

## Mudslinging's gone overboard in '88

The current presidential campaign has been equally deplorable on both candidates' parts. Mudslinging has become as much a tradition as flag-waving, true, but that's hardly an excuse for two men who have both publicly committed themselves to clean and honest administrations.

It may be a bit idealistic, but it seems the point of conducting a campaign is to give the candidates time and opportunity to inform the people of their views on issues that will affect the country over the next four years.

Instead Vice President George Bush and Gov. Michael Dukakis each seems bound and determined to prove, not that he is qualified for the presidency, but that the other is not.

They are perilously close to succeeding — both of them.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Disciplinary policy unfair to everyone

The commandant of the Corps of Cadets was recently given the authority to discipline cadets by the Department of Student Affairs, which had previously handled that responsibility as it does with non-Corps students.

The Commandant of Cadets, Gen. Thomas G. Darling, will now discipline cadets in all but the most serious of offenses, which can result in suspension or expulsion. The reasons given for the change were to make the disciplinary process for cadets more consistent and efficient.

However, the disciplinary policies and punishments for members of the Corps cannot be consistent with those of non-Corps students for the simple fact that the same body will not be interpreting violations or invoking penalties.

For instance, last year some freshman cadets "kidnapped" a senior, drove him to Austin and chained the underwear-clad man to a light pole on the University of Texas campus. Student Affairs was upset about the incident, while the commandant was quoted as saying the freshmen were simply trying to show a little spirit.

Because members of the Corps are students first and cadets second, they should not be held to any higher or lower standard than any other student in the University. To do so is an injustice to cadets who may be too severely reprimanded by the commandant or to civilian students who may face stiffer penalties from Student Affairs. So clearly, one body should discipline all students.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Mail Call

### Class of '88 congratulated

EDITOR:

The Class of '88 is to be congratulated for their senior class gifts presented to Texas A&M University. Your class most certainly achieved its original goal — "to giveback to Texas A&M gifts which would affect the school, University-wide."

The gifts presented touch upon all aspects of student life within the classroom, as well as outside the classroom. The lettering for Kyle Field exemplifies Aggie hospitality and student support for their team. The gift to the Sterling C. Evans Library represents the important role the library provides for the academic setting. The lights for the memorial plaque in the MSC will help ensure the memory of those men who made the supreme sacrifice for their friends and their country during World War II. The gifts to the class councils of '89, '90, '91 and '92 and the gift to the Student Loan Fund will provide monetary assistance to current and future Aggie students.

We salute you, your class officers, the Gift Selection Committee and the entire Class of '88 for raising the funds to make the gifts a reality. We commend your class for its gift selections.

John and Peggy Erickson  
Aggie Parents of the Year, 1988-89

### Texans should learn hospitality

EDITOR:

I must agree with Suna Purser's column on Texan egos. I moved to Texas in 1981 from (gasp!) New York — New York STATE, mind you. Many Texans assumed that New York was some sprawling metropolis and not a state as well. I was assaulted with slogans like "I hate New York" and "Yankee Go Home." — real Texas hospitality.

Certainly, over the years, that has faded and I am now considered a Texan. However, I think that the Texan (and Rebel) ego could stand for a little dose of reality.

Jeff Frank '91

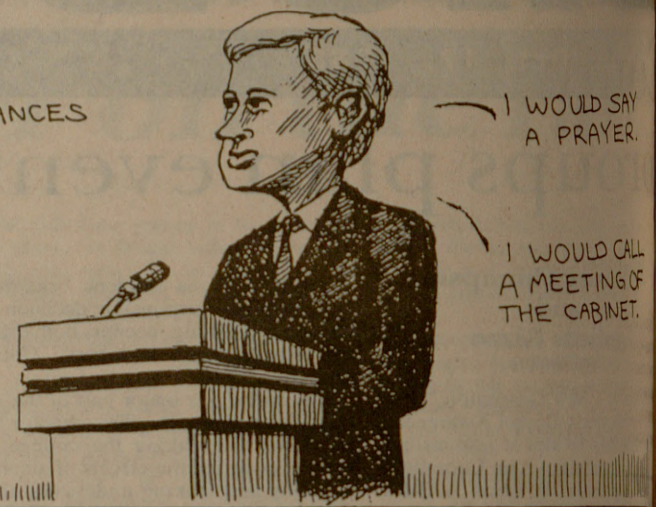
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

