

MAIL
CALL
Rumors continue
lies about Greeks

Regarding Matthew Zeve's Sept. 16 Mail Call

I would like to challenge Zeve's mind for a minute. He states that Greek life provides little for its members. I question how one who is not in a fraternity can honestly make that claim.

Zeve states that the Greek friends he knows only talk about the parties, not philanthropy and pledgship. I would guess that when Zeve, or any person for that matter, is talking to his friends, he talks about the party he went to over the weekend or his night out drinking. I'm sure he is involved with school and community service, but that doesn't make for a very good story.

The truth is that fraternities do encourage scholarship and philanthropy among their members. The reason the author of the column wrote the story was to dispel misleading rumors that people like Zeve spread.

I'm tired of students on this campus bashing fraternities when, in reality, they know little about them. The truth is that through my fraternity I have met lifelong friends that I would never have met without joining a fraternity. This includes members of other fraternities and people not involved in Greek life. The system introduces you to many different events and organizations you aren't exposed to if you don't get involved.

Zeve is correct in saying that one does not have to be Greek to be successful in life and have great friends, but fraternities don't say you do. Fraternities

allows one to enhance his college experience socially and academically, and teaches him about supporting one's community. The next time you want to bash fraternities, instead of letting your ignorance show through, take the time to educate yourself on what you're speaking about. You might be surprised at what you'll find.

Bill Stinneford
Class of '98

Coaches refuse to
utilize team's talent

There has definitely been an air of excitement with the Aggies heading into the Big 12 this year. With all of the excitement, nothing could prepare us for what we have witnessed so far this football season. Why are the Aggies losing this season?

It is long overdue to question the leader of this Aggie squad, R.C. Slocum.

Slocum is, in my opinion, a glorified defensive coordinator. Sure the Aggies have had the Wrecking Crew come up big on occasion, but it is the offense that is lacking. For the past several years, the offense has failed to come up big.

R.C. is the most conservative coach in the worst possible way. His only concept of a passing game consists of five-yard flat routes and his personal favorite, the shuttle pass up the middle on third and long.

There is no way to win with a coach that plays to not lose instead of a coach that plays to win. We will never see Coach Slocum go for it on fourth down when the game is on the line because he does not have it in him. In order to do great things, one must occasionally stick his neck out and risk something. Coach Slocum has inherited a great football program, only to turn into the laughing stock of

the newly-formed Big 12.

Now that we finally have a real quarterback, R.C. chooses to use him in a matter not benefiting his talents.

Step up to the plate R.C. or step aside, and let a true coach lead us to what could truly be a Great Texas Aggie Football team.

Kyle J. Barton
Class of '95

Pointless penalties
add up for Aggies

Three weeks ago I traveled up to watch A&M play BYU in The Pigskin Classic.

Like all Aggies, I was extremely disappointed by the outcome. However, I still had high hopes.

Aside from a young, inexperienced secondary and a pass rush that could have used some help, the Aggies effort was very commendable.

A couple more weeks of practice could iron those problems right out.

Saturday's performance against USL, however, was football I hadn't seen the likes of since my days at the YMCA.

Elementary mistakes like illegal shifts and numerous holding calls accounted for over a football field's length worth of penalties!

Add in 22 points off of eight Aggie turnovers and the result is a very excited North Texas team.

I hope the Aggies home opener will render a better result.

Ryan Kricken
Class of '97

Animal testing has
necessary benefits

I am writing this letter in response to Apgar's column on animal testing. After working in a research lab during the summer, I have come to appreciate the value of animal research.

Without animal research,

advances in areas such as cholesterol homeostasis and human parturition might have never been made.

I realize that many people are testing experimental drugs on animals. But if you don't test drugs on animals such as mice, how are you going to be able to determine the potential side effects?

Are research animals really treated cruelly? I cannot speak for other research labs, but the lab I worked in had specific guidelines concerning the care and handling of research animals.

Each animal was required to have a certain amount of living space, only a limited number of animals were allowed to live together, vets performed routine examinations of the animal and all animals had to be sacrificed by humane methods.

I am very curious as to what journal articles Apgar researched to obtain his statistics.

The fact remains that animal research will continue to play an important role in scientific research.

If you are still not convinced animals play an important role in scientific research, there is a group on campus that is working on mapping the bovine genome.

Go ask them how important animals are to their research.

Jason Word
Class of '98

Election Time

Voter fraud creates first many problems in Bosnia

As the polling station closed and I witnessed the sealing of the ballot boxes, I began to reflect on all the polling station members I met during the day. It was their desire to make this election and their small, but important role in it, a success.

direction. But even if the why would more than 40 people pass three marked empty polling stations to one way up a dead-end train road?

I observed voters named in the Organization for

Derek Keller, Class of '97, is a political science student doing independent research in Bosnia. This analysis is part of a journal entry written during the weekend's historic elections.

Throughout the day, there was an honest and conscientious effort to make sure all the rules were followed so there would be no reason not to legitimize the election. I have it on good authority that barring any stolen ballot boxes or other grave violations of the election code, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe decided months ago that the elections would be accepted as legitimate.

After attending the debriefing the following day, I heard some pretty interesting stories from the field. Observers, in small towns of the Republika Srpska, told of how they were at a few polling stations clustered together. The next polling station was two miles up a dead-end road.

These observers visited the polling station in the morning, went down to the other three stations, stayed for two and a half hours and then went back. In that time, their voter logs went from 7 to 450 voters, yet no one had seen buses drive up the road or people walk in that

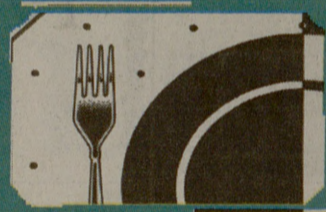
Security and Cooperation base, but not on the OPCS registration lists, and there are stories from the smaller districts in the Republika Srpska. I can say, with many of the international election observers that the elections were conducted fairly and democratically, as Dayton mandates. I feel one needs to take this into the bigger picture.

This is Bosnia's first democratic election in the history of the country immediately after the horrible war. Was there voter fraud? Yes. But one need not look as far as the U.S. for voter fraud, the model for young democratic nations. Texas Lyndon B. Johnson's election provide a good example.

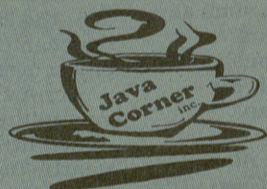
The problem, or better said the trick, is not the election even if they were conducted free, fair, and democratic. The election now or postponed six months from now.

The trick is standing up to the government after the come out. This is the biggest hurdle to come.

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