

## Mail Call

### Well's definition 'perverted'

EDITOR:  
I could not believe what I was reading in the Monday, Jan. 29 Battalion. Mr. Well's definition of pornography is rather perverted. I wonder, Mr. Well, did the violence in any of the Rambo movies upset you? Or what about the sexually explicit scenes, for example, in almost any PG-13 and up films produced in America?  
If only you had shown enough courage and intelligence to see the film you would have truly been enlightened. For instead of glorifying sexuality, this particular film showed how many times the male views sex as a tool of power and thereby cheapens it and himself. But instead, you allowed your fear of the unknown to keep you in the dark ages. I dare you to cross over "the line" of ignorance and fear to enlightenment and understanding.  
I pity you and your lack of true knowledge, for many of the greatest films known to mankind have been produced in Europe. For example, one of this year's finest, "My Left Foot," was written and produced in Europe. I would recommend this movie to you but I suppose you would get more out of "Tango and Cash."

Jennifer Beegle '91

### Clearcutting is essential

EDITOR:  
This letter is in response to the article written by Michael C. Worsham, in the January 29 edition of The Battalion. I agree with Mr. Worsham that the opinions expressed by Texas State Forester Bruce Miles are those of a narrow-minded and uninformed state official.  
Miles advocates the destruction of the limited habitat of the northern spotted owl, through clearcutting of old growth forests. These forests have developed over hundreds of years and exist only in the humid Northwestern United States. The great irony of this resource versus wildlife battle is that many of the trees removed from these areas are of low timber quality or are too large to be processed by most of the regional mills.  
However, I must disagree with Worsham's opinion expressed on clearcutting. It was stated that it's "... environmentally destructive, and when it is done on our public lands, a significant loss to the U.S. taxpayer."  
Clearcutting is unsightly, I know. I'm from Oregon and am a past employee of the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State University Research Forests. However, if you like to live in a house made with structural lumber and plywood, you must accept it. Clearcutting is required because the predominant timber tree is the Douglas fir. This tree is shade intolerant, and in order for seedlings to grow, all trees must be completely removed and the site burned in preparation for the planting operation.  
Through clearcutting, second and third growth forests shall be able to satisfy the nation's demand for forest products and, in addition, the revenues from this activity have kept the U.S. Forest Service one of the few, if not only, profitable governmental organizations. Hopefully this clearcutting will be enough of a sacrifice to insure the protection of the region's old growth and unprotected wild and scenic areas.

Ed Fournier  
MS Candidate, Land Development

### Non-minorities do have option

EDITOR:  
For those Ags out there that are so upset at those of us on minority scholarships here at A&M, you do have an option. I don't think any of you are going to feel you've received your just rewards until you consider this: There are other institutions of higher learning such as Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M, Pan American University, etc., where I'm sure you could qualify for a minority scholarship. I don't think that grade point averages or scholastic character matter much so long as you're white.

Anja D. Boykin '90

### 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.

## THINGS TO DO IF WE DON'T GET THE BUSH LIBRARY.

1. MAKE MICHAEL DUKAKIS' BIRTHDAY A SCHOOL HOLIDAY.
2. CHANGE ALL THE STREET SIGNS BACK.
3. INTRODUCE BARBARA BUSH TO A REAL MAN, LLOYD BENTSEN
4. TRY TO GET THE DAN QUAYLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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## Supporters of legal abortions aren't as liberal as some think

The question of whether abortion should be outlawed is not a question about whether or not it is bad. Of course it's bad. It's a question of morality and a question of politics.

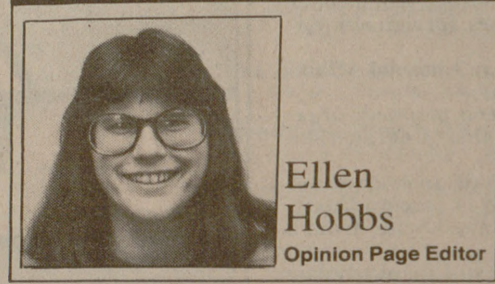
We debate about "when life begins." The word "life" in this case, is misused. We know when life begins: It begins at conception. The fertilized egg immediately begins to develop into a child.

But the phrase "when life begins" is merely a euphemism for "when the soul enters the body." Those of you with a less religious bent may prefer to substitute the word "personality" for the word "soul." I, though, believe we have souls, and that "soul" is the better word.

Our society dictates that killing any innocent human with a soul is wrong. So if a baby is aborted after it has its soul, we've committed murder.

How do we know when the soul enters the body? We don't. We never will. We base our theories on the subject on our background, our religion, the beliefs of the people we hang out with, etc. We base our beliefs mainly upon our moral values.

