

Coaches' squabbling hurts A&M athletics

Texas A&M Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf had one loong weekend. His Aggies lost to Arkansas. Then he said he might be losing his job.

"It's obvious I'm not going to be here," Metcalf said after Saturday's game. "I just hope everybody doesn't feel like he (A&M Athletic Director John David Crow) feels, because that would give me a terrible inferiority complex."

Metcalf charged that Crow had "cussed" him locally and at the recent NCAA Convention in Dallas. Crow released a statement Saturday saying he has never said anything publicly to hurt A&M's basketball program.

Metcalf's contract runs out at the end of next season, and Crow said he would be evaluated at the end of the year like every other coach.

Metcalf said he was embarrassed that Crow must air the athletic department's dirty laundry out in the open, and he's right.

What a shame. The public display of their problems is doing nothing but making the athletic department look bad when the department should be concentrating on winning basketball games.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Reader cites problem with capitalism

Sarang Shidore
Guest Columnist

Andrew Matthews' well-written article in Thursday's Battalion has one obvious drawback — it is oversimplified. He sees practically no problems with unadulterated capitalism. I beg to differ.

There is no doubt that communism as an ideology has failed. However, there is no reason to suppose that the erstwhile Communist dictatorships will go the way of the United States and opt for a completely market-oriented approach.

They could also adopt the example of the so-called social democracies (or social market economies) such as Sweden, Denmark and perhaps France. These countries realize the importance of the market as an enormously efficient mechanism capable of generating immense resources. However, at the same time they also realize that an efficient system may not necessarily be the most just.

Matthews says that the wealthiest members of our society are those who could please their fellow men the most. This is obviously untrue. A significant number of the rich owe their wealth to inheritance.

Matthews' statement of a businessman asking himself "How can my labor and creativity be most utilized by my fellow man?" is simply hilarious. As far as I have experienced, the only question in a businessman's mind is "How can I use my labor and creativity to maximize my own profit?" Altruistic motives are rarely the reason for maximizing profit; rather maximizing profit itself is the final objective.

When an industrialist creates thousands of jobs by working endlessly, he hardly has the creation of jobs in mind. If he

could earn as much without creating the jobs, he gladly would.

Before laws like those imposing a minimum wage were passed, there were innumerable cases of work exploitation by greedy landlords and industrialists. It was only after trade unions grew in power that businessmen were forced to do justice to workers, for example, by linking wages to living costs.

We should never forget John Adams' principle — a market can be a great generator of wealth for the society under the assumption of *perfect competition*. Many products in the United States are marketed by one or very few businesses. The growth of such monopolies or oligopolies leads to unfair pricing and a tendency for the wealthy to accumulate monopolies. This further breeds greater injustices. Government intervention is a must to restrict monopolies, which retard social justice by destroying perfect competition.

I would also like to object to the so-called moral foundation of capitalism. A person is great when he gives not with ultimate objective of getting something in return, but selflessly, without a thought as to how he may benefit by it. Giving with the actual aim of taking is a selfish — not a moral — act. Unfortunately, man is, in reality, almost always selfish. The brilliance of a social market economy lies in its ability to harness these selfish tendencies through the mechanism of the market to generate wealth for the common good of all.

When Matthews blames the intellectuals for being wary of the market he expresses a typical conservative bias for them which I believe is unjustified. Intellectuals have rarely rejected the market in its totality, they only realize the fact that it needs to be guided (not controlled) by the government to prevent it from causing injustices to society.

Sarang Shidore is a graduate student in aerospace engineering and a guest columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Our solutions to racism make it worse

EDITOR:

Since celebrating Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 15, there has been much thought concerning racism. It's been referred to as a disease and a disgrace to this country, which has supposedly been founded on equality.

However, I think that may be simplistic.

I know racism is bad. It causes bitterness and frustration.

But it seems to me that today's solution to racism only creates more racism rather than solving the problem.

It does this with reverse discrimination. Turn on the TV. Very often, blacks are clean, suave and erudite, while whites are foul-mouthed, shallow and unscrupulous.

And, of course, there are quota systems that favor minority students over white students regardless of academic records.

If a minority student is denied, they can level charges of racism. The white student is out of luck.

Finally, there is guilt manipulation. Whites are portrayed as oppressors, members of minority groups as victims.

When minority group members take pride in their heritage and congregate together, it's called racial awareness. With whites, it's racism.

I'm a white man and proud of it. Nevertheless, I've never oppressed a minority that I know of, or am I likely to.

Reverse racism is still racism. For racism to be eliminated, both sides must take a share of the guilt and realize we're all human and subject to pride.

Then we'll get somewhere.

James E. Sexton '91

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

More flaws found in economic system

Paul B. Woodard
Guest Columnist

After reading Andrew Matthews' rhetoric for the umpteenth time, various words come to mind; namely greedy, self-centered and selfish.

