

Mail Call

A proposal for Corps runs

EDITOR:

Howdy Ags!! Well, here we are with another inane problem in good ol' Aggieland: Corps runs. I propose they consider running where some of the Corps groups (i.e. Ross Volunteers) go to practice and run — across the tracks where there are long roads with little traffic, (only a lot of animals). Sure, there may be need for light, so use flashlights to see. There could be potholes. Go around or over them. Of course you must get across the tracks first, but at least you leave the main hub of campus. True, no one may hear you early in the morning, but some non-regs (no offense intended Ags) don't care to get up that time of the day. Oh well, it is just a thought for a solution.

Henry Ramirez '86

Battalion music review inadequate

EDITOR:

Yet another example of the inadequacy of music review in The Battalion was perpetuated on Monday, March 5 in John Righter's feeble attempt to review the Cult/Bonham/Tora Tora concert.

His reference to opening act Tora Tora as a "Van Halen-styled" band tipped me off immediately that Righter's rantings would be extremely off base. He then proceeded to try and belittle the music of Bonham by calling the group "yet another weak Led Zeppelin ripoff."

If Righter knew anything about the music of either band, he would have recognized that the two bands' sounds are completely different, with keyboards being more prevalent in Bonham's music.

And obviously Righter knows nothing about Led Zeppelin since he stated that John Bonham, the late drummer for the nationally famous band, died in the late '70s when he in fact passed away on September 25, 1980.

Any true rock 'n' roller, or critic, would at least know the correct decade in which one of the greatest drummers in history died.

Mr. Righter continues to commit many more errors that are too numerous to mention in only one letter. Perhaps the author's biggest blunder was when he criticized The Cult for neglecting songs from a past release, "Sonic Temple." Well excuse me if I am wrong, and I'm not, but it was billed as the "Sonic Temple" tour, wasn't it Mr. Righter?

I suggest that if you want to hear those songs that you like from past albums played live, then you should travel back in time and attend past Cult concerts. And while you're there, Mr. Righter, why don't you learn a little bit more about music and its history.

Wayne T. Tencer '93

'Ol' Claytie' not living in 90s

EDITOR:

In response to Ellen Hobbs' column about Clayton Williams' stupidity, I would like to say that she was right on the mark in her criticism of "ol' Claytie." Williams' rape remark shows his complete insensitivity to the fear and abhorrence that most women feel toward this sickening crime.

Just hours after making this infamous statement, Williams again showed his ignorance by claiming, "I wouldn't have thought that it offended anyone. I just thought it was funny." Such a display shows just how out of touch with the average person Williams really is. If he thinks such a statement

wouldn't offend anyone, then he is not living in the 90s.

Many Republicans defend Williams on the grounds that he is a political amateur. If this is true, then he has no business seeking the governor's mansion. Furthermore, his comment reeks of an incredible lack of judgement. Such poor judgement and bad taste also have no place in the office of governor.

Most importantly, however, is the fact that Williams would joke about something which is no laughing matter. This is an overwhelming testimony to his character, or lack thereof. Williams' inability to grasp the repulsive nature of his mistake is further evidence that he is unfit to be governor.

The unfortunate thing throughout all of this (and indeed the most frightening) is that some Republicans support Williams so blindly that this statement will not affect their views of him in the least.

What will it take to prove to these people that "ol' Claytie" is less than unqualified to be governor and, if elected, will make the great state of Texas the laughing stock of the nation? Unfortunately, nothing!

Stephen Medvic '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. 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 Stop 1111.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A headline in Monday's Mail Call was incorrect. The letter referred to RCC Help Desk employees. The Battalion regrets the error.

U.S., Latin America should unite to better economies

In most of the recent polls, more Americans think the biggest threat to America is now Japan and not the Soviet Union. That's an accurate assessment.

In recent years, we have been beaten by the Japanese in every economic aspect. And as we see Japan growing and ourselves backsliding, we just bitch and moan and shy away from the tough decisions that could have a real impact.

Now another threat has appeared on the horizon. Western Europe is quickly moving toward complete unification of its economic systems. Europe '92, as it is called, will create a mighty economic machine with the population, resources and technology of all Western Europe behind it.

