

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Bombing of Corps bugle stand was senseless

Editor:
Of the many landmarks on our campus today, the bugle stand is one of the oldest and most familiar. It was dedicated on May 10, 1936 to Edwin O'Brien Bellinger, class of 1936, who had been killed during training exercises. For the past forty years, this memorial has remained intact, despite being moved twice. The reason for this outstanding record lies in the fact that Texas A&M students through the years have had a deep respect for the memorials on campus and what they signify.

Recently, however, an increasing sentiment of animosity seems to have developed in the student body. An example of this is the bombing of the bugle stand last week. The damage was minimal — it is the act itself which is worrisome. A memorial such as this deserves more respect than a demonstration of destructive hostility which merely provides a momentary thrill or possibly feeds the ego of those involved. Anyone who has the true spirit of A&M and the pride of an Aggie would not even consider committing such an abominable act. Hopefully, the majority of students fit into this category, for they are the ones who will keep Texas A&M the proudly unique university it is.

—James B. Koehler
Corps Bugler

Editor's note: Your letter is the first report that The Battalion has received about bombing. From all accounts, damage from the bombing was minor and has been repaired.

There has been some hostility toward the military and ROTC on many campuses during the last decade, but one would think that any serious student activist would have taken his lesson from the '60's and realized that violence and vandalism are not viable methods to effect any changes.

It can only be concluded that this was a senseless act. If ideology was a motive, the action failed because it only served to entrench the military-minded more firmly in their position.

Ideological wars within a free society are won by changing minds, not by changing concrete and steel configurations with gunpowder blasts.

We need only keep a vigilant eye

toward maintaining (or seeking) the freedom of thought and expression in our universities and newspapers, for those places are where the ideological wars are primarily fought.

Aggie hospitality impresses

Editor:
Now that SCONA 22 is now history, we believe that some congratulations are in order for its success. The SCONA 22 committee did a very fine job in selecting a topic and excellent speakers, as well as providing the many services and activities necessary for a successful conference.

Delegates from across the nation, as well as Canada and Mexico, participated in an experience which we are sure they will remember for a long time. However, apart from the conference, there was one other thing that really impressed the student delegates — Aggie Hospitality. Many delegates were amazed at how friendly Aggies are, and were caught by surprise when greeted with a friendly "Howdy!" The friendliness that Ags express is taken for granted here at A&M, and we don't realize that other college campuses don't have the same atmosphere as we do, and aren't as friendly. So, be proud Ags. The impact of your friendliness on these delegates was contagious, and might promote them to express similar feelings on their own college campuses.

In summary, we would like to thank everyone connected with SCONA 22, especially Van Steed and the entire SCONA 22 committee for its organization and its friendliness to all the delegates and guests that attended the conference. We would like to thank all Aggies for doing what they normally do, and for doing it well.

—Bill Griffin, '76
—Allison King, '78

How to save time and money

Editor:
Please save your readers time and trouble (not to mention money) by telling them to ALWAYS ask the

name of the person to whom they're speaking when phoning offices on TAMU campus. Here's what happened to me because I didn't.

I graduated in December and decided to take an additional course even though I did not need it. However, I wanted to make sure I could drop the course if a job became available so I called the fiscal department to check on the refund policy. I asked what the percentage increments were, and was told percentages were no longer used — it was now an all or nothing policy, and I could get 100% refund if I dropped the course prior to February 12.

It became necessary to drop the course and I called to double check the refund policy three weeks later and was told the same thing as before. I went to drop the course and was told I would receive only a 60% refund. I checked with the fiscal office and was told they would check to see if they could locate the person who had apparently given me incorrect information via phone. It did not surprise me that they couldn't find this person — who would admit it and risk losing their job?

So — I am out a 40% refund (I haven't received the 60% refund either) and a lot of headaches because I didn't get the name of the person to whom I spoke. Apparently if I had the name, I could have received my 100% refund. Don't make my mistake, it could be a costly one!

I also hope those who work where information is frequently requested will not hesitate to say "I don't know." I, personally would far prefer hearing that than being given incorrect information.

—Susan Tribble

You made one SMALL mistake

Editor:
On Wed., Feb. 23, 1977, The Battalion published an article titled "Alone in U.S." describing my case.

I would like to express my gratitude for this excellent and professional job by Mr. John Tynes. There were some errors though,

besides my name being misspelled, nothing was mentioned that until recently I was also teaching here in the Engineering Graphics Department. Finally, I doubt if the spokesman for Sen. Tower was right saying that legally, senators cannot approach a foreign government personally. This was done in my case, and just recently thirty-six U.S. Senators have written Leonid Brezhnev to let a Russian go to Israel, according to the Houston Chronicle.

