

**Editor:**  
The recent letter from Cobra C-1, Corps of Cadets, and the article by Mike Stephens which appeared in the Oct. 15 Battalion has prompted me to express some personal feelings which are shared by many of my fellow students.  
Cobra C-1 did a good service by printing the words to "Texas, Our Texas." I wonder why this song does not appear along with other songs and yells of Texas A&M. It should be included in all future collections of songs and yells.

Concerning Mr. Stephens' article in which he quoted Head Yell Leader Keith Chapman as saying that Texas Tech fans outyelled

## Listen Up the batt forum

A&M, I must agree—they certainly did. This is the first time in my four years here that A&M fans have been yelled out of Kyle Field. I hope it doesn't happen again.  
This brings me to the point which has bothered every fellow Aggie I have spoken with—our yells. A&M is rich in tradition and I think this is great and the purpose of my following comment is only to add to and update this tradition, not destroy it. Our yells are awful.

To begin with the "Aggie War Hymn," it is devoted more to the University of Texas than to Texas A&M. I do not propose it be discarded, but I do think that another verse or two added to it would vastly add to its purpose and beauty.

Further, we need to add to our list of yells. We have a pitifully small number of yells to start with and over half of them are old and corny. I don't propose we drop any of them, but a dozen new ones would more than double our list of yells, add to and update our traditions.

Tradition is not something that was created long ago and is kept inflexible down through the ages. Tradition is a spirit that is handed down, built on and then passed on.

I propose this. The Battalion should somehow sample overall student sentiment on this subject, and if support is found, I suggest that students be urged to write original yells, new verses

for possible addition to the War Hymn, and new songs. These could then be submitted to The Battalion for a panel of students and faculty to judge.

Let me conclude by again saying that I in no way want to do away with any yells or songs. I only want to add to them. I believe the student body would support this idea.

Ron Windham

If there's support for the idea, we're willing to give it a try.—Ed.

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**Editor:**  
It seems the Graduate Student Council is in a position of jeopardy. The current president, Mickey Land, is not only a fulltime staff member on a student advisory committee but also holds the most influential position.

As a member of the 1968-69 and 1969-70 councils, I was involved with the constitutional and by-law revisions. In an effort to make the council more representative of its constituents, the number of holdover members was reduced from six to two. We could not have foreseen the circumstances which have arisen because of this action.

It is quite evident that more revisions are in order to prevent a similar situation from occurring, but this does not decrease the seriousness of the present situation.

Past councils have occasionally

had one-half, three-fourths, and full-time faculty personnel among the memberships, but I do not recall any serving as president. There are qualified members on the present Council who could very ably serve as president without conflict of interest being charged. Therefore, in my opinion, Mickey Land should resign as president of the GSC but should be allowed to remain on the council.

If he remains as president of the council, there will undoubtedly be charges of conflict of interest forthcoming, and the graduate student will be even more convinced that the GSC does not represent their views to the dean.  
Leon G. Devlin

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**Editor:**  
This semester there has been a pronounced uproar over freedom of the press, or lack of it, on this campus. I applaud this effort. I'm sure that no one feels his opinions should lack access to public airing.

Freedom of the press, however, implies more than student control over student publications. It means the publication should be supported by its own sales or ingenious maneuvers. It means differing publications are equally possible. It means the freedom to be listened to or not listened to.

Before I would support student control of The Battalion I would suggest The Battalion give up its haven of forced subscription which beckons temptingly to advertising patrons. I would suggest other publications be given permission to be sold on campus. In short I would suggest The Battalion compete equally with other publications.

The argument that student control would represent student opinion is demagogic fantasy. The present editors of The Battalion, from their published opinions, do not represent me.

It is with relish I await free press on campus. However, until The Battalion and the university are willing to face the full implication of free press, I suggest they resign themselves to faithfully printing the news.

Ah! It is argued if you disagree you may reply in 300 words or less. Even this outlet, however, is usually joined by a note from the editor which has the advan-

tage of the last word with no rebuttal. I suggest that until students have equal competing publications that your editorializing be limited to the stories and that you humor your ignorant critics by not embarrassing them with the probity of your notes.  
Gary Reger  
Class of '73

Students do control The Battalion. It is a student-written, student-edited newspaper. Our job, we believe, is not to favor student opinion, but to report the news accurately and fairly. The opinions we express are those we believe are in the best interests of A&M and its student body. Thus, we have a free press. Advertising and subscriptions are not under our control.—Ed.

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**Editor:**  
I noticed in the Oct. 16 Battalion much criticism of the way the letters policy of The Battalion is handled. I believe those who criticize the present format are blind to the responsibilities of any modern editor.

Not only is the editor responsible for the entire content of his newspaper, he must set the tone of his paper and present the paper's contents in a manner which may be understood by his readership.

As a one-time Battalion staff member, I worked closely with the editor. The Battalion editor often works from 7 p.m. to about 3:30 a.m. Rarely did I see the paper ready for press before 2 a.m. This is the editor's contribution to A&M.

His comments are his journalistic privilege. When you write a letter to someone, don't you usually look for an answer? You must remember, when you write a letter to The Battalion, you are not writing to some great printing machine which digests and distributes information. You are writing to a group of Aggies who consistently produce an award-winning newspaper.

The job of Battalion editor costs not only time and lost sleep, but irreplaceable grade points. I am sure if there were someone more capable and more dedicated on campus, he too could be Battalion editor. I guarantee you'll look hard.

William D. O'Connor '71

Bill O'Connor was forced to withdraw from school and return to his home in New York for medical reasons.—Ed.

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