

Keep the politics out of yells

"BEAT . . . THE . . . HELL . . . OUT . . . OF . . . DOLPH . . . BRISCOE!"

A Republican war yell? Maybe. A local pizza parlor resounded with that cry Wednesday.

But the willing Aggies who did the yelling, prompted by free beer Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements had provided, were led by three of Texas A&M's student yell leaders.

Yell leaders Joe Wright, Jeff Hancock and Rick Bowen — in full "yell-leading" uniform — led the two hundred or so students at the Clements rally in several yells, including the "beat the hell out of Briscoe" version.

There is something inherently foul about student-elected leaders of a state university yell-

ling for a political candidate to "beat the hell out of" the state's governor.

Texas A&M students elected those yell leaders to represent the students at athletic events and anywhere else where a symbol of student spirit is needed. A political rally — for any candidate — is not such a place.

Yell leaders have as much right to express their own opinions as anyone else. That includes the right to endorse any candidate, for any office. But not as official representatives of Texas A&M and the University's students, in the official uniform of that office.

This is not to condemn candidate Clements or to support any other candidate. But it is a con-

demnation of those yell leaders who took their responsibility as student representatives so lightly, who jumped on Clements' bandwagon so quickly, who took the act of yelling more seriously than the meaning of that yell.

Joe Wright and Jeff Hancock are now junior yell leaders and are running for re-election as senior yell leaders. Student voters might consider their "performance" Wednesday when deciding how to vote for next year's yell leaders.

Student leaders often ask for more respect from their constituency. It is incidents like this that make giving that respect so difficult.

—L.R.L.

The isolated middle-class black

By WILLIAM RASPBERRY

WASHINGTON — Was white oppression always the glue that held blacks together across lines of income and social status, or was it some deeper, cultural link? What happens to relations between well-off and poor blacks as racism becomes a less-onerous fact of American life? What should happen?

Commentary

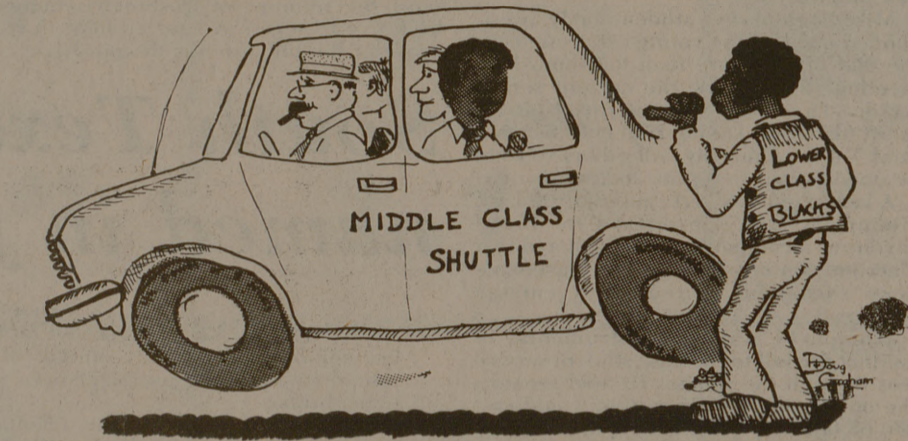
While journalists, sociologists and others are busy assessing the state of black-white relations ten years after the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., it seems worthwhile to take a small look at the relations between have and have-not blacks.

Many of us see — and are saddened by — a rift between the two groups, a sort of Kerner Commission conclusion applied to blacks: that blacks are becoming two separate societies, one middle class, one poor — alienated and estranged from each other.

But is it the terrible thing we make it out to be? Or is it the natural, inevitable outcome of black progress?

When no black of any income or status could live west of Washington's Rock Creek park, eat in downtown restaurants or sleep in wayside motels, it was clear what blacks had in common: oppression. The march lines, from Selma to Cicero, comprised doctors and domestics, college professors and illiterates, the comfortably-off and the penniless. If whites brooked no distinctions between blacks, blacks clearly could not afford to.

