

# Opinion

## Sherrill's got to go

If today's story from the *Dallas Morning News* is accurate — and from the information given in the story there is every reason to believe it is — the entire attempt at reformation of the Texas A&M football program has been nothing short of a farce.

While portraying themselves as victims of unnecessary scrutiny, A&M Athletic Department officials under Sherrill's supervision were paying off a former player to keep quiet about violations that the NCAA apparently missed. One of the payments was received by former A&M running back George Smith just four days after the NCAA violations press conference.

It's an insult to Texas A&M fans, students, former students and the University itself.

It was Sherrill himself who assured the nation that he was at the forefront of the cleaning-up program. It was Sherrill who said, "I'm glad it's over with. We'll take the hand that's been dealt to us and give it our best shot."

And it was Sherrill who said, if just such an occasion as this should arise, "President Mobley will not have to fire me. If Jackie Sherrill does something to warrant it, Jackie Sherrill will leave this institution."

If the allegation is true, Sherrill must resign immediately, and take George Pugh, Bob Matey and anyone else involved with him. And if he doesn't, and Texas A&M is truly committed to integrity in its Athletic Department, he must be fired.

Anything less makes the rest of the University look as dirty as its Athletic Department.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Ags deserve death

A&M was given fair warning.

Along with its 1988 bowl ban, the loss of five scholarships and 15 campus recruiting visits, the Texas A&M football program received a five-year probation with the stipulation that further infractions could possibly result in the death penalty — the strongest penalty the NCAA can give a collegiate athletic program.

Under the death penalty, the guilty program in essence ceases to exist for an amount of time up to the discretion of the NCAA. Certainly, if true, the recent allegations against A&M's Athletic Department cannot rival the blatant disregard of the rules that was traced all the way back to Gov. Bill Clements by the once-defunct and currently inactive Southern Methodist University football program.

But the allegations seem to have merit. Former Aggie running back George Smith claims to have received hush money in an overnight express envelope from A&M Athletic Department officials just four days after the Aggies announced their NCAA penalties.

Whether or not A&M has a football team next year is yet to be seen. That will be determined by the NCAA. And if the NCAA chooses to make that decision, it would be warranted. Perhaps A&M needs the death penalty to start anew and ensure a complete housecleaning in the Athletic Department. After all, the last penalty was only stiff enough to keep the dirt off the football program for three days.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Mail Call

### Butts butt out!

EDITOR:

On Nov. 21 the Class of '89 will partake in Elephant Walk, historically an event for seniors only.

Recently, however, the junior class involvement in this event has been increasing. We would like for Elephant Walk to remain a sacred event for seniors, and yet we realize that juniors want some way to spend their time during the Walk. If the junior class must do something at this time, we suggest it is in the following manner:

Celebrate your own new position as leaders of the 12th Man! Wear your class T-shirt! Have your picture taken with live elephants! Go to the pullout yell practice!

But don't be violent and destructive. Refrain from causing injuries to your fellow students and damage to the campus. Basically, leave the seniors to die in peace.

Kristi Wilson and Liz Hudson  
Special Events Co-Chairmen '89

### Save the trees

EDITOR:

It has been brought to my attention that in the plans for the expansion of the MSC, nearly a dozen live oak trees will be destroyed.

This is disturbing, considering that the oaks are the sole element which unifies the eclectic styles of architecture on our campus. Is it necessary that these trees be removed? The students of A&M should have a voice in the decisions affecting the fate of the natural and historic heritage of our university.

Kenneth Moore, President  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Accompanied by 53 signatures

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.

