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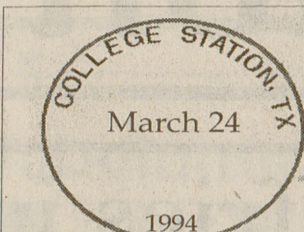
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# MAIL CALL

## Low support for Aggie basketball embarrassing

This letter is primarily directed to the Texas A&M student body and to Aggie fans in the Bryan-College Station area. The Lady Aggies recently played Florida in the first round of the NCAA tournament and drew a paltry crowd of 2,500 fans. By contrast, the Lady Longhorns and Lady Red Raiders drew crowds of 8,000 and 8,600 respectively in their first round home games. I can't believe that all the Aggies were at the beach during spring break. However, I should not have been surprised as the men's team got only lukewarm support all year even though they were in the championship race until the last week of the season. They could only attract 4,000 fans in each of their last two home games — when the championship was on the line. I can't help but believe the outcome may have been different if G. Rollie White had been filled to capacity.

The Aggie basketball programs, men and women, appear to be in excellent shape at this time under the guidance of Tony Barone and Lynn Hickey. However, they can't do it without support of the entire student body. At this time I feel that the so-called Aggie spirit exists mainly in song and verse.

Michael Cascurida  
Class of '88

tion, with interest, for some time to come. Because of you, she may not get to go to Mexico, and in the grand scheme of things that may not matter to you or anyone, but take a moment to think how she feels.

I cannot accurately describe how angry all of this makes me. It makes me wonder if all this Aggie Pride is worth my while. I supplicate you in the name of Cinthya Saavedra who had \$1000 stolen from her, in the name of Jeannie Streiff who had a lousy \$17 umbrella stolen from her on a sunny day, and in the name of all the people who have had a bad day, left a personal belonging somewhere, come back only to find it missing, please return the money. I would like you, thief, to turn the money (\$1159) to the police. Please, if you have any moral decency at all you will do this. She doesn't care who you are; she just wants it back.

I know that you know what Cinthya looks like because I know you saw her ID picture when you opened the wallet to steal the money. I want you to remember that face while you read this. That face has a personality and a heart and a soul behind it and you have just destroyed her trust in all Aggies. So please, once again, turn in the money. No questions asked. It's as simple as that.

Ana Maria Sierra-Martinez  
Class of '96

## Faculty Friends should find critics encouraging

In light of the March 9 article "Students Question Fairness of Christian Ad," I would like to encourage the Faculty Friends. I rejoice at the fact that the organization is being criticized by students and Faculty Senate alike. That very criticism is evidence that the organization is following in the path of Christ. A man of God once said, "A sure way to know if you are following Jesus is not only by receiving God's blessings, but by encountering trials and tribulations." He went on to say, "You know you're following in the path of Christ when you bump into Satan — simply because he is going the exact opposite way."

Faculty Friends, you're bumping into the work of Satan. I pray that this will do nothing but strengthen you, that you put Satan behind you and you continue to make a difference for Jesus on this campus. It is good to see that Christians are still "strangers in the world" (I Peter 1:1), just as we have been for 2,000 years.

Faculty Friends, I am glad that you are drawing criticism, but more importantly, I am ecstatic you are drawing people to Jesus!

Matt Rains  
Class of '94

## Sound reasons for multicultural experience

I have read for the past year a lot of letters in the Batt about the multiculturalism issue. For all those people who are not sure which side to take, well, I thought this:

You see, I am an international student. I just plan to end my studies and go back home to Ecuador. Since I have no interest in staying in the United States, either as a resident or to get citizenship, why should I have to take Citizenship and American History courses? Well, you may say "those are the rules of the University; like it or not you still have to take those courses."

The way I see it is as a good thing. Why? Well think about this: when both of us graduate — you, fellow Ag, and me — I think I will be ahead of you, even if we come from the same major. I have two views of the world, the one I learned back home, and the one I learned here. I know how your political system works and also mine. I know the history of the United States, and also the one from my country. I know both cultures, yours, which is only 300 years old, and my own which comes from more than one thousand years ago.

Unfortunately the ending balance does not look very good for you, my fellow Ag. You will graduate from college with an education that has given you a view of the world from a small screen, in black and white and without sound. While I will have the full picture in color or stereo. I will know what reactions to expect from you given your cultural background.

Kimberly Horne  
Class of '94

Lisa Willis  
Class of '95

This letter is twofold. First, hurrah to Tony Barone and the Aggie Men's Basketball team for an outstanding year and some of the most exciting games we have been to! Congratulations for beating SMU and Tech to make it to the finals of the SWC tourney! Good luck to the five graduating seniors, whether your future is in basketball or not, we wish you the best and say thank you to Barone and the returning Aggies.

