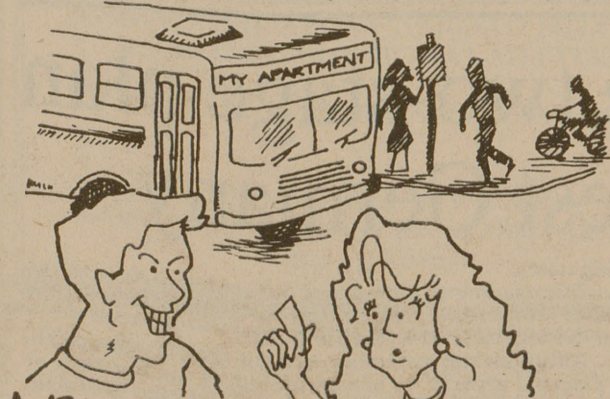
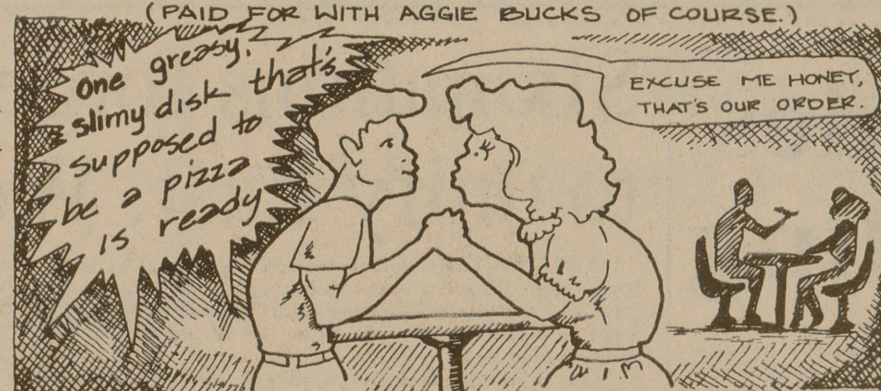


CHEAP VALENTINES DAY GIFT IDEAS FOR AGGIES ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

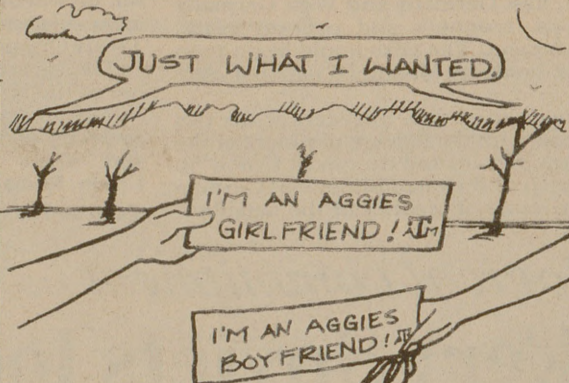
A ONE DAY, ONE WAY BUS PASS.



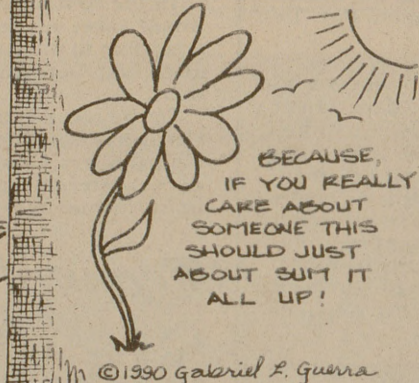
A ROMANTIC SHUTTLE BUS RIDE.

CANDLE LIT DINNER AT BERNIE'S
(PAID FOR WITH AGGIE BUCKS OF COURSE.)

AGGIE BUMPER STICKERS



A SINGLE DAISY.



Who was this Valentine guy?

It's Valentine's Day. Bah humbug. Valentine's Day is one of those holidays that completely loses any usefulness once you're out of the 5th grade.

Back in elementary school, Valentine's Day was cool. You went to school made a big heart-shaped envelope out of construction paper and too much Elmer's Glue, and then traded valentine cards with everyone in your class. Even the people you didn't know. Even the people you hated.

And you got to spend about three hours exchanging and reading your valentines, and not doing your math or practicing handwriting.

Then, from junior high on, Valentine's Day starts going downhill. You only get cards from people who actually like you, and everybody wears entirely too much pink.

I decided that the reason Valentine's Day isn't as great as it used to be is because, just like Christmas, it's too commercialized.

The way to make Valentine's Day cool again is to look for its real meaning — the way Valentine's Day began.

So I looked, and what I found was disturbing.



Ellen Hobbs
Opinion Page Editor

Why would anyone want to be anyone else's valentine? The real St. Valentine (or at least the first one) was clubbed to death and then beheaded. I just don't see the appeal in that.

The second St. Valentine was also clubbed to death. They weren't too lucky, were they?

