

## Mail Call

### Save the trees

EDITOR:

As only one interested citizen and only one graduate of Texas A&M University, I am writing to express grave concern on the expansion of Rudder Center and the Memorial Student Center.

All of us have seen the University of Texas at Austin staff destroy the original forty acres with building congestion, destruction of the campus integrity and the spin off of surface parking and parking garages. Texas A&M has always been the last frontier in thoughtful planning and aesthetics. Must we lose that foresight now?

The stately old Live Oak trees have sheltered many of us enroute to class or other numerous functions at the university. The famed Texas architect Oneal Ford always worked around topography. No wonder he won such acclaim. There is always another way when the project is still a drawing and not a piece of machinery pushing the earth.

I think the goal of the Board of Regents should include sensitivity to the human scale and use of this campus. The atmosphere of our surroundings contributes a great deal to scholastics and maintaining the financial support of alumnus. I am confident that the trees — the legacy handed down to us from our forefathers — will be protected.

William Edward McLaughlin '58

### Flag decision 'dead wrong'

EDITOR:

Over the past three years, *The Battalion* has had the unique ability to rouse my anger and inspire me to express my opinions in a parade of letters to the editor. I just can't seem to help it. My blood starts to boil and the pen takes off.

This time my anger is in reaction to the recent flag desecration decision by the Supreme Court.

Frankly, this decision makes me sick! Last year, I had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and the Vietnam Memorial. When I saw the names of those men and women, many of whom (at my age) fought and died for America, I couldn't help but cry. To think that someone could legally burn the American flag in front of it makes

my stomach turn.

This ruling is an insult to all of those people. It is a slap in the face to every person who has proudly served and defended the American flag, and also to every man, woman and child who is proud of the flag and proud to be an American.

The American flag is not "just another piece of colored cloth," but rather it is a visual representation of the ideals and beliefs of this great country.

I believe, as President Bush does, that this decision is "dead wrong!!!"

Chris Somsory '90

### New amendment will protect First

EDITOR:

I believe in freedom of speech. It's one of the things that has made the United States of America the greatest country on this earth. It allows us to voice our opinions and express our beliefs. However, the burning of the American flag should not be protected by the First Amendment.

I think the Court's ruling and *The Battalion's* Editorial Board are fundamentally wrong in this interpretation of the First Amendment. I'm not the only person who feels this way. Both the Senate and the House overwhelmingly voiced disappointment with this ruling. President Bush has called for a Constitutional amendment to make it illegal to desecrate or destroy the American flag. I'm certain that such an amendment will be passed.

*The Battalion's* backing of the right to burn the flag show that they are not only not in the mainstream of American political thought but not even close to being in contact with the student population at Texas A&M.

I will continue to take my hat off when the flag passes. I also will take appropriate action against people who desecrate the flag that thousands of American men and women have defended, fought and died under.

Charles E. Hogan II '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.

## Charlie Chan: from a Chinese viewpoint

"Welcome members of foreign press. Today, we have a special treat for you. Chinese government ready to answer all questions about recent unpleasantness in Tiananmen Square.

"And we have big surprise. To make you feel more comfortable, government has asked someone you all know to answer questions.

"He is famous detective and movie star, Charlie Chan. Please take over, Mr. Chan."

"Thank you. I am Number One detective Charlie Chan. I was in many American moving pictures. You can trust me. May I have first question, please."

"Mr. Chan, Lambert, Associated Press. We have heard many different versions of just how many people were killed in the Tiananmen Square massacre. Would you please give us the exact number of casualties?"

"No massacre. Just little disagreement. One killed."

"One? But Mr. Chan, we've heard there were possibly thousands of casualties. There is no truth to that?"

"No truth. One killed. Slipped on banana peel and broke head. Very unfortunate."

"Wilson, New York Times. Mr. Chan, my sources tell me troops marched into the square and began to fire at the protesting students at random. Does your government deny this?"

"How you say in States, 'No way, Jose?' Troops never fire guns. Guns not loaded. Firecrackers perhaps."

"Headley-Donavan, BBC. Mr. Chan, if the troops never fired, how can you explain the number of bloodied bodies of protesters that were witnessed in the

**Lewis Grizzard**  
Syndicated Columnist

square?"  
"Very clever, these revolutionaries. Put catsup on themselves. Lie very so foreign press think they dead. Fun joke, huh?"

"Mr. Chan, Bowman, NBC News. Do the soliders not beat up foreign television correspondents?"

