

Forced respect not real

The Aggie forum is open to all members of the TAMU community who wish to express ideas which cannot be developed in the Listen up letters column.

Choice of columns to be published and editing of those columns are at the discretion of the editor.

By WM. SHEEN
Concerning the hats-off policy of the Memorial Student Center I have met with an almost universal attitude: "If my father were an Aggie who died in the Second World War and someone refused to remove his hat in the MSC I would probably shove his teeth down his throat."

I believe this to be an overly reactionary statement.

Before the reader becomes enraged beyond intellectual objectivity let us look the question in the face rationally. I am not suggesting that the hats-off policy is totally ridiculous and should not be observed but I don't think that it should be regarded as sacreligious to wear a hat in the MSC.

I do believe that those who died in World War II should be respected. However, I do not believe that their deaths should be raised to the level of reverential adoration.

I recognize that the dead should be mourned by those who have borne the loss. But I do not think I should be forced to follow in a prescribed manner a policy which I may regard as arbitrary.

Of course, the first argument which might be expected to come against me could be: "Look, buddy, if these men had not given their lives you would not be allowed to write what you're writing today."

I can only say, "The forcible restriction of my actions, in the absence of law within the MSC is tantamount to censoring what I write. And to censor what I write is to take away a natural human liberty."

For that is in essence of the issue. Do I not have the right to honor the dead of World War II in my own way without fear of personal humiliation or injury? And don't my rights

exist even in the hallowed MSC? There is another point. Is enforced respect true respect? Would not the dead rest easier in their graves if they felt that what they had fought for was being upheld?

Would they want to be revered because of a policy which sets limits on human freedom?

Listen up

W-1 never earn respect

Editor: Comment on Katherine Beadling's letter.

You were wondering why the women in the R.O.T.C. program do not "exhibit the pride and spirit associated with the Corps." This is attributed to the possibility that the women are not accepted by both Corps and civilian students.

Well, you are right. Those women are not accepted, especially by the Corps, because they do not possess the Corps' pride and spirit. This is due to the fact that the women are not treated as Corps fish. The women do not, can not, and will never go through the same experiences that a male fish MUST go through in order to gain that pride and spirit, that "esprit de corps," called the "Fightin Texas Aggie Spirit." Why not?

The reason is that the members of the Corps have been instructed to have a lenient policy toward the R.O.T.C. women. This is nothing more than lowering the Corps' standards so that the women won't quit. Otherwise, they would quit because they could not stand up to the physical and emotional pressures associated with being a male fish. This is the underlying reason why the waggies do not have the Corps' pride and spirit. For what pride and spirit can be gained from a low standard oriented organization?

And may I add, with women entering the Aggie Band with that kind

Or would they rather be remembered with true love and respect that comes from the heart rather than the fist?

The reasoning I have outlined shows an interesting paradox. The hats-off policy is enforced as a reminder of the democratic ideals for which the soldiers of World War II

died. But in reality the policy itself is undemocratic and can only serve as a negative force on this campus.

The idea may be rooted in fine patriotic tradition, but the forced act is unnecessarily restricting. Such things reflect a lack of spontaneity which leads inevitably to a loss of individualism.

of low spirit would ruin the "Pulse of Aggieland" thereby further destroying the morale of the Corps. It would not be long after that event that our Yell Leaders would be wearing skirts and shaking pom-poms making Texas A&M just another stereo-typed university.

Philip Berthoff '75

Girls' right

Editor: In reference to the Oct. 24 letter from Schwab and Hampton, I would like to say that the four young women mentioned have all the right in the world to say anything they wish for or against draft dodgers. As citizens of the U.S. they are guaranteed this right.

Also, being eligible for the draft or physically involved in a war is not a requirement for opinions on draft dodgers.

John Gilbert '76

Column praised

Editor: Mike Perrin's columns on the Memorial Student Center and its highly inefficient methods of operation were superb! It's too bad, as he pointed out, that the existing political structure will prevent any changes for the better.

As to the MSC wanting free pub-

licity disguised as news stories in the Battalion, the entire MSC committee and Student Senate should look up the definition and function of a newspaper.

If MSC activities are newsworthy, they will receive adequate coverage, as they have in the past. Why does the C think it is so holy as to require special treatment?

They also said at a meeting that they should have priority over other campus groups in facility scheduling of the new MSC buildings. Since when? ALL students pay equal MSC building fees, so why can't ALL campus groups have equal access to them?

Hank Wahrmond '74

Hunting fees

Editor: I question your column, "Backlashes and Blown Patterns," which ran Oct. 24.

Is this an editorial column or an outdoor sports section?

Please explain your "right" to game animals which feed on land another has purchased, pays taxes on, builds fences on, maintains roads on and on which the owner plants and fertilizes grass or crops for consumption by livestock or humans, not by deer, rabbits, etc.

Has a free or low cost privilege been an incentive for respect to pay telephones, restrooms, roadside parks, public lakes, etc. I will agree that high leases don't prevent disrespect for land and facilities, but lease fees do pay for damage.

I seriously doubt that Houston sportsmen have that large an impact in this area of small deer.

Most if not all public land for hunting in Western States is Federal land. When Texas entered the Union, it kept all public land, which then became State land which was sold to pay the Republic's debts and to give settlers a place to live.

Face this fact: man has an unlimited appetite for limited resources. There are more people willing to pay for the privilege, not right, to hunt on private property than there are suitable hunting areas; this not even counting others unwilling to pay.

Thus, the fees increase and as much as I dislike paying them, I violently oppose the alternative alluded to by you, that of taking control of the property away from land owners.

D. W. Prescott '75

All columns are open to editorial comment and all editorial comment is open to disagreements—Ed.

Your Man at Batt

By WILL ANDERSON

Last week this column covered a number of the problems following the Sept. 13 flooding of the Monaco Apts. A suit to be filed against the city of College Station by Monaco's owners was mentioned. This suit is explained below.

A notice of intent to sue the City of College Station was filed Oct. 11 by Charles Gandy, attorney for owners of the Monaco Apartments.

The notice, filed in City Manager North Bardell's office, came as a result of flooding of the apartment complex in September.

Gandy said the suit will be filed due to inadequate culverts installed by the city under Redmond and Milliff Streets.

He said notice must be filed with the city 60 days before the suit can be filed in court.

A joint study by the city and the apartment owners three years ago showed the culvert system to be inadequate, Gandy said.

"I have a letter in my possession from the city stating that the problem would be fixed," he said.

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, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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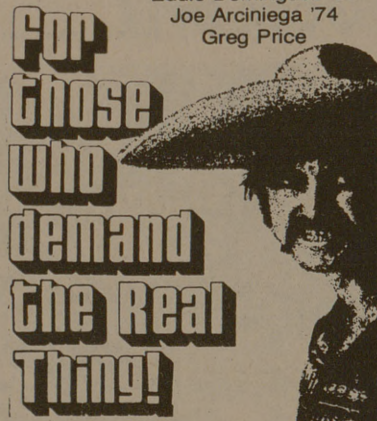
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MY BROTHER IS THE COURT HOUSE!