

Let's physically get rid of Olivia

Olivia Newton-John's "Let's Get Physical" is heard a lot less often now than a few months ago. This is, of course, a blessing, and we should be thankful even for small ones. Unfortunately, it transpires that we have not heard the last of this particular miscarriage of music.

The Battalion has learned that a forbidding number of imitations of "Let's Get Physical" are in the works and will soon do their bit to help prove Sturgeon's Law, which assures us that 90 percent of anything is junk. (Where pop music is concerned, needless to say, Sturgeon was a master of understatement.)

None of the songs below has been released yet, but all of them seek to capitalize on the phenomenal success of Miss Newton-John's hit. Deep Billboard, my source in the music industry, has made capsule summaries of them available.

— "Let's Get Fizzical:" a love song based on the alleged aphrodisiac powers of Alka-Seltzer.

— "Let's Get Fiscal:" OMB Director David Stockman provides a musical tour through the Reagan Administration's 1983 budget. Stockman, a versatile vocalizer, sings out both sides of his mouth.



robert green

To be released on Atlantic Monthly Records.

— "Let's Get Astrophysical:" Dr. Carl Sagan and his backup group, the Turtle Necks, recorded this single about the wonders of space which they hope will make them bbbillions and bbbillions of dollars.

— "Let's Get Farical:" The Democratic Party presents its budget alternative to David Stockman's "Let's Get Fiscal" above.

— "Let's Get Factional:" The Democratic Party stages a musical argument over the words, key and tempo of "Let's Get Farical" above.

— "Let's Get Fictional:" The Washington Post's moving salute to its own brand of investigative reporting and feature writing. The song, about an 8-year-old heroin addict, has vocals by ex-reporter Janet Cooke, who after all has to do something to make a living these days.

— "Let's Get Quizzical:" Richard Dawson sings a new theme song for the "Family Feud" quiz program. Record executives expect the song to do well, since it deals with the only thing in American entertainment more asinine and degrading than "Let's Get Physical" itself.

— "Let's Get Finicky:" Morris the Cat branches out with this single. In a rolling basso profundo, he complains that he never would have eaten the damned cat food if they hadn't threatened to dem-Morris him.

— "Let's Get Fidgety:" A new commercial jingle, light-hearted and upbeat, from the makers of America's tried-and-true favorite, Preparation H.

There are more, but why go on? Hasn't the original song suffered enough?

Well yes...but so did its listeners. Olivia. So did its listeners.

Slouch

By Jim E...



"Sure you made an A, but you did it in an unsportsmanship manner — by studying."

Reader's Forum: Aggie needed compassion

An open letter to a fellow Aggie:

Last night at McDonalds on University Drive, I watched you as you struggled to pull your money out of your pockets to pay for your order. I was amused when everything else in your pockets, including your new, shiny matchbooks from a local pub, fell out onto the counter and the floor. Somehow, I wanted to reach over and help you finish your transaction. Then, when the McDonalds employee told you that you didn't have enough money to pay for your order and you replied that you needed the food, I felt like reaching in my purse and paying for your cheeseburger myself. As the lines grew longer and everyone stared at you, I wondered why you couldn't understand your situation.

I was at your elbow, close enough to see that you were stoned, close enough to perceive that it wasn't from liquor. I think that everyone there felt very bad for you — but we were all afraid to intervene on your behalf. We all watched in awe when you finally picked up the order and threw it at the machines behind the counter. Our eyes were glued to you when you lit out across the parking lot and hit someone's car with your fist. Our collective breath caught when we saw you fall down after you stepped over the curbing at the edge of the parking lot. And we gasped as we watched you dash through the traffic on University Drive and disappear into the blackness of the campus.

After you left us, the air in McDonalds was heavy with concern for our fellow Aggie. You obviously needed our assistance but we were all afraid to come for-

ward because you were so unpredictable.

No one there passed judgement on you or expressed any condemnation of your behavior. What you did was not so much the problem. The real problem was that we were concerned about you but we were inadequate in our experience to deal with you. We could not extend the helping hand that your condition cried out for.

The real message, my fellow Aggie, is that your indiscretion put a burden on your Aggie cohorts because you did not take responsibility for putting yourself into the proper environment for your condition. Being an Aggie is a tremendous honor and that honor carries with it certain responsibilities. In writing this open letter to you, I am exercising that part of the Aggie code that requires that we attend to our own.

