

Letters to the Editor

To: The Student Body,

Aggies, through the years I have seen letters written to the Batt by Corps members chewing on the non-regs for not speaking, and those written by the non-regs beating their gums about the Corps' not speaking. Like most of you, these letters had little effect on me, except for occasionally making me a little teed off.

Most of the outsiders I have talked to in the past, who had visited our campus, commented on what a friendly campus we had. Now I know as well as anyone that speaking at A&M, in a lot of cases, is not just being friendly, rather a point of necessity. Right?

Again, through necessity, many of A&M's traditions have been dropped. Speaking is one tradition that should never be dropped, and I truthfully feel it has been neglected more in the past years than it ever has. It is not the sole fault of either the corps or non-regs, but both. The sooner we both learn to pull together on matters concerning the school, the greater Texas A&M will be.

As far as speaking goes, here is my solution. Instead of all of us griping about others' poor speak-

ing, why not take that same energy to say a simple "Howdy." I am proud of this school myself, and I'd hate to see this tradition especially, dwindle to nothing.

Dudley Thomas '56

Editor, Battalion:

How many hicks are in this institution? Are these hicks a representative cross-section of the civilian student body? We ask these questions with reference to what was called Civilian Student Week-end. With the exception of the barbecue (and who doesn't like to eat) how many students at A&M are interested in the type of entertainment that was offered this past weekend? We think that the popularity of this entertainment among the civilian students is clearly shown by the fact the dance had to be opened, not only to the Corps students, but also to the general public. If this type of thing is to be done, why not call it the "Brazos Bottom Barn Dance" instead of the Civilian Ball?

Bill Bardin '57

Charlie Brown '57

Charles Seaberg '58

Clarence Shumbers '58

Allan Jackson '59

Editor, Battalion:

In your article and editorial of March 9, regarding various shortcomings of the Student Senate, we note you failed to mention something which we feel needs "looking into."

In a recent article in your paper it was stated that there were about 3,001 military and 3,040 civilian students enrolled currently—almost a 1-1 ratio. I say "about" because I do not have the clipping before me at this time.

Now, what we feel you should have included in your article and/or editorial is the unfair ratio of military and civilian Student Senators seated on the Senate.

Let's "de-segregate" the Student Senate!

Very truly yours,
J. W. Osborn '57

Editor, Battalion:

I would like to air a few frank opinions that I've arrived at after spending three and one half years in the corps at A&M.

I've learned recently that we as corps seniors have been found guilty of apathy and inadequate leadership in the corps. Let me admit, we're not perfect by any means, and therefore subject to criticism. We've made false starts and wrong decisions in our relations with freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

But, we as a group and as individuals within the corps can only operate and carry out our responsibilities under the policy framework set up by the college officials.

I entered A&M as a freshman in the corps in September of 1952. After entering A&M I found that I hated the discipline and the conformity that being a member of the corps called for. I had two choices, I could quit A&M and go some place else and face the shame I associated with quitting or, I could stay and conform. For the time being I chose to conform.

It took me more than a couple of weeks to figure out how I was benefitting by conforming. In fact, it took around a year and a half to two years to learn that by submitting to discipline, I learned self-discipline. I don't know other's experience along this line. It may have taken longer for some and a shorter time for others to realize this.

The point I'm trying to make is that discipline is something that isn't learned overnight. Evidently, the authorities think it is, for they have given a man the right to get out of the corps, if he doesn't like it at the outset, and still stay at

A&M.

Granted, that some men simply are not disposed to military life. If that's so, why get in the corps in the first place? I knew what I was in for when I came to A&M. It was a challenge to me to be able to stick it out. It doesn't take brains and courage to graduate from A&M now, just a minimum of brains.

Present policy, handed down to us from above, has put the bee on our back; it's made a molly-coddling bunch of beggars out of us. We must bow and scrape to the all-high God of Enrollment. This gives discipline and cadet authority a rather facetious meaning.

Did we, as corps members, set up this policy of "you can get out if you don't like it?" If not, then are we to blame for carrying out a policy, to the best of our ability, that we had no say so on? Just what is the policy of Texas A&M College and what is the role of the corps within that policy? Is this college interested in turning out quality or quantity? I don't know the answers, that's why I'm asking.

Either College authorities must give us the power to carry out our responsibilities as they see them

or quit their belly-aching. This is the way I see things. This is personal observation from "within the ranks" out of my own experience, which is really the only thing I can draw from with authority.

Let the authorities look to themselves for the fault, they're the ones who set the policy. You've got to consider your raw materials before you put any plan into operation. If a policy doesn't work through us, your raw materials, then you better re-examine your policy; it's rather hard to change the raw materials.

Let us set corps policy exclusively, and then we'll have no excuse to protest your criticism of poor leadership on our part, which under the present situation is a rather bitter pill I personally refuse to swallow.

I'd like to know if my protests are legitimate? Even if I am wrong, I've at least had my little say.

Sincerely,
James A. Collins '56

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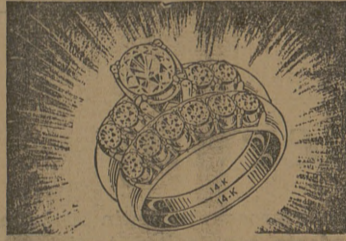
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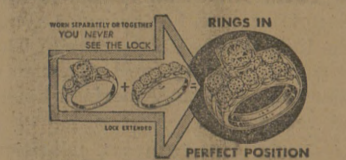
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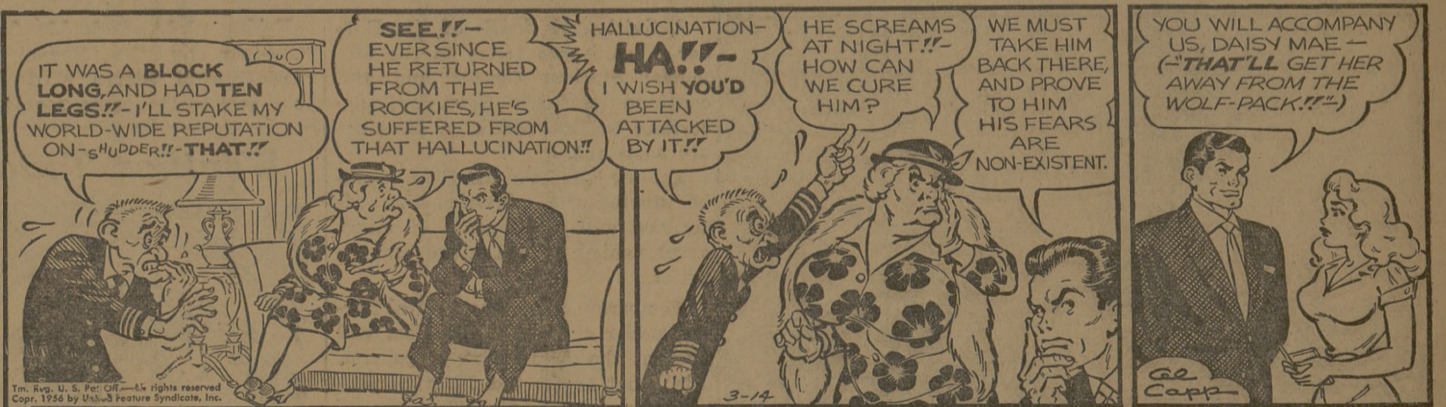
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