

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Here's your medal for meritorious service to the bonfire. Take the day off and be back tomorrow."

Poster 'censorship' protested

Editor:

I would like to ask the students who attend Texas A&M University if they are familiar with an organization called the "ARC." This stand for the Association for Retarded Citizens. It is a volunteer organization which helps promote a better existence for the retarded citizens of this community. It is composed of members from all walks of life and all IQs. This organization sponsors fundraisers which help to develop the ARC so that retarded citizens can enjoy a life that is equal to the "normal" person.

I understand that many students have not heard of this organization since it is difficult to have a body of people become aware of smaller organizations. As a member of this organization and a student at Texas A&M, I feel it is part of my duty to help students become aware of what services are available in the community if they need them.

Therefore, I will get to my point. A couple of days ago, I went to the MSC Student Organization director to see if I might hang up a poster in the MSC to promote a fund-raiser given by the ARC in which interested students might like to be involved. He turned me down. The reason

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being that the ARC is not affiliated with any Texas A&M organization. He further told me, I could not put a poster in this respect anywhere on campus, the only way being, to get an organization to sponsor it. Upon concluding my conversation with this man, I went to a representative group in the MSC to see if they were interested in sponsoring this project.

There, I was told a different story — yes, I could put a poster up, but not in the MSC and not on certain bulletin boards. They also slipped in the fact that they would have to bring the matter up before the "Executive Board," assuring me that they would "think" about it.

Personally, I find these tactics absurd! To allow only a few people to decide whether or not over 30,000 people are allowed to read something is preposterous! I know, we have "elected" these people to those committees, and they are there for our benefit, but I do not understand why this small body of people has assumed the right to censor what can be posted in the

"Student Center!" Is it justified that any student who enters this building (MSC) must honor the commanding "Thou shalt not use the 1st Amendment here!" According to the Student Organization Director, this goes for the campus.

The ARC is not a "radical, left-wing, terrorist" group! I do not believe a volunteer organization striving to better the existence of retarded citizens will cause a "terrorist" upheaval on the campus of University.

I could equate this "just" censorship tactics used by many Eastern European governments, but I do believe it is perhaps a little hasty.

Furthermore, I believe that being isolated from happenings in the community is an act of ignorance. To help adjust from this sheltered and safe environment, one needs to keep in touch with the real world every once in a while.

I would also like to add, that I am blowing off steam at "the beautiful Texas A&M." I am just a concerned student who at least questions some of the procedures involved within the system.

Annet Klau

Pumpkin editorial called cheap shot

In regard to your article about the "pumpkin ritual," I believe that you wrote an editorial about a subject on which you have very little knowledge and a great deal of misinformation. If you did in fact investigate our Halloween ritual at all, you either choose to ignore facts or you did not care to publish the whole story. In either case, it appears that you used our Halloween activity as a basis for taking a cheap shot at the Corps of Cadets. I hope that this letter will clarify a few facts for you.

First of all, when the members of C-2 come down the quad, it is the objective of the band freshmen to first put out the torches with water. They are then to remove the pumpkin from the person's head and break it once it is on the ground. I'm sorry to disappoint your readers, but there are no axe handles or great implements of destruction.

It is true that the situation has gotten slightly out of hand in the past, but another fact which you failed to include is that we have uniformed seniors in the area to break up any scuffle which might occur. It would seem to me that 20 runnings of the pumpkin without any serious injuries would stand as a good record.

As far as getting the pumpkin into the dorm, let me fill you in a little further. First, the band is well aware that we are coming, they are prepared to stop the "flight" with over 100 freshmen. If you

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know of any way that 15 of us could get through over 100 Fightin' Texas Aggie Band freshmen, I would be genuinely interested in your secret. My point is that we are well aware that we won't make it and we have no intent of "vandalizing" their dorm by smearing pumpkin all over the floor.

In an attempt to show you why we participate in this "assault on reason" (as you call it), allow me to present a few questions to you. Why do Aggies fall in behind the band at midnight yell practice and expose themselves to the chance of getting hurt by someone who has had too much to drink? Why do Aggies subject themselves to possible physical harm by working on bonfire? If I had no knowledge or understanding of these traditions, I might question the reasoning behind these activities. However, after experiencing these traditions, I have found that the answers to these questions can be summed up in just a few words: tradition, excitement, camaraderie, and rivalry.

