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## Hey, JD Crow: Leave my li'l Shelby alone

Texas A&M basketball wizard Shelby Metcalf is more than just the Aggies' head coach, he's an icon of A&M, a symbol of the University. And now the symbol that has represented A&M for 27 years is in jeopardy of losing a job that he holds dearly.

"I love this game and I love this school," Metcalf said Saturday. "I want to keep coaching here."

However, if rumors are any indication of things, A&M Athletic Director John David Crow will have Metcalf reassigned at the end of the season. And if that's the case, Metcalf said he won't stay at A&M.

"I don't think I would feel comfortable going to an A&M basketball game or football game," Metcalf said. "I couldn't even walk on campus."

## Strife long in coming

Problems between Metcalf and Crow flared to new heights last Wednesday. Metcalf learned from sources during the A&M-Texas game that Crow publicly had criticized Metcalf not only on and around the University, but at the annual NCAA convention as well.

"What I don't know is why he would do this out in the open," Metcalf said. "Why would he go to the NCAA Convention and hammer a good man?"

Crow has denied any allegations of publicly criticizing Metcalf although sources in the athletic department support Metcalf's claims.

It seems to me that Crow is railroading Metcalf into an early retirement.

In all honesty, Metcalf is having a difficult year. The Aggies are 9-10 and 2-3 in the Southwest Conference. In the conference standings, A&M is in fifth place behind rivals Texas, Arkansas and Houston.

But times haven't always been this hard for Metcalf and his Aggies.

Metcalf came to A&M in 1958. He started coaching the men's basketball team in 1963, taking the Aggies to their first SWC championship in 41 years. Since then, Metcalf has had a long string of winning seasons, SWC titles and appearances in the NCAA tournament.

Metcalf leads the SWC in coaching victories with 438. He is 16th on the winningest active NCAA coaches around the country.

With such a list of accomplishments, it's no wonder that Metcalf is nicknamed, "The Dean of Southwest Conference Coaches."

Crow might, just might, be justified in getting rid of Metcalf if the coach hadn't had any type of success recently. But Metcalf claimed the SWC title in 1986, and in 1987 advanced to the NCAA Midwest Regionals before bowing out to eventual tournament runners-up Duke, 79-72.

**Metcalf is successful**

But you can't look at success only in terms of titles won.

Last year, Metcalf turned the Aggies around after losing seven of their first eight SWC games. Riding a five-game losing streak, Metcalf instituted a fast-paced, attack-oriented offense in mid-season.

A&M responded by winning seven of its last eight games, including a regular season finale thrashing of Texas, 106-89.

"Texas A&M was one of the best kept secrets in the country last season," Texas Coach Tom Penders said last year. "If they had been on (national) television, they'd have been in the NCAA tournament."

Metcalf also must be a well-kept secret here at A&M if Crow wants to replace him as coach.

With all the makings for a winning team, Metcalf only needs what Crow won't give him ... time and a little support.

He has recruited strong and has a coaching staff that Metcalf refers to as one of the best he's ever put together.

And coming from Metcalf, that's not just idle talk.

Shelby Metcalf already has established his program as a successful one. Given some time and a little support from the administration and student body, Metcalf can continue to lead a basketball program that will make Aggies around the country proud.

## Metcalf: 'The ball's in their court now'

# Aggie coach charges Crow wants him out

By Clay Rasmussen and Richard Tijerina  
Of The Battalion Staff

After Saturday's 100-84 loss to Arkansas, Texas A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said he'd be fighting for more than just the Aggies' fifth-place standing in the Southwest Conference.

He might just be trying to keep his job. Metcalf accused A&M Athletic Director John David Crow in an emotional, one-hour press conference after the game, of publicly criticizing him and wanting to get rid of him after this season.

"It's obvious that I'm not going to be here (as A&M's basketball coach)," Metcalf said. "I don't know when it's going to happen, but I think I'm going to be gone. That's their privilege."

"I just hope everybody doesn't feel like he (Crow) feels because that would give me a terrible inferiority complex."

However, Crow denied Metcalf's accusations in a statement released through the A&M sports information department.