Secondly, we want to express our disgust not only in the lack of support for the basketball teams during the regular season, but during the SWC Tournament as well. For the men's final, we would be surprised if there were 500 Aggies (including the band) present, out of 11,000. It was just another t.u. home game — loud and obnoxious. We realize that the tournament was during spring break, but with Dallas having one of the largest alumni chapters, we were surprised by their lack of attendance as well.

Last week, Dallas sports talk shows discussed the lack of Aggie basketball support (home and away), and no one could come up with a reasonable explanation. The 12th Man can fill Kyle Field with alumni and students during a home game against Missouri, but can't even fill G. Rollie. With a student population of more than 40,000, how embarrassing for us all is the noticeable lack of attendance.

This brings up the obvious question — when we merge with the Big Eight, will we offer the same poor attendance, knowing that the lack of competition within our conference will no longer be a good excuse?

What we are trying to say is for us to be taken seriously in a major conference such as the Big Eight, we are going to have to show up, Ags!

## \$1,000 theft takes away more than 'just money'

I am writing on behalf of a good friend of mine, who on March 21 had the misfortune of leaving her wallet on an Evans library copier. In that wallet was over \$1,000 in cash. This was money she had just taken out on loan to finance her trip to Mexico this summer. She was to have bought a money order that afternoon. I am appealing not so much to your Aggie sense of honor (because this event proves that it isn't really there) but to the common decency and morals we all carry, that separates humans from animals.

To whomever stole the money but had the sadistic courtesy to turn the wallet in to Lost and Found: have you no shame? You don't know if that was money that she needed or that she may have had nothing; her financial status doesn't justify stealing either way. Yes, money is only money, but my friend will be paying for your inconsidera-

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while you will have no idea at all of my move. All my life I have believed in equal opportunity for all people. This is your chance, Aggie, get that equality that you have the right to have; speak out loud for that equality!

## Witty, original Winder humor wins over readers

In reference to the letter written by Mary Matella, I would like to comment on her abrasive remarks concerning the more humorous columns like David Winder. It is my experience that The Battalion has been, among other things, a forum for students to voice their opinions and feelings not only in letters to the editor, but also in columns located on the conveniently titled "Opinion Page."

While there are many "informative," researched articles, none (or few) of them have a kind of originality or uniqueness about them. Columns written by bright, witty columnists like Dave Winder do indeed, in my opinion, represent originality and quality writing.

It seems unbelievably asinine to compare writers like Frank Stanford, whose meager attempts explain the meaning of life failed miserably, with funny writers like Dave Winder, because Dave's columns cheer people up, and provide humor which speaks for itself.

Maybe Matella should come to grips with the fact that boring, babblesome columns on topics that have been discussed to death do not necessarily mean better, more "quality" reading. They certainly do not contain originality or wit, which are both exemplified in columns written by those like Dave Winder.

Jorge B...  
Class of '9...

Veronica...  
Class of '9...

## Gun-control law costs Bill of Rights guarantees

The guarantees given to us in our Bill of Rights are slowly being stripped away by the Clinton administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (the group that brought you "Waco").

On Feb. 28, the eve of the start of the Brady Bill (the "five-day law" which has cleaned out gun dealers everywhere and has left law enforcement and dealers alike frustrated with paperwork), Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen announced that the ATF has reclassified three more weapons into the "destructive weapons" class, a class which includes machine guns. This means that the owners of these three brands of semi-automatic shotgun under the names USAS-12, Striker, and Street Sweeper must now be fingerprinted, photographed, registered, and yes, taxed. Current owners will be traced, and if unregistered after 30 days will be subject to up to 10 years in jail and \$250,000 fine.

These weapons were, no doubt, designed for the destruction of human life just as are any handgun, but is this act going to make our streets and homes any safer than before? Well, according to the ATF, out of the 18,000 such shotguns, a total of 69 were used either in the commission of a crime or were found at crime scenes in 1993. The NRA claims that not one of these weapons has been used in a crime.

These shotguns are also no more deadly than any other semi-automatic shotgun of the same gauge such as the Remington 1100 that my father keeps at home for protection. The Remington can have an 18-inch barrel, can hold up to 9 shells (only 3 shy of the Street Sweeper), and can fire as fast as you can pull the trigger. The only difference between the guns is that one looks meaner than the other.

Congress is now using the measure to institute even more restrictive legislation, including a handgun license with photo, a one-per-month purchasing law, and a seven day waiting period. All of these measures create an illusion of getting tough on gun violence, but are actually effecting only the average citizen's right to arm himself or herself against the very crime that we want to stop. If my home is broken into, why should I be told what I can use to defend my life or property? In the use of deadly force, how deadly is too deadly, and should my weapon which was purchased legally be inferior to a perpetrator's weapon which was bought on a street corner in Bryan?

Crime is a problem in this country today, but restricting rights in order to protect other rights is not the solution.

Aaron P. Blair  
Class of '9...

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