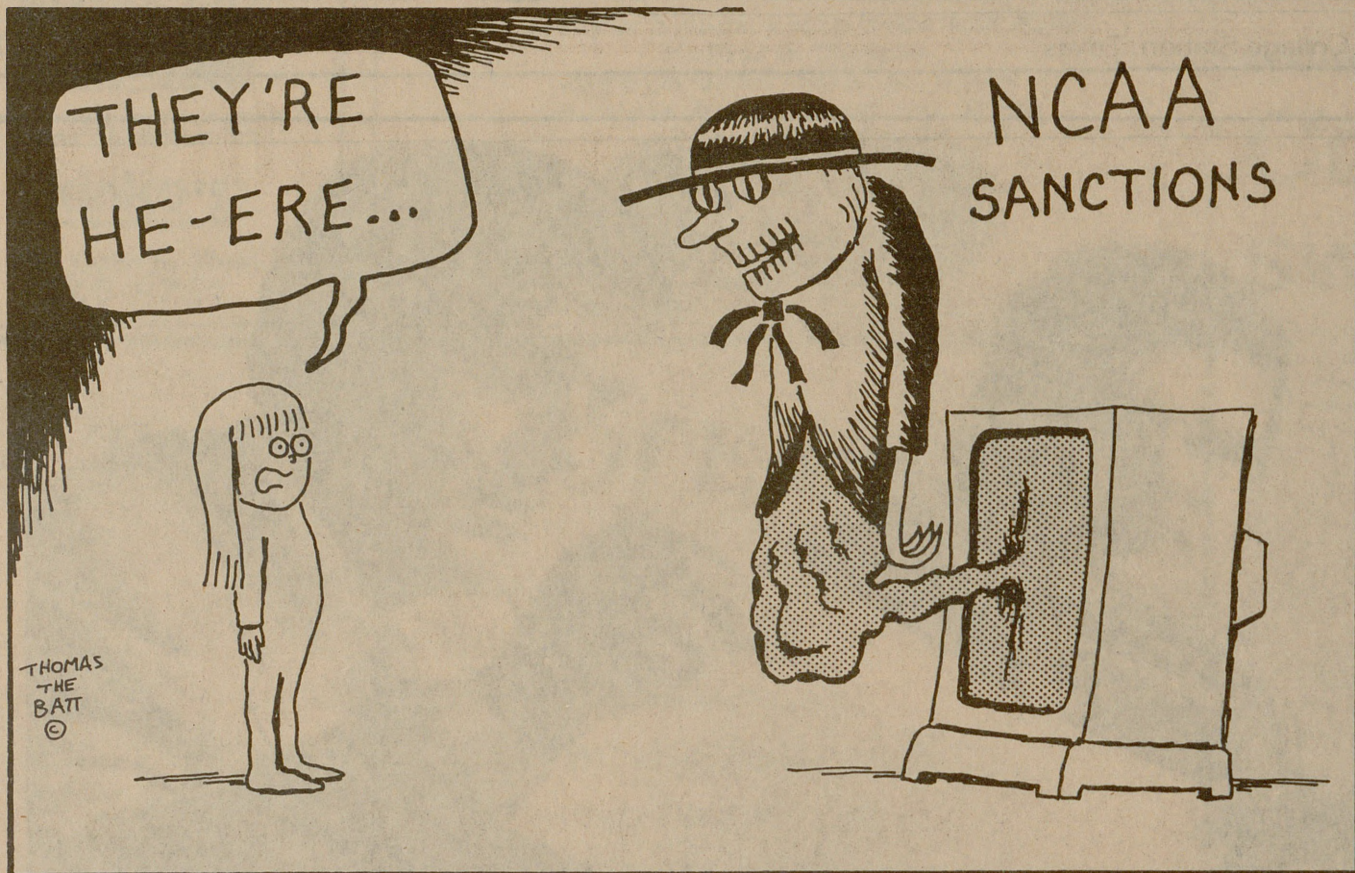


Opinion



Should Jack be back

Last week the University was attempting to dismiss a tenured Spanish professor for professional incompetence and moral turpitude because of incidents found in a 1985 investigation.

Last week the University stood behind and defended another tenured professor for professional incompetence and moral turpitude for incidents dating back to 1985.

The difference was that the former was responsible for the task of educating students while the latter was assigned the unmental chore of winning football games on fall Saturday afternoons.

