

# Opinion

## Cheats reach new lows

As our culture has become more sophisticated and technological, apparently so have the methods that some will resort to in cheating. The days are long gone when A&M's trainers supposedly sent footballs with less air into the game so that kicker Tony Franklin could boot 50-plus-yard field goals.

Aggie offensive lineman L.B. Moon has been suspended for three games for testing positive for anabolic steroids, performance-enhancing drugs. Although steroids do improve athletic performance, they also carry serious ramifications—violent mood swings, muscle and heart damage, deterioration of the reproductive system and liver cancer. So why would an athlete resort to cutting short his life for a few moments in the sun?

In the case of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, who was stripped of his Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter dash Monday, the motive was probably money. Johnson stood to become extremely wealthy (as if this amateur athlete weren't already rich). He weighed the consequences, took a calculated risk and handed his medal to Carl Lewis when it backfired. And unfortunately for Johnson, he will be banned from international competition for two years—the end of the world for a sprinter who's 26 and entering the prime of his career.

Moon's case is far more perplexing. Certainly, if in fact he did use steroids (he won't admit or deny the accusations), it was to increase A&M's chances of winning. However, Moon is a marginal collegiate player whose chances of playing in the professional ranks are remote at best. Destroying his liver, heart and fertility for four months of glory hardly seems like a fair trade-off.

This episode also puts the athletic department under a magnifying glass for the third time in a season that already has produced a winless season and NCAA probation. Because if Moon was indeed taking steroids, it is more likely that someone prescribed and was advising him how to use the drugs than him taking it upon himself to do so.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Fish Camp flounders in many worthless efforts

What's the big deal about Fish Camp?



Becky Weisenfels

When I came to A&M (in the prehistoric days before parking garages and telephone registration), I was convinced that I'd never survive my first year because I didn't go to Fish Camp (gasp!).

When people discovered I hadn't gone to Fish Camp, they acted as if I had committed the ultimate sin, something comparable to shooting the pope while he was blessing poor homeless children in Uganda. Give me a break.

Believe it or not I did survive, I still have all my hair and I can even find my way around campus without a map.

Not only that, but I discovered that my friends who did go to Fish Camp didn't find it to be the soul-moving, heart-stopping ultimate Aggie experience it was supposed to be.

As a matter of fact, most of the people I know hated it. I have two friends from my hometown who were so miserable at Fish Camp that they sat up one night on the bathroom floor, eating mint Oreos and Cornquistos until they made themselves sick. Party down, dooby doo down.

And the people I know who didn't hate Fish Camp had a good reason—they didn't go.

To be perfectly honest, I do have one friend who liked Fish Camp—but she's the type of person who could have a good time at an Orville Reddenbacher look-alike convention. She's one of those outgoing, fun people who ends up as a game-show contestant—and wins five Frigidaires on a bonus question.

I think the people who organize Fish Camp have all the best intentions—to teach incoming freshmen about A&M and its traditions; to help make the transition to college easier; to allow the campers to meet other freshmen in the same boat. I understand the great amount of work and dedication that is given to organize Fish Camp.

I just happen to think Fish Camp is a total waste of time despite the effort put into it.

I have already admitted that I did not go to the guppie getaway, but I have listened to four years of students who are involved and did attend. They were not thrilled and I am glad I didn't go.

Fish Camp is an experience in "what being an Aggie is all about," or Brainwash 101. The freshmen don't need that. If they didn't like A&M, why would they be enrolled? Give the students time to live here and slowly come to appreciate A&M for what it is.

Believe it or not, a student does not have to loooooove tradition, go to all the football games and know all the yells to get a quality education and enjoy their time at A&M. Those things are added attractions, not necessities. But those are the things Fish Camp stresses.

I don't think Fish Camp helps ease the transition to college, either. The people who really get something out of Fish Camp are the outgoing students who were popular in high school and who would have no trouble adjusting to life at A&M anyway. Sort of like giving a step-stool to someone who's eight-feet tall—they just don't need it.

Other students who are not really outgoing are not going to enjoy being thrown into a group of strangers to make friends. They won't meet many people, and probably won't see many of them when school starts.

But many people will throw up this argument when people say they didn't meet many people at Fish Camp: "You have to have the right frame of mind." Don't they tell patients something like that just before wheeling them into major surgery?

