

MAIL CALL

## Junction players shouldn't be compared to '04 players

In response to Jordan Meserole's Sept. 14 sports column:

Mr. Meserole had the nerve to compare intramural sports with college football. That is quite wrong of him to do. I know we don't have the most spectacular team in the country. Utah is a good team no matter who says differently. Plus, we are in a great conference. Meserole has no place to tell our football team they don't have any heart. There are plenty of walk-ons that play on the scout team who love this game and don't have very much athletic ability. But they play because they love it.

It is quite a sham for someone to compare this football team with the Junction Boys. That was half a century ago. Plus, don't you know that the guys who quit weren't good at all. Nobody missed them. The players these days go through just as much heat, beatings and constant running as they did in Junction.

As you might know, many of the players at Junction didn't like the movie because much of it was not historically accurate. Any of the players now could have made it through Junction. These players only play each other and the coaches, which is the way it should be. I advise you to not question the team's heart before you know what it goes through. And that does not include intramurals.

Jordan Chambers  
Class of 2003

## Students should support team no matter what

Heart? It's easy to sit back and write about what they're not doing, and how much heart they do not have.

I have a question for the critics, how many downs of football have you played for Texas A&M? There are a billion things that make A&M what it is today, and Aggie football is one of them. It just amazes me that people, even our own student body, will bash and criticize our own team the second the opportunity comes up. How tough is it to have heart when your own fans don't even back you up?

After we got kicked by Utah, Alex Smith was on the cover of The Battalion. The Utes star quarterback on the cover of The Battalion! I understand covering football and other sports, but why put him on the cover of our paper? A&M Football is still the best thing at this University. Here's a thought for the student body and the people who constantly put down our team: Where is your heart?

Arley Pustejovsky  
Class of 2005

## The Twelfth Man has lost much of the missing heart

Not so fast my friend (to steal a line from one of the three wise men of ESPN, Lee Corso). Let's start with the fact that shutting out Wyoming is something that we should be able to get excited about. The last time an opponent was shut out at Kyle Field was Nov. 7, 1998. That is a span of five seasons, or 33 home games, between shutouts.

If anyone has lost heart since the days of Coach Bryant, you have to look no further than your illustration for your article, The Twelfth Man. We play as big a part on the team as the players. Kyle Field is our home, and it is not the dreaded place to play it once was. This Saturday would be a good time for the Twelfth Man to stand proud and show we have the heart to help defend Kyle Field. This is our time to help take back Kyle Field. This game is a good time to remind the old Aggies that Kyle Field can still be a place teams dread to play, how deafening it can be, how our team feeds off of the Twelfth Man. Looks to me you challenged the wrong people with this article. The Twelfth Man needs to be challenged to step up and help to be the driving force for our team. Also, the last team we shut out before Wyoming was Oklahoma, with some very easy teams thrown in between the shutouts.

Peyton Carter  
Class of 2005

## Women on the front lines would cause more deaths

In response to Jim Foreman's Sept. 10 column:

It is an indisputable fact that women are physically weaker than men, and men instinctively protect members of the weaker sex. Mr. Foreman sublimely dismisses these traditionalist claims, disregarding the fact that these ideas have survived to become traditional precisely because their wisdom has been proven the world over by centuries of war.

Like it or not, war is about killing — and women, however tough, cannot battle against hardened fighting men. The media glorified Jessica Lynch as a war hero, but she was never shot and never returned fire! Now she is poised to make millions off a book while her comrade-in-arms, Pfc. Patrick Miller — a true hero — did return fire and goes unmentioned!

Americans need to rethink this issue and realize that having women serve in direct-action combat handicaps our military and will result in an unnecessary loss of life.

Justin Allison  
Class of 2005



CINDY  
MCREYNOLDS

prevent an Iraqi invasion. Chirac hoped to protect his nation from Islamic terrorism by proving to the terrorists that his nation is sympathetic to their cause.

However, as negotiations for the release of two French journalists captured in Iraq drag on, one thing has become clear: The French policy of appeasement has not sheltered its citizens from the hatred of terrorism.

On Aug. 20, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot were kidnapped by members of the Islamic Army in Iraq, who demanded the repeal of a French law banning Islamic headscarves in schools. This tragic event is exactly what the French have been trying to avoid with their years of stagnant diplomacy, their avid opposition to the War on Terror and their generally pro-Arab policies. Therefore, French officials were shocked to learn that their best efforts had failed to secure the goodwill of the terrorists.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said, "Their kidnapping is incomprehensible to all those who know that France ... is a land of tolerance and of respect for others." But his incredulity is misplaced, since tolerance and respect mean nothing to those who only understand brute force. In the words of Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, "Neutrality doesn't exist, as the kidnapping of the French journalists has shown. The French are deluding themselves if they think they can remain outside of this. Today the extremists are targeting them, too."

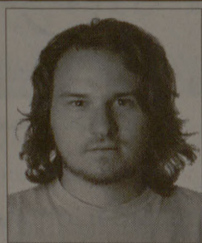
Terrorists are not rational, reasonable people. Men who would kidnap and murder a non-combatant do not understand or accept compromise. They are not willing to live in peace with those who merely tolerate their extremism. As long as France continues to allow non-Muslims to worship freely, permits the existence of nude beaches and otherwise deviates from the terrorists' concept of piety, they should expect to be targeted.

