

The Greek debate goes on and on.

Editor:

I'd just like to say a few words about something very un-Aggie-like I've seen lately as I walk around campus — the "No Frat" Campaign. Of course, all proponents of this trend will say that I must be in a fraternity myself; I'll just tell you frankly that I would not join a frat if my life depended on it — simply because the fraternity atmosphere is not for me and also I can buy a decent pullover shirt and two new record albums for the cost of an Izod.

Getting back to the matter at hand, I ask you where these people get the nerve to push a campaign whose very slogan: "No Frats — an A&M tradition since 1876" shows the foolishness of their "platform"? Strictly speaking, I can say that this said "tradition" ended six or seven years ago and speaking more liberally, I can say that this tradition never was; one fraternity has been around since the founding of the school and to this day remains the largest on campus...

When I say that this campaign is un-

Aggie-like I mean that it shows itself as an undue, unfriendly and uneducated effort. I'd like to know what the plan of attack is — are you just going to say "No Frats" and sit back on your haunches or is there going to be blackballing of the people in fraternities (and sororities for that matter)? Do you "No Frat" guys remember someone named McCarthy? Live and let live, I say. If you feel threatened by frats, you'd better go back home and pump gas or something; you don't have smarts enough or the right attitude to make it in college. The people in the fraternities and sororities have every right to do what they're doing without any outside interference. I just don't know how this campaign could have started on a campus that prides itself on friendliness and brotherhood. You may say that with all his fellow Ags around, someone doesn't need a fraternity; just realize that it's hard to feel a sense of belonging on a campus with over 35,000 people on it.

Scott Ranalli '84

Editor:

It seems that with the current "NO FRATS" campaign, everyone is confused on just who "Frats" are. I'd like to help point out the enemy.

The term "Prep" symbolizes a person with a particular attitude towards dressing. It is usually associated with the Ivy League look or the Urban Cowboy look. The particular way a person dresses says nothing about that person in the least.

The term "Frat" or "Greek" symbolizes a person who views his relationship with other students on a type of "God to peon" basis. This is the stereotype that has been associated with Frats, and if you've spent time in Austin, like I have, you'll find it's pretty applicable.

At t.u., your code of dress is already predetermined. Your shirt has to be so starched that you can play handball off the collar, or you might as well forget your social life. Wearing something not trendy draws as many stares as dropping your tray in Sbis.

At A&M, the place to be is on campus. Dorm life is the single greatest factor to account for our awesome unity. Just recall All University Night when the dorms were

seeing who could do their dorm yell louder; a good example of pride and competition working towards that goal of unity.

At t.u., the place to be is off campus. All the excitement of all eight dorms could be housed in a small corner of a thimble. Two of them are over twenty stories tall, one looks like Huntsville State Prison (Jester), all are spread apart from each other, and none are near the center of campus.

So how does t.u. attempt to unite almost 50,000 students? You guessed it: fraternities, rah, which represent about ten percent of the student population. Sure, they promote competition between themselves like dorms, but what about the other 45,000 people who were lucky enough not to get drafted. How can you expect a person who brags about his dad's six-digit income or his four cars to want to come off his cloud to associate with non-frats. (How terrible!) The first president of the university said that "the University of Texas is the school of the common people of Texas." Small wonder that his name doesn't appear on any building or statue.