Really, though, that's not the reason everybody gets so lovey-dovey on February 14. The tradition began because of a pagan medieval holiday that celebrated the first day birds began to mate in the spring (and gave everybody else an excuse to mate, too).

Once the pagans were run out of Europe, the Christian Europeans decided they'd like to have a holiday to celebrate sex, too. So they picked the anniversary of the day this poor man was clubbed to death for their

celebration because it was around the same time birds start to mate.

Later, some sensitive soul made up a little story about how Claudius II, the emperor of Rome, decided that married men didn't make good soldiers, so he outlawed marriage.

According to the story, St. Valentine thought that was wrong, and married young people secretly. The Roman government found out, and you guessed it, clubbed him to death.

Of course, that story is just so much baloney, but it sounds nice.

And that's the origin of Valentine's Day.

So forget its origins. They're not too cool. If you want to find the Valentine's Day you haven't had since the 5th grade, go to Wal-Mart, buy a bunch of those little cards like you used to trade, and give out as many as you can. It's fun, it's cheap, and it brings back those old Valentine's-Day-at-elementary-school feelings.

And if you really want to give somebody a Valentine who needs it, send one to my dog. He's being neutered today.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major.

Friends' story makes reader pro-life

The recent letters to The Battalion have encouraged me to share a personal story. I hope you decide to print it. To the best of my knowledge, the information presented is true. I would like to mention that my knowledge on some of the happenings regarding the abortions mentioned is not very complete. It was complete enough, however, for me to change my opinion on abortion forever.

I recall reading the Jan. 23 column regarding the pro-life perspective and being very upset by the false accusations presented in it. It offered the opinion that all pro-life supporters were cloudy-eyed potential bomb-throwers. In turn, I would like to disclose how I came to support the pro-life opinion.

Originally, I vehemently supported the pro-life viewpoint from a direction that many, including myself, have grown to despise. Without thought, I accepted the views of my church and thus my peers, that the pro-life opinion was right. As I went to college those ties were broken and I began to liberalize in my positions. My views changed back dramatically over the Christmas

Bret Alldredge
Reader's Opinion

holidays when two close friends of mine were involved in unwanted pregnancies and both couples elected for abortion.

To keep this short, I will suffice it to say that both situations ended horribly. One couple was broken up by the circumstances and both members of the other couple are emotionally scarred. Both couples took the time to read and decide which choice was best — no rash decisions were made.

This occurrence has done one thing for me: I now know my opinion on abortion. It is wrong. I cannot imagine doing something like this myself. I know some will write The Battalion noting that even though abortion is horrible to me, I shouldn't force that opinion on others. Still others will write saying that the destruction of these people's lives should not have any bearing on public policy. I would like to say that I am simply giving my story to help pro-choice people understand the motivations of their opposition. It amazes me that something capable of doing so much wrong is taken by some to be so right.

Bret Alldredge is a junior business major.

As with all columns, viewpoints expressed in Reader's Opinions are not necessarily those of The Battalion. Persons interested in submitting a Reader's Opinion should contact the Opinion Page Editor at 845-3314.

Mail Call

Silver Taps lacks student participation

EDITOR:

I am writing concerning the lack of student participation in the time-honored tradition of Silver Taps. While attending the last ceremony, I was stunned by the small numbers that showed up. Silver Taps is a tradition that no other school has, and is one that is rapidly fading at this school. In my years here I have seen the numbers attending Silver Taps grow smaller and smaller. It is not a "Corps only" tradition — it's an Aggie tradition. All Aggies should want to pay their respects to fellow Aggies who have passed on. Only you as students of this great and unique University can prevent this special tradition from fading away.

Carl K. Gilpin '90

Library not for socializing

EDITOR:

I have a comment concerning the Sterling C. Evans library. It is not place to socialize; from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., it is not "happy hour." I do not go to the library to engage in social activities. I do not appreciate people talking and laughing at my expense when I am trying to study. Aggies, that is what the second floor snack bar is there for. Use it!

Michele Guerra '91

Aerobic track will be missed

EDITOR:

I would like to express myself about the parking garage which will be built in place of the aerobic track. For three years, I have used the track for its convenience and health benefits as well as for sheer running pleasure. Numerous others have run, jogged or walked on it at any time of the day or night, at no cost to Texas A&M. The University is constructing the parking garage which our nation is concerned about its youth getting enough exercise. It is sad and ironic to see that something which allows one to spend more time in a car will replace something which provides priceless cardiovascular fitness.