I know some people who hated Fish Camp but decided to become a counselor to see if they would enjoy it more from the upper level. They didn't. But most counselors probably find their work at Fish Camp fun and rewarding.

As a matter of fact, many counselors probably enjoy Fish Camp, but it's different being one of the whales instead of one of the sardines.

I'm a good Aggie, and I didn't need a group of students to haul me off for four days to teach me how to be one. I made friends, learned the yells and the "Spirit of Aggieland"—all without Fish Camp. Imagine that.

Becky Weisenfels is a senior journalism major, managing editor and a columnist for The Battalion.

## Debate confirms another no-choice election in '88



Dean Sueltenfuss

In order to become better informed about this year's campaign issues and the ideals represented by Michael Dukakis and George Bush, I watched Sunday's presidential debate. After watching the entire 90-minute program I was able to reach two conclusions. One: I don't want to vote for either of these fools. Two: I should have watched pro wrestling.

It's not that the debate didn't serve its purpose in allowing each candidate to present his views on the issues, it's just that many of the views they presented were ludicrous.

In all fairness, however, I have to concede that either candidate would make a fine stand-up comedian. When Dukakis called Bush the Joe Isuzu of American politics the audience roared with laughter. And Bush's comment about the clarity of Boston Harbor was superb—a brief throat-clearing, a slight dramatic pause, and then a subtle, well-timed delivery. Johnny Carson would have been proud.

However, I doubt he would have been proud of Bush's asinine commitment to the Strategic Defense Initiative. Not only is SDI a waste of time and money, but it's a program that has been criticized by many members of the scientific community. How can anyone besides Ronald Reagan be dumb enough to think that spending billions of dollars on a space-based defense system (which can't provide protection against weapons that stay within the Earth's atmosphere) is going to prevent a nuclear war?

Another issue that killed George's credibility was the problem of dealing with terrorists. We should not make concessions to terrorists, he said during the debate. Gee, wasn't Mr. Bush one of

the people involved in trading arms for hostages a few years ago? I guess he's had a change of heart.

Then there's the environment. I recently read a column, supposedly written by Mr. Bush, that outlined his general ideas on environmental topics. Those ideas went something like this: Environment is good. You know, it's, uh, well, it's good. Um, we should have it. Definitely. Yes, we definitely need the environment.

The only real environmental policy that Bush outlined in the column was his concept of "zero tolerance" concerning violations of anti-pollution laws. Not tolerating people or companies who break these laws is a good idea. But when the laws are as weak as they have been under the Reagan-Bush administration it doesn't really matter if they're enforced.

Another major stumbling block for Bush is running mate Dan Quayle. Disregarding the National Guard incident and the possibility that Quayle's wealthy relatives helped him get elected to the U.S. Senate, one fundamental truth still exists: Dan Quayle simply does not have enough experience to be first in line to the presidency. As Dukakis pointed out, the idea of President Quayle is a frightening notion for many people.

Admittedly, the idea of President Mike Dukakis isn't exactly comforting either. Yes, he's done a pretty good job as the governor of Massachusetts, but he's had no experience in foreign policy matters. Besides that, he has the appearance of being rather wimpy. I mean, will a pushover like Mike really be able to stand up to those nasty Commies?

One of the things that has really hurt Dukakis is the whole, ugly business about giving weekend passes to convicted murderers. It's just downright stupid for a governor to let something like that happen. It may be possible that in trying to show everyone what a sympathetic guy he is, Mr. Dukakis has gone just a little too far with his compassion toward criminals.

The fact that Dukakis opposes the death penalty while condoning abortion is another indication of this man's hypocrisy. Somehow it's OK to kill unborn children, but it's wrong to impose a death penalty on convicted killers. I don't understand that reasoning.

Another thing that Mike would like to do if he is elected is to force all companies in the U.S. to provide health insurance for their employees. In addition, being just one more violation of the whole free enterprise concept, the idea of businesses providing mandated health insurance simply won't work.