—George Raczkowski

A rose by any other name

Editor:
Would you please explain to Fred McClure that anytime he sends a letter, typed by the student government secretary on student government stationery and signed, "Fred McClure, Student Body President," to President Freeman that, contrary to what he was quoted as saying, he is speaking as student body president? Thank you.

—Tom Dawsey
Student Publications Board
Student Organizations Board

Billy Carter humor old

Editor:
Everywhere I look I see Billy Carter.

One day he is on the "Tomorrow Show" telling how Plains, Ca. is ruined and the next day he is in New Orleans toasting a Mardi Gras parade.

What bothers me is not that he travels, but that he receives such heavy press coverage wherever he goes. Before the last presidential election, some newsmen would throw in a comment about Billy Carter to add humor to a story, but now there are often complete stories done about him.

Almost every day I read or hear of one of his escapades, and after a while the Southern redneck peanut farmer humor gets very old.

Also, since space and time for

news are limited, I cannot help wondering what piece of news we will never know because it was thrown out to make room for the Billy Carter story.

I will agree that once in a while the President's brother may say or do something newsworthy, but certainly not often enough to merit such rapt media attention.

If the news media is to retain its function as the public's watchdog on the government, then news space must be filled with news and the humor left to be fit in when possible.

With all the problems that deserve attention in our country today, no one really cares how much beer Billy Carter can drink, or how many times he has been to church in the last 20 years.

Perhaps we should focus our attention instead on his brother Jimmy and keep a very close eye on what he is doing.

—Gary Welch, '80

Litterers should clean up area

Editor:
Why can't people pick up their trash and not leave it lying around?

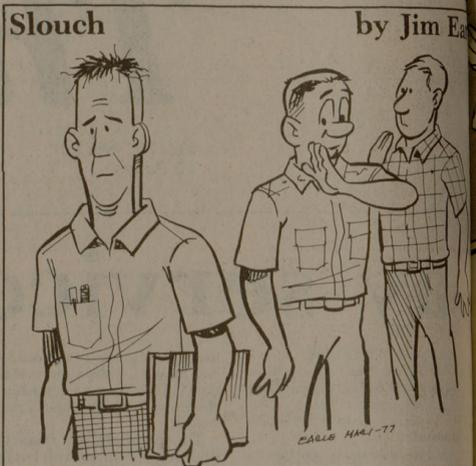
This problem is particularly bad in the Memorial Student Center brown bag area. Each time I go in, I find most of the tables littered with an assortment of napkins, food wrappers, plastic forks, etc.

I don't think it would be such a difficult task for those using these tables to dispose of this garbage especially with several trash containers nearby.

Instead, many people leave everything on the table for the maintenance personnel to clean up. I don't think the maintenance personnel nor I should have to do this. It is so simple to just toss the trash into one of the containers on your way out.

Nothing turns a person's appetite off quicker than looking at someone else's mess.

—Margie Kovar, '78



"HE'S MADE AN AMAZING BREAKTHROUGH. HE HAS DISCOVERED HOW TO MAKE A PHOTO COPY OF HIS FACE, DIRECTLY FROM HIS FACE!"

Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line

• Limited to 100 lines

Submit articles to Bill McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author name and phone number accompany all submissions.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY
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. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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- + The Battalion, Summer 1977
- + The Battalion, Fall 1977
- + The Aggeland, Academic year 1977-78

The Student Publications Board is accepting applications for Summer and Fall editorships of The Battalion and for 1977-78 editorships of the Aggeland.

Application forms may be obtained at the Student Publications office, 216 Reed McDonald Building, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Completed application forms should be returned to Bob G. Rogers, chairman, Student Publications Board, 301 Reed McDonald. Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 22.

The Battalion summer editor will serve from May 16 through August 24, 1977.

The Battalion Fall Semester editor will serve from April 18, 1977, through Dec. 4, 1977 (with the exception of the summer term.)

The Aggeland editor will serve for the academic year 1977-78. Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office. At least one year of experience in a responsible editorial position on the Battalion or comparable student newspaper OR at least one year of editorial experience on a commercial newspaper OR at least 12 hours of journalism including Journalism 203 and 204 (Reporting and Editing I and II) or equivalent. The 12 hours must include completion of or enrollment in Journalism 402 (Law) or equivalent.

Qualifications for editor of the Aggeland are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office. At least one year in a responsible staff position on the Aggeland or equivalent yearbook experience elsewhere.

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