

Mail Call

Batt did act in ethical way

EDITOR:

I thought your article on the Rice Marching Owl Band in the Oct. 24 *Battalion* was informative. However, it seems to me that a portion of the article violated the supposed trust between sources and reporters.

As sources of information, the article quoted anonymous members of the Aggie Band. Yet in the same sentence it stated the reason the sources wished to retain anonymity was to avoid having their opinions "taken as representative of the band as a whole." By associating the sources with the Aggie Band, the article blatantly shows its disregard toward the confidentiality concerns of those sources.

Members of the Aggie Band have been cautioned, counseled and warned about disclosing their personal viewpoints to any publication. That is undoubtedly the reason these men requested confidentiality. If the article wished to obtain the Aggie Band's opinion, the writer could have contacted the commanding officer of the band. The c.o. could have easily furnished a statement. If he chose not to, then the article should have taken a different slant toward the subject or noted publicly that the Aggie Band refused to comment on the situation. The writer could have even used the sources' names without associating them with the band.

But by introducing the sources as members of the band following their explicit request to the contrary, *The Battalion* has violated the trust between its sources and the paper. I was under the impression that a publication was held under a code of ethics which dictates that sources retain their specified level of confidentiality. Perhaps I was wrong.

I realize *The Battalion* is trying to provide informed, accurate articles. In most cases you do an outstanding job. In the future I wish you would keep your sources as confidential as requested. In doing so, you will maintain good information sources and your credibility and I will not be inadvertently denied the enlightenment of another person's opinions.

David C. Procter '88

Editor's note: Members of the Aggie Band agreed to be interviewed with the understanding that their quotes would be identified as those of band members, but that individuals' names would be withheld.

Royalty's back

EDITOR:

Due to the fact that some students here either cannot read or are possessed with poor comprehension skills, I'll teach a little music history in response to Matt McBurnett.

"What does James Brown have to do with popular music?" When I previously stated that only Elvis Presley and the Beatles placed more songs in the Billboard Top 100 than James, I was speaking of the *pop* charts. Although his music is classically soul, it is also influential and popular.

Another thing, please, no more purple comparisons! How can you compare Purple Haze to Purple Rain? They are two totally different styles of songs with totally different themes and meanings. You cannot compare these songs satisfactorily. Your comments only serve to show that there is a totally biased and immature sickness to your nature.

You just might be using your musical opinions to state principles and beliefs of your own that you are much too embarrassed to state. I never said that neither your statement nor Doolen's was of racist context. Nevertheless, the fact that you feel there is a decline in the quality of black musicians was totally out of place in Doolen's article.

That, "my friends," is called amateur writing. The comment added nothing to Doolen's opinion article. I have studied virtually all forms of music from baroque to rock and I am a musician and a poet. Your comment on rap was unfounded.

