. It is a serious safety hazard, fire or not, because worse yet, one of the fire exits on the sixth floor is not marked. Meaning someone might get all the way to the bottom only to find himself trapped. All of the fire exits let a person go into the fire stairwells, but none allow access back into the main floors of the library.

From what my friend has told me, no one seems to know if the doors on the ground floor leading out of the fire stairwells are locked, or at least none of the other staff members asked seem to know. Does anyone? The reason nothing has been said about this is that there hasn't been a fire alarm (false or otherwise) since the signs were put up. Someone needs to do something about this. Are you sure that you would take time to read a sign during an emergency? People in crises tend to be irrational. Is the library administration ready to deal with the litigation and public outrage that will occur about this if a fire were to occur, especially during heavy use when people might conceivably panic?

Secondly, what happens if there is a fire in the Evans Library while all this scaffolding is up? What are the fire fighters going to be able to do with all that stuff in the way? Not many fire departments are equipped with cranes to move six stories of scaffolding out of the way.

Think about it. These problems need solutions, and my friend and I believe that it will take a public outcry before anything is done.  
Cathy Ruedinger '78

### No problem. We'll put it out

EDITOR:

Ms. Jennifer Jones, Ms. Cara Murray and Ms. Lorri Walker, in reference to your letter entitled, "Keep your fire to yourself," I would like to defend the firemen. Yes, the firemen do take up some of the limited parking spaces. So do parents, visitors and students who choose not to buy parking permits. As a staff member, I pay at least \$50 more than you for my permit, but you don't hear me whining. Bringing up parking, however, who gets ticketed when students are moving in and out? Staff members who have to park in unauthorized places because the students are in our RESERVED parking lots. Of your own accord, you stated that you would rather walk across campus instead of using the shuttle. Firemen are only human. Remember, perversion is in the eye of the WEARER. If some female students did not wear such suggestive clothes (mini mini's and too short shorts) they would not have to deal with the harmless whistling of the firemen. After working with the firemen for more than two and a half years, I have come working the realization that they are harmless. It is no different than with construction workers, fraternities, or any large group that drinks (not excluding women.) During the summer, each group of firemen is here for a one-week period. They are here to keep people like YOU alive. They work their rear-ends of all week, including a night class on Monday. The fire service is a composition of very dedicated and caring humans beings. They are to here to save lives; they do not discriminate whether it is a good-looking woman's or an ugly man's house.

Another thing to take into consideration is the economic impact the firemen have on Bryan-College Station and Texas A&M. You might want to give the Restaurant Association or the Hotel Association a call and ask their opinion of the firemen, not to mention the University itself. My point is, what if they did discriminate? What if the volunteers did not volunteer? We would all be up the creek without a paddle! I would like to suggest that you harmless re-evaluate your priorities. Would you rather listen to some harmless whistling or have your home (or dormitory) burn down?  
Susie Quattlebaum '89

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.

## Get that Commie filth out of here

Recently, I've been appalled to find the writings of Jill Webb haunting the pages of what was last semester a great opinion page. Last semester we had very interesting and thoughtful columns written by Brian Frederick, but now, instead of his wisdom, we are left with the half-baked, formless ramblings of the feminist Miss Webb. In response to her dull-witted and often boring opinions ranging from such topics as how evil men are to how evil men are, I offer the following perspective.

**Eric Ritzenbaum**  
Guest Columnist

Women belong in the home. That is where the Almighty deemed it necessary for them to stay. They are fit only to cook, clean and bear children of their master, the man of the house. Women don't belong in the work place any more than monkey carcasses belong at the controls of a nuclear power plant. Both episodes can cause disaster.

It seems that nowadays, with pansy liberals flitting around in the government, nobody has the guts to say what most men in America really feel. Charlie Kerfeld, a pitcher for the Houston Astros, came out and talked like a man. He hit the nail on the head. N.O.W. is a backward organization; just look who's involved in it. We can only hope that there are more people on *The Battalion* staff like Anthony Wilson who had the decency to write a real column about Kerfeld's knowledgeable remarks.

Although I see N.O.W. as much more than a bunch of lesbians. The group is

obviously a front for the communists to soak us with their righteous, left-wing state philosophy. We can't stand for that. America wasn't built on pansy sayings and labor unions and welfare. We were built out of hard work, toiling the ground in the dead of winter just to grow enough food to live on. We were built on revolution, on fighting. Americans are survivors. American men know how to survive — it's in our blood. But feminists, organizations like N.O.W. and feminists like Jill Webb have been sucking that survival instinct right out of us. They want to change the Constitution from "all men are created equal" to "all people are created equal." Well, give me a break. Women and men are not created equal. Men were created to be better, to provide for the women and to make sure that the family that is natural to have should survive.

