

EDITORIAL

Editorials expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

Corps commandant acts wisely

The Battalion applauds the decision of Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, Corps of Cadets commandant, to temporarily discontinue the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry.

It is unfortunate the actions of a few cavalry members have tainted the reputation of this ceremonial outfit of the Corps, but we believe acts of intimidation and discrimination should be dealt with quickly and sternly.

Corps officers could have viewed the reported assault of a female cadet as something that just happens in a military organization, and we are glad to see clear thinking, integrity and acute sensitivity prevail.

Darling has taken a notable, albeit surprising, step to assure the campus community that justice will be served to the female cadet's attackers. The Battalion hopes those heading the investigation into the incident will do the same.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Prevent Congressmen from abusing interns

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the next few months, thousands of students nationwide will be applying to work as interns in the U.S. Congress. Most of them probably have wanted to be Congressional interns since they were 12 years old, and most of them will have a tremendous experience. But too many of them are being set up for the disappointment of a lifetime.

I know this because in 1989 I was an intern in the office of Congressman Joe Barton. I was offered an unpaid position and told I would be working with the Legislative Assistant for Agriculture and with the effort to bring the George Bush Presidential Library to Texas A&M. I made arrangements with my dean to attend committee hearings and write a paper in order to receive academic credit. As a result of receiving academic credit I could in turn get financial aid, which was vital since I was not being paid and my expenses would be about \$2,000.

What happened when I got to Washington, D.C., was far different from what I was led to expect. I was assigned a computer terminal where I was to take the Congressman's mass mail-out surveys and punch the results in one at a time by hand, stopping only to open the mail and run errands. However, I found out the House offered a service to statistically sample the returns for a nominal fee, whereupon I informed the Congressman. I was told that the reason we punched in the data by hand was to ensure we got the respondent's address so we could in turn flood him or her with more mass mail-outs at taxpayer expense. Essentially my congressman, whom I had so admired for his sermons on fiscal constraint, was (like all his colleagues) using taxpayer's money to finance his own publicity campaign and forcing his interns to do it for him for free.

I found that because I was not given any time to do substantive work, I would not be given credit for the internship, and in turn I would not be eligible for financial aid. I informed Barton of this and (after a good "chewing out") he told me something would be worked out.

Here was his solution: I would be released from the office one hour early to work for the Republican National Committee phone bank until 11 p.m., I would be given two hours per day to do academically substantive work, and I would be expected to come in on weekends (still for no pay) to "catch up" on my "obligations."

I found another job in different Congressional office. I informed Barton that I would be leaving to take an internship elsewhere, at which time he accused me of trying to undermine him politically and informed me I had three choices:

1. continue to work in his office.
2. go back to Texas.
3. try to take the other job, whereupon he would see to it that I did not get the other job and that I would never work in Washington, D.C., again.

I stayed in his office for a few more days and then returned to Texas.

Upon my return to A&M, a number of administrators were aware of what had happened to me as well as

other interns on previous occasions, and an ad-hoc committee was established to consider ways of better handling internship opportunities for students. Oddly enough, Congressman Barton's office found out about the committee and called up demanding we provide them with some "interns" to work within the next few weeks (there must have been a lot of mass mail-outs to process).

I am not crying or whining because I was mistreated, and I am not particularly worried about Congressman Barton keeping me out of Washington, D.C. If I were old enough I dare say I could beat Congressman Barton in his own Republican primary. Nor am I trying to "get even" with Congressman Barton. I discussed my concerns with him before leaving and was assured that changes in the intern program would be made, and according to recent conversations with former Barton interns, things have improved somewhat. Instead, I am merely calling upon the House of Representatives to prevent the opportunity of such situations arising again.

According to the House of Representatives *Congressional Handbook*, an intern is "an individual who is employed primarily for his/her educational experience." Doing grunt work is all part of being an intern, but punching in the answers to survey data all day is hardly educational. Furthermore, committee guidelines specify that interns must be participants in a program "operated by an entity not affiliated with a Congressional office," (Julian C. Dixon, Chairperson, Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, June 29, 1990). I, for one, was participating in no such program.

The reason for these rules is obvious — to protect the interns. It is easy for members of Congress to delude students by telling them how privileged they are to even get to serve for free in his/her office, and by promising them that all-important letter of recommendation. Many students are satisfied with this, but nonetheless others leave the Capitol feeling cynical, used and disillusioned.