Now that the NCAA has put a halt to the special privileges Aggie football players receive, it's time that A&M stopped holding the football coach on a higher level than his fellow tenured profes-

Because of the numerous violations committed by the athletic department, which are proof of Jackie Sherrill's incompetence, moral turpitude, proceedings should begin immediately to determine whether Sherrill should be dismissed from his duties as athletic director and head football coach.

Jump back, Jack — and take a look at yourself

The wheels finally fell off Jackie Sherrill's maroon Cadillac Friday after some loosening of the lugnuts by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Although Sherrill began Friday's press conference by apologizing to A&M President William Mobley, the University, and the former and present students, and admitting responsibility (mighty big of him since he is the athletic director and head football coach), it's not enough.



Anthony Wilson

Jackie Sherrills of the world." And no intercollegiate coach wants to be put in the same area code with Switzer, especially after the release of former Sooner All-American Brian Bosworth's revealing autobiography.

Of course, if Sherrill had pulled a Ronnie Reagan and admitted he didn't know what was going on, he would have appeared to be a buffoon who didn't know what was going on in his athletic program and wasn't doing his job administratively.

The most serious revelation to come from the NCAA's investigation is that two A&M assistant coaches provided false and misleading information to the NCAA concerning their involvement and knowledge of violations. A&M attorneys have refused to release these coaches' names until they have the opportunity to appeal the charges against them.

This in itself is an injustice to the people who support A&M athletics. The students especially have a right to know who's directly responsible for raining on their New Year's Day activities. Lying to the NCAA is certainly not as serious as murder and our democratic system has no problem with releasing the names of people who have been charged with murder, whether they're guilty or not.

But more outrageous than this is the

fact that Sherrill has refused to come right out and say that if the charges aren't overturned in the appeals process, they will be dismissed from their duties. Instead the athletic department has levied some ridiculously light disciplinary action against the coaches in question. They are: no off-campus recruiting, review by Dr. Mobley before contract renewal, and no merit compensation this year. (WHAT! No raises for these guys?)

Sherrill has warned the press not to ask him, the coaches or players any questions concerning the violations and sanctions for the remainder of the season. But many of the players have not had the opportunity to express their feelings about the incident because they were not made available to the press.

Noticably absent from the Friday press conference was quarterback Chris Osgood. Osgood, who after his performance against LSU is the likely starter against Alabama Saturday, transferred to A&M two years ago from the University of Mississippi after the Ole Miss program was put on probation. Obviously he must have some interesting insight into this situation since he's been through it before. I, for one, would like to hear it.

Of course whether Osgood would actually say what is on his mind is doubtful. He did that once and caught hell for it from Sherrill.

When the NCAA allegations against A&M were released last spring, I went to cover Sherrill's press conference and get the players' reactions. I was the first reporter to notice Osgood in the Netum Steed weight room and ask him about the situation.

"Obviously you came here to play in the Cotton Bowl and on TV and get some national exposure," I said to Osgood. "Now because of what other people did before you even got here, that could be ruined for you."

"Yeah, it probably will be," Osgood replied. "But I've been through it before."

After asking Osgood a few more questions, I went to get some quotes from Sherrill. After asking for his reaction to Osgood's statements, Sherrill denied that Osgood had said what he did.

"But Coach," I said. "I have his voice right here on my recorder."

"No, Chris didn't say that," Sherrill maintained. "You're trying to put words into Chris' mouth and imply things that just aren't true."

"But you've got to admit that this thing could turn against A&M (gee, I must have ESPN) and there might not be any Cotton Bowls or television appearances for the Aggies," I said.

"No, you're making implications that just aren't true," Sherrill said. "You don't know any of that."

"Well Coach, let me put it this way. When I go into a classroom to take a test, I know the chances of my making an A or an F."

"No you don't. You don't know what that professor put on that test or how hard the guy sitting next to you studied."

"I have a pretty good idea."

"No you don't."

Seeing that I wasn't getting anywhere with this conversation, I thanked Sherrill for his time and walked away. And while I was still in earshot range, Sherrill called Osgood over and proceeded to coach him on the proper way to answer questions. Needless to say, Osgood was through talking to the media for the day.

Actually, it's better this thing hap-

pened this year and not last. Kip Rington would have been the only one allowed to talk to the press while Brooks would have been bound, gagged and locked in a dark closet.

