

# Opinion

The Battalion

## Student football fans often abandon Aggie spirit at stadium gate

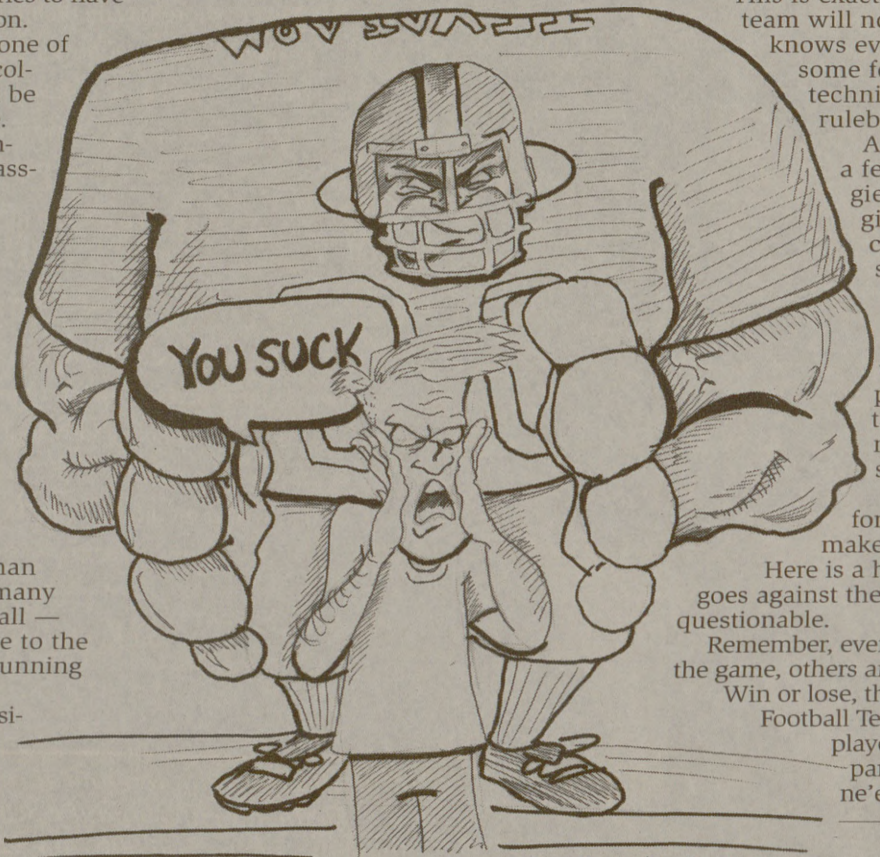


DAVE JOHNSTON

There is nothing like football to bring out the legendary Aggie spirit. The spirit that yells at the stupid girl in the next section because she refused to "uncover." The spirit that cannot understand why the jerk two rows in front will not "hump it" and cuss along with everyone else in the stands. The spirit that makes the football players unprintable names because they always run the ball. Even E. King Gill would not stand for the attitudes filling Kyle Field these days. Football is a sport. It is an entertainment, and one the Aggies used to enjoy with anyone else. Then they started complaining, and today they continue trying to ruin the fun for everyone else. Aggie students are in no position to complain about the football team, because these days the players are much better than the fans. At least the players do not wear a maroon jersey through the third quarter. Ever since the men of Kyle ended one of the longest home winning streaks in college football history back in 1995, the Aggie fans have been grumpier than ever. They sneer at the players, empty the stands shortly after halftime and bad mouth the coach even though he is a better Aggie than many of the students. People can say what they like about C. Slocum, but every Aggie can be