## The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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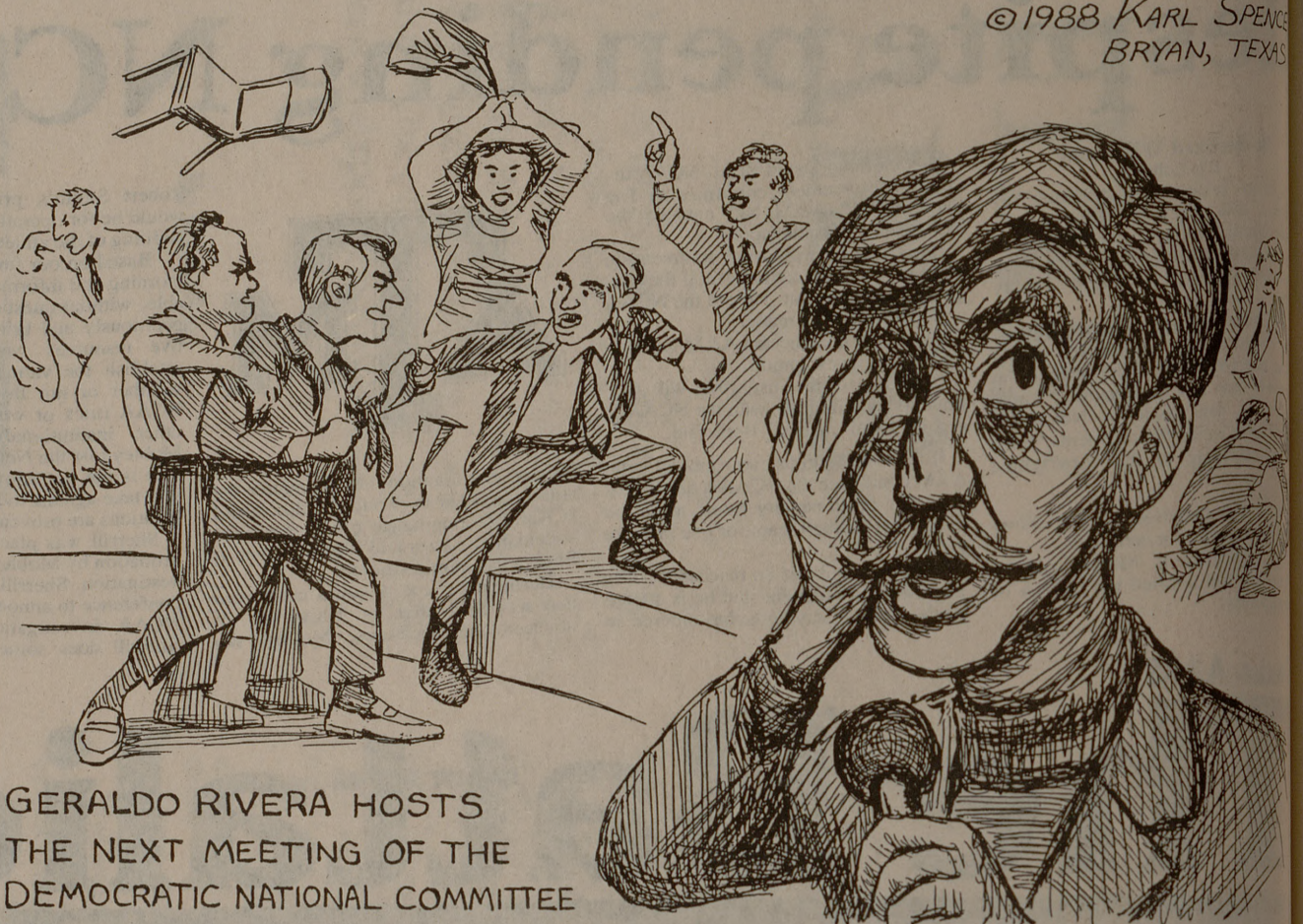
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GERALDO RIVERA HOSTS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

## I learned to bang my head

Last Sunday, I had the opportunity to see grown men jump up and down on a stage and strum a guitar with a microphone stand. And you know, I think I actually enjoyed myself.

The event was a Van Halen concert, and it was my first really "heavy metal" concert. I guess for some people Van Halen may not be considered hard rock, but for a devoted Billy Joel fan, it was a little stronger than I was used to.

The concert was fun, though. I even recognized a lot of the songs. I may not have been able to distinguish any of the words, but at least I recognized the tune, beat, rhythm, or whatever it was in several of them. Most of them I had heard before on the radio, but at least I could turn down the volume then.

The music was a little loud for my tastes, but the experience was well worth it. I got to see little boys with hair half-way down their backs, old men wearing black T-shirts and torn-up jeans and teenagers nodding their heads like epileptic chickens.

So why was I so happy that I went to this concert? Because it broadened my musical repertoire, that's why. I was able to experience yet another form of music, and I strongly believe that there is no such thing as bad music.

As you may have guessed, hard rock doesn't really fit into my natural scope of listening music. My favorite "popular" songs are by artists such as Billy Joel, James Taylor and Tracy Chapman. Fine, fine, call me a wimp. But wait, it gets worse.



Lydia Berzsenyi  
Editor

I'm also a big fan of symphonic music (I learned in my music class that classical music is just a part of the big category called symphonic music). If it's a rainy day, give me Beethoven, if I'm in a good mood, give me Mozart, and if I really want to shake the house, slap some Tchaikovsky on that turntable.

Elevator music is OK by me, too. When I'm studying, I need background noise, so I turn the dial to one of those sappy stations that plays the music you hear in dental offices and in your parents' car.