In it, Crow, who is in his second year serving as athletic director, said he never had "cussed" Metcalf locally nor at the recent NCAA Convention in Dallas.

"As I said before, Shelby Metcalf is still our head coach," Crow said. "He will be evaluated at the end of the season just like every other coach at every sport at Texas A&M."

Crow's statement was distributed to the media prior to the game, but Metcalf stood by his accusations.

Metcalf and Crow have been at odds with each other since Crow took over as athletic director after Jackie Sherrill resigned in December 1988. A&M has suffered through consecutive 16-15 and 16-14 seasons, and Metcalf was criticized for placing too much emphasis on recruiting players from junior colleges rather than from high schools.

Metcalf's contract runs through Aug. 31, 1991 at \$75,000 a year. Sherrill gave him the new contract after the Aggies won the Southwest Conference Tournament in 1987 and advanced to the NCAA Midwest Regionals in 1987.

The contract was extended to 1991 so Metcalf would qualify for his full teacher's retirement pension.

Metcalf earned a doctorate in philosophy from A&M in 1974 with a dissertation entitled "Crowd Behavior at Southwest Conference Basketball Games." He's been coaching at A&M since 1963, and holds a 488-306 career record at the school.

Rumors about Metcalf's possible firing at A&M have persisted for the last few years. But Metcalf silenced some of those last year when the Aggies had the best SWC record in the second half of the season at 7-1.



**A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf reacts angrily to a referee's call during Saturday's 100-84 loss to Arkansas. After the game, Metcalf told reporters that he was being forced out of his job by Athletic Director John David Crow.**

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Five freshmen were recruited last year from high school, and the Aggies lost a 96-94 heartbreaker to heavily favored, SWC-leading Texas last week in Austin.

But Metcalf, who reportedly has been at odds with Crow for what he considered too much involvement in the A&M basketball

program, said he just wished he could do his job.

"I still think I'm capable of doing a great job," Metcalf said. "I would just like to be left alone and do that job. I've got the best staff I've ever had and we're moving in the right direction toward having the best play-

ers we've ever had.

"In my mind, if given a chance, I will have teams that A&M can be proud of."

A&M President William H. Mobley, who was present at the game, said his biggest concern was that any problem between Crow and Metcalf only is making the athletic department look bad.

"I would prefer that these discussions occur on a person-to-person basis, and not in the headlines on the sports page," Mobley said.

Metcalf said he wouldn't let Crow, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1957, force him to quit.

"John David is a Heisman Trophy winner from this school," Metcalf said. "He's a god here. How do you fight that? Obviously, I'm not going to be here. I know a lot of things and I'm going to go down fighting."

"And I won't resign. I'm not a quitter."

Metcalf said he would consult an attorney about the matter.

"Somebody like John David Crow can come in and fix it where we (Metcalf's family) can't get another job and can't retire comfortably in the place we spent over half our lives ... I'm going to talk to an attorney about this. I don't imagine there's any legal thing I can do about this, but I owe it to my family to talk to an attorney."

"A&M basketball isn't a job for us, it's a way of life. We intended to retire here, but I don't think I would feel comfortable going to an A&M basketball game or football game. I couldn't even walk on campus."

Metcalf, considered the "dean of SWC coaches," is the lowest-paid coach in the conference. He is the winningest coach in conference history, with a 239-158 SWC mark. Under him, the Aggies have won six SWC titles and have made five NCAA tournament appearances.

Metcalf's statements were in response to a published story in Saturday's edition of the Dallas Times Herald that Crow told A&M boosters in 1987, when he was serving as associate athletic director, that he intended to fire Metcalf if he became the athletic director.

The story went on to say that Crow had made statements to school boosters in recent weeks that Metcalf would be dismissed.

"Maybe I talk too much or people take it the wrong way, because I have nothing in my mind to say to Shelby or to hurt the basketball program," Crow told the Times Herald. "I support him totally and fully."

But Metcalf maintained he was on the way out.

