



## Mail Call

### Organizations beware

EDITOR:

We are writing concerning the article that appeared in the August 9, 1989 issue about the confiscated Cotton Bowl T-shirts. The man in question, John Tate, is not the unfortunate victim that *The Battalion* article makes him out to be. It just so happens that last year, the student organization we represent had dealings with John Tate (then named J. T. Enterprises, and not Hullabaloo Custom Screen Printing). We had a contract with Mr. Tate to sell his T-shirts in the MSC for a donation of \$500 to our organization. The T-shirts were sold during several football weekends over a two month period. At the end of this time, he was to pay us the \$500. Unfortunately, we never received the money from him. We felt like he was willing to work with us when difficulties arose, making it seem that his only concern was to make a profit when he represented himself as also caring about us as an organization.

If nothing else is accomplished by writing this letter, we would at least like to caution other organizations from entering into business arrangements with Mr. Tate. A quick review of his past business dealings with us, Campbell Services, Texas State Fairgrounds officials, not to mention the fact that in the past two years his company name has changed three times (Aggie Beach Club, J.T. Enterprises, and now Hullabaloo Custom Screen Printing) should make any organization weary of doing business with this man.

LaRay McKay '90  
Keith Powell '91  
Off Campus Aggies

### Corps is just fine

EDITOR:

I came to this fine university in the fall of 1984. I came here primarily because I wanted an Army commission, and I believed that A&M was the best place to get it.

This has not changed; Aggies are still held in high regard in the military. The reason is simple — ROTC at A&M must be augmented by membership in the Corps. It is this extracurricular training that separates Aggie officers from graduates of "Wednesday Warrior" schools.

Ms. Hobbs, would you sacrifice the historical quality of an A&M commission, along with the good reputation of Aggie officers, simply because you think non-regs should be allowed financial aid like ROTC scholarships and contracts?

I have nothing against non-regs — a year ago I became one myself. But if one is going to join the military just so he can be eligible for financial aid, then I dare say he has joined for the wrong reason.

Ray Kornhoff '88

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.

## Columnist needs lesson in history

Mitchell Todd

Guest Columnist

I read Jeff Osborne's column in Tuesday's *Battalion*, or should I say subjected myself to the torture of trying to read it while trying to think. His column has little to do with the latter. Fifteen paragraphs on "What America Should Do," but I found not one proposal for a course of action! Mr. Osborne seems to be guilty of the same crime that he accuses America's leaders of: being all fuse and no bang.

One also wonders what Mr. Osborne's grades were in history and cultural geography. His conception of both seems to be somewhat limited. His examples of former American fortitude need some clarification. Although the sinking of the Maine was a catalyst to the Spanish-American War, it must be noted that William Randolph Hearst's newspaper organization had stirred up war hysteria before the Maine incident. Also, Cuba had been a prime target for American jingoism since the early 19th century, particularly so at the close of the last century.

Osborne also does not fail to mention the sinking of the Lusitania as the event that brought the United States into World War I. Perhaps, upon reading a general history text, Mr. Osborne might find that a surprising amount of time separates the Lusitania's sinking and the American entry of the war, a period punctuated by several other German-U.S. crises.

In fact, Mr. Osborne might be astounded to find out that it often took years of these sorts of incidents to induce America into open conflict. Nations rarely go to war at the drop of a hat, and thank God for that! America has let slide many of the sorts of incidents that Mr. Osborne brings up. The Panay incident comes to mind. Only when there is a consistent pattern of these aggressions, and these events become more serious, does U.S. military action come into play as an option. War, and acts of war, must be carefully weighed by good judgment before they are carried out.

As for the comparison of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan to the Shiite fundamentalists of today, Mr. Osborne may well recognize that the two former nations were mighty world powers, eco-

nomically and militarily, while the nations that Osborne mentions are either, or even. These groups are just not as dangerous to the nation as a whole — nothing like America's World War I foes. They have no significant industrial base to forge the iron of war. They have no great legions of men and machines to wage war on land. They have no armada of aircraft to rain bombs on cities. That is exactly why they are not terrorism as the instrument of policy.

But what stand should we take to combat these outrages? We cannot at the root causes of the problem, cause the Hezbollah in Lebanon the result of years of Shiite disenfranchisement and civil war. There is nothing the United States can do about that. Various types of military raids, they do little good and much bad. The Israelis have bombed P.L.O. installations for years, but the P.L.O. is far from cowed, and the only thing these raids have gotten for Israel is a great deal of bad press. The only useful aspect of raids and such is that they show the raiding nation is. It is some national chest beating. That leaves a country with two options: war and ing.

War, of course, is the last ditch option, to be used when the actions of these groups have become entirely unbearable. Also, war cannot be considered as an option until there is enough support from the U.S. population to make such an undertaking feasible. One wants another Vietnam. That leaves us with one option: to be patient. The fundamentalists go away or until continuing violence done to this nation and its people impels us into action, there is little else we can do other than to just wait. It is not an easy option of action, but this is a grown-up nation and one of the qualities ascribed to grown-ups is patience.

