

Mail Call

Director uses poor judgment

EDITOR:

I am responding to IFC Director Charles Goodman's comments in the Tuesday, September 12 issue of *The Battalion*.

I understand that Goodman's last day with the University was Thursday, September 14. His departure was unrelated to the article or his comments — he had "accepted another position some time ago."

Although Goodman is "no longer with us," I still feel compelled to express my disgust that a staff member at our University would publicly belittle any program attempting to deal positively with alcohol (even if it was at t.u., which is generally fair game for ridicule).

Goodman's argument that the program is ineffective is appropriate, if justified with proper examples. His references to the program as a "cute and clever public relations campaign" or as a result of "cirrhosis of the liver from all the drinking they did this summer" are not. Selina Gonzalez's article was fair reporting — Goodman showed poor judgment and unprofessional behavior in his response to

t.u.'s dry rush policy.

Christine Bernsen
Graduate Student

Aggies need attitude adjustment

EDITOR:

Aggies are supposed to be friendly — so, what's the problem? I've noticed a severe attitude change around this "friendly" campus. It's not friendly anymore! Aren't you happy to be at this wonderful university? It's the best place around! You are Aggies not t-sips.

Let's get rid of the "attitude" and bring back that Aggie spirit. I know classes are hard, but that is true for all of us. If you have a problem saying "Howdy" or "Hi," at least smile. Texas A&M is special, and it is a tradition to be friendly.

Allison Currie '91

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.

Texans choose a new governor



Molly Ivins

Syndicated Columnist

At last, a gubernatorial candidate with real promise: Beloveds, I hereby throw the full weight of my support behind the campaign of Les ("Vote Nope to Nope and Yes to Les") Chambers, country-western singer from Lancaster and sometime politician. Chambers has run for governor before, in 1982 and 1986. The reason you never got to vote for him is on account of he didn't have enough money to pay the filing fee, so he never got on the ballot. But fear not, Les' financing is solid this outing; he says he's already got the bucks to file and he'll be in till the finish.

Of his fellow Democratic candidates Les said, "I'm gonna give them a fit." Chambers is already onto the hot issue of the year like a duck on a June bug: "I hate drugs and dope so much it makes me sick to think about it," he said. If elected, he'll turn his governor's platform, except he promises to have a lot of fun running for office. "My body's worn out but my mind's still sound," he claimed during his announcement Thursday. 'Tis a statement I hope will not come back to haunt him.

Can't tell yet whether Chambers will measure up to the high standards set by my all-time favorite gubernatorial candidate, Bobby Locke, in his immortal 1986 campaign, during which he challenged Moammar Gadhafi to hand-to-hand combat, a duel to the death, in the Gulf of Sidra on the Line of Death. Locke trained for the bout with Gadhafi in his swimming pool in San Antonio. So far, Chambers is the only guy in the race with Lockean potential.

Aside from my man Les ("Les is More"), the current play in the governor's race is mostly on the Republican side. I have never been able to figure out how Republican politics works, but I can pass along what all the They Sayers are saying. In the Republican column, we have thus far: former Secretary of State Jack Rains, a Houston businessman who works hard at politics but doesn't resonate well — I'm not sure how to explain that, but he's a little white-shoe; Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance of Lubbock, the only experienced pol in the race but a former Democrat still not trusted in his new party; Clayton Williams, the Midland communications magnate who has a lot of natural political smarts but is inexperienced; and some lesser lights, including the egregious fundamentalist preacher W.W. Ottwell and some janitor. So I look at this bunch and figure Hance is their best pick; the man campaigns like Darth Vader, is a favorite son in West Texas and knows what the hell government is. All the They Sayers say I couldn't be female and funny won't sell. I want you to remember that you read this here first — they're wrong. I suspect the consultants are wrong about politics and humor across the board, but to my certain knowledge, they're wrong about politics and humor in two places — Texas and New York. Nebraska, couldn't swear to. But Ed Koch never would have won a third term in New York if he weren't funny, and I never saw a Texas pol who was hurt by humor; any level, any place. I know Reagan Brown made jokes about blacks and Louis Welch made a joke about gays but anyone who can't tell the difference between humor and bigotry is dead meat in politics today.