And for the majority of the people in the U.S., religion is intrinsic to morality. Therefore, when we initiate legislation on abortion, we facilitate the marriage of church and state, a poor political decision.



The separation of church and state is not guaranteed in the Constitution, but is an idea that belonged to Thomas Jefferson, a political conservative who believed that such a separation was necessary to protect the church.

Jefferson realized that if the church and state were intermingled, the state could justify its actions by saying they were acting with the will of God and that justification to limit our personal freedoms, especially our freedom of worship.

The theological pluralism in our country is great. We're allowed to worship in the manner we choose. But if the government is able to regulate our morals, that pluralism could be destroyed.

What if the government decided we would be an easier country to deal with if we were all Lutheran? Not everybody wants to be Lutheran, but a government

acting with the will of God behind it would certainly be able to force us all worship as Lutherans.

Those who tout the philosophy of the pro-choice movement are far from being liberals. Pro-choice supporters are, like Jefferson, politically conservative.

Liberals prefer a strong central government; conservatives prefer a weak one. People who want to have a moral decision — like whether or not they will have an abortion — taken out of their hands and put into the hands of the state are not people in favor of a weak central government.

Allowing abortion to remain legal is not encouraging the use of abortion as birth control; it is simply protecting our right to privacy.

We should strive to reach the day when abortion is not a problem by educating young people about sex and methods of birth control, by making sure birth control is available and affordable, by encouraging adoption as a feasible alternative to abortion and working to strengthen our family unit.

We all want to see abortion eliminated. But we can help protect the rights of the individual if we make the conservative choice and don't legislate its end.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major.

## Animals need 'mercy killings' like a hole in the head

There is a lot of discussion concerning animal rights these days. OK, so what's the deal about the so-called mercy killings of animals?  
You know the story. After Ol' Paint stumbles one day, his owner says, "Well, Ol' Paint stumbled so I guess he's gettin' old. I'll just take out my gun and put a bullet through his head and put him out of his misery."  
Unfortunately for Ol' Paint, he's a horse and can't argue his own case by saying, "Hey, put that gun away. I just tripped over a beer bottle."  
I hear deer hunters say, "We're doing the deer a favor by killing them."  
Overpopulation and that sort of thing. But if I'm a deer, I don't want anybody doing me a favor by blowing my head off with a high-powered rifle.  
I admit I am sensitive to this issue because of a personal experience

**Lewis Grizzard**  
Syndicated Columnist

involving the late Plato, a wonderful basset hound I owned in college.  
Basset hounds make marvelous pets as long as you can put up with the fact they howl, their ears fall into their food while they eat, and it's impossible to get one out of your favorite chair once it has decided that's where it wants to sleep.  
I had owned Plato about a year and my young bride and I had become quite attached to him.  
We had to mop the food that fell off his ears a lot, and when he took up residence in my black Naugahyde reclining chair, I gave in and sat on the couch. He was that good a dog.  
But one day Plato quit eating, a

startling occurrence when you consider he once ate a pair of my wife's pantyhose.  
Plato became listless and started losing weight.  
I took him to the vet, who diagnosed a kidney problem. "He's not going to get any better," said the vet. "You might as well put him to sleep" — veterinarian for, "Let me kill your dog."  
I told my wife what the vet had said. "Give me 24 hours," she said.  
My wife fried three chicken breasts. Plato loved fried chicken before he stopped eating.  
She sat up all night with him at the vet's office and tried to feed him small

pieces of white meat she pulled from the chicken breast.  
About four that morning, she said, Plato finally took a bite and by eight had eaten all the chicken. He lived to be 14.  
Now, what inspired all this?  
I read a story in the papers the other day that absolutely shocked me.  
A woman in Eugene, Ore., Mary Ann Snoddy, noticed her son's hamster was curled up in the corner of his cage. Because the hamster, Bud, was 4 and most hamsters live only a couple of years, she took it upon herself to decide Bud was dying of old age.  
She called her vet, who told her to put Bud out of alleged misery by sticking

him in the freezer compartment of her refrigerator overnight. She wrapped poor Bud in a paper sack and put him in the freezer to die.  
The next morning, she opened the freezer door to find Bud had chewed his way out of the sack and had dined on frozen bread and hash browns and was very much alive.  
"He sat up on his hind legs," said Mary Ann Snoddy, "as if to say, 'Why did you do this to me?'"  
Why, indeed. Putting a hamster in a freezer to do it a favor may be the Snoddiest thing I ever heard of.  
If only defenseless animals could

## Adventures In Cartooning by Don Atkinson Jr.

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