But Europe '92 was planned before the Berlin Wall came down, and before democracy became a reality all over Eastern Europe. A economic consolidation of Europe, including Eastern Europe and led by a united Germany, eventually would surpass the United States and compete with Japan.

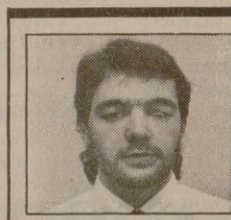
What can the United States do to keep up?

First and foremost, we have to balance the budget, which means we have to stop being so spoiled and start cutting back on programs across the board. Even — and especially — sacred cows like defense, Social Security and foreign aid to countries that don't need it (like Israel and Japan).

But we also can follow Europe's lead. We have a whole slew of potential economic partners over here in our neck of the woods. Imagine an American Economic Community to compete with Japan and the EEC.

Such a cooperative effort could not only stop our economic backslide but it also could help stabilize the political situation in our hemisphere. After all, most people prefer the economic system that most regularly puts food in their belly. If we help Latin Americans help themselves economically, they will realize that we aren't the enemy.

Increasing their per capita income and per capita gross domestic product will



Scot O. Walker
Editor

go further toward defeating socialist and communist insurgencies than any amount of weapons and military advisors that we can send. And it's a lot cheaper for us, too.

And we could stop our silly war on drugs as well. The reason the landowners in South and Central America produce illegal crops is that

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they pay. If they try to grow anything else, they starve, because no mechanisms exist to enable them to get any other crop to market. If they could make money selling a legal crop, they would.

The obvious drawback to any joint effort is that at the beginning, the U.S. and Canada will have to carry some of the other members of the group, until they get on strong enough economic footing to contribute to the group on their own. But we already contribute billions and billions of dollars to these countries, and for the most part it's money down a drain. At least with this plan we would all have a common goal toward which we would be moving.

The resources of this proposed American Economic Community would be unmatched.

Readers might wonder just what any American country besides Canada would have to contribute to this economic alliance. Here's a partial list of areas in which a unified American Economic Community could be a world-class competitor, *not even including the contributions of Canada and the United States:*

- Mineral mining and production, including lead, zinc, copper, argonite, uranium, tin, tungsten, manganese, nickel, gold and silver.
- Wool, cotton, clothing and textiles.
- Natural gas, crude oil and petroleum.
- Steel and steel products, cement and construction materials.
- Tobacco.
- Pharmaceuticals.
- Agricultural and industrial machinery.
- Chemicals.
- Food, foodstuffs and food processing, including corn, salt, sugarcane and processed sugar, coffee, rice, wheat, soybeans, bananas, beef, cocoa, potatoes, citrus fruits and fruit products, and wheat. Everyone has to eat, and the AEC would have an overwhelming share of the grain market. (The main competitor would be the Soviet Union, but most of their crop rots before it ever gets to market.)

Caribbean countries could contribute as well. The Bahamas, for example, is an international banking center, sort of a Switzerland on a smaller scale.

The whole direction of the world is toward globalization and internationalization. The United States has not shown that it can compete with Japan, and it has not shown that it can effectively promote democracy in South and Central America without the use of gunboat diplomacy. An American Economic Community would be a proper response to all those problems.

Scot Walker is a senior journalism major.

Mighty power of television could be abused by networks

If the pen is mightier than the sword, then television is more powerful than the atomic bomb.

Television allows us to be alone although we share the company of millions. We've lost the intimacy of human companionship and replaced it with television. Through television millions of people can have the same experience totally independent of one another.

As a medium of mass communication, television's power is frightening. It allows us to see things we've never seen. Hear things we've never heard. Experience things we've never experienced.

Television allows us to truthfully live a lie. Viewers are able to cross the fine line which separates reality and imagination.

Through imagery and illusion, television invades our thoughts and etches transmitted images into our own memory.

We remember things we see on television as if they were things we actually witnessed.

