

# Playing both sides of the field

## Baseball, military rules and regulations apply to both sexes for equality

Columnist



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It might seem absurd to force a girl to wear a device originally designed to protect an area men consider a most valuable asset, but the rule was deliberately designed to apply to boys and girls by the national Babe Ruth Baseball League which sanctions Raglin's league.

Jimmy Steward, commissioner for the Babe Ruth Baseball League's Southeast Region, addressed the rule's intent.

"The rules of Babe Ruth Baseball are designed to protect all participants regardless of gender," Steward said.

The real problem with this incident is not the application of a silly rule, but the way in which Raglin and her sympathizers trivialized the authority of the Boca Youth Baseball League to enforce its own rules. The public complaints did not result in a rule change — they only created bad publicity for the baseball league.

The recent controversy surrounding Air Force pilot Kelly Flinn further exposes America's disrespect for authority. Flinn, the media and even several notable congressmen claimed the Air Force treated Flinn unfairly. This is ironic, considering Flinn was the perpetrator in the case. Flinn clearly violated Air Force regulations. She was lucky to receive a general discharge instead of a court martial; perhaps she also should have had a scarlet 'A' painted on the nose of her bomber.

When called to Capital Hill to testify on the Air Force's proceedings against Flinn, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman explained the Air

Force's motivation in the case.

"The adultery thing ... that's the thing that has been spun up in the press. That's not what the Air Force is interested in," Fogleman said. "In the end, this is not an issue of adultery. This is an issue about an officer entrusted to fly nuclear weapons who disobeyed an order, who lied."

Flinn rebelled against the Air Force's authority

when she violated an order to discontinue her affair. She then worsened the matter as she sought sympathy for her position through interviews with the press. The military's authority was fur-

ther undermined as outside sources such as the media and Sen. Trent Lott began to publicly criticize a process they did not fully understand.

Neither the media nor the playing field are appropriate places to change policy. Rules which need to be changed must be altered within the proper administrative channels. When individuals use a sob story to sway public opinion in their favor, a dangerous precedent begins to discredit institution's authority to enforce rules.

Without their authority, police officers could not keep streets safe, Texas A&M could not prosecute academic dishonesty and parents could not discipline their children.

The moral of these strange stories is simple — if individu-



als don't like the rules, they must work within them to bring about change, and if they expect to play little league baseball, they'll have to wear a cup.

# Value of students ignored by University

Students who co-op in industry learn something about how businesses deal with their employees and customers. Businesses concerned with their stockholders' customers first, employees second. They do not treat employees as stray dogs, but they understand there is no need for employees without customers.

Columnist



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allow an employee to stand around and talk to a friend when customers are waiting to be served.

Most importantly, if the food is not good, then business will not survive. Yet all of these instances are found in campus dining facilities. They survive because freshmen buy meal plans when they register for classes, not knowing what will happen. In a few short months, they stop eating in the cafeteria, and the money spent for uneaten meals is kept by the University.

Parking is the bane of the business world. No one has enough parking it seems. When an event occurs which cuts down on the availability of parking spaces, businesses have employees park as far away from the building as possible to allow paying customers the convenience of close parking. At A&M, any loss of parking is felt by the students.

A closed staff parking lot means staff will take over student spaces, but there is no allowance made for the displaced students. In this instance, the customers are actually being treated like employees.

Students also feel the sting of inflation. There are limits, however, to what a customer will pay, therefore price increases

are relatively small unless a provider is certain people cannot do without the product being sold. This goes back to the captive audience theory.

Tuition and fees are a blight on the life of any student, but they are a necessary evil. With the state cutting back on money it gives to schools, fee increases are required. However, too little attention is paid to the cliché one can't get blood from a stone. The administration claims it looks carefully to get money for projects from anywhere else before they pass the bill onto students.

But sometimes university officials must rethink the necessity of these projects. In business operations, proposals are sometimes met with, "We just do not have the money right now." Considering most students are on a fixed income, universities should consider giving this answer more often.

Universities just do not treat their students as paying customers. Since students at state universities are taxpayers, universities need to show students more respect. A&M should lead this movement.

By improving the quality of food services, giving students respect with the parking nightmares and saying "no" to the occasional fee increase, the administration of A&M could improve the quality of life and the University's popular image.

# Government protects through compassion, not of belligerence



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The government and its manifestations are employed by people to serve and protect in any capacity necessary to ensure the safety of the public.

After consulting with John Sneed, the emergency management coordinator for Williamson County, it became apparent that no one really understood what type of mayhem and destruction had actually taken place.

Everyone saw the footage, the houses, but no one saw the dead.

When asked why troopers were not allowing people to return to their homes, Sneed responded, "Our primary concern was that if the entire scene was not searched thoroughly, a family member might have found the remains of a loved one causing all sorts of additional trauma."

What a difficult position for everyone to deal with. Victims want to know what has happened to their homes and loved ones, and the police cannot let them in because the images are simply too haunting to see.

Once an event like the tornado in Jarrell occurs, the entire scene must immediately fall under the absolute control of the government.

The dead must be located, identified and removed before people can be allowed to visit the area. One can never judge the way each individual would react to seeing horrible scenes associated with natural disasters. The proper role of government is to serve as protector of the people — in any capacity.

Some things will always be classified and some things are simply not for the general public to see on open display.

The troopers involved with the cleanup operation surrounding this tragedy should be lauded and appreciated for their efforts to protect and exhibit human compassion in the face of intense public scrutiny.

Too many times it seems public officials and public workers, elected and employed by the taxpayers are not primarily concerned with the quality or the ramifications of service they give to the general public.

However, sometimes the role is reversed and the general public fails to recognize the difficult and precarious positions that government officials are often in when trying to protect the rights of the citizens.

Last Tuesday afternoon, the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for Williamson County. Barely one hour later, a sizable portion of the town of Jarrell, TX, had been destroyed.

Twenty seven people died, countless others were injured and an entire neighborhood was wiped out.

The process of locating the dead and injured individuals began immediately. Reports were issued indicating the weather was better and that people could return to their homes to sort out belongings.

CNN showed news clips of people screaming and crying about DPS Troopers being rude and hateful, not allowing them to return to their homes.

One man was beaten for testing the limits of the troopers. The man could not understand why he could not return to his home. There were no answers for him, no explanations — just "no."

From the surface, this seemed to be a standard case of the government taking over with no regard for the feelings or suffering of the people involved.

**The government and its manifestations are employed by people ... to ensure the safety of the public.**

WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS HOW YOU GOT THE NEIGHBORS TO OK THE ADDITION...



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