

Mail Call

Firing raises many questions

EDITOR:
The reassigning of Shelby Metcalf brings to light many questions. Why did it happen in the middle of the season? Why did it not happen at the end of last season? Why did John David Crow act in an unprofessional manner? These questions can only be answered by one man, and he keeps dodging the questions.

Metcalf was a good basketball coach, but there needed to be a changing of the guard.

John, please listen. If you want a truly great basketball program I would not suggest anymore negative press toward A&M. Deloss Dodds hired Tom Penders and immediately turned the program around at the University of Texas. I hope you find that type of guy to lead our basketball team into the national spotlight. We need a big-name coach from outside this university and a new basketball arena if we want to attract the top basketball recruits.

Let's all remember that there is a basketball game Wednesday night and let's attend it to show this team some support when they need it most. For those of you who have not seen a game this year, you are missing some good young talent like Brooks Thompson and David Petersen.

Lloyd Cole '91
Ron Novak '91

Crow's move had no class

EDITOR:
Attention Jerry Jones, (whoops) I mean John David: What a classy move! How could anyone just sweep a class act like Shelby Metcalf under the carpet? I hope it wasn't his honest approach that prompted this decision. If it was, is Coach Slocum next to go? Who is going to replace Dr. Metcalf? Jim Valvano? Maybe the athletic director should go. I hear there's an opening selling cars in Baytown.

Scott Wilson '88

Firing of Metcalf the right move

EDITOR:
Shelby Metcalf has been fired (all right, he is due to be re-assigned) from his position as head coach at Texas A&M University. John David Crow should be applauded for making this move, and it is long overdue.

Evaluation of this decision must be done on an objective, professional basis not a personal one. Such an evaluation clearly indicates that Crow was more than justified in his decision.

Much has been written about the fact that Metcalf is the winningest coach in the history of the Southwest Conference. So what? This only reflects his longevity, not his coaching

ability. Granted, some ability is needed to survive 27 years. Yet based on wins and losses, his record of 438-306 is mediocre in my book.

It is obvious that Crow has decided that mediocrity will no longer be tolerated in the Texas A&M basketball program. And let's face it — fans haven't exactly been flocking to G. Rollie White Coliseum to support the program either.

Texas A&M now has the opportunity to upgrade its basketball program. The University of Texas was in a similar position a few years ago when it hired Tom Penders, one of the top young coaches in the country. Now the program is on the verge of being in the Top 20, and the attendance at home games has increased dramatically. The same situation could occur here at A&M if it hires the right coach and replaces archaic G. Rollie White Coliseum with a real basketball facility.

Barney Olson III
Graduate Student

Hats off to Shelby!

EDITOR:
Hats off to you, Shelby. You are a real class act. Hey, who in the heck thinks you can win every game you play? Not me! You know, you should have hired all those freshman and sophomore general studies majors. They really know the game. They never lose.

Kudos to you for speaking up when you were backed into a corner. It seems to me that John David Crow didn't want to play ball anymore so he picked it up and went home. I guess you shouldn't have said his momma wears combat boots.

Don't get me wrong, I like Crow. My gripe: What is it with these power mongers nowadays? Do we always have to show off like a big bully?

Seems as though Crow will get a phone call from Jerry Jones congratulating him on his style. Ol' Jerry will remind him to keep his next firing under five minutes because time is money, right? Right.

All kidding aside, I honestly thought that we could act in a manner more fitting a nationally respected institution of higher learning.

What is it today? It doesn't mean diddley-squat. You worked 27 years for someone. When you're finished they say "Don't let the door hit you in the *!#\$."

By the way President Mobley, please don't further humiliate Dr. Metcalf with some trivial, meaningless task. Remember, he wants to get the hell out of Dodge. I would too, Shelby.

Douglas K. Butterworth '90

Dedicated coach was a blessing

EDITOR:
To Mr. Crow: You have broken many hearts of which mine is only one. You have taken away a symbol of honesty,

hard work, dedication and loyalty. It is hard to find a coach in any sport at any school with more than one of these characteristics. Texas A&M was blessed with a coach that had all these qualities and more. It's a shame that you seem to have overlooked these qualities when you let him go.

So now Shelby Metcalf is gone. But why? Sure the team has struggled lately but you need to look at the larger picture. Metcalf was a basketball coach at a school which pours most of time, money and support into the football program. It must have been hard for Metcalf to compete with that for all those years. He is the winningest coach in SWC history and still had the lowest salary of any SWC coach after 27 years! That's not the definition of gratitude in my book. He had only three losing seasons in 26 years. I challenge you or any other critic of Shelby Metcalf to be in his position 26 years ago with the resources he had and accomplish more than he did. Think long and hard before you answer that challenge.

He poured his life, heart and soul into A&M basketball and you repay his loyalty by firing him. Can you blame him for saying some of the things he said to the press? His job security was being threatened. His whole life was being threatened!

But somehow, Mr. Crow, I find myself able to forgive you for your dirty deed. After all, the hiring and firing of college coaches is now ruled by the Janet Jackson philosophy of "What have you done for my lately?" I know you were just trying to jump on this bandwagon and use your power.

To the "Dean" of the SWC I say goodbye. As an A&M student I am ashamed of the way my school treated you and I am sorry. I know all you wanted to do was retire here. You will be missed but your memory will live on forever!

Paul G. Brunell '90

Metcalf is to Crow as ...

EDITOR:
A simple multiple-choice analogy:
Shelby Metcalf : John David Crow
A. Tom Landry : Jerry Jones
B. Winston Churchill : England's electorate in 1945
C. Julius Caesar : Marcus Brutus
D. All of the above

James F. Tucker III, '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.

"Survey said..."

500 A&M students were surveyed and this was how they ranked five questions pertaining to the Christian faith by order of importance to them

- #1 Why is there hypocrisy among those who call themselves Christians?
- #2 Why would a loving God allow evil and suffering to occur?
- #3 How could a loving God send someone to hell?
- #4 Is Jesus the only way to God/heaven?
- #5 Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

If you have ever wondered the answer to these questions and others about the fundamentals of the Christian faith, you are invited to attend Campus Crusade for Christ's weekly meeting this **Friday night at 7:00 in Harrington 108.**

There will be a short presentation by a panel of five students. The floor will then be opened up for questions on the Christian faith like the ones above. This is open to skeptics so we invite you to come if you have questions that you would like answered.

When you finish reading *The Battalion* pass it on to a friend, but please... **don't litter!**

MSC VARIETY SHOW COMMITTEE

Come Have Your Night Under the Stars

Audition Applications may be picked up in the Student Programs Office Rm. 216T MSC

Application Deadline: February 9, 1990

Auditions: February 21 & 22



MSC BAC and OPAS presents
The BOYS CHOIR of HARLEM



On February 15, 1990 The Black Awareness Committee (BAC) and Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) will be bringing THE BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM to Texas A&M University. The choir has proved that they have a universal appeal, having traveled throughout the United States and Europe. Their tours have included concerts at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York, and Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. Millions of hearts have been captured during their concerts.

Under the direction Dr. Walter J. Turnbull, the Choir has delighted audiences with a repertoire ranging from classical music to popular songs, gospel, jazz and spirituals, highlighted by spirited choreography. An ensemble of 35, the Choir features tenor and bass voices as well as treble, allowing for great musical versatility. "An adventure in extraordinary music. We understand why these young artists are called "Children of the Sun" is what the Classique Paris had to say about this group.

THE BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM will be in concert at 8:00 P.M., Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M University. Tickets are available at any ticketron outlet. For ticket information call 845-1234.