

Broadcast news

KAMU limited to FM cable due to dishonest motives, unethical practices

Texas A&M radio station, KU, of diverse programming by for students. Unfortunately, I need a frequency rather than the current "cable" designation. In fact, about seven years ago, KU's dream of an FM license near fruition, but Brazos County radio station, KEOS, prevented that possibility. The plan was simple enough: order to comply with Federal Communications Commission regulations, KAMU formed a board of directors to oversee station. The membership of board was shuffled a few times, and eventually evolved "Brazos County Educational Radio." This entity consisted of A&M students and staff with the

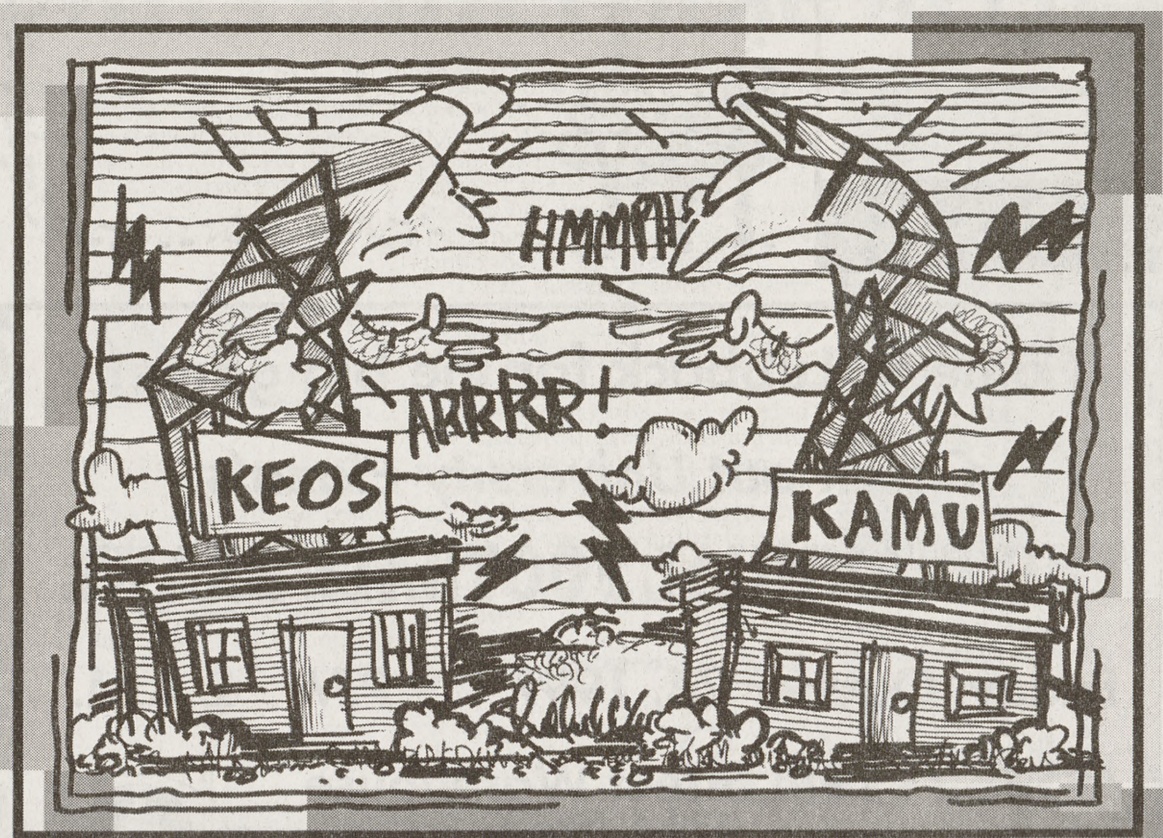


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columnist

"purpose of creating an independent alternative voice for the Bryan and College Station community" (at least that is what KEOS said). Although they get bonus points for saying "alternative" and "community" in the same sentence, their spin on the history of Brazos Educational Radio is skewed. Do not get me wrong — I am not complaining about the content of KEOS radio. As a long-haired Aggie, I enjoy the variety of music they offer. Listening to the program, "Blues on the Move" (featuring the loopy Cajun man), is the best radio entertainment in the world, next to laughing at Rush Limbaugh. The real history is that Brazos Educational Radio was intended to be a force to get KAMU a license. After all, it was originated by A&M students and staff. Engineering surveys were conducted and paperwork was shuffled, but something got lost in the process. That something was KAMU. It seems that too much authority was delegated to too few individuals in Brazos Educa-