"Only one, and that big mistake. Soliders think correspondent Sam Donaldson. Sam Donaldson snake in grass next question, please."

"Mr. Chan, Davenport, the Washington Post. Do you think all this is going to hurt the Chinese government's relations with the United States?"

"United States and Chinese government good friends. They send us soup. We send them recipe for pot soup. Very good soup. Favorite of President Bush."

"How will these people be treated if the government is found?"

"We take away bicycles."  
"Mr. Chan, you really don't expect for a minute that we can believe that is all that will happen to them if they are capture?"

"I say. You believe. Chinese way."

"Mr. Chan, Cloverhurt, Time magazine. Pardon me for saying it, but think your answers to our questions nothing but a lot of dung."

"Leave Mr. Xiaoping out of this."

"Thank you, Mr. Chan. No more time for questions. Have nice day. Adieu."

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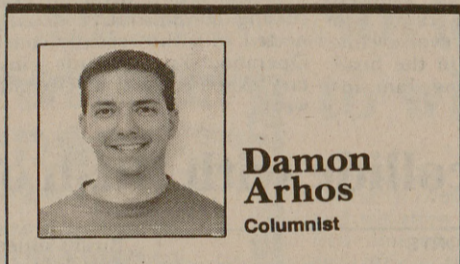
## Bimbos give new meaning to Aggie jargon

READY? OK!

That's right Aggies. It's that time again. Summer school at Texas A&M just wouldn't be the same without several high school drill teams marching all over campus. And what better place to have a drill team camp than a university that doesn't even have cheerleaders?

These human Barbies have been everywhere the last two weeks, prancing two-by-two, each with one hand behind her back and the other clutching a brightly colored thermos (which incidentally matches the color of their spandex leotards, and their spandex tights, and the bows on their heads and the "swooshes" on their favorite pair of Nikes). Color coordination is a must when one attends Sbis, our most famous "cafeteria."

And, don't think the Corps is back



**Damon Arhos**  
Columnist

early and has started using pom-poms during morning formation either. Those brilliant sparkles you have seen radiating from the quad are another indication of our prestigious visitors. I know it is an adjustment hearing a marching band rendition of some Donna Summer song every morning, but you can't ALWAYS have "Reveille."

These young women have brought

new meaning to many of the expressions we Aggies hold so dear. Take the term "boot chaser" for instance. In the past, those female students who "chased" after seniors in the Corps were "boot chasers." But how could any red-blooded American male resist those simulated leather "Wonder Woman" boots with the white tassels hanging from the back? THOSE are "boot-chasing" material.

Or how about "dead elephant?" Usually a "dead elephant" at A&M is a senior during the spring semester. But lately the term has been used to describe those members of the drill teams who don't quite make the weight requirement.

Then there are the "two-percenters," those students at A&M who do not dis-

play the true Aggie spirit. It seems to me that "two-percenters" would be those students at A&M who actually enjoy seeing our guests march across the grass at the MSC.

And the only "ol' lady" around is the instructor screaming directions at the front of the line.

I suppose it wouldn't be so bad if they didn't stop traffic all the way back to Wellborn road every time they cross the street. I was almost late to class Tuesday because I couldn't cross the sidewalk. It is similar to waiting for a train to pass at a railroad crossing. Can you imagine trying to explain this situation to your professor? "I'm sorry I'm late, Dr. Smith. I couldn't cross the sidewalk this morning. I ran across this uncalculated wave of drill team members followed by the male members of the current fresh-

man conference. I'll take another next time."

What solutions do we have to this problem? My idea is to put up posters on the Commons that say, "WANTED: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. Applicable by tomorrow." Or maybe we could buy some drill team repellent and spray it along the outskirts of the university? Or how about prohibiting a person from wearing a color-coordinated outfit on campus while carrying a thermos? Maybe one of these methods would rid us of those pesky drill teams.

And just when you will think it is time to go back to campus again, the volunteer firemen will arrive. And this is it's personal.

Damon Arhos is a junior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

## Las Vegas: headquarters for hedonism, sin

In a move that surprised many, the Southern Baptists recently held this year's convention in Las Vegas.

Southern Baptists are known for their strict intolerance of such things as drinking, gambling and dancing — which covers everything including fooling around with the lights on.

One simply wonders why would these such pious individuals convene in the headquarters of hedonism.

To find a possible answer, I contacted the Rev. Leroy (Fingers) Fandango, pastor of The Buck Stops Here Baptist Church.

"Isn't Las Vegas an odd place for Southern Baptists?" I asked the Rev. Fandango who was speaking from his suite at Caesar's Palace.