### AT THE VEEP DEBATE:

SENATOR QUAYLE, IF IN TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES YOU HAD TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY, WHAT IS THE FIRST ACTION YOU WOULD TAKE?

SAY A PRAYER. YEAH, RIGHT. O.K., BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO NEXT?

I'M SORRY, SENATOR, BUT THAT ANSWER IS JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH! — WHAT WOULD YOU DO AFTER THAT?



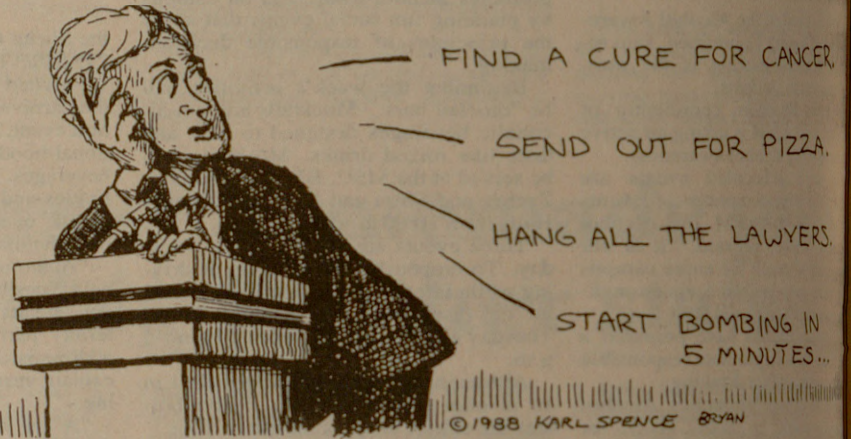
### 15 MIN. LATER...

... AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

— AND THEN?

— AND THEN?

— AND THEN?



## Kyle Field lettering a silly gift

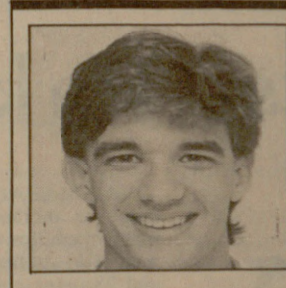
Last week I received the letter which appears at the top of today's Mail Call from John and Peggy Erickson, the 1988-89 Aggie Parents of the Year. It congratulates the Class of '88 on their selection of class gifts. And for the most part, I agree with them. The majority of the gifts the Class of '88 donated to the University do succeed in fulfilling the purpose of the class gift — "to give back to Texas A&M gifts which would affect the school, University-wide."

But notice I said the majority — as in not every one of them.

The gift which has received the most attention and publicity; the lettering mounted on the student side of Kyle Field which read "Welcome to Aggieland, Home of the 12th Man," is just another example in a long line of inane class gifts. Others class gifts which belong in this infamous category are the eternal flame (which should be more aptly named the sporadic flame), various ugly statues dotting the campus and a seemingly endless number of plaqued trees and rocks.

The existence of these useless class gifts points to a disturbing attitude among many past classes here at A&M. Many of those classes seemed to care less about donating gifts which "would affect the school, University-wide" than they did having something to gawk at when they come back to Aggieland years later.

I don't know how much money the Kyle Field message cost, but I'd guess those heavy-duty letters must have set back the Class of '88 at least a couple of thousand dollars. The amusingly ironic



Anthony Wilson  
Opinion Page Editor

thing about the choice of that particular gift is that students are always complaining about how athletics, and particularly football, is overemphasized at A&M. So when some of those students get the opportunity to make a difference and do something special for the school, what do they do? Naturally, they spend a wad of money glorifying the football season.