Texas Republicans have traditionally had a top-down party, with the decision made by a bunch of rich guys in Dallas and I guess that's still how it works. Maybe, Luce, by all accounts is both able and affable. I still think it's a bad idea to elect someone without political experience to an important political office and I offer Bill Clements as a prime example of what goes wrong when we do.

Interestingly enough, Claytie Williams, a successful businessman by all measure, says he's studied the political process long enough to agree with this proposition. Williams may be in danger of making a fatal strategic error in a Republican primary, which is telling the truth. The other day he refused to endorse a constitutional ban on a state income tax on account of it's lousy idea. It's just stupid to cut off an option when you can't see what's coming down the road — Williams suggested the drug plague might get so much worse in the future that we'd have to consider an income tax to fight it, but he certainly didn't endorse a state income tax. That of course, made no difference to Kent Hance; in his usual distort-and-smear campaign mode he promptly announced that he was shocked and horrified to learn that Williams favors a state income tax. If I were a Republican, I feel insulted that some politician thought I was stupid enough to fall for that ploy — but I never have understood Republicans. Street betting is not that a Luce candidacy kills Hance, because he finishes second to Luce in Dallas and second to Williams in West Texas.

On the Democratic side, Railroad Commissioner John Sharp observes that Democrats just want this primary to be over so Ann Richards can go back to being funny and we can get through a supermarket check-out line without having to shake hands with Jim Matton. Richards has been warned within an inch of her life about being funny to the public — apparently all the geniuses who run campaigns (Shakespeare was wrong; the first thing we need to do is kill all the campaign consultants) have concluded that a candidate who is both female and funny won't sell. I want you to remember that you read this here first — they're wrong. I suspect the consultants are wrong about politics and humor across the board, but to my certain knowledge, they're wrong about politics and humor in two places — Texas and New York. Nebraska, couldn't swear to. But Ed Koch never would have won a third term in New York if he weren't funny, and I never saw a Texas pol who was hurt by humor; any level, any place. I know Reagan Brown made jokes about blacks and Louis Welch made a joke about gays but anyone who can't tell the difference between humor and bigotry is dead meat in politics today.

Give prostitution the green light

George Bernard Shaw once said that any vice that cannot be suppressed should be made a virtue. The "vice" considered the world's oldest profession cannot be suppressed and, most would agree, should not be made a virtue, but it should be made legal.

Please do not get the wrong idea, indeed I am not in favor of the legalization of prostitution for any personal reasons. But the fact that prostitution is illegal poses numerous problems.

I have attempted to logically determine why prostitution is illegal and I simply cannot do it.

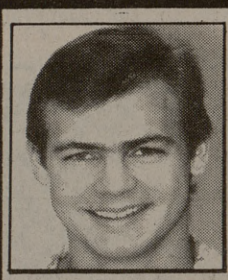
The "working girls" are still working, and always have been. Prostitution is a profession that has passed the test of time with flying colors and high hemlines. The laws do not work.

Unfortunate as it is, earning money is a necessity. Our society dictates that one must have money to not only have luxury items, but to survive. Jobs seem to be the best way to make money.

On the same hand, sex is seen as good by most people. If the proper precautions are taken by two consenting adults, sex not meant for procreation is recreation.

Why then, is prostitution supposedly an immoral thing when it is simply an extension of free-enterprise, something our country normally values quite highly?

I am under the impression that laws prohibiting prostitution stem from a warped Judeo-Christian philosophy of sex. Lawmakers seem to have taken the biblical view literally with blinders to all other information. The distressing fact is not that we have let religious views



Matt McBurnett
Columnist

dictate our morals, but that they dictate our laws.

