

Batt Comentary

Honor Code Irrational

Have you ever told a little "white lie" or stolen a small piece of candy? If you have since entering A&M, you better turn yourself in no matter where the event occurred. Why?

According to the latest edition of TAMU's University Regulations handbook for governance of student conduct and student activities, Aggies should "... let honor be (their) guiding star, with all ... and learn that death is preferable to dishonor." These are stirring words—ones that have been here since the founding of the University. They are the words of Richard Coke, the Father of TAMU, honored by a building on campus.

From these words students have interpreted the Aggie Code of Honor based on an unwritten heritage of Aggie-land, "An Aggie doesn't lie, cheat or steal, nor does he tolerate those who do." These words are great for those who choose to live by them, but to interpret them and place them in a university rule book is ridiculous and totally unnecessary. It's about as useful as an SDS handbook.

The statement is formalized in the following five articles and was approved by student leaders last spring.

Article I: A student will not knowingly make any false statements, written or spoken, while acting in any capacity, official or otherwise, on in any situation reflecting on Texas A&M University.

Article II: A student will not unlawfully take or receive any property of another person, or persons under any circumstances without specific authority of that person or persons.

Article III: A student will not impart or receive any authorized assistance, either outside or inside a classroom or places of instruction, which would tend to give any student unfair advantage.

Article IV: A student will not use evasive statements or technicalities in order to shield guilt or defeat the ends of justice.

Article V: A student will report to a regular or ex-officio member of the Student Honor Council any honor violation by any student or students, including himself, of which he has witness or unquestionable knowledge.

These "regulations" border on being Orwellian (1984) in nature. The worst part of the honor code is thrown at students by interpretations made of these five articles, such as dated statements saying that the system is an effort to "unify the aims of all A&M men toward a high code of ethics and personal dinity." We ask, "What happened to the women of A&M? Are they that much better than the men or are men just that much worse?"

We fail to see how the honor code can "protect the honorable student from the few irresponsible individuals." Students, as evidenced daily, are being victimized by fellow students in thefts and the like.

The students penning interpretations have moralized, rather than rationalized, that students will be able to "lead a normal, wholesome life free from any form of dishonesty," if they follow the code of honor. We are curious to discover the definition of the completely utopian idea of a "normal, wholesome life."

The interpretation of the fifth article is absolutely posterous. One passage states that if "a fellow student commits an honor violation he has twenty-four hours in which to admit his mistakes and report himself. If at the end of this period he has not done so then any student who knows of the violation is honor bound to turn the individual in to his own C. O. or Dorm President."

It seems fallacious that honor can have a 24-hour limit on it, let alone that student equals are able to enforce such foolish statements.

Fortunately, the University has not used this code to discipline students nor to suspend them from the University as the interpretation threatens. It has fallen into disuse because students and administrators have rationalized a discovery of its bad structure. Hence, it should be removed from the student rules and regulations handbook. At most it should be a preface to the book, but would be better suited to modification and placement in the freshman handbook or the Corps' "Standard."

The book quotes Shakespeare, "To thine own self be true and it follows as night, day ... how can thou thence be false to any man." How can we justifiably decide who is honorable?

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed and show the address of the writer.

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Editor:

I would like to commend the administration on the new Health Center. The difference between the new Center and the Quack Shack is amazing. No longer must the already ill patient suffer the atrocities of cold blasts or air from an out-dated window air conditioner, uncomfortable furniture, and an over-humidified atmosphere.

The waiting room in the new Center is done in bright, warm colors that contrast sharply with the gloom of what was called the waiting room before. It is large, but not so large as to be impersonal and the air conditioning keeps the room at a perfect temperature without blowing chilling air at the patients. Even the hall waiting areas are more comfortable than the hard chairs of by-gone days.

There are, of course still some problems. I had to wait several minutes before I could see a doctor, they had lost my record (again) and I was shuffled back and forth between nurses before I was allowed to see a doctor at all. These things can be taken care of in time, I am sure, but meanwhile the surroundings make the hassle much easier to take.

La Tonya Perrin
★ ★ ★

Editor:

A few nights ago I was taking a friend of mine home when I heard an advertisement by the Aggie Club. The gist of the spot was to get donations for athletic scholarships.

Now, I'm not knocking sports or anything, but I feel that the Aggie Club could channel a larger portion of its funds to other areas besides just athletic scholarships.

Not everyone is capable of playing football, basketball or any other sport for TAMU. In fact, only a small minority of students are talented enough to make the team.

I respect the Aggie Club for what it's trying to do, but I feel that more students should be allowed to compete for the available scholarship funds.