proud of the coach's accomplishments on the field. His accomplishments, not just his victories, deserve some attention. No matter what numbers adorn the scoreboard when the final whistle blows, when Slocum's in control Aggies can still hold their heads up when they leave the stadium. The team has a more than respectable record, and team problems are minimal. At a time when legal trouble is common among college and professional athletes, the Texas A&M football program has had very few extracurricular problems. Other universities have lost several players to academic or judicial problems, but A&M's biggest news was a player lost to a "clerical error" related to a summer school course. It could be worse, and Slocum is one of the reasons it is not. The Aggie football team has had to endure some tough breaks, and they do not need fans adding to their grief. Back in the days of the Southwest Conference when the Aggies faced opponents like the University of Houston, students joked about how the team only seemed to score in the fourth quarter. Now as the Aggies face Big XII opponents like Nebraska, fans are annoyed if the game is not decided within the first 10 minutes. Fans need to cut the players some slack. There are elements of football more impor-

tant than the score. The team tries to have fun. The fans could take a lesson. The Aggie football team is one of the most graceful winners in college football. And they should be with all the practice they have. Fans do not see Slocum running up the score and embarrassing weaker opponents. He understands the other team has family in the stands too. He tries to make sure everyone has an enjoyable time. Slocum has also stricken football's ugliest play from his book. Toward the end of a game when a team is ahead in points and has possession of the ball, they usually try to waste the game clock and prevent the other team from making any last-minute points. When there are less than 45 seconds left in the game, many quarterbacks will kneel the ball — hold the ball and touch a knee to the ground, ending the play but running down the clock. This play eliminates any possibility of an intercepted pass or fumble which might give the other team a shot at the end-zone. It is a heart-breaking play to watch if yours is the team with fewer points.



GRAPHIC BY BRAD GRAEBER/THE BATTALION

This is exactly why Slocum's Aggie team will not kneel the ball. He knows everyone came to see some football — not a team's technical exploitation of the rulebook. Aggie fans need to keep a few things in mind. Aggies never hiss other Aggies. Cursing and ridiculing other Aggies is strongly discouraged as well. When a quarterback gets sacked, it does not help anyone when you question his parentage. A missed tackle on a wet field is not sufficient cause for shouting obscenities. Save the horse laugh for when the referees make a questionable call. Here is a hint, not every call that goes against the maroon jerseys is questionable. Remember, even if you are not enjoying the game, others around you might be. Win or lose, they are still the Aggie Football Team. That means each player is still an Aggie and part of the spirit that can never be told.

Dave Johnston is a senior mathematics major.

## Abortion choice creates victims



CORRIE CAULEY

Abortion is an issue of controversy that has been debated, debated and argued before Roe v. Wade ever made its entrance into court. And an issue that searches for resolution between the heated screams of "Baby killer!" and "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries!" is finally left in the hands of the government. The government strives to ensure every individual the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then it has failed by restricting the rights of women over the rights of unborn children. These rights, discussed in the Declaration of Independence, are alienable. They are this nation's founding principles. They exist in man, woman, child and even the unborn. Monday evening, Carol Everett, a former abortion provider, spoke at Rudder Theater on behalf of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life, Texas A&M's Catholic Student Association and Aggies For Life. As a former abortion clinic owner and manager, Everett has seen this issue as few have. Her account of the deceit and horror inside the doors of abortion clinics is enough to make any woman considering an abortion think again. Everett gave examples of clinics that set up their own hotlines, with "counselors" answering the phones, trained to "sell" abortions. She described the steps taken by counselors to manipulate broken women that called seeking advice and support. In her book, *A Walk Through an Abortion Clinic*, she writes of these counselors, "They lie to women. How many women could have an abortion, if they had them the truth?"

