

Sports players should not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do.
But many athletes still wear horns instead of halos.
They sometimes hit below the belt.

Do ethics get a sporting chance?

In recent years, the sport of boxing has been littered with corruption and a lack of superstars — a far cry from the days of yore when names like Ali, Frazier, Marciano and Liston attracted fans by the thousands.

States Drug Enforcement Agency for its nationwide anti-drug poster.

Whenever Jones is not fighting, he is traveling across the country with his semi-professional basketball team which he plays on to raise money for various charities.

In a time when professional athletes from every sport seem to hide behind Charles Barkley's irresponsible statement — "I'm not a role model, I'm an athlete" — Roy Jones Jr. embraces the chance to positively influence everyone he can, especially children.



Boxing desperately needs role models. It has one in champion Roy Jones Jr.

Allegations of fight-tampering have run rampant, decimating boxing's fan base. If boxing is to survive, then it must once again produce a hero that fans can rally around.

Light-heavyweight Roy Jones Jr. may have answered the call this month when he won a unanimous decision over Reggie Johnson, consolidating all three championship belts — the IBF's, WBC's and WBA's — for the first time in 14 years.

Jones, who has a 40-1 record with 33 knockouts, is the most electrifying boxer in the business. Regarded as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world by several boxing publications such as KO Magazine and Boxing Illustrated, Jones has the potential to land a boxing much like Mark McGwire revitalized baseball last year by shattering Roger Maris' longstanding single-season home run record.

With hand speed that the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called "quicker than Muhammad Ali," Jones can do just about anything he wants to inside the ring.

In his recent victory, Jones backed his opponent to the ropes, looked at Michael Jordan who was ringside and shouted, "Watch this!" Jones then proceeded to land a flurry of jabs to the face of the 39-6-1 Johnson.

Jones, who has received Fighter of the Year awards every year since 1993, has often expressed boredom over what he considers a lack of qualified opponents in the professional ranks.

Unlike most recognized boxers who fight at a rate of two fights per year, Jones fights more frequently. Jones' consolidation of the championship belts was his fifth title defense in the past 18 months.

As amazing as Jones' skills are, his character truly sets him apart.

Boxing fans have all too often seen the unbalanced equation of skill without integrity.

For an ever-so-brief moment, boxing fans rejoiced as a 20-year-old street-tough kid by the name of Mike Tyson shocked the world, winning the heavyweight championship. Fans eagerly anticipated Tyson's next victim.

Twelve years later, the only thing fans can look forward to is Tyson's next jail term.

At 32, Tyson has served two jail terms, including one for a 1992 rape conviction.

Jones' out-of-the-ring experiences have been somewhat different.

With numerous Humanitarian of the Year Awards from various organizations, Jones provides a role model for America's youth.

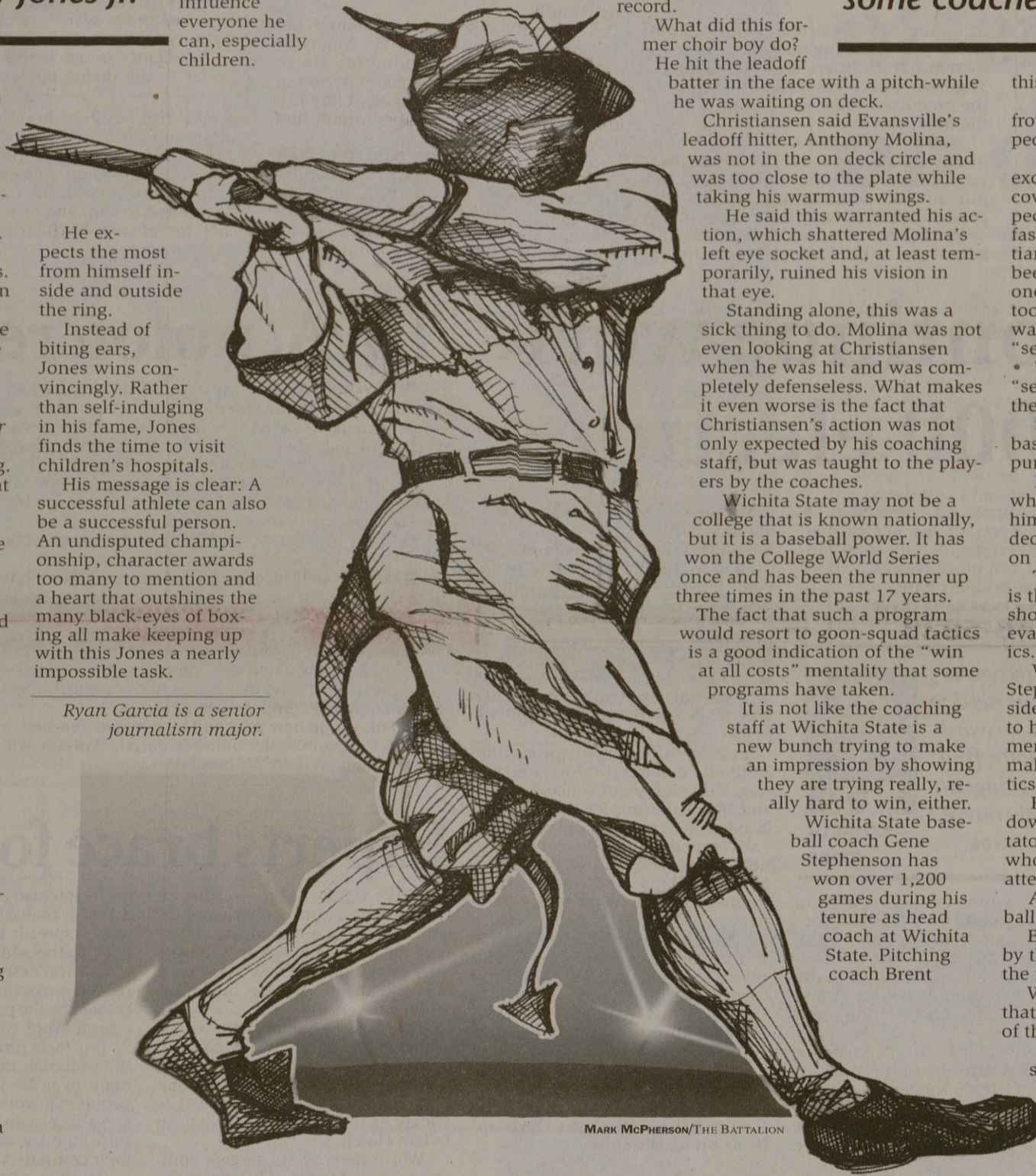
When most fighters are negotiating the amount of money they will make, Jones frequently donates a portion of the gate proceeds from his fights to local charities. In 1996, Jones was chosen by the United

