

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"... so if we begin with an excavation, and build the bonfire in it, it will be just as tall, but it will be safer because it will be less likely to fall over ..."

## Minors present two views on new drinking age law

### It could save lives

I'm 18 and I like many others have been denied the "privilege" of drinking. I'm not going to complain about the drinking age being raised to 19 because I know it's for the better.

It's a fact that over 50 percent of all driving accidents, many of them fatal, are somewhat related to alcohol in one way or another. In most cases teen-agers are the likely cause or victims of these accidents. It's not uncommon to discover that someone you know, even your best friend, has just died because he or she had been drinking while driving. Or even worse your own mother or father dying innocently in an auto accident as a result of someone else who was aimlessly driving while intoxicated. No one likes to hear these stories but they are true. Over and over again the surviving victim or driver who was the cause of an alcohol related accident offers the same excuse saying, "I just wanted to have a good time."

I can understand why people may gam-

ble with money but not their life. Maybe teen-agers are not yet mature enough to realize the potential hazards of drinking or better yet control themselves when they do. Apparently, this is the case. Why not raise the drinking age to 19? Or, better yet, even 21. It could save a life.

Mike Minotti '81

### All activities limited

When it came up in the news about the Texas Legislature changing the drinking age to 19, I thought it was a joke. When it was finally passed and September first came, this joke became a reality. Aiming this law at the high school kids hurt all of the college adults which were not yet 19, the new legal age. Look Fish, we can vote, we can go to war, and we can sign leases, buy cars, and be strictly independent from our folks, even in marriage; but we can't go out and have a drink.

How many of you under-aged adults now

sit at home on Friday and Saturday night when just three months ago you were partying with your friends? Or, how many of you are now disobeying the law? The answers to both of these questions are ridiculous for a number of us Fish.

I've been in places back home in Dallas which have a solution to this problem. The simply stamp everyone who enters with one identifying the minors and another slightly different stamp identifying the elderly. At least this kind of system allows the 18-year-olds a place to dance, listen to live music and enjoy the company of their friends without staying at home.

Why can't places in College Station like Faces or the Hall of Fame do this at weekends? We ought to be given the same choice to go kicking dancing on weekends to the upper classmen do. Face it, we could get the alcohol if we really wanted it anyway, so why don't they just not sell the drinks. I don't go to those places for the sole purpose of drinking and I don't think all the other 18-year-olds do either.

Susan Becker '81

## Coach Wilson: some support, others criticize

### Athletic program needs new course

I am writing to voice concern about the direction our athletic program is once again taking. One only has to glance at the newspaper to know there is extreme pressure on Coach Wilson to win this or that game or else. I ask, how can a man coach or a player perform in such an atmosphere?

My biggest concern is that a few wealthy ex-students rather than the faculty control the athletic program at Texas A&M. I have been following A&M athletics for 36 years and it is the same old story with every coach. The criticism starts and the pressure to fire him begins as soon as he loses the first game. The pressure always starts from the same type of well-heeled loud mouths. All of our former coaches can't be incompetent as they seem to be successful when they go elsewhere. One need not look beyond Emory Bellard for an example.

No athletic program can be successful unless it has continuity. A&M will certainly maintain its reputation as a coach's graveyard unless the faculty gets control of

the athletic program. A good start would be to show support for Coach Wilson.

Dr. Michael Cuscuvuda '48

### Win-loss record isn't everything

Since Saturday's 'outscore' at the hands of the Arkansas Razorbacks, the mood around campus seems to be "Get Rid of Wilson." But we wish to make it known that everyone does NOT feel this way.

Contrary to popular opinion, winning isn't everything. Coach Wilson, through his handling of the problems and pressures of being head football coach at A&M, has earned our respect. A man who genuinely cares about the players and not just his win-loss record is more important to us than one whose main concern is his image to the rest of the world.

Now is the time to speak-up. Let's not wait until it's too late!

Randy Lewis '84

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 3 other signatures.

### Wilson should try to score every time

Let me say that I am not supporting the dismissal of Coach Tom Wilson, but I'm finding it hard to give him a vote of confidence. During the game against the Hogs last Saturday, we (12th Man included) had the ball on our own 35 yard line with about 1:20 left in the second quarter. We also possessed two timeouts, the passing arm of Gary Kubiak (19 for 21 Saturday), and the catching hands of Mike Whitwell, Johnny Hector, and other talented Aggies. But instead of utilizing these talents and the two timeouts to try to get at least as close as field goal range, the coach sent in consecutive running plays and was contented in letting the clock run down, thus ensuring a 3-0 halftime deficit.

So Coach Wilson, although I supported

your decision to 'go for it' on fourth down a couple of times, and am optimistic about next year's Cotton Bowl chances, if you're not even going to TRY to put points on the board with EVERY opportunity, your dismissal would not be disturbing.

Paul Morris '83

### Wilson's leaving would be disastrous

I'd like to add some support to Ritchie Priddy's absolutely splendid column of Nov. 17.

Tom Wilson is the head coach, and if he didn't know what he was doing, he probably wouldn't have the job. He knows a lot more than I do, therefore, I won't second-guess him. And, next year is the year that we all should be looking forward to, for a couple of reasons.

