## VIEWPOINT-

**THE BATTALION** 

# Letter receives flood of response

#### **Editor**:

(This letter is in response to Mr. Gutierrez<sup>'</sup> letter of Oct. 19)<sup>\*</sup> I would like to think that I am an indi-

vidual at this fine university, not just "another face in the crowd." True, Texas A&M is conservative, but it does allow individual expression. You must keep in mind the fact that our society has a difficult time accepting or merely understanding those who go against the established grain.

Many people who consider themselves "good Ags" do not go to football games. They may not like the sport, or they may have something that they consider more important to do. Though they are teased and called "two-percenters", it is usually said in the spirit of good humor. If it is not, maybe Mr. Gutierrez has got the wrong kinds of friends for his tastes.

It seems very convenient to use Bonfire as an excuse for his poor academic perform-ance. Believe it or not, many other Ags manage to work on Bonfire and keep their grades up. The freshman and sophomores in the Corps (and maybe even the juniors this year) have a minimum GPR they must meet in order to be able to work on Bonfire at night. That minimum may be 3.0 this year. Mr. Gutierrez is also probably unaware of the fact that last year, Keith White, the head redpot, managed to make a 4.0 with a major in Engineering and keep up with the many duties and responsibilities associated with that title. It is simply a matter of managing one's time.

Personal behavior is not governed by "the masses." To say that it is implies that Mr. Gutierrez does not have a sense of value which he believes in and is willing to stand up for. So, then, what kind of indi-vidual is he?

It may be hard for him to believe, but there are people who go here who are socially active who do not have to base their behavior upon being loud and obnoxious, as the people with whom he associates seem to do.

Although it is more of less a tradition to go out on Friday night and get drunk, it is not a law; and there is no one I know who has been labeled an outcast for not getting drunk. Insecurity often causes people to do theings they do not want to do, but since

Mr. Gutierrez claims to be such an individualist, this must not be the case.

In regard to the "crap" he puts up with, since when has being friendly, saying "Howdy" to those you pass, holding Silver Taps, and taking your hat off in the MSC been regarded as a hardship? These traditions are less traditions than they are signs of regard for your fellow Ags and respect for a university that has been founded on the

principles of honor, service, and integrity. But let us turn, then, to the most basic foundation of individualism: freedom of thought. Mr. Gutierrez' accusation that tradition is at fault arises from his narrowmindedness. He is condemning the same thing that he claims the establishment is condemning him for- freedom of thought. To hold an extreme view of either traditionalism or individualism is to be blind to the good aspects to be found in either position. It seems that Mr. Gutierrez thinks that his individualism is being stifled and has decided that tradition is to be his and has decided that tradition is to be his scapegoat.

He seems to be the victim of his own distorted, exaggerated view of some parts of University life. This view has apparently soured his entire outlook on life here at A&M.

There are many examples of A&M's regard for individualism being important facet of the human experience. The Mod-ern Art Exhibit at Rudder is one such example.

Texas A&M is indeed a conservative campus. But the possibilities for individual expression are nevertheless present. People who take an extreme stand on individualism, in the way that Mr. Gutierrez has, can only hurt those who are actually trying to be individuals, because he has attacked a very sensitive issue with all the finesse and tact of a steamroller. It is possible to respect the traditions and values upon which this great university was founded and still be an individual.

Mr. Gutierrez last line, while being highly eloquent and expressive, smacks of a paranoia that undermines the validity of what he is trying to say.

It's your turn -

## Not dorm's opinion

#### **Editor**:

We, the men from Moses Hall, would like to come down from our ivory towers of supression, savagry, and falsehood; and take time out from our petty little fantasies and inventing new techniques of hurting people, to say we regret that Noe Gutierrez has not received as much satisfaction and fulfillment from attending this university as the rest of us.

We would also like to let the masses know that Noe's remarks do not, and will not reflect any opinions of Moses Hall.

It's no use trying to pick the column apart line by line, for the incoherency of it was ludicrous.

But since Noe is a resident in our dorm, we would also like to take the time to apologize to anyone the article offended.

Randy Lemmon '84 Scott Gilbert '84 Gary Pearce '84

#### Don't compare letters

**Editor**:

I would like to make it known that, although I appreciate Mr. Noe Gutierrez's support of my article that appeared in the October 15 issue of The Battalion, his views are not in common with my own. The article I wrote speaks for itself and should be considered as such. Thank you.

**Eric Mitchell** 

### Unfairly convicted

**Editor**:

When I first read Noe Gutierrez's letter, Isabel Garcia '83 I immediately reacted with anger, resent-Sean Hightower '83 ment, and hostility, but as I thought about it more and more, my feelings changed quite drastically

Some of what he said, and some of his arguements were valid, but the way in which he went about solving his problem was quite radical and unnecessary. Most of the answers to his problems lie within himself, not in the University. He needs to re-examine his feelings and he will probably determine that his misery was selfinduced. Every student up here at one time or another will experience school oriented problems. That's life. We all face that.