Sherrill has said he doesn't agree with the penalties implying that the NCAA was too harsh on A&M. What a joke! Would he have preferred the TCU wage deal? TCU head coach Jim W. Wells reported violations in his program and was unmercifully punished—years probation with no bowls, a fine of \$342,203 of television revenue and reduction of 35 scholarships for two years.

Kevin Murray's problems were publicized, but he remained on the team, leading A&M to two Cotton Bowls — two Cotton Bowls that the school wouldn't have been in without Murray and his considerable talents. If the NCAA had been consistent with its actions, A&M would have had to repay money it received for playing in two post-season games.

"Everyone does it" is no excuse for what happened at A&M. Arkansas, Baylor are two successful teams in the Southwest Conference that don't stoop to cheating to win. Neither Notre Dame and Penn State — the most successful football programs in the nation.

There's no reason A&M can't be successful athletic program and continue pursuing excellence as a university. But as long as A&M continues to cheat and ignore the rules that govern college athletics, no matter how many Cotton Bowls we win, we will not be successful. The athletic department must do some house cleaning within the department. And he should be dusting off himself.

Anthony Wilson is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor at The Battalion.

Mail Call

Shake, rattle and roll those Greeks

EDITOR:

I agree with Anthony Wilson's comments about sorority rush. His comments hit the hearts of a lot of brainwashed SB's whose pride would not allow them to accept these accusations. I can't think of any other organization (except the military) which take individuals and turn them into an army of beings that look, talk, dance, and act alike.

If that is what they want, to be like someone else, to follow the sisterhood (or brotherhoods) philosophy like their own, more power to them. There are some of us in this world who don't need to rent our friends and be told how to act.

I personally tested several frats during the first week of school and while everyone else asked if they were rushing when they received a nametag, I was always ignored. Even though I have met a few individuals within frats or sororities, this just goes to prove my assumption that frats are looking for those who can easily be conformed and molded to fit the image of the brotherhood. I fear that sororities are much more guilty concerning this trait.

Needless to say I do not act and look like your average Aggie and am proud of it. Individuals should never conform to fit into a clique or organization. Anthony has certainly shaken up a lot of people with his article and I am definitely going to look for more earth-shaking editorials.

Bingo Barnes '90

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The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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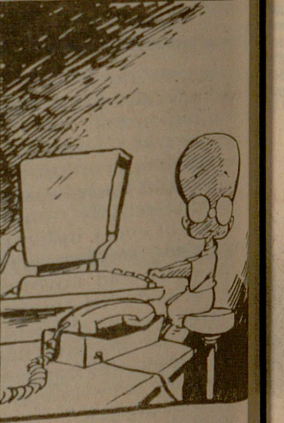
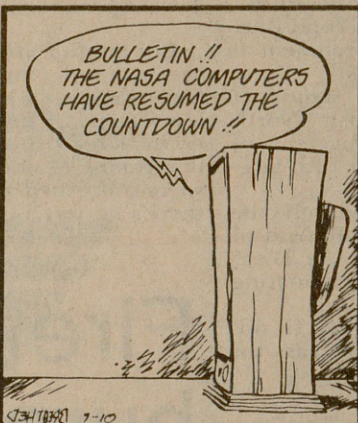
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

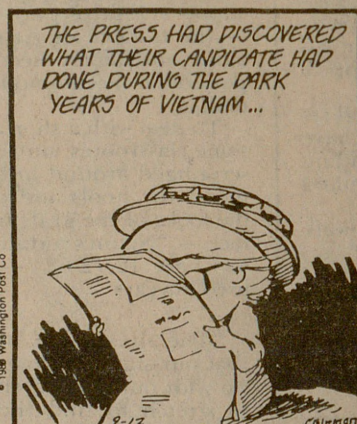
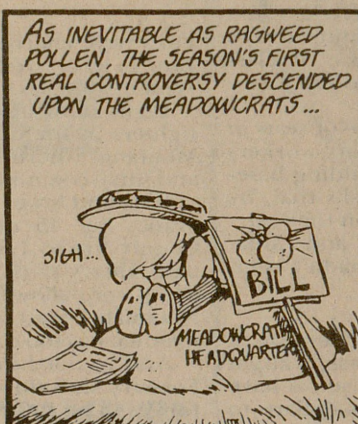
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

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