Yet, the French continue to blame America for the actions of terrorists. The French-Iraqi Friendship Association accused U.S. forces of endangering the lives of French journalists by launching military operations south of Baghdad. And Mohamed Bechari, head of the National Federation of French Muslims, said "the U.S. and Iraqi forces don't want this release."

To claim that the United States wants to see the French hostages killed, whereas the terrorists are just looking for a safe place to let them go, is nothing short of ridiculous. Yet it shows how far the French are willing to go to excuse the atrocities of men who see human life as meaningless and freedom as the great Satan. 9/11 proved that a see-no-evil foreign policy provides only an illusion of peace and no real security.

Today, all nations, including France, have only two options. They

# Zell Miller's convention speech tarnishes his career as Democrat



JONATHAN  
SMITH

Even though this sort of political displace is good for show, Miller's flip-floppery on the issue of Kerry hardly makes him a reliable source.

In his speech, Miller screamed, "No pair has been more wrong, more loudly, more often than the two senators from Massachusetts: Ted Kennedy and John Kerry." He also claims that voters get from Kerry a "yes-no-maybe bowl of mush that can only encourage our enemies and confuse our friends." This rhetoric is a far cry from what Miller said when he introduced Kerry on March 1, 2001 at Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in his home state of Georgia. Just three years ago on this day, Miller said, "John Kerry has fought against government waste and worked hard to bring some accountability to Washington." Does that sound as if he is describing the same "bowl of mush"?

During this dinner, Miller praised Kerry for fighting "for balanced budgets before it was considered politically correct for Democrats to do so." In this comment, Miller actually praises Kerry's mild conservatism. He told everyone there that, basically, he agreed with Kerry.

"John Kerry has been more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure," Miller said. By virtue of years of agreement with Kerry, Miller has shown that he himself is "wobbly."

Almost worse than Miller's flip-flopping on

the issue of Kerry is that he distorted Kerry's record to make him seem like an anti-war nut. In truth, Kerry in the last decade has agreed with Republicans regarding the military on many issues.

The B-2 bomber, which Sen. Kerry opposed, was also opposed by former President Bush. In 16 of his 19 years in office, Kerry hasn't opposed an annual Pentagon appropriation. That doesn't sound like a senator who is weak on defense.

Miller also accused Kerry of wanting to "outsource our national security" by always playing nice with the United Nations. This ignores the fact that Kerry voted for going to war with Iraq. In fact, in Kerry's own convention acceptance speech, he stated "I will never give any nation or international institution a veto over our national security." Yet while Bush proudly defies the international organization, Kerry wishes to go against it only if necessary. This sort of thinking is what America needs if it is to repair the damage done to its image around the world during Bush's presidency.

When accusations ran out, Miller began to rely on a recent Republican scare tactic to advocate Bush's presidency. Miller calls Bush "the man I trust to protect my most precious possession: my family." This implies that Miller thinks his family would be more likely to die of terrorist attacks under Kerry. This ignores the fact that more Americans have died under Bush's first term from terrorism than in both of Clinton's.

In fact, Miller does his best to build up the monster he called terrorism in his speech. Ter-

rorism is not nearly the killer in America that heart disease or pneumonia is. When we hype the danger of terrorism like Miller has done, terrorists are better able to achieve their primary goal: to negatively alter the United States. Kerry realizes that terrorism is important, but that the economy, education and America's image are of equal importance.

In the end, Miller has allowed his years of credibility to be damaged by an incorrect and fiery convention speech. Miller allowed the Republicans to bash Kerry without getting their hands dirty. The Republicans allowed Miller to hog the spotlight one more time before he retired to Florida.

At the beginning of his address, Miller asked, "What has happened to the party I've spent my life working in?" The facts show that Miller's party (and Kerry's) hasn't dramatically changed in the past three years, but Miller has. His refusal to change his party like other conservative Democrats such

as the former Sen. Strom Thurman proves that Miller has other motives for remaining a Democrat in title. As a Republican, Miller would just be another voice in the crowd, yet as a Democrat he is able to get upon the national stage once more. Americans must decide for themselves if they agree with Miller's assessment of Bush, but the facts don't agree with Miller's condemnation of John Kerry.

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BRANDI DUNN • THE BATTALION

must either succumb to the wishes of the terrorists by ultimately modeling themselves after Iran and Saudi Arabia, or they must be willing to take a definitive stand against terrorism. France acted on this principle when it correctly refused to repeal the headscarf ban. But it is inconsistent to stand up for a domestic law while allowing the terrorists to dictate foreign policy.

The goal of terrorism is not any single domestic or military achievement. They do not seek money or power in the traditional sense. They seek the annihilation of the Western way of life. Because of this, President Bush has argued that only by actively defending America against those who seek her destruction can any lasting peace be achieved.

If France truly stands for "Fraternite, Egalite and Liberte," it should join the United States by defending those principles at home and abroad.

Cindy McReynolds is a senior  
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