He expects the most from himself inside and outside the ring.

Instead of biting ears, Jones wins convincingly. Rather than self-indulging in his fame, Jones finds the time to visit children's hospitals.

His message is clear: A successful athlete can also be a successful person. An undisputed championship, character awards too many to mention and a heart that outshines the many black-eyes of boxing all make keeping up with this Jones a nearly impossible task.

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MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

This year has already seen the nadir of sportsmanship on the baseball diamond. It did not happen on a major league field, and the usual suspects like Albert Belle and Roberto Alomar had nothing to do with it. It happened on a baseball field at Wichita State University in Kansas, during a game with the University of Evansville. The perpetrator of this act was actually an honors student by the name of Ben Christiansen, a player with a previously spotless record.

What did this former choir boy do?

He hit the leadoff batter in the face with a pitch-while he was waiting on deck.

Christiansen said Evansville's leadoff hitter, Anthony Molina, was not in the on deck circle and was too close to the plate while taking his warmup swings.

He said this warranted his action, which shattered Molina's left eye socket and, at least temporarily, ruined his vision in that eye.

Standing alone, this was a sick thing to do. Molina was not even looking at Christiansen when he was hit and was completely defenseless. What makes it even worse is the fact that Christiansen's action was not only expected by his coaching staff, but was taught to the players by the coaches.

Wichita State may not be a college that is known nationally, but it is a baseball power. It has won the College World Series once and has been the runner up three times in the past 17 years.

The fact that such a program would resort to goon-squad tactics is a good indication of the "win at all costs" mentality that some programs have taken.

It is not like the coaching staff at Wichita State is a new bunch trying to make an impression by showing they are trying really, really hard to win, either.

Wichita State baseball coach Gene Stephenson has won over 1,200 games during his tenure as head coach at Wichita State. Pitching coach Brent

Kemnitz is also well established.

Many apologists for the Wichita State program say that there has never been one other negative incident that has affected the team in the two decades that Stephenson has coached there, and

College baseball sees some foul plays. Unfortunately, some coaches encourage it.



MARK PASSWATERS

this one episode should not be a big issue.

By this logic, O.J. Simpson should not be frowned upon as an athlete because he only killed people once.

What happened at Wichita State before cannot excuse this act. Twelve hundred wins cannot cover up the fact that a pitcher drilled an unsuspecting player in the face with a 92-mile-per-hour fastball on the orders of his coaches. Christiansen and other Wichita State pitchers have been quoted as saying they were taught from day one that if someone does what Molina did — get too close to the batter's box while the pitcher is warming up — they are to hit them in order to "send a message."

The next time Coach Stephenson wants to "send a message," will someone please pick up the phone and call UPS? It is much safer.

Such thuggery has no place in the game of baseball, and all the people involved should be punished severely.