In fact, the refusal of whites to make distinctions among blacks was one of the rallying themes of the 1960s. Now, that the



distinctions are, at least in some cases, being made by whites, how should blacks respond?

The question will become tougher as outright racism decreases. For the time being, even the most fortunate of blacks experience enough racism to sense the need to "stick together."

At least in terms of rhetoric. But sticking together is more difficult when there is no "movement," no concerted program against racism. An upwardly mobile black may feel that racism keeps him from being offered a vice presidency in the firm in which he, nevertheless, holds a high-level executive position. But he still has little to talk about with the guy who blames racism for the fact that he has no prospect of any job at all.

The successful black may feel some special

sympathy for his jobless, ill-prepared brother. He may understand that racism has a good deal to do with that joblessness and lack of preparation. But if he sits in the personnel office of a major white firm, he is likely to make the same sort of judgment that his white predecessor might have made, and the jobless black remains jobless.

The same mixed emotions color the rest of his existence. He is as likely as his white counterpart to resist the establishment of low-income housing in his neighborhood, to object to the importation of ghetto blacks into his children's schools, to lock his car doors when he drives through the black slums.

But he can't bring himself to take what would appear to be the next logical step: to ally himself, professionally, socially, and

emotionally with whites of similar education and income. He won't let himself become "white."

Why? Quite probably because he (or his predecessors) tried that once. Blacks cannot forget the old days when they were led to believe that if they acquired enough "culture," if they eschewed loud dress and raucous music and kept their lawns manicured, they would be accepted by whites as equals.

It didn't work in the old days, and they are afraid to risk the humiliation of trying it now.

But if they cannot bring themselves to embrace the whites who act like them, they also find themselves without much basis for contact with non-affluent blacks who look like them. In many cases, where local housing and social patterns permit, they may find themselves socializing with whites, though with unspoken misgivings.

Middle-class blacks are, in some ways, the most torn of Americans. They get no sympathy from whites, who assume that everything is fine, or from less-well-off, who feel abandoned.

Nor are they at all sure where the trend will take them. Sometimes they agree with William Julius Wilson ("The Declining Significance of Race," University of Chicago Press) that their blackness finally will matter less than their middle-classness. Sometimes they agree with Kenneth Clark: that their progress "remains dependent on benevolence of whites who can give or withhold" — that race is still the key.

Middle-class blacks, ten years after King and Kerner, are better off than they have ever been. And substantially more confused.

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Biomedical students to register

Preregistration for biomedical science majors for the fall semester 1978 will be conducted during the week of April 24-28. Fall Semester Schedule of Classes will be available about April 17. When you have obtained an approved course request form from your adviser, deliver it to the biomedical science office, Veterinary Medical Administration Building. During preregistration week, you should complete your preregistration by returning to the biomedical science office to pick up your registration packet.

Math contest scheduled

A math contest will be held Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in room 201 Milner for freshmen, and in room 216 Milner for sophomores. Only freshmen and sophomores who weren't classified above their current standing last September are eligible to participate. Prizes will be \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place.

Helicopter crashes, three killed

A helicopter circling to land on a petroleum drilling ship flipped into the Gulf of Mexico, trapping and killing three passengers including the ship's captain, the Coast Guard at Galveston said Wednesday. The helicopter pilot and co-pilot and a drilling superintendent survived the 11:52 p.m. Tuesday crash. The dead were identified as John S. Hinds, 54, Metairie, La., who was captain of the "Java C"; Michael L. McKinney, 27, Houston, and Dwane M. Rivers, 26, Pasadena, Texas. Survivors were identified as Webster C. Manuel of Mamou, La.; Rick Ferguson of Pearland, Texas; and Tom Malloy, 39, of Lafayette, La.