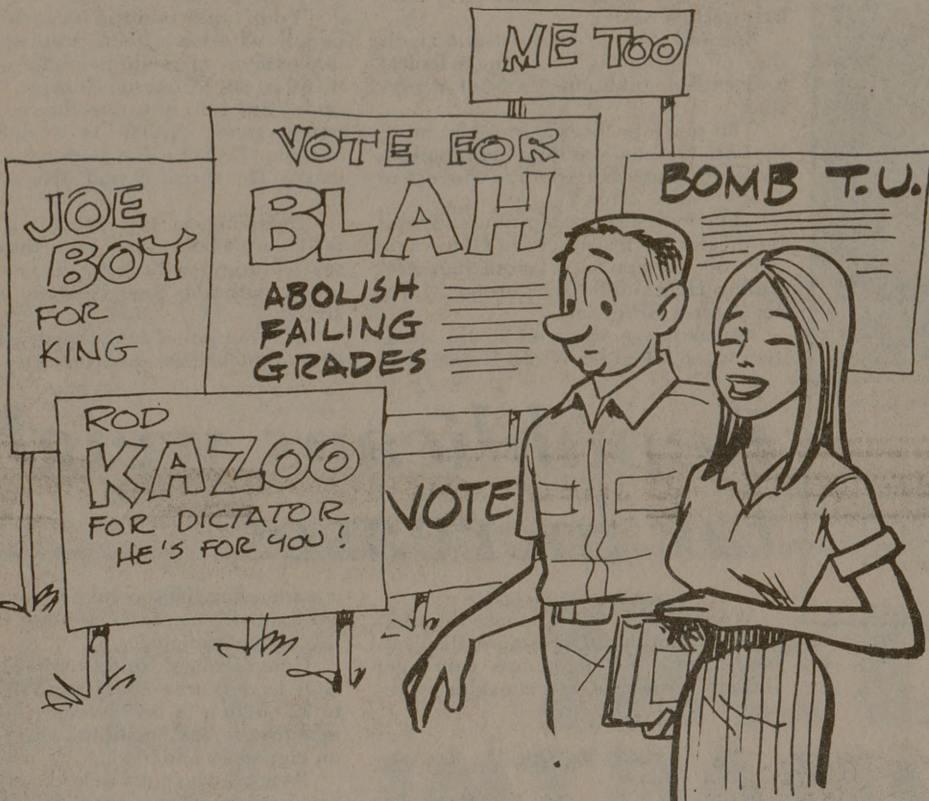
Now the frats (not preps) want the University to welcome them with open arms because, as someone wrote to The Batta-

lion, they can offer a lot to A&M. All I ask myself is what do frats have to offer we don't already have? We have OTC bring together students not on campus, the best intramural program to bring on campus students together and dorms, center of it all. Dorms fulfill every frat's needs at t.u. do, from wild parties to the M.A.S.H. party two weeks ago, to mals, to inter-dorm sports, to Bible studies. Even an occasional quad livens up an evening. Just because other places frats doesn't mean we need them. Other universities have cheerleaders. Do you want to tell the Yell Leaders that there's been a slight change? If the frats could A&M something besides elevating themselves above others and creating chaos where unity is wanted, then more power to them, but the dorms were here first. Davis-Gary Hall, I think they'll agree with me.

By the way, to the people who are asking me if I'm a frat just because I dress like me, the answer is — not on my life! NUKE THE FRATS!

Thomas A. Park Place

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Maybe the answer is to vote for the candidate with the smallest sign!"

A word from the poetry corner

Reader's Forum

The letters from the past few days have been marvelous. The uninformed among us have gotten to read about savage beatings going on under our collective noses (and other individual parts), the terrors and shortcomings of life on campus, the refutation of said shortcomings, plus a handy fingertip collection on the amount of improvement we could be working for (or, less positively, our current deficiencies — thanks Tim!). The Reader's Forum has taken on a soap-opera quality, leaving us breathless as we wait to find out if introversion really is the mark of a maladjusted personality ("land's sake boy, get out there and molest someone!"), or why Brian Gross cares at all about the salivation patterns of freshman girls. Yes, it's real life, here in black and white, the triumphs and heartaches (and headaches) of Big Time College, and it's so thrilling, it moved me to poetry (which moved some of my friends to vomiting when they read it, but there's no accounting for taste).

Good ags, bad ags, two percenters
Live their lives like fender-denters,
Mostly busy with their biz,
Finding that collisions is,
A part of what opinions bring-
Opinions, living, juggling,
Anything they do, or don't
Someone's bound to like, or won't
And when they write what they are thinking
A dozen brows all furrow, sinking

Into gloom and deep despair
That someone here could be so square
Or hip, or in, or esoteric.
"Teasip!" "Commie!" "Moonie Cleric!"
And letting off a little steam
Their furrowed brows relax and dream
Of grades that they will never see,
Or running over Reveille,*
Or other things they find distressing.
But, saint's be praised for this small blessing-
When pent up anger needs release
We have a place to speak our piece
No need for us to beat a scallion
For we can write our dear Battalion

* Lest my point was lost in anger's fog
Let me say I like the dog.

Alas, all good things must come to an end, and so I'm afraid this flurry of general brouhaha will eventually fade into the pattern of every day life.

However, as long as we can keep new and old crises popping up, we can continue to do people popping off. Another attack of "Warped" feeling (which went around the mer) would do in a pinch, or better yet Administration can play one of its clever but outwardly appear to be the height of it but is actually carefully considered to wait students into a frenzied apathy. After all read the Batt too.

But, if people ever start deciding to do something about what upsets them, then trouble. First because we won't ever hear thing about it (writing gets more attention doing), and second they might actually accomplishing something. Then where we be, if people started solving problems more of (or even while) complaining about them. Why, it wouldn't even rate one angry letter an equally angry reply.

