

Mail Call

Dockery: Batt's style appalling

EDITOR: I was appalled at the speed and ferociousness with which your excitable staff pounced on Coach Jackie Sherrill when the Dallas Morning News ran its most recent condemnation of the Texas A&M football program.

It's unlikely that it crossed your minds, any more than it crossed your minds to question the News' source — a quirky, self-admitted opportunist and hardly a responsible source for building a case against the school's head coach.

Yet your staff was quick to second the accusations, thereby summarily trying and convicting Coach Sherrill. While purporting to be guardians of the truth, you clearly let personal feelings of outrage (and vindication) influence your journalistic judgment.

This reminds me of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes saying "The Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and press, but does not guarantee the right to yell fire in a crowded theatre, and the Constitution guarantees the privilege of freedom of the press, but also requires respect of that freedom of the press, and my heart is heavy that you have chosen to abandon that freedom."

I find that a sad commentary on the state of journalism at Texas A&M.

Rod Dockery '66

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rod Dockery has been banned from association with the A&M Athletic Department after being linked by the NCAA to violations concerning former A&M star quarterback Kevin Murray.

Readers' arguments weak

EDITOR: After weeks (or even months) of following the furor surrounding the football program here at A&M, I was finally compelled to write a letter in response to some of the letters that appeared on the opinion page and the From the Bleachers column on Nov. 29.

- "Batt's crap annoying" by Bill Frawley. In this letter, Mr. Frawley requests a "semi-logical thought process" regarding the dismissal of Jackie Sherrill. Here it is: 1. If Jackie Sherrill is doing his job as athletic director, he should know of any improprieties in the Athletic Department and should take positive action to correct them.

There are some intermediate steps in the argument that I have left out. It is, however, a valid, logical argument. Notice that it concerns not whether Jackie has been proven guilty of any misconduct related to his job as football coach, but rather whether he deserves the A.D. position. As A.D., he is an administrator of Texas A&M University and should be expected to correct misconduct in his department, just as a department head would be expected to act to deal with incidences of misconduct such as plagiarism or cheating on exams.

By not doing anything, either he is admitting that he does not know what is going on around him or he is implicitly condoning illicit activities. If he did not act because he did not know, he should lose the A.D. position and someone more capable for the position should be hired. If he did know and still did not act, he should be dismissed from all positions he holds at this University.

This letter states "The only way to clean up the athletic program (is to) get rid of all the cancer. And that goes for the entire Athletic Department."

The entire department is not the object under scrutiny. The current problem rests with the football program and that is the program that needs to be "cleaned up."

Mr. Bankston feels that Hal Hammons "being a journalist, should know about accusation and constitutional rights."

I did not realize that a law degree was a prerequisite for admission to be a journalism major. Being a journalist, the only constitutional right Hammons can be expected to be very familiar with is the right to free speech . . . and that is the right he exercised when he wrote his editorial.

Chad Whitacre '89

Has Jackie been loyal?

EDITOR: This letter is in response to Greg Nolan's letter appearing in Mail Call on Nov. 30.

Mr. Nolan, in your recent letter, you so graciously provided a definition of loyalty to Hal Hammons. In doing so you implied that he should not jeopardize the strong bond of the student body at A&M by writing articles about the recent muck the football program has had slung at it.

Well, Mr. Nolan, let's try to clear some of the fog here, because behind that fog, you will find standing the one and only "loyal" Jackie Sherrill.

Let's also, for a moment, forget about the recent George Smith fiasco and remember back to earlier in the semester. The NCAA found the A&M football program guilty of certain wrongdoings. Jackie Sherrill stands at the head of that program.

Mr. Nolan, was Jackie Sherrill "loyal" to us Ags when he lied to the NCAA, cheated at football by unfair recruiting practices and stole some of our Aggies' dignity.

I think not, Mr. Nolan, for you should have read a bit more of Webster since faith is defined as "loyalty — good (or bad); faith (in) sincerity; (dis)honesty."

Mr. Nolan, if anyone has failed at being loyal, it's been Jackie Sherrill.

Richard Noorlag '90

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.



A few lessons I've learned before I bid A&M adieu

Every semester, the opinion page editor (Anthony "Media Darling of the Texas Press" Wilson in this case) calls all the columnists together and sternly warns them that if they write any "I'm leaving and here's everything that happened during my last four years at A&M" columns, he would see to their firing.



Lydia Berzsenyi Editor

So this semester, I just assumed I wouldn't write one of those mushy columns. But the eagerly anticipated lecture from Anthony never came, and I started thinking that since I am the only graduating columnist (14 days until the big day) I really should write one of these columns.

It's my duty, after all, to write the type of column everyone has been waiting for all semester. Finals, graduation and leaving town just wouldn't be the same without it. (Besides, he couldn't fire me anyhow.)

So here we go.

The paper you are reading is the last one which will have my name in the staff box. This is the last time you will have to look at my outdated picture. This is the last time you will have to read my rambling monologue. So while I still have you, I'd like to just tell you a few things I've learned during my four years at A&M.

The first and most important thing I've learned is that it doesn't matter how much money you can make. The only thing that amounts to a hill of beans is happiness. If you aren't going to be happy with the work you will be trained to do when you graduate from A&M, STOP NOW!!! (I should know — I'm majoring in math?!?!?!?)

