

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
OCTOBER 9, 1978

Yours, not ours

The "Letters to the Editor" section of The Battalion is a very popular section of the newspaper, as evidenced by the number of letters we receive and comments by readers.

However, some students say the section seems to contain only bad news and that it may reflect unfavorably upon the University.

As a general rule, readers tend to write about the issues they dislike and would like to do something about, or they voice an opinion they feel should be heard.

The Battalion attempts to print a cross-section of the letters it receives, as long as they are not libelous and are in good taste.

Readers of this section of the newspaper should remember that these letters are not the editorial view of the newspaper, but an avenue for readers to express their views. — K.T.

Letters to the Editor

Take advantage of A&M with an open mind

Editor: Texas A&M is a school rich in traditions, from the Twelfth Man to the all-male band, from Silver Taps to the flags and trees surrounding the drill field. These traditions, in addition to the highly respected academic standards, are what make TAMU what it is today.

But scholastic achievements and strict, faithful adherence to tradition must take second place to an even more important reason: the reason for the very existence of a "University." An education is not complete without a well-rounded understanding of other people and personalities. We must take advantage of the wide range of personalities, nationalities, backgrounds, and in particular the ideas and beliefs of the people we are associated with.

By harassing or threatening a person because his ideas or beliefs do not coincide with your own, you are not improving the world by changing a traitorous mind, but rather you are only building a wall around yourself. You must consider and allow every idea different from your own. This is the only way to live. With a closed mind a person is dead.

—Mike Bailey, '81

Landscape it

Editor: I am fed up with the constant bickering among different groups on this campus. A prime example of the nonsense that has been going on is the incident which recently occurred on the grass in front of the MSC.

I will not take the time to argue sides. I believe there is a sensible solution to the problem.

COMPROMISE. I would like to suggest that the area in front of the MSC be landscaped. The Landscape department here has the knowledge and ability to properly landscape the area with shrubs and other beautiful plants in a way that people will not want to or be able to walk on the grass.

Proper landscaping would provide an aesthetically pleasing area for both groups to enjoy.

—Larry L. Sharp, '79

4-day week?

Editor: Ever since World War II, there has been increasing talk of a four-day, 40-hour work week. However, it was not until the early 1970s that this concept became widely used.

The "4-40" concept grew from a trickle into an international trend between 1969 and 1971. Businesses nationwide have praised the concept stating that it has increased productivity and efficiency, and has reduced absenteeism. This concept, although lengthening the work day to 10 hours, also has the advantage of a three-day weekend.

On the basis of a three-day weekend, increased efficiency, and reduced absenteeism, I propose that a study be made

concerning the feasibility of implementing a four-day school week at Texas A&M. I believe that if an industry can increase its efficiency by 66 percent, as was shown in a recent industry study, and decrease its absenteeism at the same time then the same can be done in a college or other institution of higher learning.

A four-day school week would be very beneficial to college students because of the extra leisure time involved. Due to the pressures involved in college life, extra leisure time would increase student morale, and could quite possibly increase student efficiency. For these reasons, I believe that a study of the feasibility of a four-day school week would be very appropriate.

—James A. Scoggin, '79

Council 'approves'?

Editor:

In response to Scoggin's persistence in sitting on the MSC grass, I feel the whole question of the grass is whether or not it's a tradition if the MSC Council says so. I didn't know the Council had to approve traditions before they became "official."

Did the Council decide whether we should talk at Silver Taps? Did the Council decide whether we'd say "howdy" to each other? The answers to these questions are obviously "NO."

—Aggies don't walk on the grass because it's a tradition *we* decided to respect — who cares what the Council decided.

Is it that much trouble to walk around?

—Tracy Cox, '81

P.S. To Scoggin—Highway 6 *does* run both ways!

Mocking, not cute

Editor:

I just read a letter to the editor by Randy Spiars (Tues., Oct. 3) that really made me sick. A few "non-reggs" at Texas A&M thought they would be real cute by mocking an outfit in the Corps that was on a run.

I will not repeat what they did. I would definitely say that this was conduct unbecoming an Aggie. I believe in tradition and therefore the Corps is very dear to me and I firmly believe that the Corps of Cadets is definitely the BACKBONE and the PRIDE of Aggieland.

If these students want to commit these types of pranks, then they should go to t.u. where they belong.

—Nancy Robin, '78

Military preview

Editor:

After reading "Corps cadets get no respect at Sbsia" (Tuesday, Oct. 3), I too must express my dissatisfaction with the mocking of the military element of our student body. Those students who were

responsible only succeeded in revealing their immaturity, for there are better ways of expressing opinions, i.e. student elections.

However, the incident was not a complete waste of time. The disrespect shown to the non-civilians was a preview of the type of reception they will receive in many American and foreign communities where, far from the shelter of tradition, they will discover a society that is truly aware of what the military represents.