"What I don't know is why he would do this out in the open," Metcalf said. "What good could that do for Texas A&M or A&M basketball ... I'm not going to resign. But the ball's in their court, not mine."

## Aggies drop pair of bittersooiet losses to Hogs

### Ags hang close; fall to Arkansas by 16 points

By Nadja Sabawala  
Of The Battalion Staff

Forecasters predicted cold, drizzling weather for this past weekend, but they never said anything about it reigning pigs.

Texas A&M, coming off a close loss to Texas last Wednesday, continued its downward spiral as it fell to Southwest Conference leader Arkansas, 100-84.

In front of a crowd of 4,324 at G. Rollie White Coliseum, Razorbacks Coach Nolan Richardson received two technical fouls halfway through the first period, motivating the Arkansas bench.

Aggie guard Lynn Suber led the game with 21 points in the first half, including two three-pointers within one minute of each other, but was held to only five points in the second half.

"They played the whole game with a lot of intensity but Suber kept them in the game in the first half," Arkansas guard Lee Mayberry said.

Guard Tony Milton, who came into the game averaging 20.3 points per game, had only three in the first half, and finished with 16 points.

Forwards Darren Rhea and David Harris fouled out early in the second half, leaving the Aggies without their big men.

"The difference was Texas A&M getting into foul trouble early," Richardson said. "That stopped their big men, it didn't stop Suber. We couldn't control him at all in the first half."

The Aggies hovered within one point of the Razorbacks three times in the first period, but never caught them.

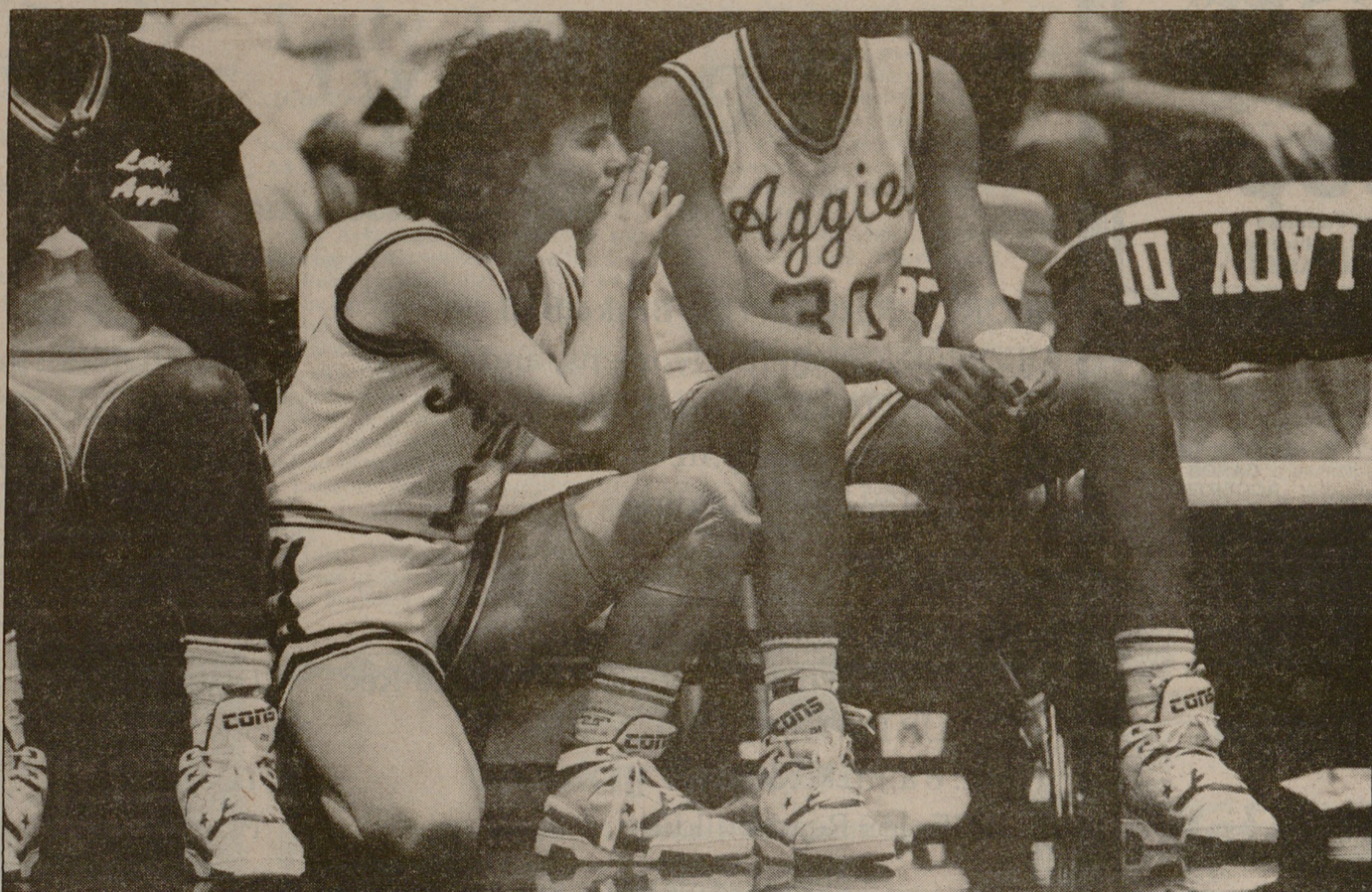
Arkansas scored early, getting the first basket and slowly gaining a comfortable lead. The Razorbacks were nine points ahead with 12:42 left in the first period.