It is a possibility, however remote the record of humanity (and Aggies too) has such a course to be. Let us be alert then, to the creeping sense of responsibility over our all and thereby ruin our amusement.

Philip Mitchell

Editor's note: Mitchell is a graduate student in the department of biology at Texas A&M University.

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Fightin' Aggie Band is still the best

It's your turn

Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to reassure the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band that the student body and anyone else who has experienced the excitement of witnessing a half-time performance will always consider them to be the finest representatives of the spirit of AGGIELAND.

Concerning last weeks drill in Rice Stadium, I wish to remind everyone that these dedicated members should be allowed to stumble from their weekly perfection without receiving unwarranted criticism; after all, they are only human. For three years now, I have attended Texas A&M football games with the anticipation of not only fine athletic competition, but also outstanding half-time performances. As the band takes the field, I know I am not alone when I become completely engulfed by the excitement, and experience a deep-felt pride for my school. I am anxiously looking forward to next week's game against SMU when I can again enjoy the magnificence of the Aggie Band, the pulse of Aggieland.

Louise R. Morgan '83

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 25 other signatures.

Spirit not broken

Editor:

I was one of the Ags braving the wind to watch the center pole go up this Friday. Everything was in its place and just as they were going to stand it up, it snapped in half. This letter is to commend those Ags who were working on the Bonfire center pole

when it snapped. Some other people may have given up, but not these Ags. Sure, they were upset and those of us watching were upset also, but that didn't stop them. They plan to be out there Monday to put up the center pole so the rest of us can enjoy a GREAT bonfire!

You're doing a great job Ags!

Kathleen Franklin '85

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

Misdirected efforts

Editor:

I must say that I am appalled at the capability of human effort to put garbage on the printed page. How, I ask, can people who have been given the privilege (and I do mean privilege) to attend this University attack the very heart of what makes Texas A&M great?

For me, the reasons for selecting Texas A&M were not merely for its academic excellence, but also for the atmosphere of

undying loyalty of many students for their school. This is exemplified in our fine traditions such as Bonfire, Aggie Muster, Silver

Taps, etc. Above all, this is what sets us apart from any other school in the world.

You, Mr. Gross, were probably very satisfied with yourself after your Oct. 22 editorial in The Battalion. You were so smug and condescending and clever in your attack of Aggie traditions. How dare we lowly "good Ags" pursue our petty rituals in

support of something so gauche as honor, service, and integrity. I note with particular interest that you made sport of our old expression "Highway 6 runs both ways." You may regard this as puerile, but I feel it is, in many cases, apt. In your case, very apt.

And you, Mr. Gutierrez, I'm sure you were quite frustrated at the time of your letter. And you directed these frustrations

at the nearest scapegoat you could find. Your completely senseless arguments making broad generalizations about the students here just made a complete fool out of you.

In short, you "individualists" can have your individuality. Go ahead and revel in it. Drown in it. But don't you dare try to detract from what a lot of PROUD aggies hold dear to their hearts.

George Danner '83

Flaming punishment

Editor:

We respectfully suggest that the Aggie Band member responsible for the formation disaster at the Rice game on Sat., 24th Oct. be thrown atop the upcoming bonfire as a warning to all that any attempt at individuality on this campus will be ruthlessly and mercilessly punished.

Doug Spence
3900 Old College

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

Reply to GSSO

Editor:

I feel that the letter you printed from Gay Student Services Organization liberal lift-wing piece. Therefore, I am questioning you print this conservative wing view in its entirety. I accept full responsibility for the contents and effect of this letter.

The GSSO used a quote from Susan Anthony which in essence said, "stand for what you believe in, and accept consequences that your views may bring upon you." With that statement of courage and faith in the Batt's unending quest present both sides, I shall voice an opinion which I feel reflects the sentiments of the Aggies. Queers, get the hell outa Dodge!

I believe the GSSO is a lying hypocritical organization. Ten percent of the student body at Texas A&M University is not

and anyone who believes that is being realistic to say the least. Anyway, based on my right-wing philosophies, I am glad that the sexual misfits at A&M are orga-

ing. The more prominent they become, easier they are to destroy. In fact, in the of the emerging fags, I wish that all of proud young gays would wear big pink t-shirts proclaiming, "I am GAY." Then, the best of Old Army tradition, we could the hell outa the GSSO and all of its kind queers.

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 99 other signatures.

Kenny P.O. Box