

# Letters Parking problems

Editor:

The new parking spaces on New Main have exacerbated the hazardous traffic conditions on that drive. I'm referring to the unpleasant mixture of bicycles and automobiles. One of the very few campus bike paths has been eliminated, forcing bikers either to inch their way between the parked and driven cars or to become kamikaze stuntpersons and compete with the hurried drivers going to school and work.

It's only a matter of time before an accident involving a bike and a car results from this dangerous mixture. The University will have to bear the responsibility for such an occurrence by their negligence in not attempting to ameliorate the problem created by the building expansions into Lot 7.

There is an easy solution which, if implemented, would help change the University's image as an institution that does not take into account the environmental impacts of its expansionistic plans. This solution is to construct a bike path and a pedestrian walkway on both sides of New Main from Texas Avenue to Lots 54 and 55. (The need for a pedestrian walkway is self evident. When it rains where are the people leaving their parked cars supposed to walk? In the street?)

The costs of these paths should be allocated to the new wing of the Halbouty Geosciences Complex. The total construction costs of these paths surely would be less than the human cost of a serious accident. Anybody having ideas

of how we can get these pathways built can call me at 764-8592.

**Bruce Babcock**  
College Station

Editor:

I am writing this letter in protest of a certain policy of the University police. It concerns the parking lot across from Zachry Engineering Center.

I have always been reluctant to write to the Battalion, but I believe my argument is justified. I paid good American dollars for my parking sticker as did many other good Ags (more than there are parking spaces), and I'm tired of paying additionally (\$10 a whack) due to inconsiderate people whose cars don't belong in the lot at all. These people take my spaces and consequently, I have to park on the grass, or be late to class.

The trouble is that the policepersons ticket legal sticker holders in the grass before they ticket cars parked in the lot without legal stickers. To me, this is a violation of principle and it's occurring, I assume, for the convenience of the officers.

I realize it's easier to walk down a line of cars and ticket each one than to search for real offenders. I believe the police could get their daily quota without this injustice, and I don't think one single legal sticker holder on the grass should be ticketed until the true violators are punished. Also Ags, be careful and considerate when opening your car doors in small spaces - paint jobs are expensive.

**Scott Montgomery '83**



# Wearing hats in Kyle Field

Editor:

After attending the last football game I was exasperated. Not only were a number of people wearing hats in the Cathedral of Kyle, and leaving before "the end," they also failed to wear the maroon and whites. Heathens, barbarians, individualists.

So what if the real world consists of differing people with differing opinions and lifestyles. This is Texas A&M and students will act, dress, speak, think and follow only that which we good Ags decree or they can just leave "our" university.

I shudder at the thought that some of these 36,000 students may only want to come to A&M, get a good education and live their lives the way they please. Gag. It certainly was easier when there were less students and us good Ags were in the majority.

All is not lost, but only if we act quickly, Aggies (good) gather together and listen.

Obviously the tradition-laden Fish Camp is not lengthy enough, too many are becoming deprogrammed too easily. This is where we can take advantage of our faithful Corps.

If we make it mandatory that all entering freshmen attend a six week summer camp, heads shaven, with maroon and white fatigues and yell leader drill instructors, we can weed out potential bad Ags. Gig 'em.

This camp should of course be mandatory for all bad Ags (two-percenters) presently on campus before they are readmitted to A&M.

If successful, and I'm sure it could be here, we can expand the camp to include some other undesirables around campus, say, people who don't love C&W, how about non-Christians, or non-Americans maybe. Don't forget those unimpressed with alligators or khaki, and of course the nerds who would rather pass a test than decimate a small forest for bonfire.

The list goes on and on of people who just don't make it at this University, and if you damn individualists keep it up we'll keep cluttering up The Battalion with all the mistakes you've made.

**R.W. Jones '83**

Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to William Jordan's letter appearing Sept. 8

concerning traditions at Texas A&M.

I do agree that Texas A&M has some legitimate problems deserving attention to which any Aggie can attest, but to say that our traditions are "asinine and childish" borders on ignorance.

Mr. Jordan, we do not wear hats in Kyle Field simply to honor those Aggies who died fighting for their country. That's right! They died to insure that there would still be things such as Aggie football games for us all to enjoy. Think about that.

If you find it too hard to remove your hat for four hours in the "hot" sun, then maybe you shouldn't attend Aggie football games. They can be very demanding. Why, you have to stand up and even yell sometimes, too. Gosh! (They put football games on television for people like you, Mr. Jordan).

This insistence on tradition has not turned people away from attending Texas A&M. To the contrary, it has attracted people to the University. Ask students why they chose Texas A&M and four out of five will say ... the traditions.

**David C. Brown '84**

Editor:

We were nothing short of horrified to read the letter in the Sept. 8 issue, by William Jordan, whose theme appeared to be "Texas A&M: Help it change or watch it die."

Contrary to Jordan's belief, the traditions of Texas A&M are not killing it, but keeping the University alive. These traditions, of which speaks so disparagingly, are, and have always been, the backbone of the campus, for students and faculty alike.

We realize that there is no university that is comparable to Texas A&M, and that Jordan would have to settle for a lesser school were he to leave College Station, but there are a variety of institutions he could attend where the "traditions" would not interfere with his "peaceable enjoyment" of a football game.

As for his belief that the customs of Texas A&M are "turning people away," we would like to point out the fact that enrollment at Texas A&M is higher than it has been in previous years. (It is also the fastest growing university in the nation).

We would also like to add that these nine childish traditions" are what give us a sense of belonging and a unity our fellow students.

In closing, Mr. Jordan, we want to bring up the old saying around campus, "Highway 6 runs both ways." What way are you going??