Why are there so many divorces nowadays? Because women aren't listening to their husbands. They are not obeying, that's why. If women learned once again to shut up and obey, we wouldn't have any problems. Women were so content in the early years to sit back and knit and cook and have babies that they didn't have time to even think about rivaling men's jobs. And women won't be happy until they learn that that's what they really should be doing. Just as it is in our genes for men to hunt and provide and take care of our women, so is it in women's genes to be submissive, attentive and caring of their men.

Feminism isn't new. It's just another old philosophy under a new name. After the Russian Revolution it was called Marxism and Communism and Social-

ism. Now it's feminism. Is that what you want, men? Communist filth that leads to the liberal left minority? I don't think so.

So we must get tough. Get tough these limp wristed liberals in Congress who shy away from real confrontation with the women's voter's block. It's a mistake to even allow women the vote, just as it was a mistake to allow women to scar our sacred halls at A&M. It's time for a change. Ronald Reagan looks like he could offer such a change since his time in office is nearly over. Guess he couldn't fulfill our dreams. This time, WE need to make change, men. We need to escape the communists filtering our world through propaganda like N.O.W. The Soviets are insidious; the women in N.O.W. are merely their puppets. It's time we made America great.

I hope what I have written here makes Jill Webb think twice before she puts her communist filth in *The Battalion* again. She should take a few lessons from Richard Williams (it's about time MALE was the editor again. The page was going downhill ever since the women took over) who writes colorful, insightful columns about the human condition at A&M. The respect that lack for Jill Webb and her communist allies in N.O.W. I give fourfold to Williams. I think Miss Webb should let her little women's group and go off with the Russians and see what it's like. Then maybe she'll agree that America is the greatest place on earth. It weren't for people like her.  
Eric Ritzenbaum is a sophomore mechanical engineering major.



## Rambo Rowan and another bullet for national gun control

Pardon my limp. I just came back from a pool party at Carl Rowan's house. Sorry about the blood on the carpet.

**Clarence Page**

Heh, heh. Just kidding. What the heck? Might as well do my part to add to my esteemed syndicated column-writing colleague's misery. Everyone else is.

Poor Carl has been taking it on the chin from the pundit brigade ever since the wee hours of June 14, when he used an unregistered handgun at his home to fire a "warning shot" into a young prowler's wrist.

Now that Rowan looks like the biggest hypocrite since Jimmy Swaggart hired a woman to meet him in a Louisiana mo-

tel to play a game of you-show-me-yours, his conservative rivals are cackling that "Rambo Rowan," alias "Calamity Carl," is at large.

And the gun did not have to be registered, Rowan claims, since it belonged to his son, a former FBI agent whom District of Columbia officials said was not required to register it under local law. Carl Jr. loaned the firearm to his dad after Rowan received death threats, which controversial columnists sometimes receive, especially when they come out against handguns.

But a larger, non-legal question remains: Is Rowan an ideological switch-hitter? Is his motto "Let my conscience be your guide?"

Well, as much as you might think gunslinger Carl should appreciate the support he has received from handgun advocates everywhere, he still believes in the need for stronger national handgun control laws. Until that comes along, he

says, he sees nothing hypocritical about protecting his family under laws that exist.

Laws that eliminate handguns in a crazy-quilt fashion, in one municipality or state without affecting the one next door, may be ideologically satisfying to some but are, as a practical matter, ridiculous, considering the 40 million to 60 million handguns believed to be in circulation today.

But it is possible through uniform national laws to make it harder, at least, for people like John Hinckley, who shot President Reagan and his press secretary, Jim Brady, to get handguns without banning ownership by law-abiding purchasers.

An amendment to the Omnibus Drug Bill pending in Congress would require a national seven-day waiting period for

the purchase of all handguns from dealers, to allow local police a chance to make criminal background checks. It is called the Brady Amendment after Brady and his wife, Sarah, now a leading anti-gun lobbyist. Had it been in effect, it could have caught Hinckley, who bought his \$29 handgun in a Texas pawnshop after lying on his purchase application.

Of course, the National Rifle Association, which never met a gun control proposal it didn't hate, hates it.

But the NRA is standing pretty much alone on this one, as it did on armor-piercing "cop killer" bullets, plastic guns that can't be detected by security X-rays and the private purchase of machine guns. The bill has the support of the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, among other prominent groups.

Even President Reagan, no friend of handgun bans, announced his support in June for waiting periods and background checks.

Sure, the law wouldn't stop all criminals from getting handguns. But states with similar laws, hundreds of criminals have been nabbed. In spite of lobbyists' claims that criminals easily avoid them, waiting periods and background checks nailed 1,515 criminals trying to buy guns in California in 1986 and 732 others in Maryland.

At the same time, the Rambo Rowan can rest easy. Private transactions, such as those between father and son, would not be affected, and people, like Rowan, who have reason to believe that their lives are in immediate danger can obtain waivers and get their handguns immediately.

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