Illegal prostitution is similar to prohibition in the 1920's. Prohibition was an obvious failure because the regulation of society's morals with laws cannot be done. Prohibition fostered illegal activities other than the selling of alcohol (even giving rise to the Kennedys).

Illegal prostitution also provides an inlet for other harmful activities.

Drug abuse is among the first of the ills that comes to my mind when I think of prostitutes. If prostitution were just another job, the trade would not be corrupted by as many factors that provide easy access to drugs, such as street life and pimps.

Many current hookers are no more than slaves to pimps or brothel-owners. Prostitutes need these people and institutions for protection and to aid in police evasion. Also, the present system dictates that the prostitute is an employee, losing most of her profit to her employer be it a hotel manager or pimp. Furthermore, the pimp is essentially free to abuse his woman in any way that he wants.

Legalization would eliminate the need for pimps. With no laws forcing in-

carceration of hookers, a pimp would not be needed to remove his girl from jail or pay court fees.

Under legalization, state governments could license prostitutes. This would serve several purposes.

Licensure would remove the prostitute from the street and have her placed in a regulated brothel, therefore making her's like any other business. Under this plan, their income could even be taxed, which should pacify a few lawmakers. Another advantage of licensure would be the stemming of sexually transmitted diseases.

Lastly, legalization would promote equity. Prostitutes are often incarcerated for practicing their professions but their clients are rarely even arrested, though under the present system, both the hooker and the "john" are considered guilty.

The greatest advantage of the legalization proposal is its solvency. It will work. America's prostitution zones are normally located in filthy and virtually forbidden zones that are plagued with scum. By contrast, in Amsterdam, where prostitution is legal, "red light" districts are clean, well-lighted and have brothels intermixed with homes, restaurants and even churches.

Legalization would offer advantages over the present system that would be more fully realized with the passage of time. These include popular acceptance of the fact that prostitution is inevitable, and a more harmonious relationship between prostitutes and society.

Let's give prostitution the green light.

Matt McBurnett is a junior electrical engineering major and a columnist for The Battalion.

I'd much rather run up bills

Did you ever notice how people who exercise always want people who don't to start doing so? I used to get some exercise when I played tennis, but I don't play tennis anymore.

I play golf now, but you don't get a lot of exercise playing golf because, if you're smart, you ride in a golf cart.

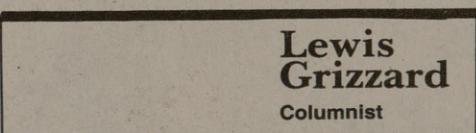
But back to the original thought here. I was married once to a woman who ran in marathons.

She wasn't satisfied running by herself. She wanted me to run, too.

"It will be something we could do together," she would say.

"We eat together, sleep together, go to your mother's house for dinner together, and then argue about it together when we get home. Isn't that enough?" was my usual reply.

A recent study indicated runners' in-



Lewis Grizzard
Columnist

nards get joggled so much it is not uncommon for their stomachs to change places with their livers and for their kidneys to droop. You don't know discomfort until your kidneys droop.

What former runners are doing now is walking. Some walkers walk slowly, while others walk fast and swing out their arms in the manner of a person in dire need of a rest room.

These people pay up to \$150 for special walking shoes. Drooping brains.

I've walked before, and it never made me feel better at all. When I was a child, I walked all over the place. That's because of the sill rule that says you can't drive an automobile until you're 16 or so.

The basic point here is that my exercising days are over, and nobody's going to change my mind.

You want to run, run. You want to walk, walk. But leave me out of all of it. There's enough of me that's drooping as it is.

Copyright 1989, Cowles Syndicate

MARGULIES
©1989 HOUSTON POST



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Scot Walker, Editor
Wade See, Managing Editor
Juliette Rizzo, Opinion Page Editor
Fiona Soltes, City Editor
Ellen Hobbs, **Chuck Squatriglia**,
News Editors
Tom Kehoe, Sports Editor
Jay Janner, Art Director
Dean Sueltenfuss, Lifestyles Editor

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Baylor-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 77843-1111.