

Mail Call

Say goodbye to morals, ideals

EDITOR:

I am responding to Matt McBurnett's column in the Tuesday, September 19 issue of *The Battalion*. For those of you who did not get a chance to read his column, Mr. McBurnett started out by stating that he was not in favor of legalizing prostitution; yet, his last statement was "Let's give prostitution the green light."

Mr. McBurnett then proceeded to give a quotation that any "vice" that could not be suppressed should be made a virtue. For some reason I wondered if cockroaches and ants could qualify. Mr. McBurnett then clarified himself and stated that prostitution should be legalized since it was an old profession that could not be suppressed. I then wondered if the "old" profession of hired killers could be legalized.

Later in his column, Mr. McBurnett stated that he was under the impression that laws prohibiting prostitution came from a "warped" Judeo-Christian philosophy of sex and that religious views are dictating our laws.

First of all, the Bible says that sex is to be between man and his wife, not between man and a prostitute. (1 Corinthians 6:15, 7:3-5.) Now what's wrong with that?

Second, our forefathers came to what is now America in order to get away from religious persecutions. They then began to establish laws, which incorporated their beliefs, religious and non-religious.

I think that if prostitution were to become legalized, our nation would become even more corrupt and that many of

our ideals and morals (whether religious or not) will become warped too. I hope the day will never come when a child says, "Mommy, I want to grow up to be just like you, a legalized prostitute."

Zane Dunnam '92

Prostitution not profession

EDITOR:

There are still some people in this country that believe sex should be something special between two people. I have more respect for women than to think they can only make money from prostitution. Just because it resembles free enterprise does not mean it should be legalized. Should we legalize crack because it resembles supply and demand?

Having worked in Laredo and been to "boystown," I can attest that even the poorest of women do not become prostitutes because it is easier than holding down a job. Prostitution is not a profession but an unfortunate by-product of a male-dominated society which belittles women to subdue them and boost their own male insecurities.

Let's condemn prostitution and give women some more credit.

Theodore Liu
Graduate Student

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.

Don't judge TV Guide by its cover

This thing about *TV Guide* putting Oprah Winfrey's head on Ann-Margret's body and then making a cover out of the combination is quite shocking to me.

How can you trust anything that's inside a magazine whose editors would do something like that on its cover?

I've been a regular reader of *TV Guide* for years. I find this slip into deceit quite appalling.

What was wrong with Oprah Winfrey's body? I admit it was once cow-like but she lost a lot of weight, and got herself down to the point she no longer has to call in heavy equipment to help her get out of her jeans.

In an effort to get to the bottom of all this, I phoned the offices of *TV Guide* and spoke to one of the art directors, who asked I not use his name.

I agreed to that, so we shall call him Fred.

"You really want the truth?" asked Fred.

"The truth is the cornerstone of this

Lewis Grizzard

Syndicated Columnist

column," I answered.

"Well, what happened was Oprah's head is much too big for her squatty body," explained Fred.

"And what did you do?"

"We lied to Oprah. We told her she looked great on the cover and if you looked at it sideways, it didn't appear she had a cabbage head after all."

"And then?"

"And that's when we decided we had to doctor the photograph. At first, we tried putting Oprah's head on Geena Davis's body, but Geena is so slim, Oprah looked like a Tootsie Pop."

"So then we went for Maggie Thatcher's body, but the results were quite scary to be perfectly honest with you. Then we tried

Nancy Reagan, Jane Pauley, Imelda

Marcos, Miss Idaho, Wonder Woman and Kermit the Frog."

How did you finally come up with Ann-Margret?"

"We got it down to her and Barbara Bush, and we flipped a coin and it came up Ann-Margret."

"And you were going to try to pull off this ruse on the American people until a designer recognized the dress on the cover as one he had designed for Ann-Margret and blew the whistle on you?"

"That's about the size of it," said Fred. "We've been up to our necks in complaints."

I stand foursquare against such attempts to fool the reading public, and I have vehemently opposed my publisher's idea to put my head on Arnold Schwarzenegger's body for the cover of my upcoming book, "Autobiography of a Hunk," in which I discuss how I achieved my god-like, perfectly sculpted body without the use of steroids.

See you in a bookstore soon.
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Hop on the Howdy bus

Bonfire. Reveille. The Twelfth Man. Fish Camp. Center Pole. Ol' Sarge. Elephant Walk. Hullabaloo. Aggieeland.

Finfeather. 29th Street. Dartmouth. 2818. Lincoln. Welsh. Southwest Parkway. Marion Pugh. Anderson.

Tell me, what do these two lists have in common with each other? Well, besides the fact that "Hullabaloo" rhymes with "Marion Pugh," it seems to me that the two are totally unrelated.

But A&M's Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services has decided that the two lists are related, substituting traditions from the first list for bus routes in the second. Beginning this fall, the traditional bus route names were scrapped, and were renamed for many of the traditions at A&M.

And what a concept it is! Whereas students and faculty who ride buses used to know the buses general direction, they now have no clue whatsoever of the buses destination. Every individual is now expected to know where each specific bus will take them, relying solely on the name of the tradition on the marquee.

And what is the purpose of a marquee anyway? (A marquee is a sign above the front windshield of a bus that supposedly identifies its destination.) It would seem to me that the marquee of a bus would allow any potential passenger to identify where the bus is going. But not here at A&M. Our marquees are adorned with names of traditions that have no bearing on the destination of the bus.

Don't get me wrong. I am very proud to attend Texas A&M, and I have pride in and respect for the traditions of our school. But it seems very strange to me that our Aggie traditions are riding around atop bus windshields. Does this show respect for our traditions?

And what is worse is the potential confusion the new names may cause. Try telling somebody that you are going



Damon Arhos
Columnist

to ride "Reveille" home. (I wouldn't were you.) Or imagine if someone you if you've seen "Bonfire" drive by. Or what if people expect the "Camp" bus to go to Palestine? Can sit down on the "Twelfth Man" bus. These examples may seem a little bit fetched, but what if you were a visitor our campus? Or a freshman? Or an international student?

Bus operations thought the old bus route names would become obsolete considering the amount of construction on and around our campus. They thought that with routes changing all of the time because of construction, the old names did not always describe the correct destination of the buses. They believe new names will prevent route names from becoming obsolete.

But even with all of the construction buses still generally travel in the same directions they always have. While adjustments may have to be made because of construction, it is unreasonable to compromise a sensible description of bus route for a name that is totally unrepresentative of the buses general destination. The new names for the bus routes can only cause confusion on the part of A&M's bus-riding population.

So now for the first time in the history of A&M, "Yell Practice" arrives a little earlier than midnight, "Reveille" actually carries passengers and "Bonfire" travels the campus via *Goodyear*. And thought "Scarlet O'Hara" was strange. Silly me.

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

President Bush's clean air hard to breathe

President Bush has outlined his plan to clean the nations filthy and dangerous air. The plan would be as successful at obtaining clean air for the nation as Exxon's recently halted clean-up efforts were at getting oil off of Alaskan beaches. It is also all but proof that, unfortunately, he is not the environmentalist he claims to be. His final plan has the fingerprints of industry clearly visible all over it.

Legislation for cleaning the nations air has been separated into three areas of focus: acid rain, urban smog and air toxics. The House has come up with strong bills for each of the three identified areas of concern, including an air toxics bill introduced by the late Congressman Mickey Leland.

President Bush's legislation comes nowhere near the House's strong bill, and incredibly, includes provisions which downgrade existing regulations.

One of the new notable positive components of President Bush's plan is a provision mandating a reduction of nine million tons per year of sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning electric utilities. This was probably included to appeal to Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, whose state of Maine has been plagued by acid rain.

Incredibly, however, the other major acid rain precursor, nitrogen oxide emissions, are allowed to increase. The

Michael Worsham

Guest Columnist

proposal includes no net reductions of nitrogen oxides, as the reductions in the bill are set from levels projected for the year 2000, and the "reduction" would be wiped out by nitrogen oxide pollution growth in the 1990s.

The Bush administration claims that when it originally promised to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen by two million tons, it meant the reduction of anticipated GROWTH of nitrogen oxides from three million tons to one million tons. A professor of mine commented to me about his observance during a recent vacation of the wearing away of the outside stonework of a centuries-old cathedral in Europe, a victim of acid rain. He noted that the inside of the structure, composed of the same material, was intact.

President Bush's originally promising goals to reduce the emission of billions of pounds of toxic air pollutants have been reduced to a plan seemingly written by the industries responsible for toxic air pollution. His plan explicitly instructs the EPA to allow the use of less effective pollution control technology if better controls cost industry too much.

Environmentalists say the bill would

continue the present lengthy and ineffective standard-setting process under which the EPA has regulated only seven of some 300 known toxics over the last 19 years. Even some industries have set stronger goals for themselves than President Bush has. Monstrato and Union Carbide have already adopted the necessary goal of zero emissions of air toxics.

Another strong weakness with President Bush's plan is the tremendous proportion of the bill's measures that are discretionary for the EPA, which has shown a strong reluctance in the past to use its discretionary powers. There are more than 270 such "may" clauses in the 279-page bill which must be changed to "shall" for the bill to be effective in reducing air pollution.

Although the nations large cities have

the most urgent need for tough clean air legislation, even largely rural areas such as the Brazos Valley would benefit greatly from tough clean air legislation.

Recent EPA data shows that Texas leads the nation with 238 million pounds of toxic air emissions in 1987. The Alcoa Aluminum plant in nearby Rockdale was the fifth largest industrial producer of dangerous toxic emissions in the state of Texas in 1987. Harris County lead Texas with 44,494,717 pounds of toxic air emissions, and was the sixth largest emitter in the entire country.

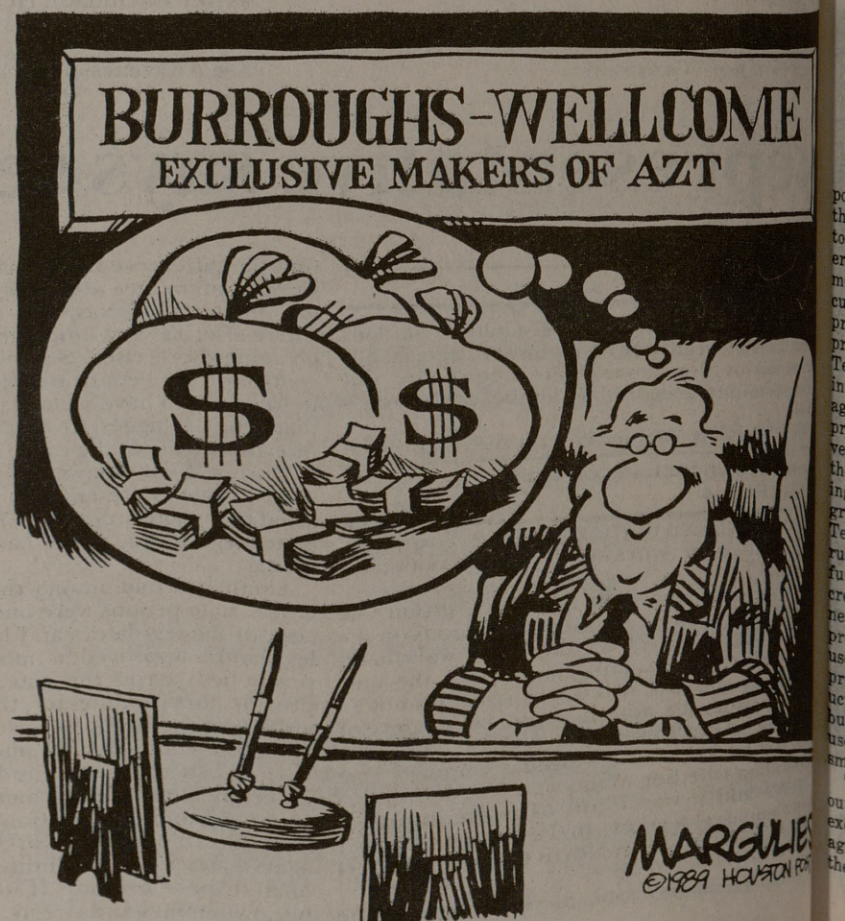
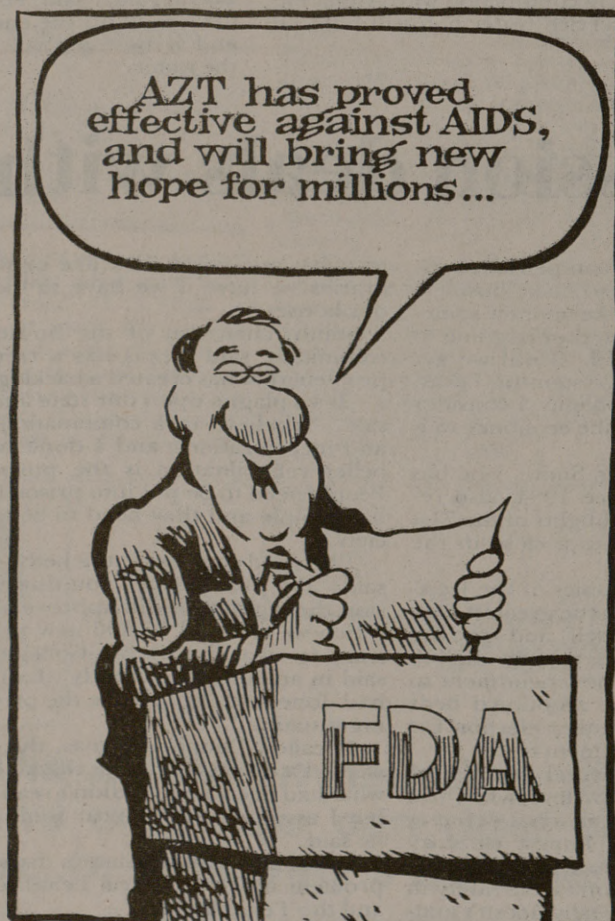
Dirty air affects every single person. Since everyone must breathe, no one is immune from air pollution. We each take in about 20,000 quarts of air per day. Our lungs are extremely vulnerable to chemical agents. Eyes are also an

avenue for entrance of toxics to the body. Airborne chemicals and particulates do not discriminate, and are not terribly choosy about who or what they attack themselves to.

The colorless and odorless particulates and chemicals that can't be seen or smelled will do their dirty work silently and gradually weakening immune systems, slowly killing unwitting members of the public. The lack of an immediate or obvious physiological sensation lulls many into a false feeling of security. Health effects such as cancer or respiratory disease may not become manifest for several years or decades after exposure.

We can no longer let industries tell what to breathe.

Michael C. Worsham is an environmental engineering graduate student.



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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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.

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