Try to remember the last Lakers basketball game you saw. Your mind recalls the game almost immediately. You probably remember the emotion you felt during the game: excitement, joy, disappointment or even boredom. But more than likely you've never seen an actual Lakers game. What you saw was an image of a Lakers game given to you by your television set.

Trivial? Not really. Americans have been so conditioned to accept the images that come from television that networks could literally present as much faulty information as they desired and few people would question its validity.

Not only do we accept television images (presented in the proper format) as truth, these images become a part of our memory.

This is frightening because of the potential for abuse; information could be deliberately skewed, altered



Ronda Shepherd
Columnist

or even omitted and the American public would be none the wiser. Television could become "The Great American Scam" and it would take years for the American public to figure it out.

In many ways, we are part of a great scam and don't even know it. Television, particularly with advertising, reinforces the myth of the American Dream.

We buy things we don't need, do things we don't want to do and use more than is necessary. We do this all because television and advertising grants us the illusion of abundance.

Our minds are complex enough to reject this illusion; but our emotion, greed and lust is placated by the illusion, so we accept it. We even bask in the untruthfulness of it, hoping that our wanting something bad enough will make it so.

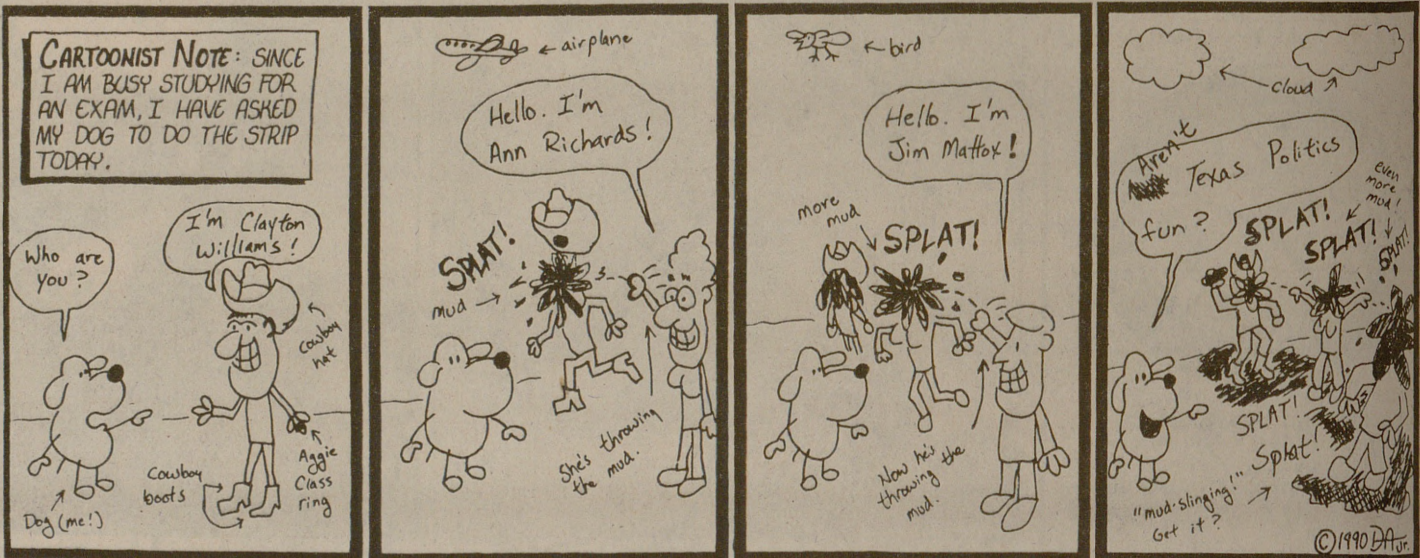
Like all things, television has its merits. It keeps us abreast of national and global activity. It serves as an educator. It is the most effective form of communication. It even connects us to those things going on around us.

But it is very powerful and its potential for abuse is great. Americans should keep a watchful eye on those in control of this medium: the station managers, programming directors and editors all have a tremendous responsibility to the American public. As viewers, we should make a conscious effort to be more aware of the possible negative effects of television. Don't believe everything you see.

Ronda Shepherd is a senior journalism major.

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



The Battalion

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