

# 1996 BONFIRE

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**STUDENT LIFE** Alcohol and Drug  
Education Programs

Texas A&M University — a part of the Division  
of Student Affairs

## THE BATTALION OPINION

Page  
Friday • December 13, 1996



### MAIL CALL

#### Student receives care from Beutel

Despite all the negative publicity surrounding the A.P. Beutel Health Center, commonly known as the "quack shack," something happened this week that had a deep impact on me.

After catching the flu, I was feeling very sick and called Beutel's dial-a-nurse for advice to ask what I could do to bring my fever down.

She gave me very simple and valuable advice that helped me get through the night.

Being an international student, I had to pretty much take care of myself and I was feeling pretty low the next day when I received a call from the same nurse.

She wanted to check on how I was doing and if my fever had gone down.

This might seem like a simple gesture, but for me so far away from my family, it was comforting to know that someone cared.

I just wanted to thank her for her kindness.

Beutel may not be the most efficient organization, but it certainly has some very caring people.

Raja J. Akram  
Graduate Student

#### Coverage of Bush holds logical flaws

Regarding Wesley Poston's Dec. 4 story, "X: Bush linked to drug cartel": Atop The Battalion's masthead proudly reads the phrase "Serving Texas A&M Since 1893."

Let's hope Aggie readers have

been better served over the past 103 years than they were by Poston's story.

For starters, it is impossible to argue reasonably with the premise advanced by Harley Schlanger and Minister Quanell X during their Dec. 3rd speeches in Rudder Auditorium — i.e., that President Bush was a "crack kingpin." Statements like that are devoid of reason.

Nor do I wish to take issue with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for sponsoring the lecture. Who they invite and pay to speak at their forums is surely their business.

Rather, I am writing to protest the manner in which this story is reported.

One of the fundamental rules in journalism is that there are two sides to every story. Does Poston's story pass this basic test? It does if you count the fact that Schlanger thinks George Bush was a crack dealer, and that Minister X also thinks George Bush was a crack dealer.

My point is: Poston never called this office to offer us the opportunity to defend Bush's good name. In fact, Poston doesn't quote anyone else in his story except Schlanger and Minister X. Where's the balance? What about student reaction? What does the faculty think? (Next time, Poston and his editors may wish to save themselves the trouble of covering the event and just have Schlanger and Minister X fax their propaganda.)

Another critique is that Schlanger is never identified for who he truly is.

He may very well be with the Executive Intelligence Review as Poston noted, but it only takes a two-minute Internet search to

discover that the Review was founded by Conspiracy Theorist Extraordinaire, Lyndon LaRouche, in 1974. That strikes me as relevant to Schlanger's credibility, such as it is.

I don't wish to beat up on poor Poston.

Finals are coming up, and probably had little in the way of free time to pursue the story.

But whether you're dealing with Lyndon LaRouche, Louis Farrakahn, or two of their uncles, one expects a responsible reporter and newspaper to take the time — and the space — to balance vituperative hyperbole with facts.

Student journalists and publications are not exempt from this obligation.

Failure to honor it is a disservice to your readers.

In this case, the result is that your pages were used to smear an honorable man's lifetime of service to his country.

I'm not suggesting that President Bush deserves special treatment from The Battalion; but I insist that he, like anyone else you cover, is entitled to fair and honest treatment.

For The Battalion, anything less is a disgrace to the University — and your 103 years of serving it.

Jim McDonald  
Spokesman  
Office of George Bush

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call  
013 Reed McDonald  
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College Station, TX  
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For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.

JACK NICHOLSON GLENN CLOSE ANNETTE BENING PIERCE BROSNAN DANNY DEVITO

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**JANUARY 10**