—Dan Samples, '79

Grass superiority

Editor:

Many, many times I have read the editorial section of The Battalion and have gotten a good laugh. Many times I have been tempted to write a letter myself, but never found the time to do so.

This time I am afraid that I must take the time to write and express my views. I am talking about the incident that occurred Tuesday morning in front of the MSC.

A male (and I use the term loosely because he looked like a female — long hair, earring, and all) decided to sit on the grass outside the MSC. Several people asked this person to get off the grass. He refused to get off because he claimed that the grass belonged to all the students of A&M.

It was explained to him that the grass was (in the minds of many A&M students) a memorial to those Aggies that had died in wars to defend our country. He still refused to move claiming that it was his right.

This person did not want equal rights with other students to sit on the grass, he wanted superiority to the rest of the student body so that he alone could have the right to sit on the grass.

Both Mr. Graham and Mr. Tynes' articles made this person out to be like a hero fighting for his rights. These two (so-called journalists) also made two females out to be the heavies. Granted, these two females were emotional about the situation and were merely expressing their opinions to this person about sitting on the grass.

It is my personal opinion that the grass around the MSC is included in the memorial to those Aggies that died in wars defending the U.S. Because of this opinion I personally did not feel that this person should have stayed on the grass after the situation was explained to him.

If it were not for the fighting men that gave their lives in war to keep this country free, people like that male would not be able to pull stunts like sitting on the grass.

In referring to Mr. Graham and Mr. Tynes as so-called journalists, I heard one of those females ask the photographer involved if he were from The Battalion. He repeatedly told her that he was *not* from The Battalion. He should not have lied to this girl unless of course he is ashamed of his job. To me, lying like that, just to get a story, is poor journalism.

—Jan Lipscomb, '78

Editor's note: J. Wagner Tynes is not a member of The Battalion staff, nor did the editorial he wrote carry a line saying he is "Battalion Staff." He has, however, been a member of the staff before, and he is a staff photographer for the "Aggieland." He wrote the editorial as a contributor to The Battalion, just as any reader can submit a commentary for our Reader's Forum section of the newspaper. Any student may also submit pictures to The Battalion for publication.

Get issue decided

Editor:

I was amazed and astounded at the article in Wednesday's Battalion concerning the student who wouldn't move from the MSC grass. I was amazed initially that this had not happened before now, since it has been close to a year since the MSC Council restated the "official" position dealing with the grounds. Who among us could forget a yell leader leaping upon his soapbox during a past yell practice to voice his opinion on this touchy subject.

The report at which I was astounded was that of the grossly narrow-minded insults so easily tossed by the simpleton group. Not only were the old standard, "traditional" cracks about a certain slab of concrete and our sister school belched forth without thought but some "new" ones reeking and challenging the man's political affiliation were spewed. In his comment, Doug Graham did the group great justice in hinting they used their gray matter at all.

The argument presented on behalf of "No No grass" was sound and left little

room for anything but rationality. Mr. Graham did, however, make a point to mention the group consisted of "mainly civilian" students before he so journalistically cut them down.

This is the first I have heard, seen or read about the civilians here. The gathering was predominantly civilian probably because the campus, as a whole, is populated roughly 90 percent by the "non-reggs" so fondly written of as late.

People not familiar with this school are led by photographs, articles, and campus publicity to believe that this place is mostly in uniform today.

Not so, but that is beside the point. Traditions, being the point, like any other custom cannot be forced, legislated, passed, voted or otherwise ruled upon. They are carried over from yesteryear and based upon what was done long ago. The Memorial Student Center, slanderously labeled "The C" by so many good thinking "good Aggs," has not been around for that long.

Go ahead, call for a referendum so students can decide (for at least four years) whether it be good or bad to tread upon the grass. As of now, there are no signs stating that whosoever shall be caught upon the MSC grounds will "have his arm broken" — but for tradition's sake it will be done in a friendly Aggie manner. Uninformed visitors as well as students are harassed and threatened without so much as a kindly worded explanation as to why the grass merely covers sacred ground.

Could we please get this over with once and for all and let sitting students and visitors sit, or let them know that the grass is indeed a memorial to touched only by the gardener and birds.

—Joel Krouse, '81

Defer Corps run

Editor:

I am writing in response to a letter in the Batt of Oct. 3.

The mooning and extremely foul language by non-reggs at corpsmen during a Corps run was regrettable. However, there are immature kids all over campus (corpsmen too!) If given a chance (a Corps run) they will "show off."

It should be noted Mr. Spiars that there was an apparent reason behind those running along and mocking the C.T.s (even though it was beyond you). They are telling you what they think of the majority of C.T.s on campus who's major interest in life is "playing army" (in fact a very viable definition for a C.T. is a 20-year-old who has never advanced past the 10-year-old maturity level.)