Make sure you are trained in something that you can profit from personally as well as financially. It's great to say, "It doesn't matter if I hate what I do. I'll only have to do it until I'm 30 be-

cause by then I'll be a multi-millionaire and can retire."

Well, if you look at the number of multi-millionaires in the world today, you'll notice a few things. First, there aren't a whole heck of a lot of them. Second, most of them made their money doing something they enjoy. Third, many of them still work, at least part of the time, because they simply enjoy what they do.

Look around, take some courses that interest you, find out what you really want to do with your life. That's when you'll want to study, because you'll really want to know the information, not just because your professor wants you to spit it back up.

The next big lesson I've learned is that college is the place you learn about things that aren't necessarily taught in the classroom. Most college students have never lived away from home for any extended period of time before they enter the sacred halls of A&M.

They learn not only about homesickness and long distance services, but they also learn nifty things like waking up by themselves, cooking for themselves, juggling their own finances, sharing a home or even a bathroom with someone other than a brother or sister, and studying on their own accord. All these valuable lessons and more can be yours for the low, low price of four years of your life.

But perhaps the biggest lesson I've learned during my college stint is get-

ting along with people. Even with all the desegregation plans which have been put into effect during the last decade, many high school graduates leave high school never knowing anyone of any race or socio-economic background other than their own.

This means that most college freshmen are experiencing a major culture shock when they begin their college careers. They have to learn to get along with different kinds of people and to adapt to people with different cultural values.

Being exposed to people from all walks of life is perhaps the biggest learning experience there is. College provides a great platform on which this learning experience can take place.

Geez, all this education, and you didn't even know you were getting it!

But enough of this serious stuff. Ever since I have been writing for the Battalion everyone I know has asked me to put their name in print. Yet, since I don't exactly add to a journalist's credibility by talking to his friends and then passing interviews off as random, I haven't been able to make my friends' wishes come true.

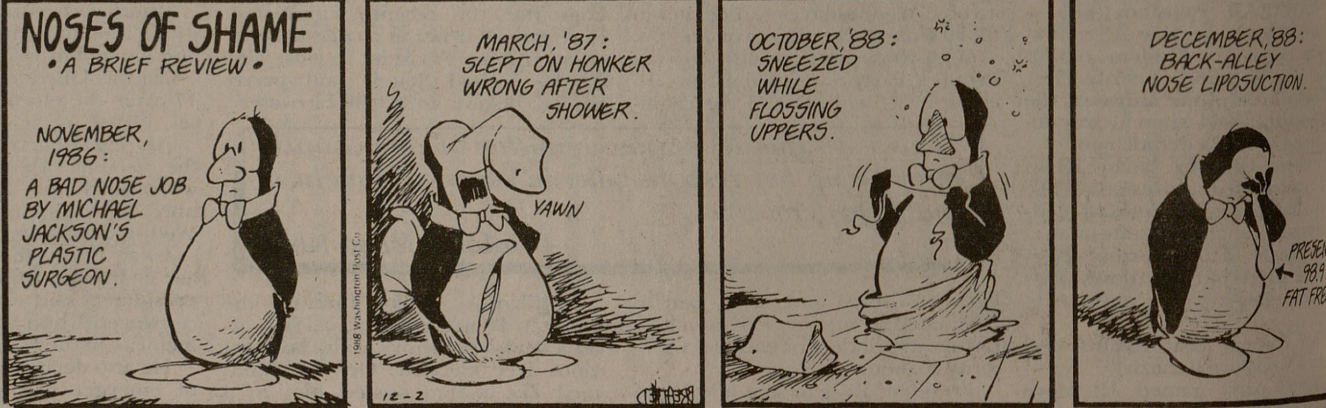
But now's my chance. Everyone, I like to introduce you to my some friends of mine. Some of these people asked to have their names in print, others I just threw in for the heck of it.

Introducing: Ben, Rachelle, Daniel, Stephen, Daniel, Eric, Adam, Rachelle, Michelle, Mark, Catherine, John, Celeste, Vonda, Hal, Charlie, Mike, Chris, Rachelle, Scott, Seanna, Becki, Adrian, Debbie, Sharon, Jack, Kay, Rachelle, George, Richard, Tony, Evan, Ron, Rachelle and Liz.

With that, so long! Oh yeah, hi Mom and Dad!

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

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion (USPS 045 360) Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference The Battalion Editorial Board Lydia Berzsenyi, Editor Becky Weisenfels, Managing Editor Anthony Wilson, Opinion Page Editor Richard Williams, City Editor D A Jensen, Denise Thompson, News Editors Hal Hammons, Sports Editor Jay Janner, Art Director Leslie Guy, Entertainment Editor

Editorial Policy The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents. The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism. 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. Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

St We say still COLLEGE The 1988 d down hard c riculture, a helped only of the state. And acco outlook by t Service, the not likely to y's Decembe forecast call cent chanc rainfall for Deep South. Dr. Zerle tor of the T tension Ser front dur dropped sca central cou the state's and up to c counties of The from cant precip areas, he sai Following that reache Winter Gar of San Ant Houston are dry soil b ranges, past quick halt i plains coun tral region. Carpent Service is producers of sic acid (cy lowing frost other sorgh He said i five or six fore turnin type of sorg watch them Carpent vesting is n Panhandle is about 25 cold weathe tenance fe though ran still in fairl In West C nance feedi pasturage. S winding d