

THE BATTALION Editorial Board

Belinda Blancarte, Editor in chief
Mark Evans, Managing editor
Jay Robbins, Opinion editor
Jenny Magee, Assistant opinion editor

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members...

Should Pattie Gilbert have received football tickets?

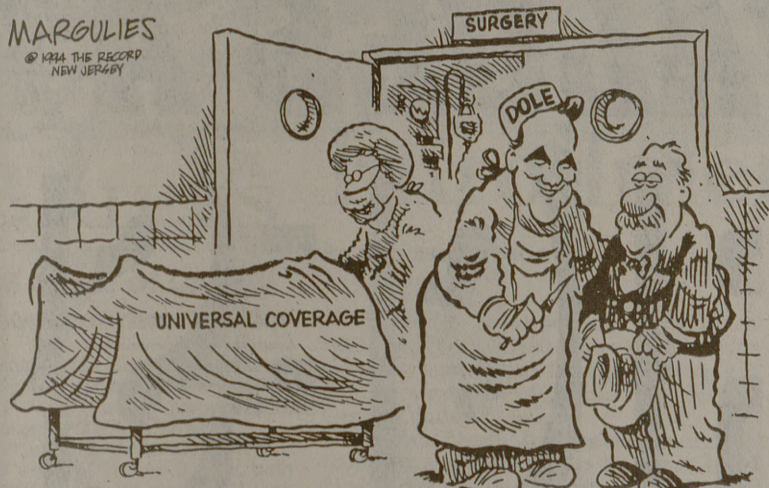
Yes. On Sept. 4, Warren Gilbert told The Dallas Morning News that former A&M vice president for finance and administration Robert Smith and head football coach R. C. Slocum asked him not to reveal anything about paying nine football players for work not performed until they got their "final report in to the NCAA."

LYNN BOOHER Columnist



No. Pattie Gilbert should not have received preferred seating tickets, or any tickets at all, to football games this fall.

ELIZABETH PRESTON Columnist



"The patient died, but the operation was a success!..."

Teach them to fish and they'll eat every day

Volunteer heads back to school, this time to teach overlooked kids

MELISSA MEGLIOLA

Columnist



As the second week of school is coming to a close, the mood on campus is changing. Freshmen are starting to leave their mats in their dorm rooms, seniors are considering buying books and almost everyone has been hit with the realization that first rounds aren't that far away.

purely voluntary for the students, and they received no academic credit for their participation. Team members took turns teaching two-hour lessons and worked together on daily lesson plans. Classes met four hours a day. They were limited to 20 students but were available to students throughout Houston schools. Each class was taught on one subject area. Katy's team taught language arts.

Teach for America strongly advocates centering education around the community. To incorporate this idea, each class worked on a service project related to their coursework. Blending their study of poetry, letter-writing and journalism, Katy's class produced a collage that will hang in a transition home for expectant teenage mothers in Houston's third ward. Such a project was particularly valuable to the students because it helped them fight a problem they are faced with every day in their own communities.

"Teenage pregnancies were a huge problem in our school this summer. One of my students was only 14 years younger than his mother," Katy said.

When asked why she committed two years of her life to the corps, Katy said, "Amazing students in under-resourced schools are not getting the attention they deserve. I don't think they should be overlooked because of their socioeconomic background, their race or anything else."

This summer, on the last day of class Katy allowed Edward, one of her brightest students and also a gang member with a bullet wound in his left leg, to leave the library where the class was watching a movie to supposedly go to the bathroom. Later when she returned to the classroom, she discovered Edward had been there. Across the board in big white letters was scrawled simply, "I'll miss you."

"That's what it is all about," said Katy. "That's why I'm here."

While we seldom think of the Bryan-College Station area as an under-resourced population, there are still students who need academic guidance, encouragement and attention. Opportunities are available to help students through our community through programs like Volunteers in Public Schools and the Hosts Volunteer Program. Time commitments are as little as 30 minutes a week. Making a difference in the community begins with each of us.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major

Warren Gilbert told The Dallas Morning News that former A&M vice president for finance and administration Robert Smith and head football coach R. C. Slocum asked him not to reveal anything about paying nine football players for work not performed until they got their "final report in to the NCAA."

His exact quote was, "Every time Robert Smith would call, his statement to me was, 'You do not reveal anything to anybody or talk to anybody until I tell you.'"

Gilbert said that Coach Slocum told him which football players to hire. He also contends that he didn't know the players weren't working. Gilbert's management company runs 23 Dallas projects for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; a company whose size could support that contention.