I will commend the Class of '88 on their decision to make cash donations to the Sterling C. Evans Library, the Student Loan Fund and the other class councils. My only question is "Why didn't the Class of '88 donate all of that money to those causes?" I suspect that egos got in the way.

The class council just couldn't resist the temptation to leave something tangible on campus, rather than putting that money to good use in less visible ways.

The Evans Library definitely can use all the funding it can get. Students at one of the largest universities in the nation shouldn't have to travel to another school in the same state (the University of Texas) to do some serious research. The money used on those letters could easily have been appropriated to ex-

pand the volumes of reference materials and periodicals.

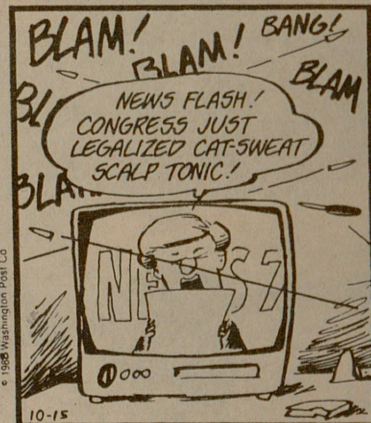
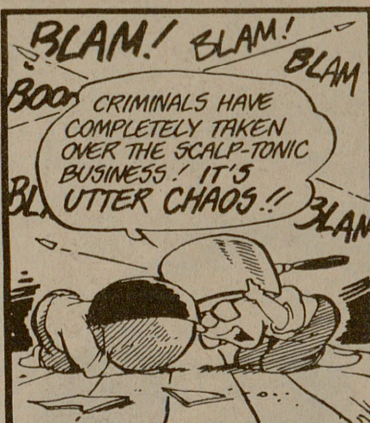
The Student Loan Fund donated probably the best gift the Class of '88 gave. If their gift can help at least student remain in school and pursue education, then they have given a special gift as a senior class is capable of giving. Or, better yet, if the senior could've sponsored a deserving incoming freshman, who wouldn't have been able to otherwise finance an A&M education, that certainly would have been a much classier gift than the Kyle letters. And besides, which leaves a larger mark on the University — a successful former student or some scribble on the football stadium?

The donations to the other councils is also a good idea. That ensures that the class gift tradition is an excellent and generous idea to continue.

But those future classes should be wary of the Class of '88's ridiculous barracking blunder and not let their egos blind the purpose of the class gift. Let's use the class gift to enhance and improve the University in ways that not only make lasting marks on the school but leaves marks that are significant, not silly. If those are the kind of marks that senior classes want to leave on the school, they can come back and show the kids what a legacy Mom and Dad at A&M, might I suggest they put their initials in a table at the Chicken?

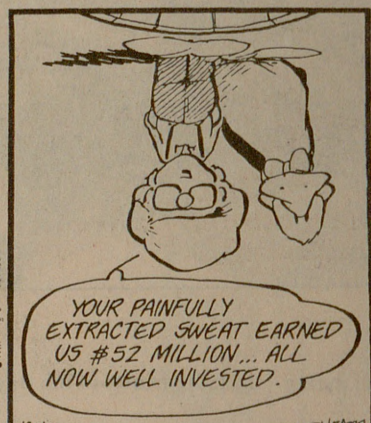
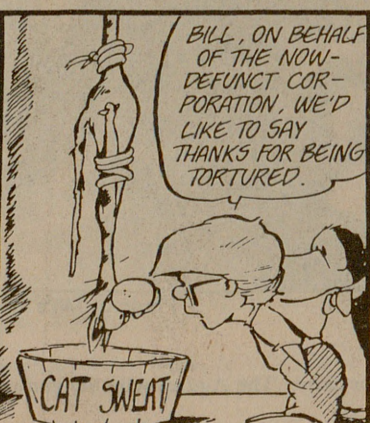
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### BLOOM COUNTY



### by Berke Breathed

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