State property tax challenged

An East Texas legislator Wednesday filed suit in Austin contending a state property tax is unconstitutional and asking a court to block further assessment and collection of the tax used to finance construction on state college campuses. Rep. Wayne Peveto, D-Orange, who has lost repeated legislative attempts to require uniform property tax assessment and collection procedures in the state, said the state property tax is collected in a discriminatory manner because it is based on collection procedures in each of the state's 254 counties. His suit challenges the validity of the tax because there is no uniform statewide tax base, no uniform appraisal standards and techniques, and because assessment ratios vary from county to county.

Hughes' assistant testifies

The multimillion dollar sale of TWA launched a feverish buying spree in late 1967 which required daily contact between Howard Hughes and business associates at a time proponents of the Mormon will say the industrialist was lost in the central Nevada desert. Robert Maheu, former head of Nevada operations for Hughes, testified Wednesday in Las Vegas that he received 10 to 15 telephone calls from Hughes daily in late December of 1967 because of the late industrialist's orders to generate "active income" before the end of the tax year. Sale of TWA for \$574 million meant Hughes' income from interest was elevated to such a high level that he needed properties which generated active income for tax-saving purposes, Maheu said.

Drug master plan suggested

A master plan to reduce drug smuggling across the U.S.-Mexico border was suggested Wednesday in Albuquerque by New Mexico Attorney General Toney Anaya at a regional conference on drug trafficking. Anaya, speaking the Third Southwestern States Conference on Crime and the Border, also said drug enforcement agencies need to strengthen their border detecting capabilities. "This master plan should include continued eradication of all sources of illegal narcotics, identification and prosecution of smugglers on both sides of the border, an intelligence network, an end to jealousies among law enforcement agencies and increased coordinated and communication," he said.

Considerable early morning cloudiness turning partly cloudy this afternoon and evening. High today mid-80s, low tonight mid-60s. High tomorrow mid-80s. Winds from the south-southeast at 15-20 mph. 20% chance of rain during the day on Friday.

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

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"Put up or shut up" by voting

Editor:

Today is the first day for elections held annually here at A&M and as usual there will be a low voter turn-out. After voting, I went to my class held in Zachry. I saw the voting booth clearly out in the open, but I noticed very short lines. When I got to class I asked a few of the students if they had voted yet. Their answer was "NO" with the usual excuse of it takes too much time and they don't have enough or they don't know who is running. I expect between eight and nine thousand voters to turn out this year, most being on-campus with a great percentage being CTs. Off-campus voters share the same rights everybody else does and they too should take time and vote.

What disappoints me is the customary "Block Voting" done each year by the CT's. This applies especially to the yell leader elections. Qualification for yell leaders is highly spirited FIGHT'N AGGIE, not a "burr head". Non-reg can make just as good yell leaders as Corps. Representation of the student body, as well as qualification should determine who holds office. I think tradition comes second in the case of choosing yell leaders. Why have all CTs?

The number of voter turn-outs, as in all elections will always be low because many

people just don't care. So you people who don't vote shut up and don't complain about the people who do get the positions.

— Joe H. Hickman, '79

AngryCon II

Editor:

Upon reading Monday's article on AggieCon and Becky Matthew's much-needed critique, we must say that we wholeheartedly support the attitude of Ms. Matthews.

We, like her, feel that it is an inherent right of every Aggie to openly criticize those things which are cluttered with imperfections. (Besides, this is an excellent chance to boost your own ego at expense of others.) For example, the article stated that \$27 was paid for three tables when in fact they cost \$28. Heaven forbid! Errors of this magnitude are the kind which have befell many a great nation. One can never be too exacting when dealing with organizations of such global significance as the Cepheid Variable.

We, like Ms. Matthews, feel that such "constructive" criticism is wholesome and should not be offered anonymously. Fur-

ther, true recognition calls for publicizing not only yourself, but also personal accomplishments (i.e. clubs, organizations and positions held therein). We salute you Ms. Matthews — we found your thoughts refreshing. Obviously you feel, as we do, that criticism is a power to be used freely and, by all means, for personal satisfaction.