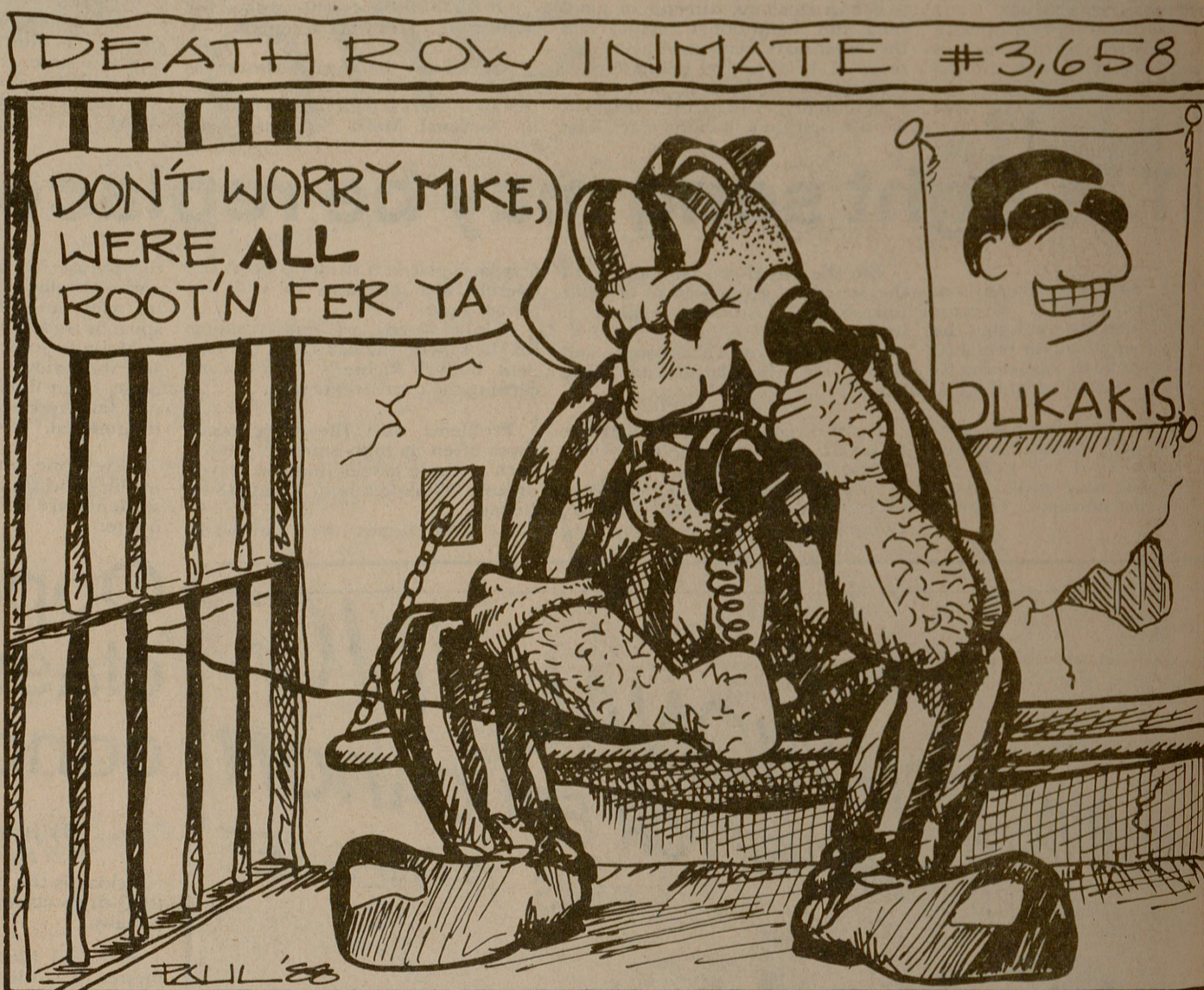
For example, let's imagine that Mike Dukakis has been elected and all companies are now required by law to provide health insurance for their employees. These companies will have to come up with some way to pay for all of this insurance. How will they do it? There are a number of ways. They could lay off employees, reduce employees' wages, pass costs on to consumers. All of these things would hurt, not help, the average worker.

When it comes right down to it, neither Michael Dukakis nor George Bush would make a good president. Bush wants to spend billions of dollars on defense while neglecting many domestic issues, and Dukakis wants to spend much money on elaborate social programs. Why can't we have a more moderate candidate? Someone who will spend less and save more.

I don't know about everyone else, but I'm not going to vote for either of the turkeys. What I'm going to do is go and look for someone who will make a half-decent president. And if I'm not I might come across a competent winner in candidate before election day.

By the way, does anyone know if Lou don LaRouche is still around?

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