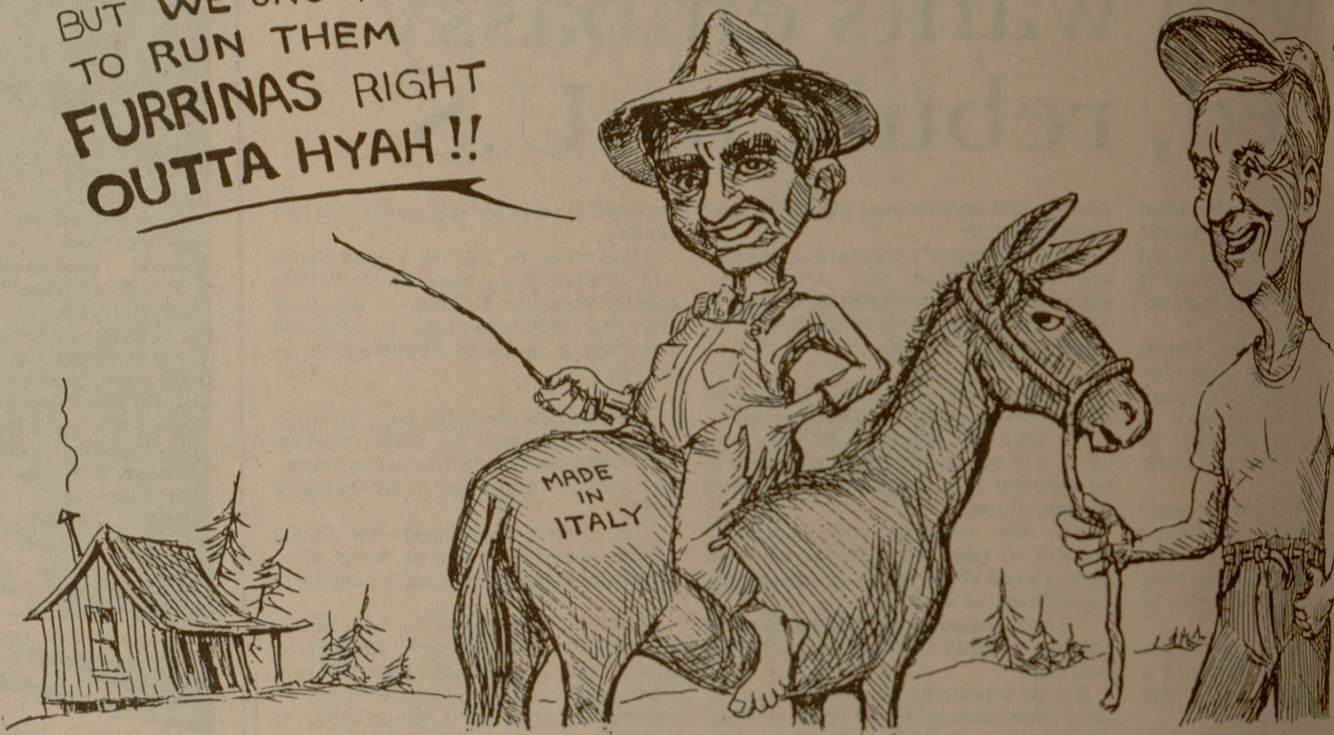
Rap is raw musical emotion which portrays a lot of the inner drives of my brothers and sisters. It is a reflection of the struggles of my ancestors, much like the negro spiritual is. Each culture had a form of expression and rap, gospel, soul and rock are some of the ways we express ourselves. Jive talking to you is freedom of speech to me.

In the legendary words of Aesop: "An ass is not known to be one until he opens his mouth." You slipped when you opened your pen.

Roy "Royalty" Davis '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.

MEBBE THOSE REPUBLICANS WANT OUAH CHILLUN TO WORK FER FURRIN OWNNAHS, AND PAY RENT TO FURRIN OWNNAHS, AND OWE THEAH FUTAH TO FURRIN OWNNAHS, BUT WE-UNS AIM TO RUN THEM FURRINAS RIGHT OUTTA HYAH !!



GOING FOR THE 'BUBBA' VOTE

Worrying about dying will kill you

Maybe all of us should band together and say "Enough is enough. Please don't tell us what else will kill us."

Where is all this going to end? First it was cigarettes. We are still being warned cigarettes will cause lung cancer or emphysema, not to mention turn our fingers and teeth yellow.

A lot of Americans have quit smoking. They want the ones who haven't to do so immediately. Non-smokers and smokers, I predict, will have a civil war eventually and kill off great numbers of both sides all in the name of health.

And cholesterol. Eat stuff that really tastes good and cholesterol will clog your arteries, and one day you'll be sitting there eating a couple of fried eggs and you'll drop dead of a heart attack.

"He should have watched his diet," they'll say at your funeral.

You can get cancer from just about everything, it seems. We mentioned smoking. But there's asbestos, eating smoked foods, or drinking too much coffee.

And speaking of drinking, go right ahead and have another scotch, but you know your liver is rotting with every sip.

Then there's AIDS. I don't want to talk about AIDS anymore.

And let's don't forget how many near



Lewis Grizzard
Columnist

misses there are in commercial aviation. You're sitting there in 23A and suddenly there's a 727 coming down the aisle.

Also, we can't forget that the ozone layer is disappearing from our atmosphere and one day we'll all be fried because there won't be anything left to protect us from the sun.