Everett gave vivid accounts of how each girl was lured one by one to take the bait and seek their services. And she gave examples of all the worst-case scenarios. Pro-choice activists argue the other camp always uses worst-case scenarios to build their case. But even one worst-case scenario is too many. Abortion advocates argue some clinics genuinely care about the women for whom they provide service. But they never tell you just how few there are. The abortion industry is not a movement of people interested in protecting the rights of women, it is a business that exists for the purpose of making a profit. Everett recalled making a commission of \$25 for each client she was able to convince to have an abortion. She said at one time, she and her co-workers found a way to allow for the physician to perform 12 consecutive abortions in order to maximize their daily commission. Just as the pro-life representatives tend to use the worst-case scenarios and religion to defend their views, pro-choice activists use the instances of rape and incest. These instances are certainly the bulk of controversy that surrounds the issue of abortion. However, they account for only a small number of the abortions performed each year. Rape and incest are only seven percent of the 886,000 abortions performed annually. The majority of abortions are those performed as a method of birth control or those performed to "fix" a mistake. When Everett countered this argument, she admitted these instances are tragic. A pregnancy resulting from this experience is horrifying. However, pregnancy is only temporary, and though it might seem traumatic to carry a baby to term, upon delivery the baby can be given up for adoption. And although many victims

of this circumstance find it difficult to accept that a child conceived in this way should be given birth, to end the life of this unborn child is only to create another victim. Abortion only creates victims, not solutions. Unfortunately, many women look to abortion to solve their problems. By having an abortion, they believe the existing problem will cease to exist with the termination of the life developing within them. However, they fail to recognize that they, too, have become victims, victims of a haunting conscience and years of emotional pain. But there are alternatives to abortion. Alternatives without victims. And allowing abortion to continue because it is considered a woman's right, does not make it acceptable. We have heard the excuses, "It is my choice." "It is my legal right." "Don't impose your morals on me." They were the same excuses given to defend slavery. Abortion will always be a subject of great controversy. It will continue to inspire heated debate and remain as a contentious issue on the moral conscience of society. But like slavery, it can be stopped. It no longer has to exist as the answer.

Corrie Cauley is a senior journalism major.

## Everett generalizes clinic motives



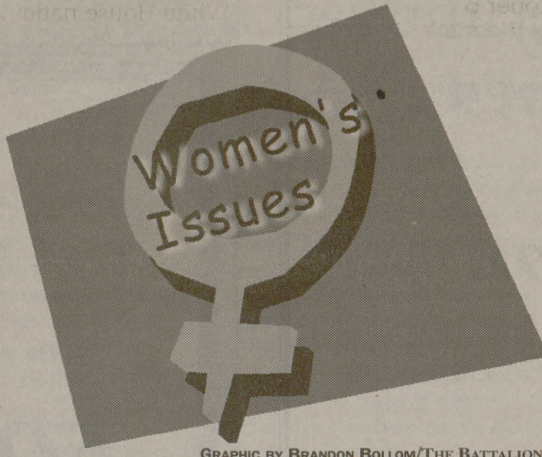
JENNIFER JONES

The abortion industry — a veritable marketplace where lives are bought and sold like loaves of bread. Or so pro-life advocates such as Carol Everett would portray abortion providers. Everett, a former abortion clinic owner and manager, spoke Monday night in Rudder Theater about what she perceived were the ill-effects of abortion and how abortion had become a primarily money-making industry. But Everett's logic, along with much of pro-life rhetoric, relies heavily on overgeneralization, giving a grossly skewed view of the abortion issue. Everett spoke, for example, of the clinics she worked for and managed. She described visiting sex-education classes as a representative of her clinics and then watching her phone ring off the hook with teenagers looking for information on birth control. Little did these women know they were being provided with faulty condoms and low-dose birth-control pills that would only work provided the woman took them on a strict schedule, and even then the effectiveness was only questionable.

