

Mail Call

Misleading headline

EDITOR:

I am writing about an article published in *The Battalion* Thursday. The article's headline read "French airliner crash in Niger takes 171 lives / Moslem terrorists claim responsibility." The headline refers to Moslem terrorists as responsible for the crash.

First, let me make sure I am not defending the persons who planned the bombing. If in fact such a bomb was planted on the plane, then terrorists may be to blame. However, the words "Moslem terrorists" in the headline are, to me, terrorist words because it's unfair to say such things.

I am a Moslem and in my religion we have no right to kill any innocent person or people. It's very clear in our Holy Koran that whoever does kill any innocent person is going to hell forever and should be judged according to the law.

Referring to the person who planted the bomb as a Moslem terrorist makes the reader understand that the word terrorist goes together with the word Moslem, and people start thinking that a Moslem is a terrorist. This label we were given in the United States has been going for years now, and a lot of Americans are misled by this label.

All that is going on in the Middle East, including the killing of innocent people, has nothing to do with the Islamic religion. What we are witnessing is only politics and sometimes politics in the name of religion.

Omar Rais
Graduate student

Looking for Bums

EDITOR:

Once again the yell leaders have overestimated their roles at A&M and reinforced my opinion that they have no place outside of football.

On Wednesday night, the Lady Ags defeated Lamar. Normally, I'd be ecstatic, but an otherwise great game of Lady Ag Volleyball was ruined by the "boys." Whenever they come to the games, the mood of the crowd drops noticeably.

Trust me — I know what I'm talking about since I've been a Bleacher Bum for three years, and even their president for one of those years. The Bleacher Bums are a group of fans who show up at every game to support the team through yells and traditions that have grown up with the Lady Ag program.

The yell leaders seem completely ignorant of these traditions. They usurp the rightful leaders of the crowd, the Bleacher Bums. I say "rightful" because we're there for every game, not just when the Ladies are winning or playing t.u.

We also do not:

- Obstruct the view of the fans.
- Block the workers.
- Use football yells when volleyball yells are called for.
- Horse laugh good calls.
- Horse laugh *our own players' mistakes*.

Most importantly, we do not idly stand in the maroon strip surrounding the court and thus potentially interfere with the game itself.

But guess who does? Bingo! The hairless milkmen strike again!

The Bleacher Bums, however, do:

- Support the ladies.
- Know the rules of the game.
- Know where and when to lead a volleyball yell.
- Do show up at every game, even if we're losing.

It's the Bleacher Bums that incite the crowd to fervor, and it's the crowd that makes Texas A&M infamous across the nation for their support of the home team and their abuse of the opponents.

Hey guys, come to the games. We want you there. Just don't come as yell leaders.

We're looking for a few good BUMS.

Brian W. Beck '91

Stop legalized prostitution

EDITOR:

According to Matt McBurnett's article "Give Prostitution the Green Light," on Sept. 19, George Bernard Shaw, a seemingly quintessential politician, said a vice which we are unable to suppress should become thought of as a virtue.

Because murder, rape, assault and theft are vices this country seems unable to suppress, I am overjoyed that George Bernard Shaw does not dictate our laws.

Prostitution, "considered the world's oldest profession" as stated by Matt McBurnett, "is simply an extension of free enterprise."

If such is the case, then I suppose prostitution would naturally fall under the category of a service provided for entertainment. (Perhaps it would be broadly classified with football and baseball — minus the hotdog and apple pie.)

Unfortunately, as McBurnett correctly states, illegal prostitution provides a base for harmful activities. A statement he would not agree with however is that more than being simply immoral, legal prostitution would provide an even larger base for these harmful activities.

It is a credo of Mr. McBurnett that legal prostitution, being a credible job, would not be "corrupted" by drug-related influences. I believe contrarily that legalization of the rent of a female body would increase availability to drugs due to easier access.

Legalization of prostitution would allow a hooker the safety and convenience of waiting until after the service to market her other wares. Currently, they are arrested for prostitution prior to the act, and any drugs found are confiscated. Few policemen would willingly endure the intercourse to make a drug bust afterward.

One need not go to church weekly to realize the adverse impact of a father of four soliciting a trick from a prostitute.

People can become addicted to illegitimate sex as well as drugs. When this sex becomes easier to obtain, more otherwise healthy minds will be driven by a craving for any female body they can put their hands on.

McBurnett's article furthermore claims the spread of sexually transmitted diseases would be slowed. With easier sex and rapidly spreading AIDS, I doubt this.

Finally, McBurnett concludes his article by illustrating the "red light" districts in Amsterdam which are "clean, well-lighted and have brothels intermixed with homes, restaurants and even churches." No children of mine will ever be raised in this type of environment.

Jon S. Beeler '92

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.

Quality students shouldn't be rejected by organizations

Several friends of mine were recently turned down for positions in student organizations recognized by Texas A&M University. The fact they were rejected made me wonder why they were rejected and also why any qualified candidate that is eager to be in an organization has to be rejected.

Many campus organizations have open membership — they take anyone who wants to be a member of the club. Other organizations pick members by an application process, most including an interview.