In many aspects, I pity Noe, because he is not being honest with himself. He is blaming the University and many innocent students for problems that involve only a small percentage of people. We have been convicted of a crime we did not commit. It such a fine University.

> Sheila Cloudt Legett Hall

## Catch the next train

Slouch

**Editor**:

Dear Mr. Gutierrez, your letter to the editor of Oct. 19, 1981 struck the cords of my hear and those of many others, I'm sure. Tears welled up in my eyes and frequently blotted my Batt as I read this sorrowful account. What a pitiful case — being held prisoner in this hellhole for four years. It is my sincere wish - and I'm sure the wish of countless others - that you be rewarded with a parole as soon as possible. I'm sure

your fellow "inmates" at the "Mose of this virtual chamber of horrors w this plea.

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However, "Mr." Gutierrez, my stinct tells me that you may haves committed yourself to this "gian house." This is still a democracy, t sians haven't invaded yet and you are to leave this ghastly place as your enter. I'm sure the "warden" will than helpful in granting you an e lease. By reading your letter, I can you have been rehabilitated and the less rest of us will be forever stud doom, forced to wallow in our own

After you finally leave this place come president of the Association mer Self-Righteous Aggies, I hopey find enough pity in your heart tog forgiveness of our sins.

I seriously doubt that I will ever watching another football game, w another bonfire burn, drinking a beer at the Chicken, or dancing two-step at the Hall of Fame aftern your heartbreaking take... BUT SURE GONNA TRY!!! P.S. Noe: Hurry and run outside.

a train going by!

Dean M

Editor's note: A total of 19 letters reg ing the letter written by Noe Gu have been received. Due to space tions, only a portion of those letters run. The responses run here pro cross section of the sentiments expr by readers about Gutierrez's comm

By Jim Earle

## **Greeks bring threat of change**

#### **Editor**:

There are hundreds of universities in this country, and then there is Texas A&M. What makes A&M unique is its friendly, "everybody welcome" trademark. Organi-zations like RHA, OCA, the MSC Committees, the sports clubs, the recreation clubs, and the various academic societies reflect this attitude because they offer "good times" for anyone who is willing to participate. People who might not otherwise take part may feel like a part of a group at A&M because no doors are closed to them.

Keep your laundry

**Editor**: I live in McFadden Hall and on n

thousands of energetic Aggies anticipating the first cut. Yet, to my surprise, the place was near empty. Only about 30 students associated with OCA bothered to show up.

Ags, I think thats disgraceful. At fish

The recognition of the Greeks threatens to change these things.

There is a legitimate fear that Greeks will come to dominate the social life at A&M, as they have at some other schools. Should this happen, the exclusive nature of Greek organizations is liable to leave many people left out of the social life altogether.

The rule of thumb at some schools is: "If you ain't Greek, then you ain't." It would be a shame to see this attitude prevail at A&M. Though such "country club" standards may be fine at other schools, they hardly fit into the scheme of things at A&M.

Realistically, the Greeks are here to stay, but recognizing them as on campus organizations would be a step in the wrong direction

We have a good thing at A&M, so let's work to preserve it.

Brett Peabody '82

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 208 other signatures.

Warped

occasions I have carried all my dirty clothes down four flights of stairs only to find the washroom full of guys doing their laundry. When I moved into McFadden I thought it was a girls dorm.

I don't appreciate these guys taking up my laundry space. There are not enough washing machines as it is without guys coming over and trashing the place up. I am sick and tired of having to wait until after visitation hours are over to wash my clothes so guys, keep your dirty laundry to yourself. You don't have to show me yours and I won't have to show you mine.

Holly Wright '85

## **OCA** needs support

#### Editor:

I am writing in regard to the involvement of off-campus students in Bonfire. I'm not familiar with OCA's participation in the past, but it seems to me that there is a lack of it this year.

Saturday morning (Oct.3) I rushed over to Duncan expecting to find hundreds if not

Aggi tradition were extremely important. Is this no longer the case? I should think that out of the 23,000 students living off campus, more ought to experience the Aggie spirit and help with Bonfire. After all, it represents our burning desire to beat the hell out of t.u. We do want to win, don't we?

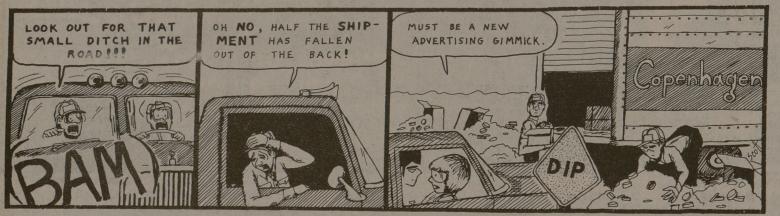
**Brent Putman '85** 

### Letters policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Articles for Reader's Forum are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

## **By Scott McCullar**



"I'll have to admit, I'd enjoy our celebration of t.u.'s defenestration more if Baylor hadn't done what they did to us.'

#### THE BATTALION

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