tional Radio, and as singer Steve Miller almost said, "They took the license and ran." As Chris Hamilton, a KAMU disk jockey, said, "Kommunist Eccentric Operating System, also known as KEOS, is our enema. We had to bend over and take it." KEOS, which proclaims community involvement and a challenge to overbearing media, obtained the license that was intended for college radio. People who might challenge this by saying KEOS is more professional than KAMU are at George Bushian levels of "not getting it." Was this whole saga illegal on KEOS' part? Probably not, or legal action would have occurred. But let us get to the meat of the coconut: for KEOS to portray itself as a champion of progressive thought and music, yet obtain its license in such an ethically questionable manner, is wrong. The loopy Cajun man would probably agree.

John Burton is a junior bioenvironmental science major.



Work ethic, desire to achieve virtually nonexistent today

It is seldom when I find myself without an opinion on a subject. I have made it a goal in life to know as much about as many subjects as I find interesting. This coda, as it has made the observation of any one subject rather prohibitive. The movement from idea to idea poses problems when trying to come to a conclusion on a topic. In short, I procrastinate. This is not a new ailment. I have suffered from this sickness since I began school. Junior high was the first time that I had to take home books and do work that challenged me. This admission is not impressive, it points to a glaring deficiency in the public school system. Texas' public schools have been deficient in their instructing of



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young children. The recent focus has been on high schools and their graduation rates and achievement test scores. The problem with that view of "catch 'em on the way out" has made it prohibitive for bright young students to excel throughout their education. Those who are challenged from the beginning are more willing and able to apply themselves to their schooling and their careers. The faster a child can learn to focus and apply him or herself to a subject for a long enough period to master the subject depends on how knowledgeable they are of their ability to study and prepare properly. Students who have not faced challenging work from a young age are at a disadvantage to those children who have previously faced homework. Challenging work for younger children is difficult because it takes special attention for a child to reach their full potential. It starts with the home, and with

parents who instill work habits and standards. This has been lost to the Nintendo generation. The latch-key kids have grown up and we are finding that we are being handed a world that is not of our making and liking, but will soon be entrusted to us. Those who have gone before us shaped their generation and the world, and now it is becoming our turn. Unfortunately many of us have not experienced the stability of family which has distracted and embittered many. Besides the home, school is the next most important factor that provides development skills to achieve success. Children raised with smart children will tend to be better off. Competition drives everyone, even kids. Some schools have capitalized on this by offering advanced classes to their brighter students, but it is unfair to label children at an early age. Some develop less quickly and might benefit from the exposure to a wide variety of their peers. The most important factor is to get

enough teachers in classrooms to allow for more personal attention. The teaching profession has, in the past four decades, declined in stature for those exiting colleges and universities. With the lack of pay and training, the profession draws less and less qualified individuals. The result is a depleted labor base of lower skilled individuals. Finally, kids have to have some sense of incentives to want to go out and work hard. In a society that has become cynical and frigid about much of our world, we give ourselves no reasons to want to work. Today, here is a large problem with freeriders and hangers-on. Our welfare state has produced citizens who pass the buck too often and too quickly. It has become easy to blame someone else and get away with it. Part of the process of learning is failing. It is necessary for those who want to get ahead to know what it is like to fail. If an individual does not learn how to handle defeat with dignity, then he or she is never going to succeed.

