

Mail Call

Keep on yelling

EDITOR:

I give the Twelfth Man a big hand, because we have shown Cougar High what real school spirit is about. The key to our spirit is commitment. We have stuck with the Aggies through thick and thin. If you're wondering about me, I'm getting a masters degree at the University of Houston, but I sure do miss A&M. The University of Houston's newspaper, *The Daily Cougar* ran the following article on Tuesday Oct. 10:

"Losing out on a perfect season is tough. Losing to the Aggies is worse. Yet, what makes it especially tough to swallow is the support Texas A&M managed to drum up for a game that seemed destined for a sure Cougar stomping of the maroon and white.

"Give the Aggie faithful one thing — they sure have a hell of a lot of school spirit.

"No doubt it contributed to one of the most upsetting Cougar losses in a long time.

"Say what you want about games being the only decent entertainment in College Station, but the fact remains they have more spirit than has been seen on Cullen Boulevard in eons.

"Those loyal University of Houston souls who trekked to Aggieland for the ballgame were drowned out every time they tried to motivate the Cougars to victory. The A&M yell leaders would get the 66,000-plus crowd going into a frenzy with the most awkward and obnoxious of cheers. If only the Dome could become such a haven of support.

"While the perfect season may be gone, there's still much to be had by going to the rest of the home ballgames. Go out and enjoy yourself. Socialize with friends, family and students. But, most of all, show everyone from the backwoods of Arkansas to the desert plains of Lubbock that "Cougar High" is dead and gone and that the University of Houston, the Southwest Conference's brightest star of the future, is alive and well."

Keep up the good work and once again thanks to the Twelfth man and our yell leaders.

Karla Westrup '88

Bring back horse laugh

EDITOR:

I need someone to please clarify something for me. Were there not times during the Baylor vs. A&M game where a "horse laugh" would have been appropriate? The Twelfth

Man would become enraged at bad (or missed) calls. The Twelfth Man would hiss. The "yell leaders" would signal the horse laugh...and never follow through.

Did I miss something? Has the horse laugh been banned, discontinued, sold to another university or what? Or could it be that we have five wimps for yell leaders?

When the Twelfth Man becomes frustrated at such inept leadership, they "boo." The Twelfth Man needs leadership to exemplify Aggie sportsmanship. Other Southwest Conference schools "boo," throw ice and even throw beverages at coaches. I thought Aggies were different.

So, back to my question, what happened to the horse laugh, and why was it not lead at the Baylor vs. A&M game?

Sabrina S. Sanders '88

Tax cut bad news

EDITOR:

I agree wholeheartedly with J. Carlos Huerta (Oct. 12, 1989). I used to be Republican but assinine proposals like the capital gains tax cut have made the Democrats a seemingly much more sensible group. What are the Republicans and George Bush thinking? Really wise... make the people who have the most pay less than before, while claiming we don't have funds for much-needed programs.

I would also like to ask all Aggies, how many of you actually knew about the proposed capital gains tax cut? What happened to the involved, intellectual college student of yesterday who was actually in tune with the world?... Who actually reads a newspaper or watches the news once in a while? I recall not too long ago when college students held protests to portray their strong opinions on current news topics. No, I'm not saying we should publicly protest every issue. However, I think the trend today among college students is to get so wrapped up in their own social circle, they forget to look at the world around them. It doesn't matter which side of a topic you choose, just make an informed decision and stand up for it.

It has been said too many times that we are the "leaders of tomorrow." If we don't know what is going on in the world, how are we going to learn from current mistakes... such as the capital gains tax cut?

Leigh Gorman '90

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.

Values should be reconsidered

Columnist's note: The following is not a comprehensive treatise on the current state of American society. It is not ignorance, but space and the nature of the column that prevent me from incorporating every germane piece of information.

I begin today's column with a short parade of statistics for your reading enjoyment.

The World Health Organization reports that the United States ranks eighth internationally in rate of suicides. This may be rather misleading, however, because suicides among people aged 15-24 increased 284 percent between 1950 and 1980. The United States has 18 million problem drinkers, of whom 10 million are considered alcoholics. International data were not available, but I believe this represents one of the world's worst drinking problems. Finally and not surprisingly, the United States ranks first among industrialized nations in per capita use of illicit drugs.

There is a point to this series of statistics. I believe that there is one unifying feature of all of these problems: escape. A huge, and in many cases, increasing segment of the population feels the need to escape from their lives through intoxication or death. Why, in this glorious nation of bliss and prosperity, are so many people checking out?