Larry Hanus '90

Miles deserves professional respect

EDITOR:

The Battalion's willingness to accommodate freedom of expression may have peaked with the issue of Jan. 29. The guest column, "Forests threatened by Clearcutters" was one of the most blatantly subjective, professionally insulting expressions of intellectual elitism and arrogance against a bona fide expert that I've ever seen. Bruce Miles has been thoroughly examined, his forest philosophy and actions reviewed in-depth by his peers and has been recognized and acclaimed by the forest community as one of the outstanding professional foresters of our time. He, like many of us in the industry, chose a career in forest stewardship more than 30 years ago, long before it became fashionable to express concern about growing trees and to practice forestry in the public arena. His election as national president of the Forest Farmers Association underscores the integrity of his credentials as well as the professional respect he deserves to enjoy. The real issue that needs addressing is not Bruce Miles but rather the credibility of the author of the article. To proclaim his source of material as "superb" indicates a case of extreme glibility and proves again the rule "garbage in, garbage out" applies to the mind of a man as well as to computers. To say, "forests are threatened by clearcutters" is the academic equivalent of saying, "farms are threatened by tractor drivers." To verbally crucify anyone for wearing a shirt with the inscription, "Save a logger, eat an owl," raises more questions than answers. Is the author endorsing the idea "starve a logger, save an owl?" Is he unaware of the fact that loggers are as indispensable to the good health of a forest as farm workers are to next year's wheat or corn harvest? The cultivation, enhancement and protection of our healthy forest resource has been priority number one with most of us in the forest industry for decades. The abundance of healthy stands of valuable timber interspersed with understories of game browse and good habitat for wildlife is adequate proof of the efficiency and effectiveness of professional forest management, the negative ramblings and babblings of radical preservationists notwithstanding. The difference between Bruce Miles, the thousands of us in the forest community who have for years followed responsible environmental practices and the very vocal do-gooders who maintain a cacophony of criticism of our forest professionals is this: Ours is an applied science and as such is vulnerable to occasional miscues in spite of the high degree of success we share with passive users of this resource we nurture. The preachings of the opponents of good forestry (who like to be called environmentalists) are 100 percent theoretical and therefore not subject to failure. If the would-be forest managers are so arrogantly certain of the superiority of their theories, why don't they purchase some land and put their words into practice? The theoretical pronouncements of so-called environmentalists can no more satisfy the wood fiber needs of society than a fancy five-color picture of a sumptuous banquet table can satisfy the physical needs of a hungry man.

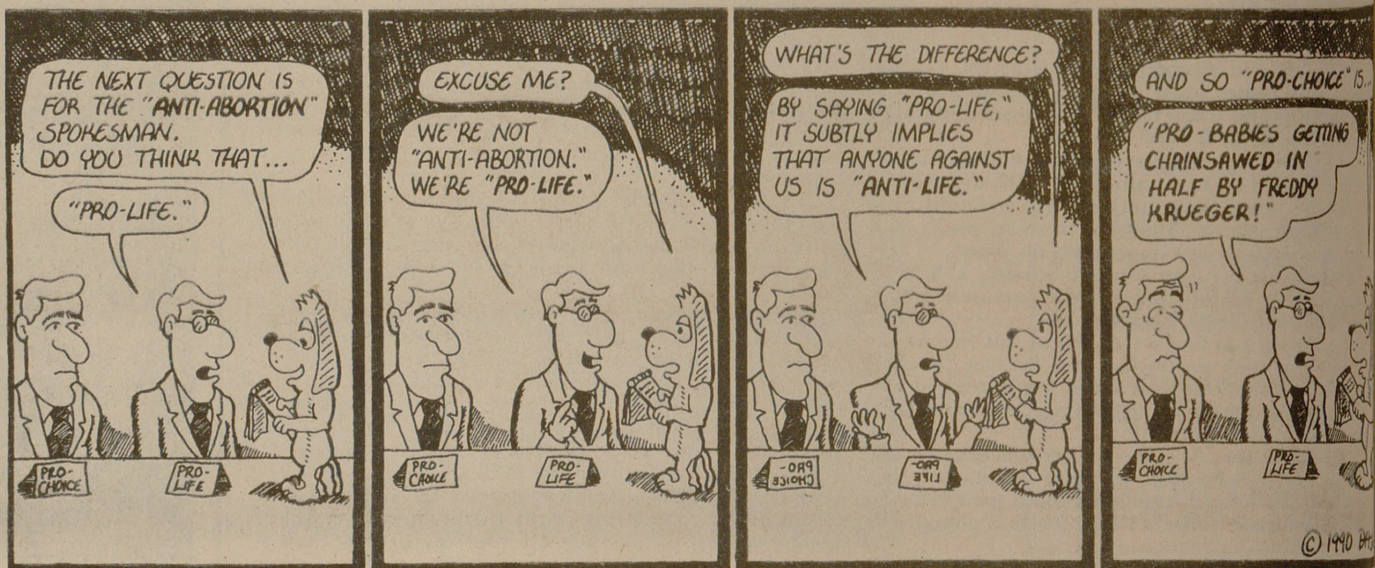
Bob Currie
Life Member, Texas Forestry Association

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. 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.

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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