Matthews, money is nice to have, but don't let the acquisition of wealth become the be-all and end-all of your life. Believe me, that is a big world out there, and there is more to life than trying to get rich. Capitalism is a wonderful system, but it has some severe flaws that have to be addressed, not ignored. Denying their existence will only make them worse.

When I lived in our nation's capital for two years I had the opportunities to witness two extremes of capitalism and its winners and losers. On one hand, there were persons like myself who lived in good neighborhoods, drove nice, expensive cars, wore nice clothes and had plenty to eat. For the most part these were good, decent people who were concerned about their fellow human beings.

Then there were those who lived in Laffayette Park or froze to death in the winter outside of my father's office in the Internal Revenue Service Building

on Constitution Avenue. There were people who dug through trash receptacles on the Mall after a Fourth of July celebration just to get something to eat. These, too, for the most part, were decent people, only they couldn't afford food, clothing or shelter. These, too, were our fellow Americans, only they were too poor to have some of the niceties the rest of us can afford.

If the plight of adults suffering does not affect a person's sensibilities, then the suffering of children should. I have seen four- to five-year-old children of impoverished parents in both affluent Fairfax County, Va., and Arlington who depend on public programs in order to get one decent meal a day. Many of these small children do not have winter coats to wear. Many had parents who had to work two jobs in order to survive.

These are the ones who do not benefit from the current system and have fallen through the cracks. These are the ones whose needs are not fulfilled. Whether you and those like you accept it, there are more people living in poverty in this nation today than you and your kind care to admit or worry about.

This past decade had been referred to as the decade of greed, and you, Matthews, add another element of truth to this. Your statement that college students are trying to "eradicate poverty — namely our own," is the typical selfish

attitude that has run rampant through out this nation for the past 10 years.

Matthews, you and I both have never been forced to experience true poverty. The same goes for the majority of our fellow students. If all else fails we can call our parents for assistance. We have opportunities for financial success that many of our fellow Americans cannot afford to dream of.

Within the next ten years you and I as well as the majority of our fellow students will be living quite comfortably and will have good jobs. We really don't have to worry about eradicating our own poverty. Unfortunately there are others in this country who will never have the same opportunities that we have been blessed with.

Whatever happened to the ideals of Jack Kennedy that led our nation to selflessly "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country"? Have they been buried with a more base desire to accumulate wealth and power at the expense of others? I hope not.

I pray that there will again come a day in which Americans will look beyond their won greed in order to help their fellow citizens, and that this day will not be long in coming.

Paul B. Woodard is a senior political science and history major and a guest columnist for The Battalion.

Radio show brings back writer's memories of dad

Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

When you write a book, they make you travel and do call-in radio shows. Publicity is my life.

It was December and we were in the second hour in the call-in show. A lady had complained about something I'd written about Oral Roberts, somebody else wanted to know if I planned to get married again, and then a man called and said he knew my late father.

"He taught me in high school in Atlanta," the man said. "He was an unforgettable character."

Indeed. A number of people have contacted me over the years and said they had come across Lewis, Sr.

One such person called and said, "Your daddy owes me \$300. I let him

borrow it in Kingsboro, Tenn., in 1962." After informing him of my father's demise, I asked him how long he knew my father before he lent him the money.

"About an hour," was the reply. "My good man," I said, "You are one of many with the same experience."

My father was a lot of things, but more than anything else, he was a soldier. He served in World War II and in Korea. The Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star he earned hangs on my office wall.

In Korea, his outfit was overrun by the Chinese communists.

He survived by hiding under dead comrades and later by hiding for 16 days in a cave while the enemy walked about him.

When he finally made it back to the American lines, his feet were severely frostbitten, he was suffering from mal-

nutrition and he would never again be the man who went off to war a second time in 1950.

When he returned home to Ft. Benning I was 4. He drank heavily. He screamed out in the night.

Eventually, he left my mother and went AWOL and spent the rest of his life roaming, drinking, and living off his considerable charm.

I have no idea how many different jobs my daddy held between the time he left the Army and his death in 1970, but somehow he always managed to be able to get a teaching position whenever he wanted one.

"Your daddy," the man on the radio told me, "would make us laugh with all his carryings-on, and he would tell us

about what happened to him in the war.

"And the thing I remember most was how he used his experience to teach us never to give up no matter how bad things looked.

"He said there were times in Korea he felt it would just be easier on him to die than to live in the situation he was in.

"He told us how his feet were swollen and bleeding and how he was afraid to move in that cave because the enemy might find him.

"But he said he just made up his mind he wasn't going to die out there, and that's what pulled him through."

We'd been on the line a long time. I thanked the caller, but he had more.

"I was in Vietnam," he said. "I was

wounded and was left behind in a hot landing zone.

"I didn't know if anybody was coming back for me or if the enemy would find me.

"But I hid myself and I held on and I got out of there.

"I wanted to give up, too, but I kept thinking about your father.

"If Captain Grizzard could make it, I told myself, so could I.

"I give him credit for my being alive today.

"He was a great man."

I thanked the caller one more time — for perhaps the best gift I've ever gotten.

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



The Battalion

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