**Lewis Grizzard**  
Syndicated Columnist

"On the contrary, my son," he answered. "We thought it would be a good idea to see if there's anything new going on here that we needed to be against."

"And have you seen any new form of sinning?" I continued.

"Actually, Las Vegas is really quite a family place, he said.

"But there is drinking in Las Vegas," I said. "I know Southern Baptists are against drinking."

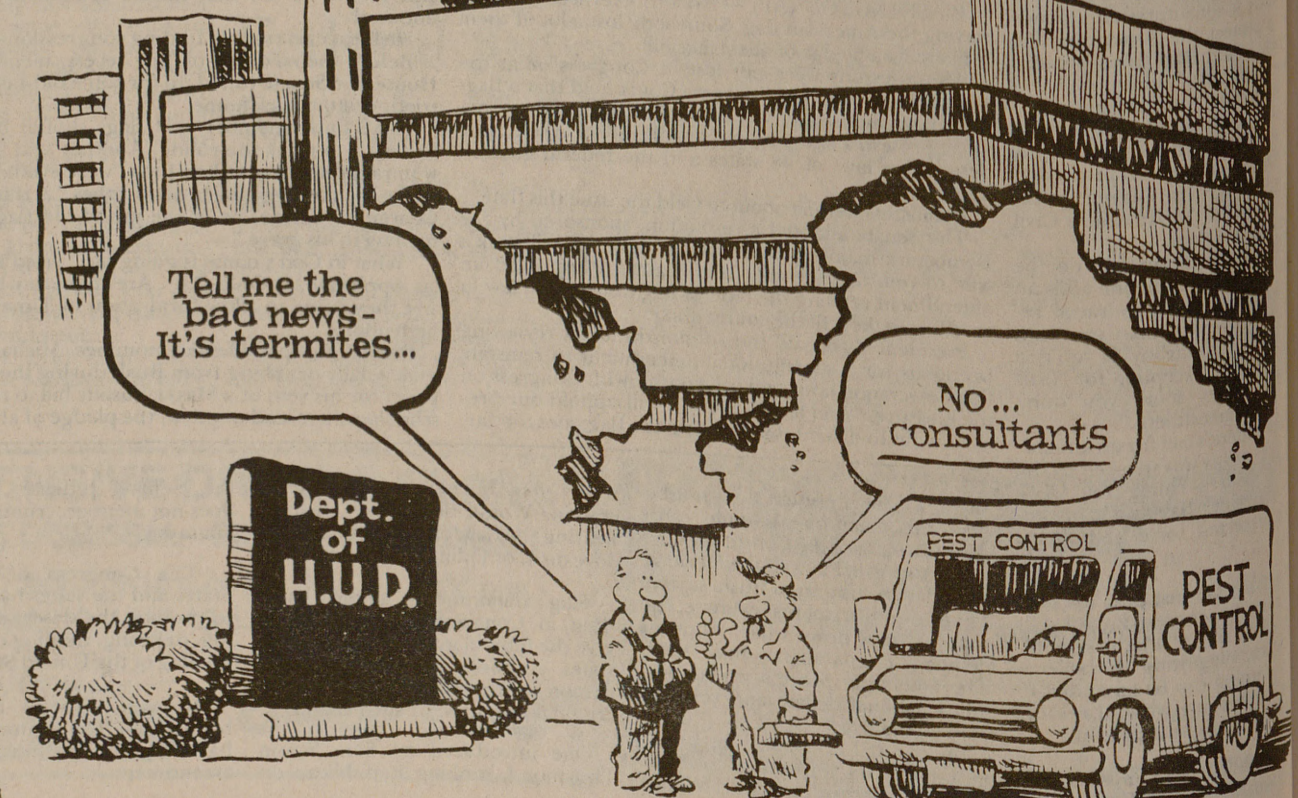
"We're getting much more liberal on drinking," explained Rev. Fandango.

"In what way?" I asked.

"We've started waving at one another in liquor stores," he answered.

"But what about the showgirls in Vegas?" I pressed on. "Southern Baptists have always taken a hard stand against dancing."

**MARGULIES**  
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"As a matter of fact," said the Rev. Fandango, "I am chairman of the dancing committee that is here studying this sinful practice. I think we have to engage in further study before making any statements in regards to our findings."

"Where might we see the Southern Baptists convene next year?" was my question to the clergyman.

"Atlantic City or Reno," he answered. "We vote tomorrow."

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