My only comment to you now is a request, the request that in the future you give your fellow Aggies a break. If you must get stoned again, on or near the campus, please put yourself into the proper environment for that condition. I doubt that you would ever even dream of walking into McDonalds with no clothes on. Yet, when you appeared there in your condition last night, you presented us with a naked soul, distorted and out of place.

Come on, Aggie! Take responsibility for your deeds and for your life. That way we can support you 100 percent — wherever you are.

Betty Cowan Groves
Graduate student, English

the small society

by Brickman



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The Battalion

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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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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Letters: Quad resident responds

Editor:

The Battalion is a dynamic, positive and informative publication that I enjoy reading daily. The fact that the "Batt boxes" in the MSC are empty two hours after delivery speaks for itself about the devotion of its readership. Like all good publications, this is due to the integrity of information presented the The Battalion.

That is why I wonder who you, as editor of The Battalion, are addressing in the opinion page when you talk of the "quad" asserting "The Battalion is anti-Corps." I live on the Quad. I make no such allegation. I also dislike being grouped in with a mystical glob of opinion which I have neither seen nor agreed with. But, as the title of your April 29 Opinion page implied, that's your opinion.

I hold enough respect in your publication to offer mine. Miss Copeland, I don't think it's your job to stop people who keep rumors "alive and flourishing." As I understand you, you want to present the news. Do so, as you have done so ably. But please recognize that when someone charged with responsibility over many people tells you that he cannot speak for fear of harming those individuals, you ought to find out whether or not he's telling the truth, instead of just writing about mystical allegations and wasting otherwise excellent space.

Frank Knickerbocker
Dorm 4

You can make the difference

Editor:

This letter is an appeal to all who attend Texas A&M who feel that something vital is missing in Aggieland.

Aggies: What has happened to our self-pride and pride in our school? Why do we write letters to The Battalion about the dying Aggie Spirit?

The reason is not simple, but it is straightforward, as is the solution. In effect, we have convinced ourselves that there is something inherent in the system that is going to bring about the destruction of the Aggie Spirit and brotherhood that is unique to our school. It is easy to sit back and observe Texas A&M today and then predict that five years down the road Texas A&M will be just another big university identifiable only by school colors and a good college of engineering. As long as we think this way and maintain a passive attitude, that fate may be inevitable.

Fraternalities and sororities have caught a lot of the blame for our disunity, and this is wrong. I am not in a fraternity; and neither am I defending them; they can stand on their own feet. They are here to stay, and the point is: they contain some of the most spirited Aggies I've met. Not to say that they have more Twelfth Man in them than the rest of us, but surely no less. As a resident of Davis-Gary, I've seen the anti- and pro-Greek battle firsthand, and neither side has won anything. As a Davis-Gary council member, I've seen a refocusing of effort in a more positive direction since the anti-frat campaign, in a direction that will benefit all Aggies and help reinstate some of the spirit that we have supposedly lost.

This, Aggies, is the attitude that we all must adopt. The current fad seems to be apathy: Why should I show interest when no one else does? The answer here is simple. If you don't show interest, no one else will; if you do, it's likely others will too.

It's time we quit arguing and shifting the blame and started getting the benefits out of this school that we came here for. Texas A&M has as much to offer in character-building as it does in academics, and that's the reason most of us are here.

The blame for any discontent feel cannot be put on any individual group, but can only be put on ourselves.

Wake up, Aggies, take pride in yourself and your school, and come next semester ready to make a difference.

Jeff O. Davis-Gary

Don't say it with photos

Editor:

Though neither of us went to Muster, we wholeheartedly agree everything that Nancy Cramer said in her letter to The Battalion yesterday concerning those annoying photos.

It's true that anyone who knows anything about photography knows that Rollie's lighting is more than sufficient to supply the necessary light for a film, especially when there's a bright light as there is at Muster. It's a hand-held 35mm camera at one of a second at f/2 that the need for a tripod is totally absurd.

We are sick and tired of photographers always underdressing the occasion. How can you trust someone who buys all their clothes at rock companies? We think that the Muster Committee should go one step further and ban photographers from Muster.

Next time that you photograph out and try to "say it with pictures" remember that though "a picture is worth a thousand words" feeling the emotion of the moment is worth more.

Peter B. Dean