

## Nothing on TV? Go for a walk!

**W**ell, MTV is no longer with us here in Aggieland. That's what I hear, anyway. I don't pay for TV channels (I don't pay for bottled water or compressed air, either), so I wouldn't know.

This development leaves Texas A&M students with a serious dilemma: what are we supposed to do for entertainment? Consider these unbelievable suggestions.

1) **GO FOR A RIDE.** I realize this suggestion may sound like a cliché from the "Leave it to Beaver" era. But something tells me that Bryan-College Station is not an island in a sea of nothingness. There are communities not too far from here that few of us know nothing about.

For example, Madisonville is probably known to most students merely as a town that slows the journey to school from I-45. But what lies off the main thoroughfares? Is there a fabulous little kolache shop, an attractive little urban park or an antique shop in someone's garage?

2) **GO FOR A WALK.** I realize this suggestion is more unbelievable than the last. Believe it or not, after walking in this city for over a year now, I have not walked every neighborhood yet.

Just what is there to see here? I recommend walking downtown Bryan sometime. Yes, there is more than a couple of restaurants and a furniture store. I am finding out that Bryan's downtown has an incredible history. But it remains off the beaten path for most A&M students.

3) **TAKE A RIDE ON THE INTERURBAN TROLLEY SYSTEM.** Did you know there is an interurban trolley system linking Bryan and College Station? People are always entertaining, whether they mean to be or not. And no social science textbook can tell you more about people than public transportation can. This also is a

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**Tim Truesdale**  
Columnist

great way to identify neighborhoods you'll want to investigate by foot.

4) **SIT BY A FOUNTAIN AND CREATE WATER VIDEOS IN YOUR MIND.** We have a great fountain just outside the library here on campus. Watching fountains can actually be more stimulating to the senses than watching someone else's videos on a little black box.

Anyone with half a brain could sit down and come up with dozens of other forms of entertainment that don't depend on artificial gadgetry. The idea is pathetic that WE NEED MTV because there is nothing to do in Bryan-College Station.

The right to free expression of ideas is not really an issue in this matter, either. As if I really need some intellectual stimulation, I always turn to MTV, truly a marketplace of ideas.

The only "right" TCA has violated is your "right to sit back and be entertained by someone else."

**Tim Truesdale is a graduate student in urban planning.**

## There is too much sex on television!



## 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.

### TCA forces rural values on B/CS

EDITOR:

Let's get one thing out in the open: The dropping of MTV by TCA Cable is not a question of censorship, it IS a case of the values of other cities and states served by TCA being thrust upon ALL the citizens of Bryan/College Station and other cities served by TCA. TCA Cable is headquartered in Tyler and serves several other small cities in East Texas, including my hometown of White Oak. TCA also serves Conroe and cities in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

East Texas, as quoted by TCA's Randy Roger, is "more conservative than your average person from New York." Granted, it is more conservative than the citizens of Bryan/College Station as a whole. As well, there are some small areas of East Texas that are much more fundamentally conservative than all of East Texas as a whole.

Based on this concept, let me throw some numbers out to prove the point that TCA is responding to the values of conservative East Texas. Rogers is quoted as saying "We've received several hundred complaints about MTV." I'll conservatively estimate about 1000 complaints for arguments sake. TCA has between 400,000 and 420,000 subscribers. Some simple division would tell you that TCA is responding to one-fourth of one percent of its subscribers by pulling MTV off their system.

Through all the bantering and posturing last week about what TCA wanted and what MTV wanted, never once did TCA read the owner's manual for their TOCOM Cable channel selector (the one with the remote). That channel selector has the ability to assign an access code that can be assigned by the parent that would block any channel on the cable system, including MTV. However, that was unimportant, because TCA had committed itself to denying the other 99.75 percent of its subscribers the opportunity to watch MTV. If TCA feels this way about Bryan/College Station, why don't they pack up, sell out to another company and leave town.

**Scott Anderson**  
graduate student

### Vegetarianism is no cure-all

EDITOR:

Aside from the joys of tofu, the theme of Michael Worsham's recent column, "Soybeans provide healthy alternative", appears to be that you are an obese, amoral eco-villain if you enjoy eating meat. Self-serving articles like his are usually easy to ignore, but his unfounded attack on animal agriculture requires rebuttal.

No doubt about it, soybeans are nutritious, and it seems that yummy tofu can be made to taste just like many of the foods you now enjoy. Nevertheless, valid

arguments exist for a diet including moderate portions of lean meat. There must be another point to Mr. Worsham's article.

He states that animal agriculture causes ecological devastation but fails to note that well-managed herds offer a sustainable production alternative to farmers with land poorly suited to crop production. Nor does he address the environmental costs of modern crop production. For example, soybean monocultures offer habitat to only a handful of weed and insect species: Runoff from bean fields carries topsoil, pesticides and waste nutrients downstream to wreak havoc on aquatic ecosystems. Researchers and farmers are working to abate these problems, but the point is that a vegetarian diet will not solve environmental problems.

Mr. Worsham's remaining thoughts, though never clearly stated, seem to address the animal rights issue. If his underlying theme is indeed animal rights, I ask that in the future, he approach the issue honestly rather than shrouding the subject in misinformation about environmental and human health issues.

Information, or the lack of it, is my point. We must be suspicious of individuals and groups who are willing to misinform the public to advance personal opinions or vested interests. In light of Mr. Worsham's statement that "...diversity is the key to enjoying any cultural endeavor," it would seem logical to present factual, to-the-point arguments and let each individual decide what to think (and eat).

Problems abound in agriculture that must be addressed by producers, consumers, scientists and lawmakers. But Mr. Worsham's article, and others like it, are divisive and offer no real solutions. Unless those of us in agriculture and natural resource disciplines begin to take a more active role in providing timely, unbiased information, the public will increasingly rely on unbridled propaganda advanced by protesters and profiteers.

**Max R. Alleger**  
Graduate Student

### What about daytime soaps?

EDITOR:

If TCA Cable is going to remove MTV on account of its inappropriate content for children, I request that they also remove CBS, NBC and ABC. These networks broadcast soap operas in the middle of the day for at least three hours. The content of these soap operas generally revolves around copulation between two unmarried characters — a horrible influence on children staying home during summer months, even worse than MTV. I ask all parents who requested MTV be removed to support me in an endeavor to remove these networks, also. Perhaps we could also put a ban on suntan lotion commercials. After all, we want TCA to decide what's best for us, don't we?

**Join Y. Luh '93**

## Guest Editorial

### Judge's ability, not race, should matter

Twice in his presidency, George Bush has had the honor of nominating a justice to the nation's highest court. And twice now, his selections have raised serious questions about the motives of the nominator and the qualifications of the nominee.

In announcing his choice of Clarence Thomas, black federal appeals court judge, to the Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall, President Bush was brief and blunt: "He is," the president said, "the best person for this position."

Perhaps. At the very least Judge Thomas has a more visible record than the president's last pick, David Souter. And, although the president bristled when it was suggested he had appointed Judge Thomas because of his race, it is significant that a minority was appointed to replace the court's first and only black justice.

But race alone does not a good justice make. And Judge Thomas' record, visible though it may be, may not be all that viable for a position of such stature and importance. ...

Whether he will eventually be confirmed remains to be seen. First he must survive the confirmation sessions, which, if the initial reactions are any indication, could be painfully partisan.

Ideally, of course, it should not matter what color Judge Thomas is, nor should it matter what his political or ideological persuasions are. What should matter is whether he has the knowledge and ability to sit as a jurist on our highest court whether he is indeed the best person for the job.

*The Dallas Times Herald*

## Let's bring in another cable service

I am writing first to thank everyone involved in our protest at TCA Cable on Saturday. The tireless participants who braved the hot sun in order to express their dictate for censorship, the hundreds of people who chose to support us with their honks and waves, the several people who chose to politely voice their disapproval, the Bryan Police Department who helped counsel me on the ins and outs of a legal protest and the polite people at TCA (who even offered us sodas) were all part of the group that made a legal demonstration of opinion possible.

... Legally, there is nothing that residents of Bryan/College Station can do to make TCA Cable allow MTV back on the air. Thus they are permitted to remove it without so much as

**Gwynne Ellen Ash**  
Reader's Opinion

consulting all of the other residents who did not complain.

A TCA worker stated that renting music videos would be an alternative to receiving MTV through cable. I would like to propose another alternative: allowing a second cable company into Bryan/College Station in order to break TCA Cable's monopoly. Their contract with the city does not grant them an exclusive franchise. Another company may prefer to allow the customers to decide with their remote

controls and their dials what they do and do not wish to watch.

There are many things you can still do to make this idea a reality:

You can join us Friday night at the An Nam Teahouse for an anti-censorship rally featuring local bands. There we will distribute petitions, encourage letter writing and share ideas for the next steps we should take in the fight against censorship.

You can write to B/CS Joint Economic Development Foundation care of Robert Worley, executive director. This address is 1306 Memorial Drive, Suite 210, Bryan, TX 77802. Tell him that due to poor service you would welcome a second cable company in the B/CS area.

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