The problem with this factor is that for many, it is not until they reach the college and university level that they are forced to work at their full potential. Having to learn time management and proper study skills is not something an 18-year-old college freshman needs to be facing. It is true that there are many wonderful and challenging public schools in Texas. The caliber of students at this university and other schools in the state point to many bright and talented young people who will soon take the world by storm. For others, however, failure and disappointment will be the only thing they will learn. Some will not survive the academic year, others will barely get by. For the first time ever, many will have to rise above their procrastination and find a way to succeed. If they fail, they will learn what it is like to dust themselves off after a loss.

Dan Cone is a junior economics major.



MAIL CALL

Language on pots could not offend
In response to Tim Dewees Oct. Mail Call and others who are upset at people who take offense to language on the Bonfire pots. I guess it is my turn to get my cents in. First, I am going to that I have never been to cut, I have never unloaded and I have never stacked. To those of you who might

read this and think I am full of crap and do not know what I am talking about, that is your opinion, now here is mine. I could care less what people write on their pots. It does not offend me nor anyone else who is close to me. This view would change in the future when a younger person is with me, whether it is my children, cousins or other family members who are around five or six years of age. Is it going to be the people who have "screw this bitch" or "Girls with big tits do it better" on their pots who explain what it means to elementary schoolers? Kids are eventually going to pick up that language, but not at five or six. To Timmy Dewees, who said he wanted to check the mental capacity of those who get so upset at "a hat or other inanimate ob-

jects." I have seen people around campus who are going to or coming back from building Bonfire. You should see how upset they get when they come across an anti-Bonfire sign. I have seen them throw mud and rocks at windows and yell out why they cannot understand why an Aggie would write such a thing. Do they get the electro-shock therapy, too?
Eric Nelsen
Class of '98

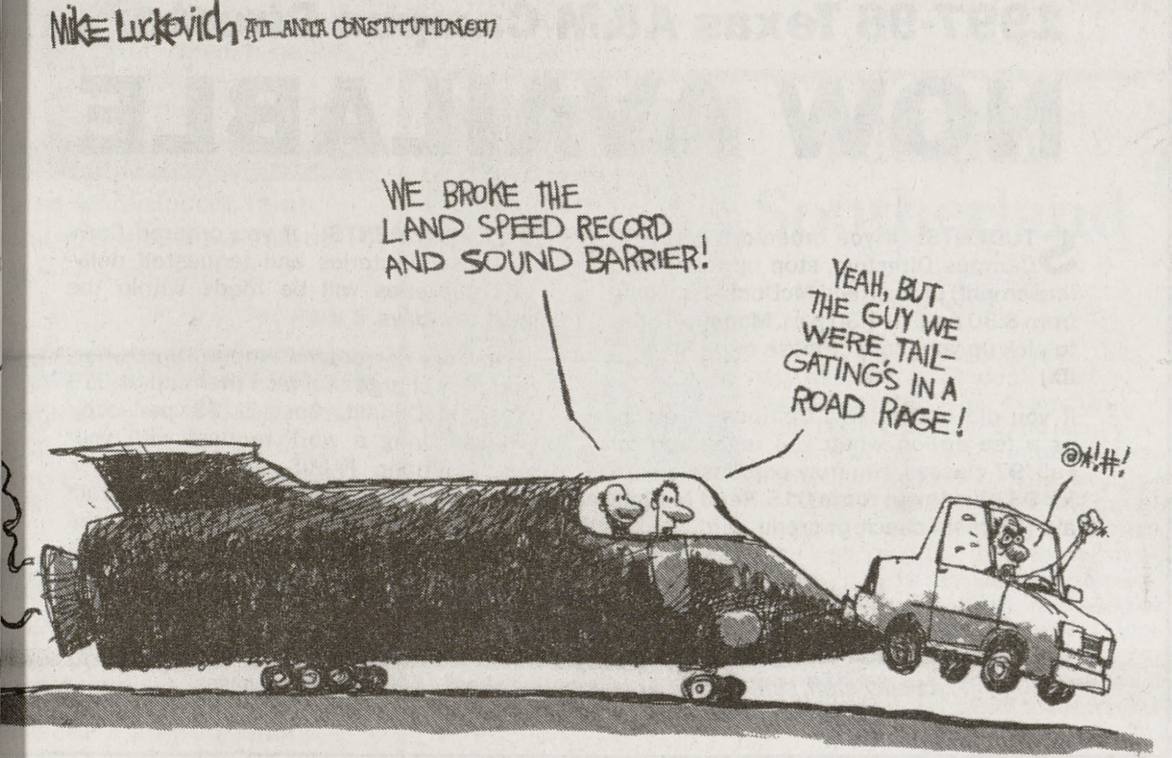
Crude Bonfire pots not found in history
I am writing this as an Aggie with a long maroon and white blood line. My father was a member of the Class of '45, and my brother Class of '76. My love for Texas A&M was unconditional, until now. Be-