**Jenifer C...**  
**Angie Watson**

Editor:

This is a letter concerning William Jordan's views of our great University and the fine traditions that our students uphold. As far as I'm concerned he doesn't belong here.

If all you came here for is to ruin your education, that's fine. I'll have one thing though; you're in Aggie territory and standing up at football games not wearing a hat in Kyle Field is out with the territory.

I have a word of advice for all people who left the game early and for those people who refuse to stand take off their hats in Kyle Field. Go the other side! By going to the other side of the field you can sit down with all the old folks and wear your hats with the people who don't understand the tradition. By the way, you can also early and complain about how early let you down. Don't ask what you can do for you, ask what you can do for your team and University.

**Lee Thompson**

Editor:

In reference to Mr. Jordan's letter Sept. 8; BRAVO!  
P.S. Ditto for me.

**Randy K. Watkins**

Editor:

In regard to William Jordan's letter in The Battalion (Sept. 8) in which he said that not wearing hats in Kyle Field is an asinine childish tradition, we reply: Bull!

**Sergio Davila**  
**Charles Rennis**  
**Jim Schickel**

# Fraternity apologies

Editor:

On behalf of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, I would like to express my regret over the party we held Tuesday night in conflict with Silver Taps. This was purely an oversight on our part, and had we been aware of the ceremony, we would have postponed the party to a later date. All of the brothers believe very strongly in Aggie traditions, especially in grieving the loss of the departed. There is no other ceremony more solemn and important than Silver Taps, and I can assure every Aggie that this mistake will never happen again.

**Will Symonds**  
Kappa Sigma President

Editor:

This is in reference to the article in the Sept. 9 edition of The Battalion concern-

ing the criticism of frats and in reference to other numerous articles criticizing people.

All of this criticism really bugs me. Somebody always has to be criticizing somebody else, whether it be Reagan, profs, coaches or frats. Why don't we take some really great advice from the wisest of all, who said: "Don't condemn somebody for the splinter in their eye, when you may have a log in yours." And "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Frats are not secretly conspiring to abolish tradition. In fact, how do we know that they aren't just as, or more, dedicated as other Aggies? In a fraternity, brotherhood is stressed. Maybe we could take some lessons from them.

**Rob Shull '85**

# Hammock explanation

Editor:

We, a few zips from companies I-1 and E-1 would like to tell the University why hammocks are strung out in the middle of the quad.

First of all, we would like to say that Barry Stevens is neither a zip in I-1 nor E-1, and did not participate in our "hang-in" protest.

There are several reasons for our hang-in. The main reason was fun. It started as a protest against overcrowding. Company E-1 was split up between two floors of Dorm 9 and even had three rooms in Dorm 7. Company I-1 was in worse shape. All upperclassmen except a few seniors were tripled up.

After we moved into our "room on the quad" (5-story hammock condo), we found out that girls that live in Briggs were not going to be able to eat lunch at

Duncan without having to pay. Well, we were a little miffed. Now they can eat at Duncan without paying.

Now, we would like to thank some people. We would like to thank Corps housing in the Trigon for solving the tripling problem. You done good, guys (and gals). We would also like to thank the girls that supported us. Especially Becky, Carol, and Kelly. They lent moral support as well as Becky's tape player which blared Jimmy Buffet all night.

Thanks  
P.S. Thanks for the anonymous elephants!

**Kurt "Koz" Miller '83 E-1**  
**Joe "Speedy" Garcia '83 E-1**  
**Brian "Putz" Petruskie '83 I-1**  
**Doug "Igor" Lance '83 I-1**  
**Hadley "Buzzy" Foster '83 I-1**

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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 and 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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# Trudeau's strip will be missed

by Marilyn Richardson

Battalion Staff

"Garry, speak to me! Tell me you're not going to leave us, as my little brother used to say, 'in suspenders'!"

Along with millions, or at least thousands, of "Doonesbury" fans, I was devastated to learn that Garry Trudeau plans to take a vacation — or something — for a year or maybe more.

At first, I panicked. "But, Garry, what about Joanie? Are you just going to leave her pregnant?" Clutching the newspaper in trembling hands, I struggled to regain control. "Of course, he wouldn't be so cruel. Oh, the strip is to continue until Jan. 2, 1983. That'll give Joanie time to have the baby."

"But what about Zonker? Michael? B.D.? Duke? Honey? What'll happen to them?"

Reading the shaking print, I discovered that Trudeau plans to "reappraise" his characters. "Sounds sinister. Just what does he mean by 'reappraise'?"

The article explained Trudeau plans to bring his characters up to date. He said Zonker, et al, created 15 years ago, were trapped in a time warp and it was unfair to stretch their formative years from Vietnam to Preppy. "What? Their 'formative years'? Of course, they're still students. I'm still a student. Oh. Not everyone is still in school. Some people graduated and got out. I just graduated and then came back for a master's. That's why Michael and Zonker seem like such close friends. We've been through a lot together."

With blurring vision, I read that Trudeau plans to give his characters \$20 haircuts and three-piece suits. "Oh, no! No way! Michael,

maybe, but Zonker, never!" These Doonesbury denizens are relics of the '70s, "hippies" or "flower children", as it were. Very young people, gentle, kind, intelligent people. Somewhat sarcastic, sometimes cynical, misunderstood. Marching to the beat of a different drummer.

I realized then why I felt so bereft. At the beginning of the "hippie" years, I, like a lot of people, was afraid of what we saw as wild haired radicals, dangerous people who used drugs and rejected materialism. It took a while to turn to college and some shared suffering to understand that these gentle long-haired people were my kind of people.

Trudeau's characters had become my personal friends, too. We've had a brief visit every day for 15 years. I'll miss them. "Hurry back, y'all!"