The reason is simple. The bliss and prosperity are only the shimmering veneer. Scratch this veneer and you will find a land of violence and despair.

It is a common belief that those who abuse drugs or commit suicide are stupid, weak or unfortunate. I would like to offer an alternative view. These people are the only ones in the United States with any sense. They are not cowards, they are geniuses. The rest of us cling to the quixotic notion that we can actually change something, in the



Adam Mathieu
Columnist

face of the fact that the status quo most always wins. We are a static nation of money-loving robots.

We owe these people the honor of investigating why they chose their particular avenues of escape. The need to escape cuts across socioeconomic boundaries and is therefore in need of study. The poor may need to escape because they recognize the gravity of their plight, a plight that will not be solved by "a thousand points of light." The middle class may need to escape because they recognize their position as the prime movers in the economy, but despair at their lack of political respect. The wealthy may need to escape because they recognize that excess money often does not eliminate, but creates, a hollow existence. Each of these groups tells a lot about political facts and casts into serious doubt the myths of political rhetoric.

I do not encourage suicide or drug abuse. I am one of the unfortunate who do cling to that quixotic notion of change, although that personal belief has been battered in the last few months. I am also aware that the emotional toll on loved ones is almost unmountable. However, I do understand the desire to escape. We must question why people would sooner die now than take a chance on living in the future. The answer to the drug and suicide problems does not lie abroad. The lasting solution lies in a total reevaluation of American "values."

Adam Mathieu is a senior chemistry major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

UFOs, vodka diets, Elvis sightings, other stories

The fact that Tass, the soviet news outlet is now reporting UFO sightings says to me glasnost is for real and that Soviet journalism may never be the same.

In case you missed it, witnesses claim a UFO landed in the Soviet Union and giants with big heads appeared from inside it.

Personally I never believed in UFO sightings, because UFOs are always sighted in places where UFOs likely wouldn't go, like deep in the woods or out in a cornfield or in the Soviet Union.

I simply cannot imagine Rutok and Carno, two giants with small heads from the planet Zingbla, having the following conversation:

"Hey Rutok, let's buzz down to Earth."

"Great, Carno, where on Earth do you want to go?"

"How 'bout the Soviet Union?"

Real outer space persons would not go to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is about as fun a place to go as the dentist for a root canal.

Rutok would say, "Are you crazy? Why should we go to the Soviet Union? Let's hit Vegas."

Before the Soviets began to loosen up a little, Tass never would have published an article about a UFO sighting.

Before glasnost, Tass was quite rigid and only published what the government wanted published, and the government would have told Tass, "Don't publish an idiot story about UFOs landing here. Even giants with small heads wouldn't land here. They'd go to Vegas."

What we may see in the future, how-



Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

ever, is more sensational news stories. And could it be there will soon be Soviet counterparts of the sort of newspapers sold in American grocery stores?

You know the sort: like the *National Enquirer*. "Little minds want to know."

What's great about those newspapers is they don't fool around with facts.

As a veteran of the news business, let me assure you facts often can get in the way of a great story.

For instance, you see one of those papers in the grocery checkout line and a headline screams at you, "Goat Born With Five Heads!"

You know they made that up, and they know you know they made that up, but you still want to read the story:

"GOBERTOWN, Ark. — A goat belonging to Goobertown farmer Melvin Dinglebat was born with five heads. Unfortunately, Bigfoot showed up a little after birth and ate the goat and all five of his heads."

What might we see from Tass in the future?

• "Lenin Alive! Living With Elvis on Neptune."

• They're sharing a collective.

• "Endless Supply of Meat Headed for Soviet Union!"

Because there is no food in the grocery stores, buy the paper and eat it for supper.

• "Gorby and Thatcher Caught in Love Nest!"

And Raisa has been seeing Sylvester Stallone on the Sly.

• "Soviet Baseball Team Wins World Series!"

What did the Rooski nine do? Sweep the Cubs in four?

• "New Book Says Stalin Gay."

And Khrushchev was a closet Methodist.

• "New All Vodka Diet!"

Drink 10 glasses a day and you'll forget about the shortage of food, you sober up.

• "Decadent West Said Not That Bad After All."

First porno theater opens in Moscow.

• "East German Politburo Admits Communism Has Faults!"

I'd believe a story about a five-headed goat first.

Constitution overhaul absolutely necessary

The League of Women Voters is right when it says the Texas Constitution should be rewritten.

