

MAIL CALL

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Gulf war deals with control of oil reserves

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the plethora of letters criticizing President Bush for sending our troops into battle to "keep the price of a gallon of gas low."

As our President and many other informed persons have stated, this war is not about cheap oil.

It's about who controls oil reserves in the Persian Gulf.

Saddam Hussein has one thing in common with evil dictators of the past who faced the United States on the battlefield.

Hussein, if allowed to keep Kuwait, would have access to a great amount of power.

Profits gained from oil production surely would have been used to increase his military might.

Without the presence of allied forces in the gulf, nothing would have stopped Hussein from taking Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and even Saudi Arabia.

We obtain only a small portion of our oil from the Middle East. It is countries like Japan, which imports the majority of its oil from the Persian Gulf, that would bear most of the brunt of Hussein's takeover of OPEC.

However, even if Saddam did control most of the oil in the gulf, he would not price himself out of business. He needs the money to finance his ambitions.

Our soldiers are not fighting for cheap oil. They are stopping a power-hungry, evil dictator so the great wars of history are not eclipsed in scope by a new technology devastating struggle for world supremacy.

It is for this reason, along with a sense of patriotic responsibility, that Sigma Chi joined with Young Republicans and others in the rally Wednesday to support our troops.

We encourage all Ags to look beyond the faulty arguments of peace-at-all-cost activists and support the United States in international affairs.

Jeff Bray '91

Protesters don't realize war hardships

EDITOR:

I am writing this in response to the Jan. 30 letter by Faith Short.

Ms. Short, please don't expect me to feel sorry for the "hardship" you and your fellow protesters have had to endure.

And don't try to convince me you support the troops in the Middle East.

You might try to make yourself feel better by saying such things if you wish, but perhaps you should ask some of the soldiers if they are thankful for your kind of support.

I personally know many of them who don't appreciate it because my father and many close family friends are fighting in Saudi Arabia.

I am so glad to hear that you love these people as brothers and sisters, but some of us love them as fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters because they are the people that raised us and grew up with us.

Apparently you should learn the meaning of the words "hardship" and "support."

Hardship is being at war and having people tell you that they're protesting for your own good when they have no idea what you believe in.

You support those you love even if you don't agree with what they're doing, and you support them in a way that is not detrimental to them.

Your method of "support" makes me sick.

It's worse than no support at all in the eyes of those who are fighting be-

cause they think it is the right thing to do.

Vikki S. Batten '93

Ags should support basketball team

EDITOR:

This is addressed to all of you basketball fans out there who haven't been showing up at Aggie basketball games this season.

Yes, I know we are 0-8 in Southwest Conference play, and chances are we'll be 0-9 by next week.

But hey, since when have Aggies claimed to be fair-weather fans? Where's the "spirit of Aggieland" these days?

The Aggie cagers have not been "blown away" every game as I've heard some of you claim.

They did, in fact, come within five points of both Texas Tech and Baylor. Had the true "spirit of Aggieland" shown up at these games, our players might have had the edge they need for the win.

We now have two Big East Conference transfers that will begin play next season.

Both David Edwards and Tony Scott have given up the opportunity to play for big crowds at Georgetown and Syracuse respectively.

These players are now looking at an average crowd attendance of 2,010 here at A&M. That's an embarrassing Aggie.

The Aggies will host the Longhorn game Sunday at 1 p.m. Need I say more? No excuses for not showing up for the one.

If that's not enough, come out and watch Brooks Thompson in action. The "alley-oop" is a must see.

Even Coach Davis has a way of helping up the house on a bad call.

If for no other reason, come on out and meet the players who might take the SWC title next year (yes, that's my prediction). Scott Wudel can chew on that for a while.

Miracles do happen Ags. Show your support — I'll see you at the game.

Danielle Cook '91

Top 10 gripes about 'the itch'

EDITOR:

Top 10 reasons "the itch" still is written.

10. Because he/she believes it's actually funny.
9. The title is so darn creative.
8. Where's Tubularman when you need him?
7. It's psychological warfare (against them or us)?
6. Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines!
5. He's practicing for that creative job opening on the National Enquirer staff.
4. Because it keeps everyone's mind off the war with its scathing, highbrow humorous content.
3. You should have seen the staff that was going to be here.
2. It's one of those famous Aggie experiments (cold fusion, etc.) where they are trying to see how many people with taste will write letters in disgust.
1. It's required course curriculum for every journalist to offend the public. He's going for extra credit.

Ian Cruzen '92



MARGULES
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NEW JERSEY

Animals fall prey to drug testing

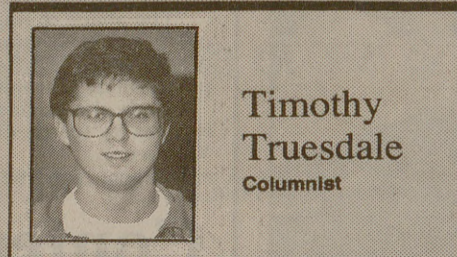
Sacrificing helpless animals is an inhumane but ancient custom. We believe, as did our "barbaric" ancestors, that the sacrifice is necessary to ward off disease. Little has changed over the years, except for the names of the gods who demand the blood. Today the god is named greed.

