

# OPINION

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THE DAILY TEXAN

Tuesday, June 29, 2004

## THE FIRING LINE

### Moping Longhorns, I

The Longhorns baseball team loses two baseball games when they matter most. They then go into a collective pout, and their coach supports them in doing this. They refuse to accept their own level of achievement and to honor the team that legitimately won the competition.

In my own 18 years of playing baseball, I came to the firm belief that baseball is the best sport for learning how to mesh one's own skills into an overall concept of teamwork, how to think through complex and ever-changing situations, and how come to grips with one's own strengths and weaknesses.

My 9-year-old son is now starting his second season of YMCA baseball. Before every game, both teams take a pledge to play fairly and to respect the other players, win or lose. We coaches take this as priority No. 1.

I am going to tell my son and his Diamondback teammates, "Never, ever behave like the Longhorns. If coach Gary and I ever ask you to do anything like what coach Augie Garrido let the Longhorns do, just say 'no!'"

I had the great honor of being senior thesis adviser for UT's last Rhodes scholar, a Longhorn second baseman named Sean Braswell. I firmly believe that if Sean had been on this team, he would have stepped forward, like Terry Malone in "On the Waterfront," and challenged his fellow players and coaches to do the right thing.

I just last week finished reviewing for History Today two books on the ancient Olympics and the Greek ideal of athletic compe-

tion. Augie Garrido and the Longhorn players have brought shame upon our University and baseball itself and the 3,000-year-old tradition of good sportsmanship that we commemorate in Athens in August.

*Thomas G. Palaima  
Professor of classics*

### Moping Longhorns, II

I am a long-time fan of UT sports. What I read this morning in the Dallas paper shocked me. Instead of taking on life's adversities with class, the UT baseball team hid in the locker room and pouted. I view this as an insult to the College World Series, the school and their loyal fans. I can't believe Augie let this happen. It was such a classless display.

I, for one, was embarrassed by their childish reaction. The simple fact is, they were not robbed of the title, but lost it because of their own poor play. They have no one to blame but themselves. I believe that one way a man is different from a boy is how he handles adversities such as this. Hey guys, you're adults! It is time to learn how to behave like one.

*David H. Jennings  
Arlington resident*

### Opinions are often 'biased'

In regards to the column "Who's spending our gas money?" June 28, James Scott's article is clearly biased and I (as a Muslim) was personally offended. You made it sound as though by purchasing gasoline (which is inevitable), people are directly