**OPINION** 

riday • September 16, 1994

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THE BATTALION • PAGE 7

## Spirit does not a good Ag make

wowed two-percenter still believes n spirit of Aggie Code of Honor

ver the last four years I've been accused of being a "two-percenter" re times than I can remem-These accusations stem m the fact that I can count number of football games e attended in the last four ars on one hand, and that I'm particularly fond of Bonfire though I did actually go one me — whoop).

So, there it is — I'm a Bad g. Or am I?

I take Silver Taps and Aggie Muster very seriously. And I've never even contemplated walking on the grass or wearing a hat in the MSC. But above all, I've never bro-

power role in wor out its threat of in ds to maintain its nd military credit ow can the Un States make dema heat or steal.

of other nations ggie Code of Honor very seriously also. Zdziarsky has seen to it that

nany students have been sus-

ended from the University

Last year there were 41 cas-

s of lying (usually cases of pro-

iding false information), 12

of stealing Zdziarsky said.

ases of cheating and 74 cases

Four of these students were ex-

elled and six were suspended.

ery few offenses for a campus

lot when you consider that all

And aren't Aggies supposed

o be above such crimes to be-

of 40,000 students, it's actually

Although this seems like

offenders are not caught.

ven for first time offenses.

gin with? Apparently the upper classmen on this campus aren't instilling in new students the importance of holding the Aggie Code of Honor in high regard, because theft in particular is a growing problem.

Just this summer I was ripped-off by an Aggie thief. After the lecture in my History 106 class ended (I finally broke down and took that course), I went to the front of the room to discuss the final with the professor and left my backpack and umbrella at my desk. When I went back to my desk, my backpack was there but my umbrella was gone.

Now, this wasn't just any umbrella. My uncle, Class of '43, gave it to me when I first came to school at A&M and just like many seemingly minor things that are stolen, it held a lot of sentimental value.

By the way, it's a maroon, heavy canvas umbrella with a curved, blonde wood handle and blonde wood tips at the

talion would deter students from

ends of the frame. If you see

anyone carrying an umbrella

fitting this description, grab

the umbrella, beat them repeat-

edly on the head with it (care-

ful – don't break the umbrella)

while screaming at them what

a worthless heathen they are.

The Battalion, room 013 Reed-

You will be duly rewarded.

Obviously I'm still not over

the loss. You should see me on

rainy days scoping the horizon,

searching longingly through a

Then return the umbrella to

lying, cheating or stealing.

McDonald.



sea of maroon umbrellas for my kidnapped little bumbershoot. This incident not only made me very sad, but also very aware that theft really is a problem on this campus.

So what are we as Aggies to do about this problem?

Well, the first step could be to request tougher punishments for all the students who break the Aggie Code of Honor. Maybe the threat of listing their names in The Battalion would deter students from lying, cheating or stealing.

Or, maybe if we beat the hell 'outta thieves, liars and cheaters (as I suggested earlier) instead of t.u. and Tech all the time we could have a lower incidence of crime and academic misconduct.

For all you good Ags – and there are a lot of you out there - thank you.

I have heard countless stories of students being tracked down to have their senior rings returned to them. I've seen signs all over campus for "found" objects, and have even had a twenty dollar bill that I dropped between classes returned to me.

These acts of goodwill are all indicative of what it means to be an Aggie and to carry the Aggie spirit.

See – it isn't about winning the Southwest Conference Championship or watching a funeral pyre burn for a cow named Bevo.

It's about camaraderie and the love of honesty and loyalty we share that creates the Spirit of Aggieland.

> Constance Parten is a senior journalism major



## Football deserves spotlight

Upon picking up my copy of today's Battalion, I was astounded that our football team failed to receive front-page recognition. Instead, I read about endangered species and Harris County's death penalty rate. I do recognize that these are important issues, but what about something more local. After all the hard work that Coach R.C. Slocum, his staff and the Aggie football players have put in, shouldn't they receive a little more recognition than this for beating the hell outta of O.U.! The Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team deserves to be in the spotlight for everything that they bring to this place we call Aggieland.

Scott Thacker Class of '96

## End religious-secular bickering

Josef Elchanan's views were very offensive in his column (Sept. 13) on religion and freedom in America. Separation of church and state in the Constitution has, recently, been pushed to the limits. Our forefathers meant that the government

should not impose a set religion for everyone, not for there to be no religion.

Elchanan crossed the line when he said that religious groups trying to defy the Constitutional guarantees that ensure separation of church and state offend and threaten every American.

I am an American, and I am not offended or threatened. "Outright prayer in classrooms" is optional and voluntary, so he should not feel threat-ened. Saying that the ideas of Creationism were backward and illogical" was too much! How can Elchanan look around at nature and at the stars in the sky and say God did not create these?

Elchanan said that those who say this country was founded on religion, lie and tarnish the names of those who sacrificed their lives for it." God let us win the war(s) for this country, and He apparently did not want or need those people (who died in the wars) on Earth anymore.

Even though it is hard for us to handle death, we have to accept God's plan. The Bible says, "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another" (Romans 14: 13a).

Let us stop this constant bickering between the "religious" and "nonreligious."

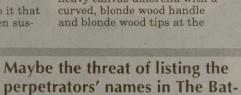
> Jason O'Neill Class of '98

The Battalion encourages let-ers to the editor and will print as Address letters to: The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843many 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 1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 -mail: Batt@tamvm1.ta



UNIVERSITY IDENTIFICATION STUDENT McCOMB

during a Civil War battle during which a North Carolina brigade refused to retreat. It was as if they had tar on their heels



Maybe the threat of listing the

en the Aggie Code of Honor. You know - that little thing that says "Aggies do not lie,

Gene Zdziarsky, director of Student Life said he takes the



legislator, nister should have s body. This is the ne only defense rever, because of his topic, I will lis point.

is conference was opulation. There the world t desperately for a ortion activists

children born ould be forced to nancy, facing affering, then th e placed in a nillions of perfec hunger. sticking its nos es are saturated American of the church's n spite of this

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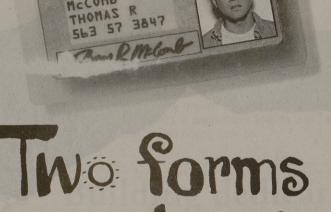
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THEY KILLED HIS WIFE TEN YEARS AGO. THERE'S STILL TIME TO SAVE HER.

MURDER IS FOREVER...UNTIL NOW.

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