Of the organizations which use an application process, some do it to screen undesirable applicants, and the others do it to limit their membership.

Using an application process to screen potential members is easily justified. Screening allows the organization to weed out the people who will not be good members of the organization. If someone doesn't show up for his interview, that's a good indication he won't be a reliable member. Or if the interview shows the applicant to be "negative" towards the organization, the group would probably be wise not to take him as a member. But the organization who screens takes as many people as possible who fit into the structure.

Other organizations limit their membership to a certain number and hold interviews to choose the hallowed few who will attain membership status. This is true of fraternities, several service organizations, about half of the MSC committees, (from which my friends were rejected), the Orientation Leader program, and Fish Camp, as well as other campus organizations.

Yet if a qualified student applies, I



Timm Doolen

Assistant
Opinion
Page Editor

think he should be admitted to an organization if at all possible. By qualified, I mean one who has shown significant interest in joining the organization and has skills which could be utilized by the organization.

If a person applies to be a member of a group and invests a lot of time into becoming a member, and then is rejected by that organization, it makes the person less willing to apply a second time. Not only does it make the applicant less willing to later reapply for the organization, towards which he probably feels bitter, but it also possibly chills future intentions for involvement at A&M.

With some organizations, there are so many applicants and so few slots that the choices of who becomes a member become arbitrary or political. One candidate may be chosen over another, possibly better candidate for either whimsical reasons or because the candidate is a friend of the upper echelon of the organization. That's neither fair nor sensible.

Even *The Battalion* limits the number of people it hires, but we're not a real student organization in that we pay our staff. I wish we could hire all the qualified people who apply, but unfortunately, *The Battalion* is limited by its

budget. To compensate, we not only accept, but also encourage students to write in letters and guest columns.

I realize some of the organizations with limited membership have to cap on their size for structural reasons. Fish Camp always has over twice as many applicants as positions available and no matter how much Fish Camp expanded, it can never find a place for all those eager students. This is with other organizations, but I encourage those groups to make every effort possible to enlarge the programs.

Those groups who do allow participation by any interested person should be commended, including the Corps Cadets (but not including some of the military organizations within the Corps), OCA, RHA, many of the student Government committees and clubs within the Department of Student Activities.

We must keep in mind that the campus organizations are designed primarily for students, and to turn eager students away is to defeat the purpose of the organization. And nothing an organization does is so important that it can't find some place for additional students.

I urge the organizations who limit their membership and their leaders try and open up their group to allow much participation as possible. The passing up many qualified members who would greatly benefit their organization, and at the same time are discouraging the same, quality people from participating in other campus activities.

Timm Doolen is a junior computer science major and assistant opinion page editor for The Battalion.

House: for sale by owner

I bought a new house a year ago and put my old one on the market. I haven't even had a nibble on the old one much less an offer.

"It's just a slow market right now," my friends tell me.

Paying a mortgage on a house you don't live in has that same gut-wrenching feeling of paying alimony.

I'd just as soon flush the money down the toilet in either case.

Some months ago, I decided I would try an ad in the classified section of the newspaper.

It certainly couldn't hurt. Here was my first one:

"BREATH TAKING: immaculate two-story. Quaint, family neighborhood in secluded cul-de-sac. This beautiful, custom-built home has four bdrms and jumbo bonus room. Two acres. Jacuzzi and tons of extras. \$200,000."

Nothing. Not one call.

"You're trying to go way over your head here," I was told. "No way you're getting that kind of money in a buyer's market."

OK, I'm not greedy. I took out another ad:

Lewis Grizzard

Syndicated Columnist

"REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE: Won't last long. Seller to pay points and closing. Don't miss this one. A steal at \$180,000."

Listen, I had the house repainted before I put it on the market. I had some guys come in and clean up the yard and plant some flowers around.

It's a great house, really. Terrific water pressure in the showers. Two fireplaces.

The second ad had the same result as the first. So I took out a third.

"PRICE SLASHED: Owner transferred to Beirut. Highly motivated to sell. A steal at \$150,000."

So what's wrong with my house?

I'm not trying to sell the Bates' Motel. I'm just trying to unload a very livable, attractive home.

I took out another ad.

"DESPERATE: 105 percent creative financing. No credit checks. \$75,000 below market. Owner has small child needing operation. God wants you to buy this house."

The lot is beautiful. Great trees. The house sits way back from the road. You have complete privacy. So why does some sucker come around and buy it?

I took out still another ad:

"HUNGER STRIKE: Owner refuses to eat until house sells. Don't let him and have this on his conscience for the rest of your life. Act now!"

You would think a classified ad like this one above would cause at least some interest, but not a peep.

Hey, all the toilets work. The toilet doesn't leak. None of the neighbors kids play drums. I'm taking out one more ad. If this doesn't work I know where to turn.

"PANIC! This is it! Ten dollars moves you in. Owner to pay points, closing, moving costs, redecorating fees, college tuition for any children, buyer. Owner will throw in car, his recond case of beer. Owner down on knees begging."

We'll see what happens. If you can't buy it, at least say a prayer for me. **right 1989, Cowles Syndicate**



The Battalion

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