— Doug Black
Kerry McFee

AngryCon III

Editor:

This is in reply to Becky Matthew's letter:

Becky:

Congratulations! You are not the only one to feel that mistakes should not be left uncorrected.

Item #1: CRAB Nebula's members supplied most (not some) of the books in the display cases in the MSC, so CRAB Nebula had something to do with AggieCon.

Item #5: I'm going to assume that you didn't misspell Alan Dean Foster's name. I hope it was a typo in the Batt. Anyway, Alan Dean Foster is the author of the *Star Trek* Log series. "Star Log" is a magazine about science fiction in television and the cinema.

These may seem picky, but I feel that journalism majors should be responsible enough to get their facts right before they report a story. By the way, Becky, you are the Chairman-select of Cepheid Variable, not Chairman-elect. The latter implies that you were democratically chosen, which was not the case as the MSC Council appoints committee chairmen rather than putting the chairmen up for election.

One final note: giving credit where credit is due. Hospitality Committee provided people to take tickets at the AggieCon movies. You should have at least mentioned that, Becky.

— Sven Knudson
Elected President, CRAB Nebula

Give up seats

Editor:

In reference to the letter by Jessie W. Cowan, Graduate Student-Entomology, concerning the positioning of the considered section seats from the upper deck to the horseshoe area:

We think it is pretty sorry for a group of "well-spirited Aggie students" to feel it is their duty to decide that the physically handicapped or physically limited persons attending A&M as students, staff or spouses there of may be moved around the stadiums (or any where else) like diseased cattle.

If the student senators "think that the first five rows of the horseshoe area are so good then perhaps these seats should be made mandatory first-choice seats for all seniors, VIP guests, and the student government.

Yeah! Let's hear some racket out there! Strike home? I had the "privilege" of sitting in the first row of the horseshoe, one can't see much standing, much less sitting. If the disabled whether veteran or pregnant or otherwise, must sit here to see the games, then it shows where the Aggie Spirit really lies; right in the middle of the freezer. Be proud to be an Aggie, they say!

If a pregnant woman or an elderly person or a disabled Vet can find the gumption to pull themselves to Kyle Field, then they have as much Twelfth Man spirit as anyone; they don't have to stand up to prove it! So why make them have to stand to see the game? Maybe the senators (Joe Young & Linda Sandstet) would oblige the rest of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of A&M by sacrificing their lives for a year in war or be confined by only one good leg, or no legs at all, or by carrying a life in them. Fat chance! If just because a person is disabled his (her) feelings can be deemed of such low consequence that he (she) can be shuffled around then I think it is time for some people to grow up.

Let the disabled keep their seats, and make room for more in that area if necessary and let some of us Ags with stronger legs, and bodies put up with having to stand to be able to see. . . FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T!

— Tony Raimondo, '79
Tom Brown, '79

Clarifying stand

Editor:

Concerning the story which appeared Thurs., March 30, on the appearance of myself and my opponents before the Brazos County A&M Club (Candidates Speak at County Meeting"), there were statements on my positions which were inaccurate and which I cannot allow to go unanswered.

The first inaccuracy was in the statement that all candidates favored regulation of natural gas. I am and always have been opposed to the regulation of natural gas and I so stated during that meeting. I fully intend to actively work toward the DE-regulation of natural gas when elected to Congress.

The second inaccuracy stated that all candidates except Kay Jones favored the Humphrey-Hawkins bill. I am opposed to that bill and I so stated in that meeting. This bill works against the free market forces where permanent jobs should be, and further contributes to the problems of the unemployed among txwx income.

I have great respect for reporters and the good job they do. However, when a mistake is made which misrepresents my positions on the issues, I feel I must ask that the facts be presented accurately.

Thank you.

— Wes Mowery
Candidate for U.S. Representative
Sixth District

Editor's note: The *Battalion* regrets the errors.

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"IT'S MY DEFENSE AGAINST BICYCLERS! LAST WEEK I WAS AWARDED A REAR FENDER!"