Obviously, if all of this is true, A&M is responsible for the millions of dollars lost after it was suspended from television air time and a probable Cotton Bowl game, not Warren Gilbert. He is just a man whose loyalty to the school he loves has been taken advantage of by officials of that school.

Regardless of whether Gilbert's allegations are true, his wife Pattie should have had no problem obtaining the reserved football tickets to which the Gilberts' 1978 12th Man Foundation donation of \$30,000 entitles them. By making that donation, they are entitled to four reserved tickets and parking for Aggie football games for life.

The Gilberts say that other previously disassociated boosters have not been restricted from their preferred seating, according to The Dallas Morning News. If this is true, then all effort on A&M's part to deny the Gilberts their tickets was uncalled for.

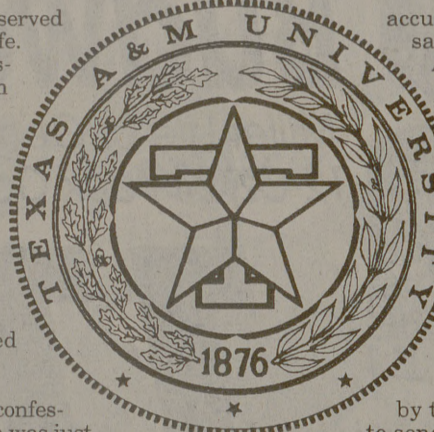
The University tried to deny that the "tickets for life" constitute a legal contract. When A&M President Ray Bowen asked the NCAA to send in an arbitrator to settle the dispute, however, the NCAA didn't see the need for arbitration. Is it possible that they recognized the contract and saw no further need for argument? Pattie Gilbert said, "No one has said one word to me about arbitration."

Some question the timing of Warren Gilbert's confessions to The Dallas Morning News. They think he was just mad about the tickets and wanted to get even. Those people should reconsider Gilbert's motivation.

Perhaps the tickets were just the final straw in an excruciating ordeal that left him standing alone as the Beelzebub of the A&M football program while everyone else involved in the game played on. It is not Warren Gilbert who betrayed A & M, but A&M who betrayed him.

The ticket incident may be over, but determining who's at fault is just beginning.

Lynn Booher is a junior English and psychology major



The scandal that Gilbert is accused of orchestrating rocked the entire University's structure and embarrassed Texas A&M nationally. Though he did not originally deny his guilt, since the football ticket scandal he has come forward with several startling new allegations.

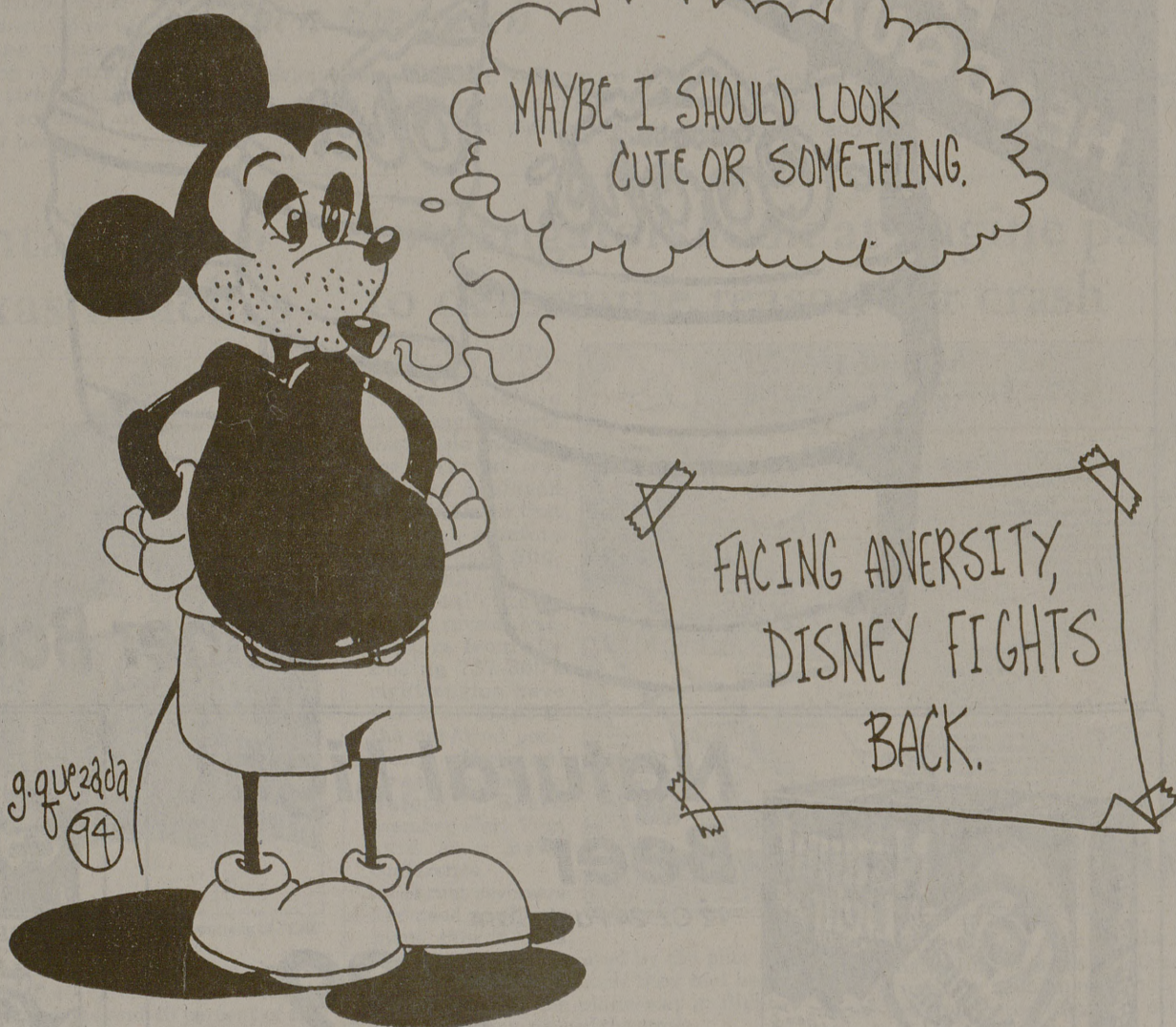
In the latest round of childish accusations, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert are saying they were asked to cover up A&M's role in the payment of football players. They are telling the media listen that Mrs. Gilbert met with coach R.C. Slocum in a dark parking garage after the NCAA forbade her husband to meet with him, amid other violations. If this is true, than she was involved in the whole mess, and the basis for her whole argument is destroyed.