Some very simple steps could be taken to address these problems. Interns should be provided a detailed job description in advance outlining what is expected of them and what they should expect of those for whom they work.

An ad-hoc committee of members and former interns could also be established to advise and oversee internship programs to verify that such programs are in compliance with House rules.

Finally, current House rules should be enforced. Now.

I realize that in view of all the issues faced by a member of Congress this may seem like a small matter. However, I think it is unfortunate that many of those who may succeed you someday are coming to your colleagues as idealists and leaving as cynics.

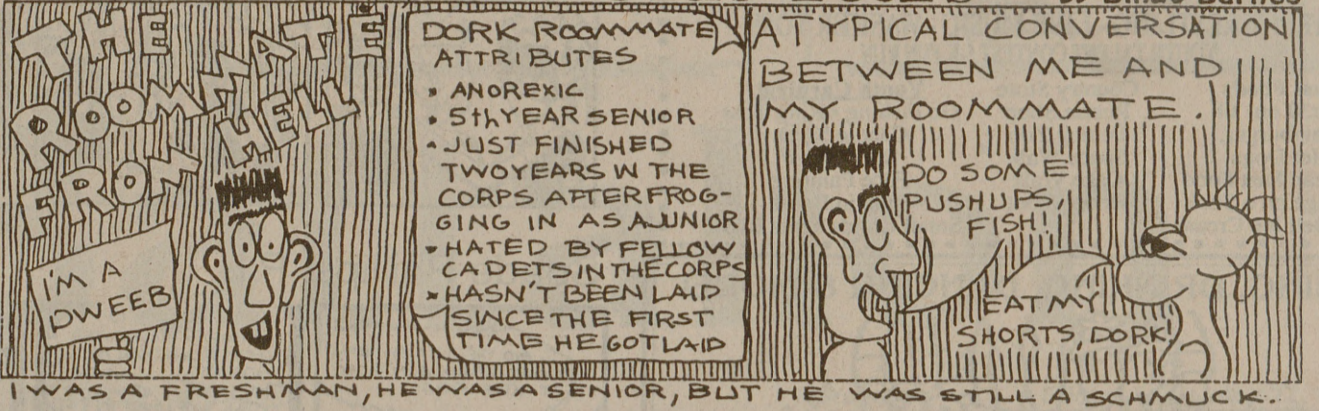
Editor's note: This letter was sent to Julian C. Dixon, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.



Ty Clevenger
Clevenger is a senior bioenvironmental science major.

Davis-Gary, The Olde Years

by Bingo Barnes



Men appreciate women who burp

Dare to express yourself

This one goes out to the ladies. Okay people, big issues in these trying times and days — AIDS, national health care, Medicaid, Murphy Brown's pregnancy and those life-call things that our elderly Americans insist on wearing even when they're out of the home. In light of these great and ponderous matters, we lose sight of those day to day ailments that cause us unlimited trauma and dismay.

I'm talking about gas. And I don't mean what you get at the local Exxon Polluterville.

I'm talking high octane, high lead, high quality emissions — things that make you go Brrraaccckkk!

Those of you in the reading audience who just squealed and wrinkled up your noses are exactly the people I'm talking to, so pay attention.

Burping is good. And besides that, it's a natural function — unless you're a seagull. But this isn't an animal rights column.

Nevertheless burping is good. I do it all the time. Everyone does it — we know you do, even though you try to hide it. And that is what's wrong with the American culture. Don't hide it: pride it. Take pride in your gastrointestinal functions. They are a source of endless amusement and creative expression. And they're free!

But lots of women refuse to take part in this primal motif of gut-level communication, and many women mock and abuse those of us who do. They primp and priss, look down their noses, wrinkle them up and say, "eewwww!"

They cower behind the billowing skirts of Emily Post, clench their copies of Amy Vanderbilt's *Book of Modern Etiquette* to their breasts and rant about the rudeness of such base expression. However, due to the advent of the great case of American constipation (a.k.a. the 80s) and the adverse effects of eating McDonald's all the time, we have embraced the concept of fiber therapy. The natural outgrowth of this new anal retentiveness is gas. Just let 'er rip. Throw manners to the wind and be proud of your bowels.

Ladies, please! We live in a quickly spinning world of rapidly changing ideas and ideals. The time to be self-conscious of our bodies is past.

Remember *The Feminine Mystique*? We should be proud of who we are and what we do. The annals of etiquette which prohibit the expression of one's sublime

satisfaction with the digestive process no longer apply in an age which enshrines the virtues of Metamucil.

And besides that, look at the society in which we live. Look at where we go to school. Look at what we eat. All good A&Ms are well aware of the much publicized fact that

Texas A&M consumes more pizza and more beer than any other university in the country! And the only natural outgrowth of this gastronomical fact is gas! Beer makes you burp. Pepperoni makes me burp — hell, just about anything on the food chain makes me burp — AND I'M PROUD OF IT! You should be, too.

We, as a gender-species, should not be afraid to express our femininity through our bodily functions! In addition, guys don't mind. Those of you who fear the impending downfall of your social lives by coming out of the closet need not fret. Your bodily functions have been colonized for far too long by men who frown at burping.

The masses of good, marriageable, burping men out there who respect — no, *admire* — nay, *WORSHIP* women who burp are many, and they are hungry for women to burp with them.

After all, "The way to a man's heart is through his belly." Why do you think they say that? Because a good number of men like women who burp. That's why.

"I think women have come a long way. Lots of women burp and I think it's cool," said Fred Broussard, '91. "But I think they have a long way to go before they fart in public." His roommate, Chris Cottingham, '91, concurred: "Women who burp are cool."

Gastrointestinal functions — natural functions — also contribute to healthy relationships. "We fart around the house all the time, and she does it, too," said John Glowka, commenting on his fiancée, Candice Wright, '94.

And she doesn't mind? "Well if she did, it'd be an extreme inconvenience for me to go outside every time," Glowka said. "I think it says a lot about our relationship though. I think it says we're comfortable around each other." Another great relationship founded on good gastrointestinal habits.

So ladies, now is the time. It is time for us to band together and assert our femininity and healthful consciousness and establish a new air of communication and expression in these anal retentive times. You'll do it and you'll like it, and by gum, you'll thank me for it. **BBB-BUUUUURRRRPPPPP!!!** You heard it here first.



Stacy Feducia

Feducia is a junior English and history major.

"Don't hide it: pride it. Take pride in your gastrointestinal functions. They are a source of endless amusement and creative expression. And they're free!"

Mail Call

Correction

The Battalion incorrectly stated in an opinion column Tuesday that OPAS season tickets were sold out.

OPAS season tickets and tickets for individual shows are still available. The Battalion regrets the error.

Wait for facts to come out

❖ I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Carrie Cavalier for joining the bandwagon of Corps bashers.

In one swift action she has condemned the Corps, the University, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights and the Right to Privacy Act of 1974. Once again, **congratulations.**

I agree that this is a tragic piece of A&M history and this type of behavior is intolerable.

However, before Cavalier makes grandiose claims (and complaints), she should read the very paper for whom she writes.

If she had read The Battalion, Cavalier would know there is an investigation "at the highest levels of the University" going on at this time, the Commandant's office and the University Police Department.

Also, Cavalier seems to lack knowledge of the subtleties of investigations in our present legal environment.

She seems to advocate the investigation be carried on in the view of the entire public so that the time honored "tradition" of a lynch mob can be reinstated.

Cavalier uses conjecture to assert the cadet and the Corps are trying to hide this incident. However, in order for **all of the facts** to come out, the investigation must be kept secluded until a final report is issued.

The Corps does not wish to give itself a bigger "black eye" by perpetuating the questions surrounding this incident.

Cavalier writes of the tragedy in-

flicted upon the cadet by her attackers being perpetuated by the Corps, claiming this is the sole reason for the cadet's silence.

However, Cavalier fails to think of the fact that the constant calls of reporters is a continuing intrusion on the cadet's right to privacy. Who is really continuing the abuse?

The thrust of Cavalier's writing seems to be her frustration with the fact that The Battalion cannot get anymore information with which to make more complaints.

I would like to ask that she, and the rest of us as well, simply take a wait-and-see attitude towards the investigation.

All one has to do is read the papers to see what the premature release of pieces of information about an ongoing investigation can do to the carriage of justice. Oliver North's sentence was dropped in part because of the premature release of information.

Once again, I would like to wish congratulations to Cavalier for her ability to denigrate the very foundations of our society.

I'm sure if she sent an application away today, she could have her Communist Party of the United States card in from New York by Thanksgiving Day.

Paul Linseisen '91

Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters to the editor are welcome. Written letters must be signed and include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee letters will appear.

Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.