Of the 11 scheduled games, seven are at home: against Boston College, UT-

Arlington, Louisiana Tech, Texas Tech, Baylor, Rice and TCU. There's 7 wins. The 4 road games should be split 2-2 at the worst. SMU has their backfield tandem of Eric Dickerson and Craig James coming back as seniors, Arkansas shouldn't have beaten us this year, t.u. is losing Jam Jones and Ken Sims, and Cougar High is always garbage. Just by the schedule alone, A&M should finish at worst 8-3.

The entire backfield is coming back as seniors, and Kubiak, Hector and company have played their entire career with Wilson at the helm. Replacing Wilson at this point would be a big mistake. They're adjusted to Wilson's system, and next year the team who is only losing a few starters to graduation, could be explosive.

I'm not saying, let's give up on '81 and wait for '82, I'm just sticking up for Wilson. He's done a terrific job, and next year could really be something. He may be in hot water now, but replacing him would be the biggest mistake made by an already questionable Board of Regents.

By the way, they still haven't told us who Marvin Tate left. I think we have a right to know.

Michael Martin '83

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### It's your turn

## Library copy machines big problem

Editor:

Like many students, I have been through the hassle of trying to make photocopies in Sterling C. Evans Library. Machines are commonly out of paper, labelled "Out of Order," or simply won't take my change. It isn't too hard to find a working one and I understand how constant use breaks them down.

Now the situation is unreasonable. Monday night I was using a reserved book and wanted a chapter photocopied so I headed for the second floor machines with a handful of change since the one in the reserve room was inoperable. All of the machines on the second and even the third floor were broken or out of paper. There was one working machine on the fourth floor with a long line so I went to the fifth and finally the sixth floor where I found one more operating machine with a slightly shorter line. Just as I got in line the paper ran out so I ran to the fourth floor just as the paper ran out in that machine, too. I found the machine on the first floor near the reference area working, got in line, and made my copies. At that time one lone copier was available in a 375,000 square foot library which houses over 1,200,000 volumes and serves 35,000 Aggies. We deserve better service than that.

Tuesday night at 10:30 several photocopyers were working but neither change machine was.

A library worker told me to ask other students for change. I tried that unsuccessfully for almost 15 minutes. Another employee suggested that I get change at the MSC but I wouldn't do that considering how dangerous it is for a young woman out at night. I won't risk walking in the dark alone just to get change for a dollar. Therefore, I didn't get any photocopies Tuesday.

Chris Stanley (Viewpoint, Nov. 17). I am sorry that this is yet another letter of critic-

ism, but I think that there is a need for improvement here.

Constance Fletcher '85

### Aggie Wrestling

Editor:

I am writing in reference to the sports page of The Battalion. I was wondering how dedicated the sports writers are to informing the Texas A&M student body of the wide variety of sports that take place on this campus. For example, the Wrestling Club has been working hard since school began. They have had two tournaments to date, and I haven't noticed any coverage of this sport in the Batt. Their third tournament is this Saturday, Nov. 21, here at Texas A&M. If you Ags haven't heard about the FIGHT-IN TEXAS AGGIE WRESTLERS, I am telling you of them now, so we can all go out and show them our support. I think that all you Aggies, who enjoy watching good contact sports will really like wrestling. They have worked hard all year long and I feel they deserve some kind of recognition.

Theron H. Newton  
4302 College Main

### Coke price too high

Editor:

During the Arkansas game I got thirsty and decided to buy a Coke. To my surprise, Cokes in the 16 oz. plastic cups now cost \$1.25. This price is extremely high when one considers that four Cokes cost as much as a student ticket. I realize the plastic cups cost more than the paper ones but, I do not

think this added expense justifies the high price. It is too bad that the organization that runs the concession stands feels it can use its monopoly status to overcharge students who are on limited budgets. A maximum price that is a little more reasonable should be set on Cokes and other food items sold during football games. I am just glad that I do not get hungry during the games.

David Spilo '85

### Use nicer tone of voice

Editor:

This has been my first semester at A&M, and I had a lot to learn about the University's traditions. One that is extremely sacred is walking on the grass at the Memorial Student Center. Many newcomers are unaware of this tradition and probably because of laziness walk on the grass. Several times I have seen the visitors doing exactly this.

What really bothers me though is the attitude the students have, especially the CT's. They do not hesitate to yell at these people. After leaving the campus and going home, the guests probably tell their family how rude those Aggies are. These people do not know what they are doing wrong, and no one explains to them that the MSC is a memorial. They just grab the guy by the arm and say things like...

"Hey Buddy, we don't walk on the grass around here!" or "Get off the grass!" Maybe something else like, "This is a memorial, sir. Would you mind not walking on the grass?" would be more appropriate. Ob-

viously, the nation knows how serious we are about our great school. I just wish we wouldn't try to scare everybody off.

Crystal Walker '85

### Please return jacket

Editor:

Hey Ags, I need a helping hand and I know that one of you can be of service. Last Thursday night, I was out at the Intramural Complex on field seven from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. officiating flag football games. I see my ski jacket down on the sideline never to see it again. The jacket is mostly black with a little gray on it also. If you are the person who borrowed my jacket please call me at 260-6675 and let me know that you have dropped it off at the MSC main desk.

Brad Holder '85

### Watch your language

Editor:

I would like for all the people who cannot handle receiving a bad grade to especially pay attention to this letter.

I would appreciate it very much if you would not push and shove your way through the hallways, not use obscene language or obnoxious gestures.

Some of you immoral people have made yourselves look pretty stupid, but then obviously you are if you cannot receive a decent grade in the beginning.

Melanie Baggerly '85