And I like it. I recognize most of those songs, as I did at the Van Halen concert, but the difference is that I can at least distinguish the "elevator" songs.

But listening to elevator music and popular music isn't really enough to make a person well-rounded. You've also got to be open to different forms of music.

My music collection, although it isn't vast, contains a couple of Depeche Mode tapes, lots of R.E.M., a few Rush selections, some Hungarian gypsy music, a few opera records and even a collection of Australian folk songs.

## Let's turn Magic loose on Ivan

The fact that our men's Olympic basketball team was beaten by the Soviet Union should be unsettling to all of us who consider ourselves flag-waving, allegiance-pledging Americans.

Did you see the unfairness in that game? Our team was made up of young student athletes and we sent them up against a team of grown men from the Soviet Union, a few who Big Foot couldn't have guarded.

Basketball is our game, remember? It was invented in the United States when a guy named Naismith nailed a peach basket to a gymnasium balcony and suggested people attempt to throw a ball into it from the floor below.

At first, people scoffed at Naismith's new game because of the time factor involved. It took hours to complete a game because each time someone scored a basket, they had to call Arnold, the custodian, to go get the ladder to

### Lewis Grizzard

Columnist

climb up and get the ball out of the basket so the game could continue.

"Hey, Naismith," people scoffed, "basketball is a stupid game."

But after months of attempting to refine the game, Naismith figured out just what basketball needed.

"It needs a hole in the bottom of the basket!" he exclaimed to Arnold, who was more excited than anybody else since he no longer would have to get the ladder and retrieve the ball out of the basket.

Gradually, it even caught on in other parts of the world and became an Olympic sport even more popular than archery and synchronized swimming.

Still, the United States dominated

I know several people with huge record collections, but too often they are concentrated in only one or two forms of music. I sincerely believe that broader musical tastes deepen one's appreciation of different cultures and societies.

Familiarity with different kinds of music also helps one get along with different people. Music is a universal language, and can transcend not only cultures, but also attitudes. People all over the world listen to Bach. Similarly, many different types of people at A&M listen to R.E.M.

If two strangers are stuck in an elevator together for several hours (a real possibility in the Reed McDonald Building) what can they talk about? If they have nothing else in common, they may well have a discussion about music, between their calls for help.

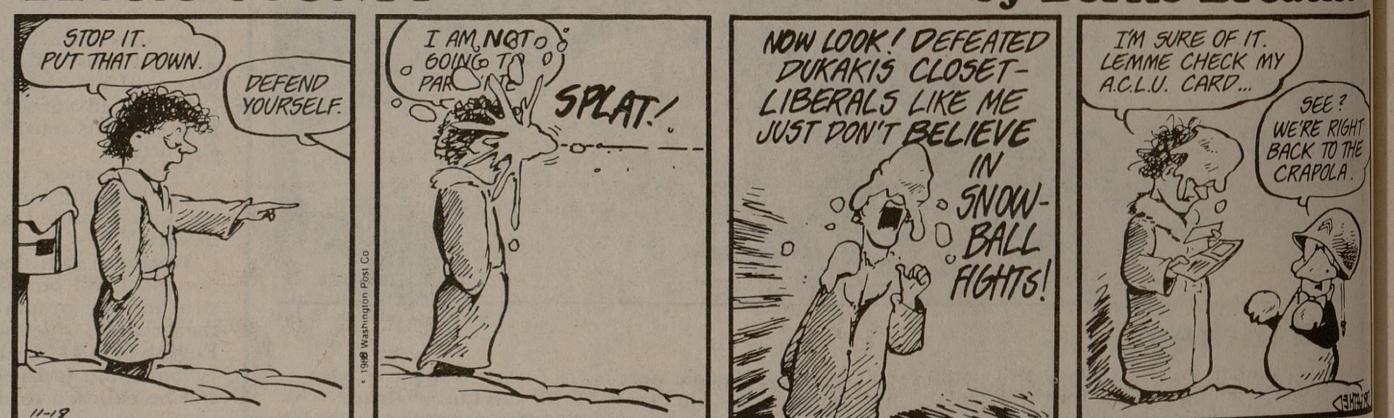
If a person is assigned to escort a visitor about campus, the conversation might well turn to music once all the obvious avenues of discussion are spent.

So being informed about and appreciating different types of music can get a person through a rough spot.

I wish more people would broaden their horizons and listen to new kinds of music. Who knows, maybe they'll even enjoy it!

Lydia Berzsenyi is a senior math major and editor of *The Battalion*.

## BLOOM COUNTY



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