Ruben Lozano '74

The club's purpose is to make athletic scholarships available. The Former Students Association recognizes scholarly endeavor with funds.—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:

As a teacher of a large freshman course, I am dismayed each year to see what seems to be a progressive deterioration in the

manners of new students. First, the number of bare feet, and sloppily dressed, smelly bodies seems to increase each year. Most shocking of all is the large numbers of students who just get up and walk out of a class whenever the notion strikes them. Could it be that students are so conditioned to being entertained by television, that we professors need to measure up to "show-biz" standards? Even so, walking out is rude and unduly insulting.

W. R. Klemm

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Editor:

Re: "Seat Belt Law Challenged" Oct. 2. This statement, under the guise of protecting the consumer from all sorts of real and imaginary costs and infringements, attacked what is likely to be the most significant highway safety advance since 1900, mandatory use of seat belts when riding in a motor vehicle.

The position taken by the National Motor Vehicle Research Safety Foundation concerning the value of safety devices such as energy absorbing steering columns, safety door locks and seat-belts ignores the facts which have emerged from comprehensive investigation of accidents since 1954. Concerning seatbelts, let me see if I can span the gap from 1954 to 1973 and bring out a few of these facts and one or two "radical" opinions of my own.

From "The Discovery and Control of Ejection in Automobile Accidents," AMA Journal, 1962:

"Ejection of passengers was discovered to be a major cause of injury in 1954. Two cures for ejection were introduced: safety door latches and safety belts. A 1958 study indicated that 5,500 lives could be saved annually in the US if ejection could be eliminated. An evaluation of safety belt effectiveness in 1960 showed that major-fatal injuries could be reduced by 30 percent by using safety belts."

Based on more than 20 separate studies of more than 15 thousand highway accidents conducted by organizations such as the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, the University of Michigan's Highway Safety Research Institute and the University of North Carolina's Highway Safety Research Center the following facts emerge:

1. Only 30 to 35 percent of motorists use seat belts regularly.
2. Only 2.5 to 5 percent of people who have shoulder harnesses in their cars use them.
3. The latest seat belt study

by Cornell shows that "... in similar crashes, failure to use a seat belt increases the risk of instant death or severe injury by at least 100%, and of less severe injury by at least 40%."

4. "In many cases belts also enable the driver to maintain control of the car during a collision and help him to avoid a crash by keeping him firmly in his seat during violent maneuvering."

The reasons drivers give for not wearing seat belts ignore the facts. The latest research shows you are 30 times more likely to be killed if thrown out than if you remain in the car.

We are throwing away much of our nation's resources dealing with the far reaching results of automobile injuries that we will ever spend on seat belts. It makes little sense to me to require the auto manufacturer to supply these items and then allow drivers to ignore or circumvent them.

I am convinced, based on every scientific study that has been carried out, that using seat belts is the only way to ride.

D. L. Ivey
Head, Highway Safety
Research Center
TAMU

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Editor:

This is a reply to your recent refusal to print our advertise-

ment.

In developing one of the best libraries of research in the country, Research Alliance, Inc., of Los Angeles has a gun to fill the deficit that exists in available reference materials. This educational tool free student from much of the tedium of information retrieval allows more time to be devoted to creative learning processes.

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John W. Spencer
Public Relations Director

The decision was not made by student staff, but by the staff of University Information, Inc. The decision does not reflect student opinion — which is decidedly different.—Ed.

Anthropologist

(Continued from page 1)

together. The woman was eating small fruits and her husband chewed bark as they sat back to back, about twelve-feet apart.

A man in Turnbull's village had left his wife to live in another village. The wife was the village potter, who worked when people had food with which to pay. When she was dying Turnbull paid her husband a visit.

"Your wife is dying," Turnbull told him.

"Yes, I know," was the only reply.

"It was a totally irrelevant remark on my part," said Turnbull. Children between the ages of three and seven form gangs to protect themselves from the adults. "Adults will steal food from the children over three," he said.

When a child can climb a tree he is driven out of the younger group to the eight-to-12-year-olds.

"The older gang can climb for scraps of fruit the baboons have left," said Turnbull.

Older people are neglected; left

to die from starvation. sound biology to keep the living group alive," he said. will not waste food on the dead.

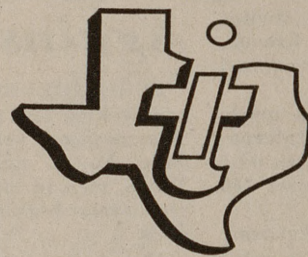
Turnbull has concluded his life with the Ik that is unnecessary to human existence. He doesn't think man is inherently a social animal.

"Society is optional," he said. "And if society is optional, sociality is also optional."

The Ik lost their sociality through deprivation, says Turnbull. And he feels we could come like them through deprivation. He cited the current trend down in the family as supporting his fears.

The wife of the village told Turnbull she would go to her son and die. When Turnbull said that the son would probably receive her as his priest, she cried. "I only saw of the Ik cry while I was in said Turnbull.

"She cried," he said, "because we had reminded her of a when children loved their parents."



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