The "Flight of the Great Pumpkin" is not an all-out war between C-2 and the band. The activity is thoroughly organized and planned between us. The preparation of the "flight" gave C-2 and the band the chance to

work together and become better acquainted. The "flight" provides much of the excitement and entertainment on the quad during the Halloween festivities. We take no less precautions for the safety of all concerned (including observers), than are taken for midnight yell practice and bonfire.

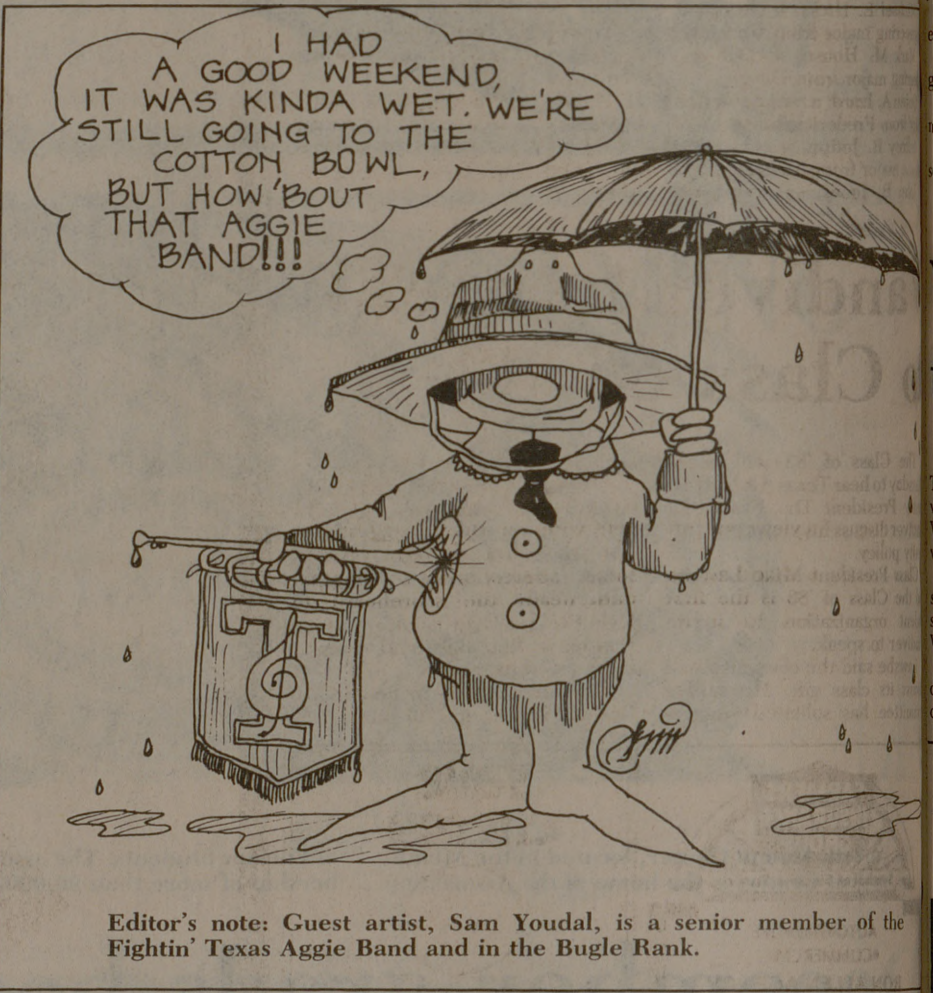
I don't believe that there are reasons for many of the things that we do as Aggies and I don't believe that we always need reasons. However, if you insist on a reason for the "flight," I offer you tradition, excitement, camaraderie, and rivalry.

Maybe if you became better informed and gained a greater knowledge and understanding of our traditions on the quad, you would not be so quick to condemn us.

Gerald L. Smith '82
Commanding Officer
Company C-2

This letter was accompanied by 364 signatures.

Editor's note: The editorial was based on information from C-2 Commander Gerald L. Smith and Band Commander James Hughes as quoted in an article about the "Flight of the Great Pumpkin," October 28.



Editor's note: Guest artist, Sam Youdal, is a senior member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and in the Bugle Rank.

It's your turn

Better a football field than a battle field

Editor:

In order for you to understand my feelings, I'll give you a brief background of myself. This is my first year at Texas A&M as a sophomore transfer student. I'd always thought that if I went to college, it would be at Texas A&M. Not because of the traditions or the Corps, but because of the academic excellence here.

