

Slouch By Jim Earle



Conservative, not intolerant

Texas A&M University is a very conservative place.

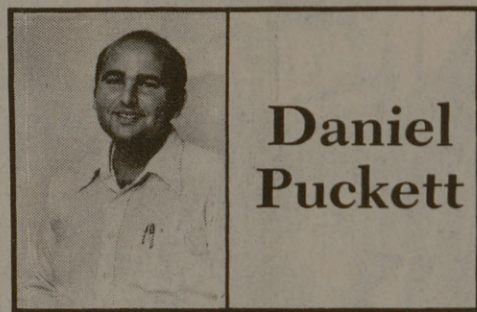
There's something to be said for understatement.

If people know nothing else about Texas A&M, they know it is a very conservative university. The teapigs can vote Communist and wear their hair down past their ankles, but Aggies are conservative. After all, their hair is short, isn't it?

Conservatism is a word all of us hear almost daily, but what is it? As Socrates said, it is time to define our terms.

From reading the editorial page lately, you would think conservatism means a willingness to kill, beat up or nuke anyone who disagrees with you. "Kill the queers" or "Trash the two-percenters" or "Nuke the frats" may be emotionally satisfying slogans, but I doubt that Thomas Jefferson, William F. Buckley or Ronald Reagan would agree with them. So what is conservatism?

A predisposition against government influence over individual lives dominates the platform of the Republican Party. Republican conservatism means fewer taxes, less regulation and more freedom for each American.



Daniel Puckett

By this definition, all citizens are free to do whatever they wish, so long as they do not infringe on the rights of others. If I want to open a store, no bureaucrat should be able to tell me no. If I want to drill for oil or buy a gun, no Washington egghead should be able to stop me.

But the train of logic does not stop there. If I have the right to live my life as I please, so do homosexuals. So long as they do not try to force themselves upon the unwilling, what right does the government have to harass them?

If some disagree with Aggie traditions,

we ought to consider their opinion without calling for their execution. There are no perfections even in the Aggie universe.

Those who feel a need to join a fraternity ought to have that right. Just because I and I may despise fraternities does not mean that we should try to prevent their formation.

Granted, there are gray areas when it comes to University recognition of the groups. Should a publically funded institution help support groups which may offend the taxpayers? There are legitimate grounds for opposing the recognition of the Gay Student Services Organization and the Greek groups.

Opposing recognition, though, does not mean we should advocate, even in a gleeful hyperbole, the death, maiming or exile of those with whom we disagree. Thinking like that is not conservative, not even American.

Our Constitution guarantees the right of freedom of speech; the right to disagree more importantly, the right to voice our disagreement.

More than anything else, freedom is the foundation of conservatism, and Texas A&M is a very conservative university.

It's your turn

Comic strip has right idea, wrong approach

Editor:
This is in reference to the Warped comic strip published on Oct. 26 and 27.

The issue of women in the band, and the position of women in the Corps is a very delicate balance of nature and is very difficult to explain. I realize that Scott McCullar is trying to make a valid point, there are no women in the Band, but by doing so in such a way he is causing problems in the already shaky relations between the Aggie Band and companies W-1 and Squadron 14. Women in the Corps are winning acceptance the slow, hard way: through proof of worth and character. The main things that stand in the way of our acceptance are ignorance, fear and prejudice. In his column Scott McCullar is helping to perpetuate these.

This week's "Warped" comic strip has indeed managed to warp relationships between women in the Corps and the Band. We feel that we are progressing well in integrating the special groups of the Corps. We don't need the help of Scott McCullar

or his comic strip. Believe me it is no help at all.

Martha Langford '84
Company W-1

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 55 other signatures from the Aggie Band and Company W-1 and Squadron 14.

Fight with food

Editor:

Common sense. That's what we need in our political arena, common sense. Various groups have written to The Battalion concerning the military strength of the U.S. and the use of nuclear weapons. Why not use a weapon that leaves no radiation and has the potential of overthrowing any government? The weapon? Food.

Two thirds of the world's food is grown in the U.S. and one fifth in South America. Why do we feed nations that oppose our constitution and our way of life? If the

OPEC nations want to charge us \$38 for a barrel of oil, good ... let them eat it! We should exchange food for resources, trade, and protection.