But it must be done cautiously, in a way that keeps the public in control of the politicians ...

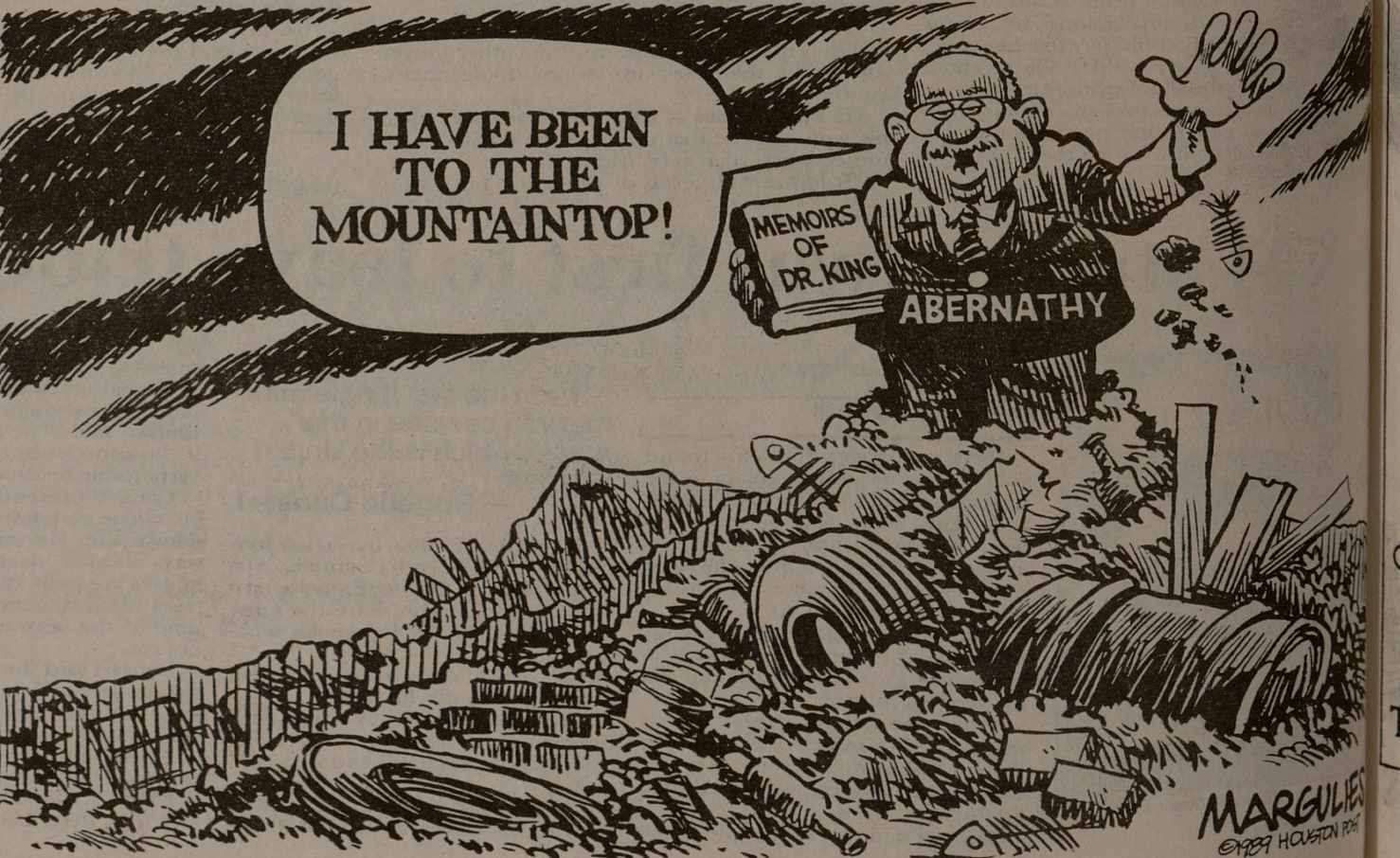
The problem is that the wording is so outdated, and restrictive, that frivolous amendments sometimes are needed.

But the constitution's weakness — its wordiness — is also its strength. It leaves nothing to the imagination ...

Because the state constitution is very specific, a lot of power is vested in the voters. Without their approval, many fundamental changes are not possible.

Texas' constitution should be refined so fewer technical revisions are needed on the ballot each year. But the populist thread must remain intact.

The Amarillo Sunday News-Globe



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 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 77843-1111.