This was how her clinics packed their halls with scared, pregnant teens who were then talked into high-priced abortions by counselors skilled in the art of persuasion. No one can condone these deplorable practices, but neither can these actions condemn abortion as a whole. Simply because Everett's clinics were disreputable does not mean all abortion providers coerce women into having abortions only to make another buck. Organizations such as Planned Parenthood do not generate the bulk of their revenue from abortions, but rather through other medical services such as the sale of birth-control devices. In fact, of the 77,027 medical-service visits to Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas in 1996-97, only seven percent were for abortion procedures. Everett recounted horrifying tales of women who died because of poor treatment at abortion clinics, tales of abortions provided by unlicensed individuals resulting in infection and painful death. Although these are tragic stories, they nonetheless represent a minority of cases. The dubious practices of a few cannot be generalized to the majority of abortion providers who care, like other medical practitioners, about the health of their patients. Pro-lifers point to tragic examples of women who die as a result of an abortion and rail that no one warns these women of the abortion-related health risks. They never mention, however, that women are at a far greater risk of death carrying a pregnancy to term, almost 11 times more so, than from having an abortion. No woman should be forced to risk her life carrying a child to term, and spouting frightening tales of unsterile equipment and botched abortions is unnecessary and misleading.

In Everett's speech, she expressed her deep regret over having an abortion herself at the age of 28. "My first thought was, 'I've killed my baby,'" she said. Everett came to believe, as some women do, she made a choice that was not right for her. There is a natural mourning over the loss of a child, whether lost to miscarriage, abortion or untimely death, but that does not mean because a woman grieves she made the wrong decision. Everett's husband convinced her abortion was the best choice, and she came to resent him. The key here is she was forced, persuaded to give up a baby she was not prepared to relinquish. The decision to have an abortion should never be considered lightly. But just as Everett was forced into an abortion, no woman should be forced to give birth to an unwanted child. Everett also characterized pro-life advocates as "the only ones having babies." This, by far, is one of the most distorted visions of the abortion issue. In the midst of inflammatory language the meaning of choice is distorted — the choice to carry a baby to term, the choice to raise a baby or give it up for adoption, the choice to have an abortion. In a perfect world, there would be no need for abortions. But in a perfect world there is no rape and no incest, the pill always works and condoms never break. Adoption, although a noble decision, should still be a choice a woman is not forced to do. There are few guarantees in this world. But one guarantee all children should have is that at one time they were loved, valued and, above all, wanted. And that is a guarantee children born into a world without choice could never have.

Jennifer Jones is a senior psychology major.



GRAPHIC BY BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

STARR PRODUCTIONS  
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**CLINTON ON VIDEO**

MIKE LUCKOVICH, ALAN...  
WE GOT TROUBLE!  
SISKEL AND EBERT  
FELL ASLEEP!

### MAIL CALL

#### Alcohol death faults individuals

In response to Stewart Patton's Sept. 28 column:  
I find it distressing that Patton blindly stereotyped thousands of groups of students at thousands of schools across the nation. Patton must feel confident in his ability to discern universal truth from single, isolated events. Scott Kruger's death in Massachusetts was tragic and frightening, but hardly representative of the national Greek system, and it should not be used to define and belittle students at Texas A&M. By Patton's rationale, one could say all police officers enjoy beating motorists considering the Rodney King tape. This condemns each of us for our group's perceived behavior, no matter how inaccurate that perception might be. Patton addresses a serious issue that deserves the careful at-

tention of all students, parents and administrators. No young person should ever be put in a dangerous position to gain acceptance to any group. I only ask that the next time Patton learns of deplorable group behavior, he does not use the Opinion Page to indict us all.

Matt Schroeder  
Class of '99

#### Starr investigation serves Americans

In response to the Sept. 25 article, "Bond: Starr misusing laws."  
I read with interest Professor Jon Bond's assertion that Judge Starr has misused the special prosecutor laws. Bond overlooked the fact Attorney General Janet Reno and a three-judge oversight panel authorized Starr's investigation. Starr is not acting as an independent agent, and no one is above the law. If President Clinton committed

perjury in the Paula Jones deposition or in his Aug. 17 appearance before the grand jury, then he has committed a crime, and the House is obligated to take action. Remember the words of a wise man: "What we tolerate today, our children will embrace tomorrow." Is that what we want for our country?

David Kent  
Chairman, Republican Party of  
Brazos County

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 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:  
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