For some reason, however, Americans have been conned by sincere and religious people into the idea that we should give freely to our "neighbors," regardless of their beliefs. Such people would have us feed the world at our expense to ease our consciences because we "have so much."

Hey! let's wake up to reality. Why not let our enemies starve? Are bullets and wars more humane? Why do we send money and relief to children who will grow up to kill our own children in WWII? Would it not make more sense to starve our enemies until they decide to play our game, and stop bargaining away our freedoms in "peace negotiations"?

It seems to me that we need a bit more common sense. Why not take a route which will prevent war and bring the riches of the world to our country?

Michael Coad

Get rid of the signs

Editor:

I've got a suggestion for our incoming Student Government officers: If you guys are worth anything, why don't you pass some laws against littering a beautiful campus with campaign signs — you really make it look like crap.

Greg Cizik '82

Save Duncan field

Editor:

The Texas A&M University System is planning to build the University Press Building on the east end of Duncan Field. Duncan Field is one of the few remaining grassy areas that make this University so beautiful to faculty, staff, students, and visitors. Currently this field is being used for three very important purposes: bonfire, intramurals, and football parking.

Although this building should not discontinue any of these, it will certainly disrupt them. The probable overlap in construction periods for the press and the bonfire would serve to cause confusion. Also, the proximity of the building to bonfire would cause an unnecessary fire hazard. Although this could be overcome by proper precautions, it seems an unnecessary risk. Furthermore, the intramural and other recreational use of this field is not conducive to an office type building. Another problem that would be intensified is the lack of student parking in this area. Not only would there be staff parking required for those who work in the press, but also the loading dock area would cut into the student parking lot (lot 40). The construction of this building would also set a precedent for further construction on Duncan and other playing fields.

Finally, because the operations of the press do not necessitate that it be located on the central campus, we would like to encourage the Texas A&M University System to consider an alternate location for the University Press Building (such as west campus) and to not consider any further construction on Duncan or any of the other

playing fields.

Lynda B...
Senator, Education at L...

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 22 other signatures.

MOB has no class

Editor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the halftime show put on by the Aggie Band at the Rice game. First, I would like to make clear that I am not a member of the band, am although, a member of the Corps.

The MOB (Marching Owl Band) shows very little class in the game Saturday. The sides obscene posters that they waved, made the best college marching band look awful small. While on the sidelines, members of the MOB began blowing whistles which in turn led some of the members of the Aggie Band to march prematurely. The result was total chaos accompanied by embarrassment and tears throughout the Aggie Band. The classlessness demonstrated by the MOB showed that they have very little respect for visiting bands and that they wanted to see the Aggie Band execute an imperfect drill. The only reason I can see for such a tasteless act is jealousy.

The Aggie Band drills every week before a game for one to two hours a day. They work hard to learn their movements to produce enjoyment for their fellow Texas Aggies. I am very proud to wear the same uniform as the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.

Although the band has its conflicts with the rest of the Corps, when the Aggie Band is marching they are representing the entire University. All the band can do now is put the drill behind them and realize that we are all human and prone to making mistakes. The band now needs to look ahead to the next drill for the SMU game and hope that their band is not as inconsiderate as the MOB was.

By the way, the last time an incident of this type happened was in 1967, the year the Ags went to the Cotton Bowl.

Getting traditions back on course

It has recently come to my attention that the student body has diverted from some traditions basic to Aggie Spirit. My intent is not to complain about the behavior of the 12th man, only to emphasize what I believe is proper Aggie conduct at sporting events.

The ability to control a crowd of the size that turns out to support the Aggie teams is unique among colleges and universities.

As more and more people are drawn to Texas A&M, partly because of the history of our strong traditions, it is even more important that everyone follow the guidance of those people elected to handle the crowds: the yell leaders.

One problem that we've had was the attempt by some crowd members to start yell practice after the Baylor game while the Baylor Band was still playing. Even though we signaled the crowd to rest, some people continued to lead their own yells. There was a specific reason for waiting. We were the guests of Baylor University, and it is their right to play after the game and common courtesy to wait until they finish to hold yell practice. We would demand no less at our own stadium.

Another problem is the "missuse" of the "Beat the Hell ..." yell. It is the purpose of the yell leaders to lead the crowd in support of the Aggie football team. The "Beat the Hell ..." yell, which got started only ten years ago, sometimes has the opposite effect of what is intended. It may, in fact, fire up the opposition, not our team. It is up to the yell leaders to decide when the yell is appropriate.



Mike Thatcher

Tommy Orr, Class '72 yell leader, initiated the yell for use at yell practice to fire the crowd up. It was not intended for use during the game. When he returned the A&M several years later, Orr was disappointed to hear the yell being used at the games.

While boot line, Spirit Line and the 12th Man are well-known traditions, there are some lesser known traditions that are becoming harder to pass along as more people get caught up in the spirit of Aggieland.

Many of these got started many years ago, for practical reasons, and are still applicable. Here are some examples of those traditions.

Standing on the wood — Standing on the seats (which used to be wooden) was a senior privilege only, designed to protect the wood from scuffing and splintering. Even though the wood is now aluminum, there is still a practical reason for keeping up with the tradition. Excessive weight can break the benches off. We have the best facilities in the Southwest Conference, let's

keep them that way.

Clapping during songs — While clapping was always frowned upon many years ago, it's now seen as a way of showing spirit. But there should still be no clapping during the "War Hymn," "Spirit of Aggieland" and the "Twelfth Man." Hats should also be removed during these songs.

Starting yell practice early — Yell practice doesn't start until the yell leaders arrive with the Band to Kyle Field.

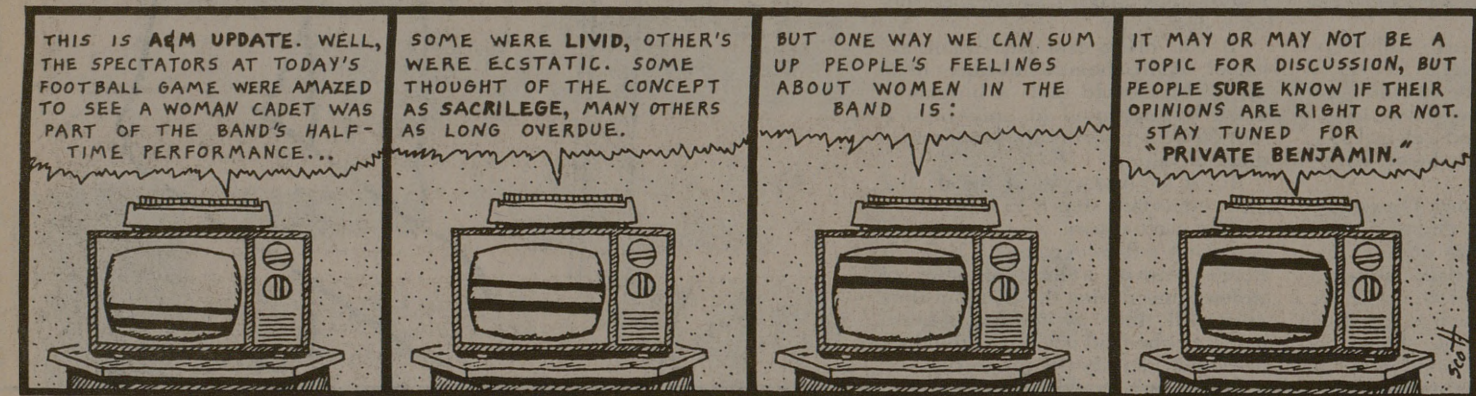
Booing — Remember, Aggies never boo. It's up to the yell leaders to decide when the "horse laugh" is appropriate. It's gotten to the point where hissing is used at very inappropriate times, as in the case of the introduction of important guests. It makes no difference if they went to t.u. or wherever, that's no reason to hiss.

One of the best ways for everyone to show their spirit is to participate in the Spirit Line. The Spirit Line is formed from Cain Hall to Kyle Field when the team makes its way from Cain to the locker room. Coach Wilson has said that he thinks the bigger the line is, the better.

Texas A&M is known for the spirit and enthusiasm of the crowds. The more people that come to Texas A&M should mean that much more spirit and enthusiasm, and with the cooperation of the fans, the 12th man will continue to be the driving force behind the Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team. Beat the Hell Outta SMU!

Mike Thatcher '82
Head Yell Leader

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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.

Columns and guest editorials 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.

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