I do agree that the events of past weeks (the Rudder incident during "Kentucky Fried Movie, at Sbsia, etc.) are deplorable, but this is not the same thing (at least not yet). Those who mocked the C.T.s have the greatest respect for Texas A&M, none for the Corps!

Incidentally, this feeling is not a new one, nor is the incident described. If you had any common sense whatsoever you would defer from Corps runs through the north dorm area. Or is the truth that you want to start a mess comparable to those in past weeks?

—Scott Lane, '81

Remove your hat

Editor:

The 55 flags that fly over Kyle Field at each football game are in commemoration of the 55 Aggies that were killed in World War I.

This should be incentive enough for all AGGIES to remove their hats when entering Kyle Field at anytime.

It is also the final resting place for Reveille I, Reveille II, and Reveille III. One would not wear their hat in the Memorial Student Center nor walk on it's grass, for the same reason one should not wear his hat in Kyle Field.

—Ed Saad, '81

Clarification

Letters to the Editor must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Filing begins for freshmen election

Filing for freshmen elections will be Oct. 12-18, in Room 216 A&E of the Memorial Student Center. Time for filing will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cadets receive scholarships

A Corps of Cadets scholarship program has been initiated at Texas A&M University with presentation of the first three awards. President Jarvis Miller met the first three freshmen recipients last Tuesday and presented award checks. The awards will be for \$1,000 each for two years. The Chester Reed, Louis Gradd and M.J. Neeley-Sil Ross Scholarships went to Jackie S. Moreland of Hughes Springs, Byron W. Lightsey of Belton; and Orville S. Maze of San Antonio. Maze, of Company E-2, and Lightsey, of Company C-2, are Naval ROTC cadets majoring in nuclear and mechanical engineering. Moreland, a civil engineering major, is an Air Force ROTC cadet member of Squadron 8.

LOCAL

Evangelistic services to be held

The Oak Grove United Methodist Church will be holding evangelistic services each night this week starting at 7:30 p.m. The evangelist will be Bishop Alejandro Ruiz. The pastor, the Rev. Samuel Blanco, and the members of the church extend a cordial invitation to the public.

STATE

Davis trial back in Fort Worth?

Lawyers for T. Cullen Davis this week will try to convince a state district judge the Fort Worth millionaire should be tried on murder solicitation charges by a jury of his peers in his home town. Unlike many criminal cases, prosecutors in Fort Worth — not the defense — wanted Davis' upcoming trial moved out of the city in an effort to see that justice had the best chance of being served. The change of venue to Houston was considered to be a minor victory for the state, which wanted the highly publicized case out of Tarrant County. Prosecutors felt that Davis, who was acquitted of killing his 12-year-old stepdaughter Andrea Wilborn during a sensational trial last year in Amarillo, would draw sympathetic jurors in either Fort Worth or Amarillo.

NATION

Private firm to operate oil reserves

The federal government has awarded a \$44 million contract to a private company for operation of the nation's petroleum reserve storage sites following a devastating fire at one of them, three Louisiana congressmen announced Saturday. The announcement followed a public hearing by Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., into the cause and aftermath of a Sept. 21 explosion at the underground Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facility in Hackberry, La. One man died and another was injured in the blast. It began a spectacular fire that burned for almost six days and destroyed more than \$1 million worth of crude oil.

House approves civil service bill

President Carter's campaign promise to shake up the federal bureaucracy and make it more responsive to the public needs only his signature to become law. The House Friday gave final congressional approval to the civil service reform bill. In addition to making Carter's No. 1 campaign promise a reality, the vote was symbolic of the president's new-found clout on Capitol Hill. The 365-8 vote was the first major action the House took since the bitter veto overriding the president's veto on public works the day before. Two days earlier, the Senate had approved the civil service measure. Carter is expected to sign the bill at White House ceremonies next week. The legislation overhauls the 95-year-old civil service system, making it easier for managers to hire, fire and transfer employees.

WORLD

CAB to consider routes to Mexico

The Civil Aeronautics Board will open a hearing Tuesday to consider new air routes between various U.S. cities and Mexican points. Among the routes to be considered would be several linking Albuquerque and El Paso with 12 cities in western Mexico. Frontier and Continental have both applied to the CAB for permission to fly the routes. Frontier has been granted temporary rights to fly to Mazatlan and Guadalajara, Mexico on a route originating in Denver with stops in Albuquerque and El Paso. Frontier will inaugurate the flights on Nov. 3.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy with southerly winds 6-12 mph. High today will be in the upper 70s and the low in the low 60s.

THE BATTALION

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.

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by Jim Earle



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