Before entering college, I served 4 years in the Marine Corps. I excelled in the Corps and received an honorable discharge as a sergeant. I feel that my military background gives me some insight into the workings of the ROTC program here, even though I'm not actively involved. I must say that I admire these young men who have enough pride in themselves and their country to give 4-6 years of their lives in service of it. Despite my admiration of these freshmen and sophomore cadets, I find it hard to imagine them leading me on a field of battle. But they are young, and have a long way to go and lot to learn, and I'm sure with proper guidance they will become good officers in whatever branch of service they choose.

They key word here is guidance. Where do they get this guidance? From the seniors and the ROTC program staff. The seniors are supposed to set the example. The ROTC program is designed to guide and train tomorrow's military leaders to realize what their objective is, and how to achieve that objective as economically as possible. Greg Hood made the mistake on Kyle Field Saturday of not knowing how to achieve his objective. It is better for this to happen on a football field than on a field where the price one pays for such mistakes is much higher. If there is one Greg Hood, there may be more. I'm not letting Greg off the hook, but in the big picture, what the men in the Corps do after they leave college could be of far greater importance than what they do while they are here. With this in mind, my

words to the seniors and officers of the ROTC program is to shape up or ship out! I feel I'm correct in saying that my buddies that are still in the Marine Corps do not want a Greg Hood to make vital decisions for them.

Tom Bivens

Scout party appreciated

Editor:

Congratulations for a job well done to all the Campus Scouts and friends who hosted the Halloween party for local Cub and Brownie Scouts. It's a great feeling to know that you students want to be involved in our community and I want you to know that your hard work and enthusiasm is really appreciated — you made a lot of children happy last Wednesday night. Keep up the good work and thank you!

Sally Manthei
Parent, Bryan

Pictures of no interest

Editor:

I normally wouldn't ponder over such a frivolity, but since the "problem" appears to be increasing daily I felt the need to comment on your newspaper, The Battalion.

There seems to be a plethora of inane "interest" pictures, which in my eye are of no interest. The main problem is the these "interest" pictures are blatantly accumulated in the National section of The Battalion.

The Houston Chronicle is fraught with numerous national stories, why not borrow some from them? I would much rather read day old national news than see a picture of cows sipping water from a faucet or a grackle sitting on a haystack. Many national newspapers use these "interest" pictures, but I don't think you'll find them in the National section!

Why not simply add a new section to your paper entitled Local Interest Pictures with Captions, rather than using the National section which could easily be filled with pertinent news. If you do have an "interest" picture when this letter is received, feel free to insert this letter in its place (in the National section).

John Abbey '84

'Warped' in poor taste

Editor:

In light of the auto related deaths of two of our students at Texas A&M, the cartoon "Warped" was a complete denial of respect for the individuals involved. Respect for fellow man, a cornerstone in our tradition, was completely forgotten, destroyed, thrown out the window, etc. Who is Scott McCullar? A high school dropout would not have created such satanically tactless trash. This newspaper has printed trivia, nonsense, sometimes mudslinging material, but when something so tragic as the death of a fellow Ag is paraded in a cartoon strip in an absurd effort to create humor, my blood boils a high pitch.

Scream "freedom of speech" at the top of your lungs, you're wrong. This is the ugliest, most callous display of disreverant behavior I've witnessed, period.

As long as the newspaper continues to print this type of destructive material, it

will continue to be, and is a black mark on the University.

Bill Brax
Bo Kemp
Don Landry

Traffic must yield

Editor:

I can't believe what I just witnessed (at 7 p.m. Tuesday). Several emergency vehicles were traveling west on Jersey Street with their lights flashing, their sirens blaring and their horns blasting. Cars leaving campus proceeded across the intersection as their light turned green, oblivious to the warning signals from the fire trucks and ambulances. Certainly these drivers had the time to wait for the next green light perhaps the people waiting for emergency help had no time to spare. I hope that the drivers never find themselves in need of emergency service when that service is delayed (or doesn't come at all) because a truck or ambulance had to dodge traffic involving/uncaring driver too impatient to yield the right-of-way.

Our police and firefighters provide valuable service protecting lives and property. Let's not make their jobs more difficult by being inconsiderate.

Janet A. Nation

Editor's note

Because of the tremendous volume of letters on several controversial campus issues the Viewpoint section will be expanded Thursday in an effort to help clear a backlog of more than 100 letters to the editor.

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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, 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.

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