In the 1970s and '80s, American corporations underestimated the power of environmentalist groups. Industrialists warned we would have to choose between a growth economy and cleaner air and water. Yet, when the American public demanded more environmental sensitivity, businesses "miraculously" found ways to comply and still make money.

This is just one example of the "either/or" fallacy of logic. Believe me, American businesses have a long history of using this approach to justify exploitative practices.

After losing so dramatically on the environmental front, you'd think they'd attack the "animal-rights" groups with another tactic. But they're at it again.

Last week I saw former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop in an



Timothy Truesdale
Columnist

advertisement. He was tearing pages out of a book he identified as a reference for medical treatments. He said that without animal testing, many treatments would not be available.

This type of logic sounded all too familiar. Pharmaceutical companies can be permitted to inflict pain and suffering on helpless animals, or people will suffer and die for lack of appropriate drugs. The ends therefore justify the means.

For all his self-importance, man is not god of this earth. He is merely a "steward." That means some day he'll be required to account for his treatment of the environment, as well as other animals.

How do scientists who kill animals for a living get to sleep at night?

Is there any other way of coming up with appropriately tested medicines? Of course there is! Scientists already are using computers to develop drugs. Computer simulations can be created which will accurately predict the effects of treatments.

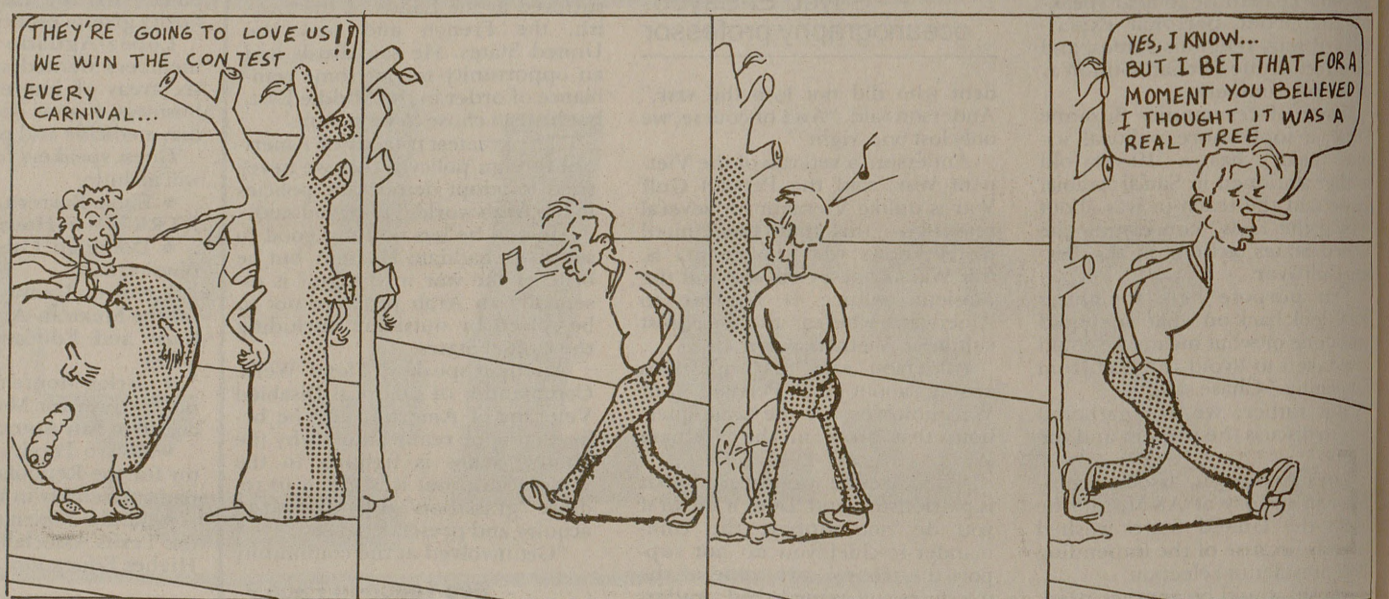
If such a technological "miracle" is possible, then why haven't we seen more research in that area? Quite frankly, it's cheaper in the short run to hire Dr. Koop to take the either/or fallacy to the American public.

Pharmaceutical companies, beware. Here's an either/or statement to which there are no alternatives. Come up with appropriate animal-free drug testing on your own profitable timetable or prepare to meet an agitated public that will demand immediate action.

Exploitation ensures short-run profitability. You grow rich by selling drugs to suffering humans willing to pay anything for relief. And you inflict pain on animals to get your drugs to the market. This kind of double exploitation will not result in long-run profits. The natives are growing tired of the inhumane sacrifices.

Tim Truesdale is a graduate student in urban planning.

the itch



by Nito

The Battalion

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