The Aggies followed with a strong run midway through the first half with two consecutive three-pointers by Suber, who was 3-of-5 from three-point range. This brought A&M to within four points of Arkansas with 8:21 left in the half.

Richardson, unhappy with a foul called on Mayberry, threw down his papers, leaped to the floor and was slapped with a technical foul by referees.

Suber converted only one of two free throws.

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**Lady Aggies' Lisa Herner prays for a miracle in final moments of A&M's 70-64 loss Saturday to Arkansas.**

By Jay Peden  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies had trouble finding the basket against the Lady Razorbacks Saturday night, as they lost 70-64 in a Southwest Conference basketball game at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies hit only 21-of-63 field goals for a paltry 33 percent and made 15-of-26 free throws for an equally bad 58 percent.

The Lady Aggies did manage to hit seven-of-15 three-point goals, setting a new school single-game record for three-pointers.

With eight minutes left in the first half, Arkansas led 21-10 and was threatening to run away. Junior forward Wendy Jennings started the Lady Aggies' 'trej-trend,' hitting three three-pointers in less than five minutes.

Sophomore LaTanya Irving, who had a

game-high 17 points, also contributed a three-point goal in this span, helping to avert a rout.

Jennings' third three-pointer brought A&M back to within five points, but Arkansas continued to shoot well, converting 56 percent of its attempts in the first half. The Razorbacks led 39-32 at the intermission.

"We didn't have a good start," Lady Aggies Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We weren't able to do anything inside scoring-wise. Louise (Madison, A&M's center) missed her first few shots."

Madison had several of them blocked. The Lady Razorbacks had six of their eight blocked shots in the first half. Starting center Delmonica DeHorney had five of those, making it tough for A&M's inside players.

"The way they were playing the zone, the three-pointer was open," Hickey said.

The Lady Aggies got off to a quick start in the second half, with junior guard Yvonne Hill scoring the team's first four

points. An offensive rebound and lay-up by junior forward Diane DeCree forced Arkansas to call a time-out after only 1:38 had elapsed.

Soon after play resumed, Hill hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 43, breaking the lead Arkansas had held since the opening minute of the game.

However, A&M was unable to gain the lead as Arkansas scored six consecutive points and maintained a small, wavering lead for the remainder of the half.

But Arkansas point guard Amber Nicholas missed a free throw with 1:15 left, and Jennings atoned for traveling by hitting her fourth three-pointer of the night.

Irving followed with a steal, drove the length of the court and was fouled. She hit both of her free throws to cut Arkansas' lead to three at 67-64.

Another Arkansas guard, Christi Wil See Lady Ags / Page 11