So, let's say none of that gets you. Great, except now there's something new to worry about — RADON!

You quit smoking, drinking, and eating fatty foods. You exercise every day, brush regularly with tartar-control toothpaste and have annual checkups from your doctor.

You've eaten cereal until it's coming out of your ears, you take all sorts of vitamins — and speaking of cereal, you even eat yours with prunes on top.

You're the best friend your colon ever had.

But you're still not safe because it's here and it's coming after you.

It's down there in the ground under your house. You can't see radon, you can't smell it, but it's there.

It sneaks up through your basement and you breathe it, and you may well have kept sucking on cigarettes, because radon can give you cancer, too.

If you want to be safe from the most killer, you've got to buy a gas detector that measures radon in your house. If you've got it, then you have to get it to come over and make arrangements of repairs, and that's going to cost you.

Wouldn't we be better off if you told us about things like radon? They might pick a few of us off, but wouldn't have to lie in our beds wondering how much radon the radium under our condos is producing and was that noise you just heard stairs the Radon Monster coming to you?

Worry kills, too. Would you please mention that to the surgeon.

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Forget He-Man cartoons, I want my Brady Bunch

What happened to the good ol' days when kids would sit around the television set and watch "Happy Days" and "The Brady Bunch"? Back then, television was educational. Most "family" shows were fables, with lessons to be learned. Sure, the characters and story lines were a bit corny and idealistic, but at least they didn't put any immoral or misleading ideas into the minds of the young viewers.

Today's shows are a different matter altogether. Afternoon time slots are filled with shows like "Masters of the Universe" starring He-Man. Children watch stories about worlds being destroyed and superhumans killing each other. What kind of morals can be learned from such storylines? That war is imminent and that everyone should know how to detect and shoot a bad guy?

In the old days, Marsha Brady taught us that we must not judge our fellow

men, and Beaver taught that we should always tell the truth. Even Fonzie at his coolest taught that people should just be themselves.

Kids didn't necessarily learn academic lessons like the alphabet or their numbers in these shows, but they did learn some character traits which weren't taught on traditionally educational programs such as "The Electric Company" or "Sesame Street."

Let's face it. When kids get to be a certain age, they are no longer enthralled with "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" and "Captain Kangaroo." They don't think it's "cool" to watch dumb shows with dancing flowers and a man named Mr. Greenjeans.

So when they get home from school, they turn to the Big Kids' shows. And this is where the program problem becomes evident.

Ten years ago, these afternoon shows were entertaining and educational.



Lydia Berzsenyi
Columnist

Today, they aren't really either. OK, maybe that's just my opinion. A lot of children (and even some 20-year-old youngsters) find blowing up worlds extremely entertaining. I just must be missing something.

But I know I'm not missing any educational value in these shows because it simply doesn't exist.

Now that the "good old shows" are in syndication, the generation at which they were originally aimed pokes fun at these programs. People can't believe that they

were once fascinated by "The Partridge Family," or that they raced home every day to catch an episode of "Gilligan's Island."

Back then, we didn't really think of those shows as educational. Heaven forbid us learning something voluntarily!

But when we watch these shows now, the educational quality is quite obvious, with Wally Cleaver saying, "Gee, Dad, I guess that means that it's not right to be mean to someone just because they were mean to you." Ward, of course, answers, "You're right, Wally, I'm glad you've learned your lesson."

That's when you expect Ward to turn to the camera and give the viewers a knowing look and a smile that means, "And that goes for you, too."

I guess we really can't bring these exact shows back today because they do seem a bit unrealistic and more than a little out of date.

But kids of past generations really cared that the Brady boys looked like geeks in their high-pants and buttoned-to-the-collar shirts. They never questioned why the boys brought their luggage with them. What if Richie Cunningham never graduated and still (supposedly) graduated? And what does it really mean that June Cleaver always wore a dress and apron?

Perhaps bringing back "The Brady Bunch" is not the solution to the problem of non-educational family shows. But maybe these shows should be selected to see what made them so entertaining and educational. Maybe afternoon television would not be a waste if it is today.

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