If Anthony Molina was too close to the plate, why not call time out and ask the umpire to make him step back into the on deck circle? This is a decent, logical response to a minor infringement on the pitcher's "turf."

The nickname of Wichita State's baseball team is the Shockers. This incident has certainly shocked the nation and will hopefully cause a re-evaluation of what is important in college athletics.

Winning is certainly important, but Coaches Stephenson and Kemnitz have forgotten that besides racking up "W's," they have another task — to help develop these athletes into decent young men who will be assets to society should they not make the Major Leagues. Teaching cutthroat tactics like this most certainly will not do that.

Hopefully, the NCAA and the law will come down hard on these men, as they were the precipitators of an assault with a deadly weapon. Anyone who has ever faced a 90-mile-per-hour fastball can attest to this.

Anthony Molina will probably never play baseball again. He may never see properly again.

Ben Christiansen was drafted in the first round by the Chicago Cubs and will probably make it to the major leagues.

While Christiansen actually threw the pitch that hurt Molina, he was probably the least guilty of the three, since he did what he was told to do.

But this may not be much solace to him should a fastball from someone like John Smoltz, Curt Schilling or Jaret Wright come sailing up and in on him "accidentally."

Mark Passwaters is an electrical engineering graduate student.

Maternity leave laws should be expanded

In her recent book *What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us: Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman*, Danielle Crittenden illustrates the common plight of career women who desire children and home life but feel pressured to remain in a career by the ideals of feminism gone too far.

In her book, Crittenden says that although feminism has liberated women from being forced to stay home, it has now migrated to the other extreme by pressuring women who desire families into careers. Perhaps even more disturbing, she notes, is that those career women who choose to have children are expected by modern feminists and businesses to quickly return to work, as if the pregnancy were only some sort of disease she is expected to recover from instead of the beginning of a new era of her life.

This insensitivity perpetuated by both extreme feminism and greedy business acutely manifests itself, says Crittenden, in the "sudden, unexpected moment when women find their insides shredding the first day they return from maternity leave, having placed their infants in a stranger's arms."

Crittenden is right. This assault upon humankind's most sacred institution — motherhood — must be stopped.

Unfortunately, because extreme feminist programming is so pervasive in society, the ideal so-



TOM OWENS

lution of erasing the prejudices against women staying home could take decades to achieve.

A more practical solution is legislation to extend maternity leave from its present level to a full five years after birth. Working women who have a child would be given five years from birth to return to work penalty free. The mechanics of implementing such a plan would be similar to the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Although the direct benefit of this plan is allowing a woman to care for a child in his or her most important developmental years, perhaps the most potent quality is the legislation's ability to remove the teeth from the typical feminist argument. Women in careers are often manipulated into believing they are wasting their potential if they stop their careers and choose to have a family.

Under a 5-year maternity leave plan, a woman could feel she was only pausing her career, not wasting it. If a woman finds rearing children preferable to the rat race of corporate America, she can remain at home. If not, she is free to return to work.

Fellow conservatives would probably oppose such a measure because they think it would impose too heavy a burden on businesses.

But it could be argued in response that slight inconveniences for employers is a tax worth paying to pass on the genetics of our most talented women. Since intelligent women are the ones most strongly targeted by the lie that they are wasting their talents if they stay home and have children, modern society implicitly encourages

only those with the least potential to have the most children.

Feminists should also be swayed by this argument. If the genetic quality of future generations is eroded, then the treatment of women will erode also.

There is a medium to strong correlation between the intelligence of a society's members and

"If a woman finds rearing children preferable to the rat race of corporate America, she can remain at home. If not, she is free to return to work."

its treatment of women, and the most primitive peoples are the ones most savage toward women. In accommodating our most gifted women's desires for children, America can stop or severely slow such a regression.

Motherhood is the noblest of any human endeavor, and it is time American attitudes and laws reflect the level of respect the institution deserves.

Tom Owens is a senior chemical engineering major.

MAIL CALL

Column makes unfair stereotypes

In response to Tom Owens' June 3 column.

Tom Owens' column has challenged my faith in America's attitude toward and respect for other countries.

I do not see any positive result that can come out of the writer's proposals.

For example, his appeal to "end all tourism and visits between China and [the United States]" could cause more harms than benefits to the United States, the People's Republic of China and the world.

It would also be selfish and arrogant for us to demand conformity from other countries by using our superior military power without allowing diplomatic communication.

History has taught us painfully that the arms race will bring more tension and fear to the whole world.

Furthermore, on Texas A&M University's diversified campus, Owens' stereotyping opinion about the Chinese and other

non-citizens should have had no place on the opinion page of the campus newspaper.

This incident has caused many to believe the majority of students here are in agreement with Mr. Owens.

In my opinion, his article has offended not just the Chinese but also other international students.

It gives this great country a bad name.

David Hendrawirawan
Class of '01

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

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