

You won't find any sappy columns here



Dean Sueltenfuss
Opinion Page Editor

Well, this is it — my last column as opinion page editor for *The Battalion*. The Fall '89 staff takes over next week, and I'm outta there, gone, finito.

Well, I won't be gone, exactly. I'll just be changing jobs.

And no, this is not going to be one of those sappy goodbye columns where I get sentimental and cry all over the computer keyboard.

This column is going to consist of all the things I've wanted to say during the past year, but, for one reason or another, didn't.

This is my chance to get in the final word, and I'm going to use it (even though the people who write letters in response to this column will be the ones who actually get in the last word).

To the people who call *The Battalion* a Communist rag and think that all *Batt* staffers are peace-loving, hippie, flower-child, liberal freaks:

Shut up.

To the 2 percent of the people at A&M who occasionally say something nice about *The Batt*:

Thank you. You make up for the other 98 percent.

To everyone who has a friend named Bubba:

My sympathies.

To Ronald Reagan:

We still miss ya, big guy.

To the jerks who (on several occasions) called me at 3:30 a.m. and screamed profane things into the phone:

I know where you live — and I have an AK-47.

To the officials of Exxon for the job they've done cleaning up the Alaskan oil spill:

I know where you live — and I have an AK-47.

To President William Mobley:

Damn good job so far.

To President George Bush:

Well...

To the snobs in this world who think they are better than everyone else and refuse to acknowledge "inferior" people:

To the people who constantly point out errors in my writing:

Hey, I like to split verbs.

To those who promote racism: Have you ever *thought* about what you're doing? I doubt it.

To those who try to find racism where it doesn't exist:

Lighten up.

To everyone who will graduate soon:

Take a year off and go see the world; You're only young once.

To my professors who don't realize I'm in their classes because I hardly ever attend:

It's for a good cause.

To everyone who listens to Top 40 music:

Madonna makes me ill.

To the hydrogen fusion boys at A&M who deperately are trying to bring in those big research bucks:

Good luck.

To Jackie Sherrill:

I hope you're spending our money wisely.

To George Smith:

Don't mess with Texas A&M, you *\$%#&%*#!

To people who still watch the Morton Downey Jr. Show:

Geeeeezzzz.

To those damned black birds that fly around campus terrorizing innocent pedestrians:

Where did you come from? A Hitchcock movie?

To everyone who is opposed to any kind of change because it violates "tradition":

Use your brains.

And finally, to everyone who disagrees with something they read on today's opinion page:

Tough.

Dean Sueltenfuss is a junior journalism major and opinion page editor for *The Battalion*.

Mail Call

Not responsible

EDITOR:

Why is there a sign in the parking garage that says "Not responsible for theft or damage," (something to that effect) when I pay \$150 for security?

Jon Williamson '92

Baseball team deserved front page

EDITOR:

What does it take for the Aggie baseball team to make the front page of *The Battalion*?

The baseball games last weekend were a key part of the Aggie 1989 baseball season and we think they did a damn good job!

The April 17 issue of *The Battalion* didn't even give the Aggies front page mention.

Winning two out of three games against our biggest rivals deserves some credit.

Even ESPN broadcast one of the games nationally.

These games had more support from the student body and the Bryan-College Station community than undoubtedly any others this season and yet our own campus newspaper doesn't realize that a team that is ranked No. 1 in the nation should get some front page recognition.

Give them the credit they deserve.

Loretta Rayburn '90

I'm telling you to shut up!

EDITOR:

In response to Carol Landry's April 17 column criticizing J. Frank Hernandez, I'm telling you to shut up!

I knew about the traditions of this University before I came here, and enjoy them.

However, I do not see the correlation between traditions and the problem J. Frank Hernandez had at Duncan Dining Hall. I arrived at Duncan to eat at about 6:10 and got two plates of food to avoid the long lines after 6:15 when the corps comes in. The manager came over and rudely told me that I could not get two plates. I told him it would not happen again.

Well, when I went to eat earlier the next day, corps members were getting two plates of food right in front of the manager.