Even if she was not intimately involved, the entire affair is very cut and dried. Warren Gilbert was judged guilty by the NCAA and Texas A&M did not send him his priority seating tickets in order to comply with the probation sentence.

The University cannot separate the \$30,000 dollars into "his" and "hers" and thus it appropriately did not send any of the tickets.

Mrs. Gilbert's temper tantrum should not have been rewarded. If she wanted A&M to treat her differently from her husband, she should have donated money on her own. The way it stands now A&M just looks, once again, like a university that tried to take a stand and failed.

Elizabeth Preston is a junior English major



Sean O'Donnell

Class of '95

Should pay to real problems

state our council of working to e and improve leaders are too and worrying

dominates the massacres the former Yulegated to sec Violence and ized on TV and fe to walk down

starving and n and battered. ur backs. What ral responsibility-mpassion? ople play God h life is worthy which is not? all the apathy? urthered in the en.

gridlock are the gton. What are

best country in I believe it is ppening? Stop and start to do

opinion, vote. ed representa- ed in govern- help because eed it! over - have a

Marcel LeJeune

Class of '95



MAIL CALL

A&M owes tickets to Gilbert

It is my opinion that Mrs. Pat Gilbert should have the A&M football tickets awarded to donors according to legal contracting. Legally, it appears that

the University is bound, but ethically, should A&M be threatened by legal recourse surrounding an event of violation that was clearly known and perpetrated anyway?

I think that Warren Gilbert has proven that he has no allegiance to the University or football program when it comes to following the rules. He should not, therefore, be given the benefit of the doubt, giving him the opportunity to violate any additional NCAA rules or receive the benefits of a contract whose honor he violated.

It is finally time, given the Gilberts' use of contractual threatening, to follow legal guidelines. Warren Gilbert should be banned from the campus for life. This action would be proper punishment for the suffering inflicted upon Ag-

gies everywhere who follow the rules.

I am unsure of the legalities of barring someone from A&M as state property, but violation of understood guidelines should be sufficient. I believe that in such cases, privileges should be terminated. I follow the rules, but now I don't get all the benefits of the program I love and support along with several tens of thousands of other Aggies.

It appears that the NCAA has again given A&M the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the rules accepted for Division I sports. Mr. Gilbert has violated the school's agreements with the NCAA, sacrificed the school's integrity and ultimately, broken the Aggie Code of Honor.

The statement should be made to the nation of A&M's conviction to adhere NCAA rules. This will

result in favorable standing with the NCAA, and be a landmark action for other schools to follow.

J.P. Bach

Class of '94

David Britt

Class of '94

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Address letters to: E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu