

A&M reacts to SMU game incident

Editor:

As anyone who has ever been to an A&M football game knows, Texas A&M students and alumni are more than just fond of "Aggie tradition." And with some justice, for A&M is a fine and unique institution with a proud history. However, recently some Aggies seem to have forgotten the true purpose of this University and have pursued "Aggie tradition" to the point of harming A&M's reputation and bringing notoriety, not honor, to this campus. (The attitude that outsiders' opinions don't matter and that criticism of A&M is "treason" doesn't help matters.)

The very sad incident at Saturday's SMU game involving a senior cadet drawing his saber and kicking (with his senior boots) visitors who happened to be on the football field before the end of the game demonstrates clearly that it is time to take a hard look at "Aggie tradition" and where this fast-growing institution is headed.

Beyond the dishonor Cadet Hood brought upon himself and Texas A&M last Saturday are some deeper issues affecting all of us in the A&M community. This confused young man was in a very real sense not acting alone. First of all, many Aggie

fans were not horrified by this incident but instead were amused by it. When Cadet Hood declared, "It's my job to get people off the field," what was he really saying? He was saying "Aggie tradition" is sacred and that he was only carrying out his duties as he saw them. Now, many in the Corps will disagree with Hood and were very embarrassed by the incident; but Cadet Hood was definitely manifesting the sentiment and irrational "Aggie tradition" of many of his fellow students.

After a midnight yell practice which the Eagle described as a "disciplined frenzy," many Aggies were very keyed up for the SMU game. Emphasis upon a male "martial spirit" Friday night, roughing up some student hecklers at yell practice and shouts of "Beat the hell out of SMU!" obviously spilled over into Saturday's game for some Aggies. Nowhere this weekend did anyone remember to emphasize that, tradition aside, football is a game. Good sportsmanship was unfortunately lost in the worship of "Aggie tradition."

Was this an isolated incident? I don't think so. Cadet Hood was an officer of the day Saturday. He also chairs the judicial board of the A&M student association. He is a senior with much responsibility and has

posed as an example to younger cadets and "good Aggies." His attitude is unfortunately shared by many (though by no means all) Aggies. A sad example of this was last week's letter to The Battalion from self-styled "right-wing" Aggies threatening physical violence to gay students. Intolerance only breeds violence and brings no honor to A&M.

I for one am glad to see more women on campus these days and more students interested in a college education rather than in living out some fantasy of A&M's romantic all-male, military past. The time has come to question the presence of boys playing soldier on campus with real weapons. The time has come for more than just some "imported" faculty to be concerned about the poor academic performance of cadets who are overworked by the annual bonfire preparations. (Even some older cadets have spoken to me about the sad lack of emphasis upon academic excellence in the Corps.) Substituting rabid support of "Aggie tradition" for academic achievement brings no honor to the Corps and is no way to prepare future officers to help defend our country.

I do support traditions and a healthy pride in one's campus. When I first came to A&M, I was awed by the MSC and the row of pictures of Aggie medal of honor winners located there. I wonder what some of those "good Aggies" would think about the intolerance on campus today? I am sure at least that they would be horrified by the attitude which led to the recent dishonor brought upon both "Aggie tradition" and the cherished symbols of the senior boots and the saber. Before "good Aggies" quickly dismiss this affair as an "isolated incident" and dissociate themselves from this one overzealous senior cadet, I hope they will ask themselves how this could have happened and to what extent the blame is shared by many of us. If we can learn something from

a little honest soul searching perhaps our honor can be restored.

Chester Dunning
Assistant Professor
Department of History

Hats off to Hood

Editor:

Hats off to Greg Hood. As an Aggie I'm proud of his courage and selfless dedication to the spirit that has bonded Aggies together for 105 years.

What Greg did was an emotional act, personifying the inexplicable love that Aggies have for this school, for Muster, for Silver Taps, and for yell practice after a game if we've been outscored.

We're "Fightin' Texas Aggies" and I'll stand by Greg Hood's actions to any 2 percentor who wants to see what an Aggie is made of.

David Imes '82

Solution is all wet

Editor:

I think I have found a solution to Saturday's problem. The guilty Officer of the Day should be sentenced to dig a moat around Kyle Field and then travel to SMU to capture several dozen extra large alligators, which will then reside in the moat. A small ferry can be constructed to transport the players and officials onto the field, thereby eliminating the problem of unauthorized personnel. I feel that this solution

Mitchel Whittington

Appalled by editorial

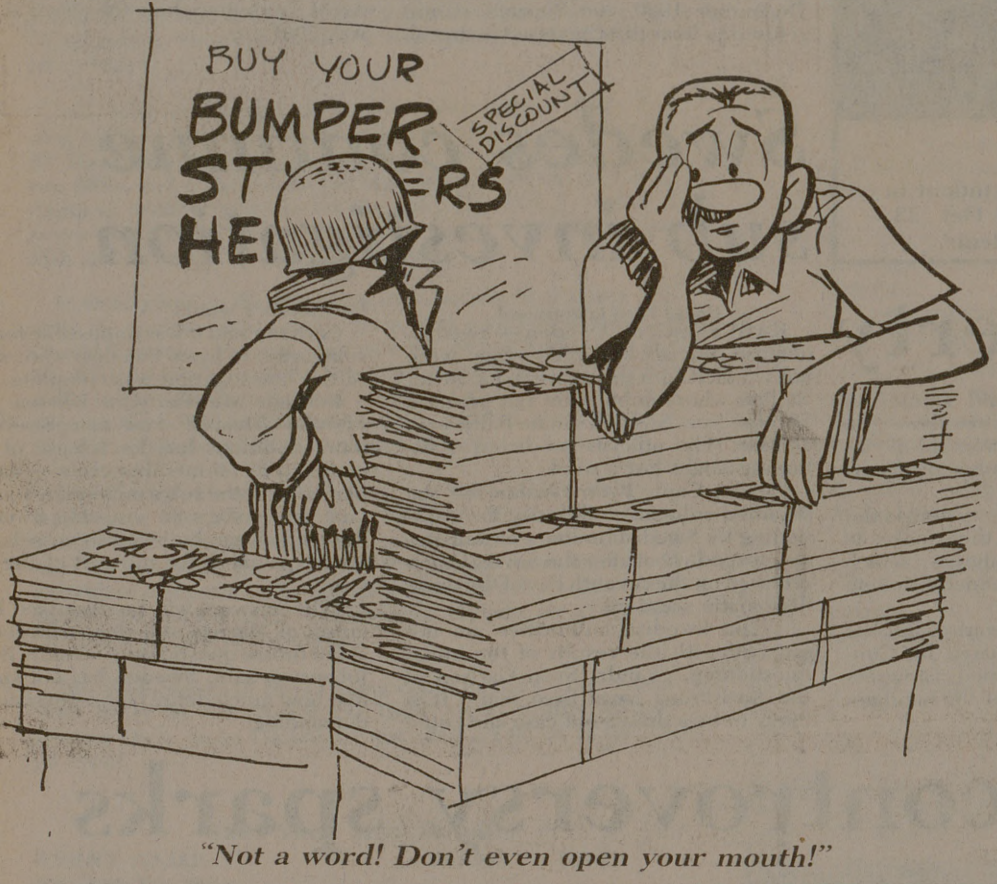
Editor:

This letter is in response to the editorial published in The Battalion Monday, Marcy Boyce. We are appalled at your sarcasm concerning the incident at Kyle Field Saturday between Cadet Greg Hood and the SMU cheerleaders. It would have been in better taste to have forgotten the incident entirely instead of ridiculing a fellow Aggie, Cadet Hood.

We agree he should not have drawn his saber for something very serious could have occurred. Cadet Hood had every right according to Aggie tradition, to discipline SMU cheerleaders off of Kyle Field. However, Miss Boyce, if you are going to write an article on the unfortunate incident, please report the facts accurately and with taste, not with vicious sarcasm.

Krys M...
4312 Mary...

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Not a word! Don't even open your mouth!"

Opinion, not gays, alarming

Editor:

Kenny Ray (Tuesday, Oct. 27) tells us that he feels threatened by the claims of the Gay Student Services Organization that 10 percent of the students at Texas A&M are gay. He further tells us what he wants to do about it. Should any "proud young gays" show themselves in his territory, he and his 99 friends will "beat the hell out of the GSSO and all of its kooky-queers."

Even though one can only conjecture as to why Ray is so sensitive on this issue, he appears to tell us why he wishes to physically harm his fellow students. He is "conservative right-wing." He is "Old Army." He is presumably, a member of the heterosexual majority.

But on the face of it, membership in none

Reader's Forum

of these groups obligates one to threaten physical harm to gays. Many gays are themselves political conservatives. The mission of the "Old Army," as I recall it, was to protect liberty, not to violate it. And to be heterosexual is certainly not automatically to be anti-gay.

I feel threatened by Ray and his friends. I feel threatened by this ignorance of the way a democracy works. I feel threatened because his tactics remind me of those of Hitler's Brownshirts and the enforcers of Stalin's Gulag. They too said: "If you do not think and behave as we wish, we will beat

the hell out of you." And they did. I threatened that there are even 100 in our student body who have so little regard for personal liberty and so little understanding of what it means to be a member of a university community, that most of all free institutions in a free state.

The course of action which Ray and his friends propose may derive only from immaturity. This is certainly the best in which their letter can be put. But it betokens an incipient sickness of soul, isolation of spirit. It aligns its authors with those fascists of both the extreme left and the extreme right who seek to destroy the basis of a free society.

Larry H...
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy

It's your turn

Fear, prejudice can lead to violence

Editor:

To the Texas A&M Community: It is time for the fear and prejudice that rages upon this campus to cease. Only fear breeds violence. The violence directed to print toward the gay men and lesbian women of this community is a fearful reaction.

What are you afraid of? Do you think we are contagious? Do you think we want to convert you? Do you think we look different? Do you think we will hurt you?

Violent behavior erupts because someone is afraid, because someone is being oppressed. Are we oppressing you?

Ten percent: that's a national statistic (LOVING SOMEONE GAY, Don Clark). In general, ten percent of a given population is homosexual. The odds against our swaying or even influencing significantly the straight population are 1 in 10. How terrifying for you!

I urge the heterosexual majority of this community to educate yourselves. That is why the gay men and lesbian women come to Texas A&M: to receive the quality education that Texas A&M is nationally-known for.

Homosexuality is not contagious. We do not want to convert you. It is hard enough for us to be whole and unafraid. Why should we encourage straight men or women to change?

If we look different, it is for the same reasons that straight men and women look different. Each of us is unique in our personalities and preferences.

We will not hurt you. Violence occurs in the homosexual community because of the oppression of the straight society: because of fear, turned inward.

We do not fear you because you are heterosexual. Many of us have learned that our fear of you is destructive to our spirits. We claim that the human spirit can

thrive without fear, oppression, and prejudice. We claim our freedom among you in that spirit of liberty and justice.

Name withheld
Member, Gay Student Services

Editor's note: The author of this letter is employed on the Texas A&M campus and the name was withheld because they feared being fired.

Once again, thanks and congratulations! We appreciate your help in making the Fall '81 Aggie Blood Drive a success.

Margaret Young
Fall '81 Aggie Blood Drive Committee

Silver Taps: make time

Editor:

Silver Taps was last played on Oct. 6. During the half-hour before the ceremony I heard numerous excuses for not attending: "I have a major test tomorrow," "I need to read three chapters before my 8 o'clock class," "I am just too tired," etc. Ags, Silver Taps should not be thought of as an option but rather as a responsibility.

The actual ceremony does not last over fifteen minutes; surely we can spare about 30 minutes a month for our fallen comrades. For a school where tradition is a sacred word, we seem to be falling further and further from one of our most precious rites.

Plan ahead this time: start studying 30 minutes earlier, take a nap before going,

take care of any interfering business so you can go to Silver Taps. Aggies are known for doing a little more than is necessary; let's first meet the criteria of being Ags.

Kelli J. Clement '85

Who's the frat?

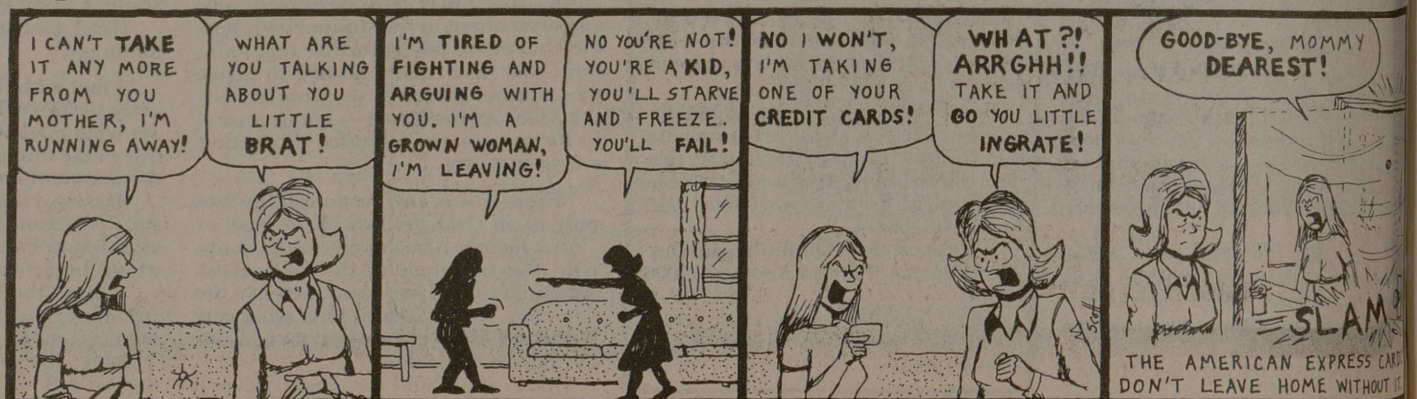
Editor:

This letter is written primarily to the residents of Davis-Gary involved in the Frat campaign. An interesting thing happened at yell practice Friday. I had an off-town date, and we were waiting stands for the band, when members (I assume) of Davis Gary, sitting in a circle around a Davis-Gary banner, started doing something. My date turned and pointed at the group, and said, "That fraternity is that, Delta Gamma? They're the largest on campus." Just thought I'd let you guys know.

Scott Swearingen

By Scott McCullar

Warped



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360
MEMBER

Texas Press Association

- Editor: Angelique Copeland
- Managing Editor: Marcy Boyce
- City Editor: Jane G. Brust
- Asst. City Editor: Kathy O'Connell
- Photo Editor: Dave Einsel
- Sports Editor: Ritchie Priddy
- Focus Editor: Cathy Saathoff
- Asst. Focus Editor: Debbie Nelson
- News Editors: Phyllis Henderson, Bernie Fette, Belinda McCoy, Diana Sultenfuss
- Staff Writers: Gary Barker, Frank L. Christlieb, Randy Clements, Gaye Denley, Nancy Floeck, Tim Foadre, Golette Hutchings, Daniel Puckett, Denise Richter, Mary Jo Rummel, Rick Stolle, Nancy Weatherley, Barbie Woelfel
- Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist: Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers: Brian Tate, Daniel Sanders, Colin Valentine

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.