I told the manager about this and he respnded by saying, "It's common for corps members to get two plates when they eat chow because they have a habit of doing so."

Habit my foot. If I can't get two plates at once, they shouldn't be able to, either. I realize that this is not the Corps' fault, but rather staff members and others, such as rude managers, who are biased toward the Corps.

J. Frank Hernandez had a good argument, but it was not directed at the right people — the Corps can only get away with what is allowed by this school.

Raymond Jackson '89

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.

Photographs tell the story in a way words cannot



Jay Janner
Art Director

The worst accident in British sports history occurred on April 15 in Sheffield, England when crazed soccer fans crowded into Hillsborough Stadium to watch a Football Association Cup semifinal match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. At least 95 spectators died and more than 200 were injured when the crowd rushed into a standing-room-only area, crushing those in front into a metal anti-riot fence.

The incident occurred right before the beginning of the game when police allowed fans without tickets into the stadium to relieve overcrowding in the streets outside. Six minutes into the

match, officials finally answered the trapped fans' cries for help and opened the gates to relieve pressure. By that time many people already were dead. Most of the victims were young Liverpool fans who suffocated or were trampled when the gates were opened.

A horrifying photograph was taken at the scene and appeared in newspapers around the world. The picture showed in graphic detail three panicking spectators gasping for breath. Their faces were distorted against the wire mesh fence, and fear was in their eyes. It was difficult to look at the picture.

Photography is the strongest and most direct form of mass communication. The photograph of the trapped fans told the story in a way words could not, because it showed the human side of the tragedy, simple and true. It showed the individuals instead of the statistics. Although the picture is upsetting, everyone should see it.

The photograph probably offended some people, but it served a valuable purpose. It has raised public awareness

about the complete lawlessness at English soccer games. Something needs to be done about the rowdy fans and poor crowd control at these games to prevent another accident.

England has a history of soccer riots. After 39 were killed in Brussels, Belgium in 1985, all British teams were forbidden to compete in Europe. The ban was lifted just two weeks ago, but is now being reconsidered. In addition, English lawmakers are demanding changes

in stadium designs, including a ban on anti-riot fences.

Pictures can make a difference. When I see a picture of a mangled car, I think more closely about drunk driving. And when I see pictures of young people lying dead in the streets of Los Angeles, I see more clearly the evils of drugs and gangs. Combat photography shows me the truth about war. The pictures seem more real than the headlines.

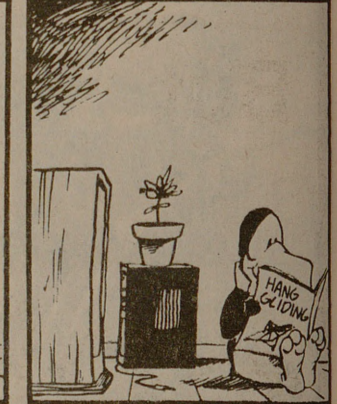
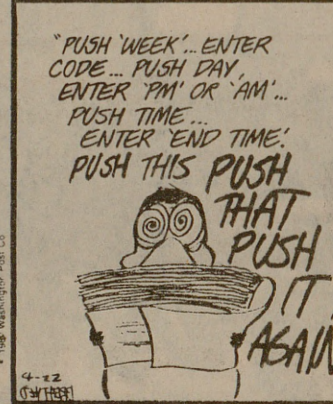
I never have taken pictures of dead

or dying people, but I know it is just a matter of time before it happens. When the time comes, it will disturb me. But death is an everyday occurrence, and it is my job to record the events of the day. If my picture will lead to a change for the better or at least make people stop and think about a change, then I have done something worthwhile.

Jay Janner is a sophomore journalism major and art director for *The Battalion*.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Dean Sueltenfuss, Editor
Becky Weisenfels, Managing Editor
Jay Janner, Opinion Page Editor
Scot Walker, City Editor
Mary-Lynne Rice, Wire Editor
Doug Walker, News Editor
Leslie Guy, Sports Editor
Drew Leder, Art Director
Anthony Wilson, 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.