cause of the vulgar display of profanity on the "pots" at Bonfire, and the continued defense of this action by saying it represents "free expression" and "tradition," I am now ashamed to call myself an Aggie. There is a long tradition of putting words on the pots. The blatant displays of obscenity and profanity, however, have caused the "Spirit of Aggieland" to sink to new lows. This was a pointless, immature display. Your careless disregard for common decency is ruining something special. What shocks me even more is the continued defense of these actions as part of the "Aggie tradition." I can guarantee that my father, brother and other members of my family who proudly call themselves Aggies would not have condoned such actions when they were at Texas A&M College (now University), and would certainly not condone such actions now. I have spoken to other prominent old Ags in the community and they have assured me that they will not be taking their grandchildren to Bonfire because of this. Individuals who have spoken out in support of this practice are trying to defend the indefensible. Just look at yourselves in the mirror and ask, "Would my parents be proud of the 'pot' I am wearing?" In the years to come, will you be prepared to explain what those words mean to your own young Ags when they want to see what A&M was like? Many old Ags bring their children to the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire. Would you want them to see this? No matter how "red ass" an Aggie you are, this behavior is unacceptable. Even if you are in your grodiest grodes, there is a thing called

class and those who defend displays such as these pots obviously have none. A&M may be the greatest university in the country, but it does not exist in a vacuum. Other people can and will see this and develop their opinions of this institution based on the thoughtless actions of an immature few, and those who continue to defend them.
Kay Wettemann
Class of '86

Battalion abuses newspaper position
I would like to pose a few questions for people to think about amidst all of the commotion over the "profane" Bonfire pots. If The Battalion is such a highly acclaimed college newspaper, why not report on meaningful state and national events instead of matters such as this? It seems as if the only reason why the pot issue was brought up was because The Battalion could not come up with anything better to write about. This is a pretty pathetic reason. If The Battalion likes to take a liberal stance on most issues, why is it wasting paper (trees) on this issue? For those who have written these articles or at least agree with them, how many times have you been to or participated in cut or stack? My guess would be none, yet you will still claim Bonfire as something you took part in when bragging about it to your friends at UT, and when you watch it burn. Why should it be any of your concern what people put on their pots and their clothes? After all, this is a free country, is it not? It seems that the only people who think what is on the pots is sexual harassment or assault

(using these terms in an extremely far-fetched manner), never actually go out and help build Bonfire. This is the fourth Bonfire I have taken part in, and not once have I ever heard anybody say that they find the pots offensive. As usual, it seems The Battalion has blown things way out of proportion and taken things (quotes included) way out of context. In the Tuesday editorial, you state that you are trying to present the "truth," when in fact, you are presenting the "selective truth" — selective in a way that you seem fit. My last question is: why does The Battalion write articles such as these? Instead of attempting to upset as many people as possible and split up as many people as possible over some issue that should be the least of society's concern, why not try to motivate people and bring them together in order to benefit society? The key is to use your position, do not abuse it. I just thought I would bring up a few thought provoking questions.
Trip Franty
Class of '98



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For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.