Mitchell Todd is a junior business major and a guest columnist for *The Battalion*.

## My philosophy: once a bozo always a bozo

Ted Turner's in trouble again. All because he called a bozo a bozo.

Not many people do that anymore, because they're afraid of offending somebody.

Call a bozo a bozo today, and you will be covered up in bozo wrath.

Ted Turner called female anti-abortionists bozos. So outraged were these bozos, Turner's Atlanta offices had to put on extra operators to handle all the outraged callers.

Remember the Supreme Court ruling about the flag? The Supreme Court said if some bozo wants to go out and burn the American flag, it's OK because such an action falls under freedom of speech.

So what was Ted Turner doing? He was exercising his right of free speech. You might not agree with what the man said, but if flag burning is protected under free speech, then Ted Turner ought to be able to say what he pleases, regardless of whom he offends.

In fact, I believe that so strongly, I've decided to make public my own list of bozos, and I frankly don't care who it off-

fends, and I don't have to answer the phone around here, so call all you want.

If Gail Godfrey of Delta Airlines can handle an entire army platoon calling her for reservations (so go the commercials) my secretary, the lovely Miss Wanda Fribish, can handle all the bozos smart enough to dial a telephone.

The Grizzard Bozo Hall of Fame includes:

- Gun nuts. May they all shoot their toes off.
- The Rev. Al Sharpton.
- Newt Gingrich. You can look at him and tell he's a bozo.
- People who think Elvis is still alive. He's as dead as Pete Rose.
- Morton Downey, Jr. Did you read where he's launching a singing career? Get the bozo hook.
- Richard Nixon. He was already a bozo and then he made that statement

Lewis Grizzard  
Columnist

about Congress spending too much time on ethics. Now, he's a double-bozo.

— Mike Tyson. A rich bozo, but still a bozo.

— His ex-wife.

— Anybody who sends money to television evangelists, bozos all.

— The two guys who took Siskel and Ebert's place reviewing movies on public television. Their mothers dress them funny, too.

— Members of the Ku Klux Klan. They even wear official bozo pointed hats.

— The entire nation of Iran.

— Geraldo Rivera.

— Religious fanatics who think the devil is behind the annual Sports Illustrated issue.

— Them and anybody who claims to talk to God.

— Anybody who begs for money at an airport.

— Automobile dealers who do their own commercials.

— Zsa Zsa Gabor.

— Anybody who still doesn't realize

professional wrestling is fake. This particular brand of bozo can be dangerous.

— Not all anti-abortionists, but some. The loud ones who show up on television being dragged away from an abortion clinic by police.

— Ted Turner, of course. He's a bozo, but at least he's a bozo with a conscience. Which is more than you can say about most of the others.

Miss Fribish is standing by for your calls. Fire when ready.  
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## Let's eliminate drug deaths

Curtis Franks

Guest Columnist

In recent years a startling epidemic has caught the attention of America. This epidemic has caused death and destruction of families and even the devastation of neighborhoods, towns and cities.

Many people have been plagued by drug abuse. It has claimed the lives of thousands of individuals both guilty and innocent. Actions have been taken to discourage the abuse of illegal substances and campaigns have flooded the media to repress the growing problem that has entered into the mainstream of American life. Has this country been faced with an undefeatable foe, or will we be able to regain what has been lost in the crossfire of a society gone mad?

Many incidents of violence have claimed the lives of many children and adolescents across the nation. Suburbs and city housing projects of lower income have been transformed into war zones with many innocent people being driven by fear and violence to remain silent about the drug-related events taking place. The wide use of drugs in our communities has given a new and broad definition to the word addict.

Different forms of drugs have come and gone in the last decade, but as time progresses more drugs surface for illegal sale. The recent problem, a form of cocaine known as "crack," has enabled more people to become involved in drug abuse. Crack sells from \$5 to \$20 per rock on the street. Drug abuse in our society isn't restricted to urban communities, but has spread to the far reaches of America's countryside.

The efforts to control the rate of drug flow into the country have been partially successful, but the rate of the flow is too widespread for law enforcement officers to keep up with. Tough penalties have been imposed on those convicted of drug trafficking, but usually the full sentence is not served in jail due to overcrowding.

Have we really strayed away from our priorities in life? People sometimes de-

fine the drug problem as a dilemma only suffered by the underclass, but reality it takes on a meaning that includes all races and social classes — rich and poor. The effects may be different economically, but the final outcome is still the same.

The America we live in has faced many challenges, but none as powerful and destructive as drug abuse. This dilemma has had a grip on our country in a terrible way — ways that later generations of our world, ways that add a greater or fame to selling drugs as if it's right to be a part of the illegal gambling.

This plague of despair has broken hearts and homes of many. Dealing with drugs in our times can sometimes be hard because of peer pressure. Avoiding problems by using drugs adds to one's troubles. Drug abuse affects us all. By dealing with it directly maybe we can help another to grow resistance to a lifestyle of certain death.

Curtis Franks is a freshman general studies major and a clerk for *The Battalion*.

### The Battalion

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