

opinion

Letters: Corps should disband

Editor:

Last September, I joined the United States Army and this summer, I completed both basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. When I got back to campus in September, the first thing I noticed was how well decorated the cadets were with their beautiful medals, belts, boots, and swords. Now, all my drill sergeants fought in Vietnam, risking their lives, but I guess they should have attended summer school here if they had wanted the really "hardcore" medals that our CTs wear. Next time you see a CT, ask about some of those ludicrous medals.

Whether it's filling up the yearbook with a hundred pages of garbage or allowing the assault of SMU cheerleaders, the favoritism that our little toy soldiers get explains why there is so much resentment toward them. The student protests about the 12th Man Kickoff Team being limited to CTs demonstrated this.

Personally, my resentment comes from the fact that you have to join the Corps to be in the ROTC program here at A&M. Why is it necessary for an Aggie who is sincerely interested in becoming a commissioned officer to do the "Neanderthal Strut" for four years? Toy guns and sword waving may impress your local boot chasing girl scout but they have no place in the modern military. Any drill sergeant will tell you that there are no more heroes. John Wayne is dead. So is Audie Murphy. The Corp's saying "Better dead than non-reg" may be true at A&M. Yes, Adolf, the Hitler Youth is alive and well in Aggieland.

The fraternities and sororities receive a lot of undue criticism here at A&M. It's sad to see such an undeniable part of the college atmosphere ignored in favor of the ultimate in lower class fraternities, namely our wonderful Corps of Cadets.

Shouldn't the first logical step in becoming a "World Class" University be Corps disbandment and recognition of the fraternities and sororities? Think of all the wonderful publicity there would be in kicking out the Corps (I feel like Lech Walesa demanding an end to communism in Poland). Good Bull!

The "Corps Mentality" existing here at Aggieland is, to say the least, irritating. No doubt we've all heard this attitude before:

"You ain't a true Aggie cuz you ain't in the Corps, but you still gotta stand up at our football games. Yeah, and keep off our MSC grass."

Many Cadets will certainly be furious and react with childish behavior when they read this letter. But, on the other hand, who cares?

Johnny Jeng '85

Errors found in Batt

Editor:

It is such editions of The Battalion as that of Wednesday, October 12 that lead me to wonder whether the writers of The Battalion are perhaps more accurate in their assessment of the quality of The Batt than I had at first thought.

In an article on the front page, reference is made to the Board of Regents' planning to "meet Thursday to discuss hurricane repair allocations for the University of Texas at Galveston..." The article went on to mention "the Pelican Island and Fort Crockett campuses." These campuses are, as any good Aggie must be aware, the sites of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

I see two possible explanations for this strange article. The first is that it may be a blindingly clever expose, brilliantly masked as a rather dull and innocuous story, of the Board's attempt to sneak a bit of subterfuge past the ever-vigilant reporter in hopes of spending A&M's funds to repair a hurricane for tu's medical school in Galveston. The second, of course, is that this is merely an example of careless reporting and of terribly inadequate editing.

Similar examples abound in this issue. In a front-page story about A&M's carillon we are told that "many of the eastern schools had a carillon." Surely it is true that many such schools have carillons, but where was the one they shared, and whatever became of it?

On page three, we are made aware that Mr. Robert Page "was the first to start the AGC chapter at A&M..." It is natural enough to wonder who the second person to start the chapter was.

Finally, in the lead story of the day, some "officials" (were they poultry inspectors, or police?) were paraphrased as saying that some bodies "could have been laying" in a house for up to an hour. What, one wonders, might they have been laying? Eggs, perhaps?

It is obvious that the job of a reporter or of an editor is one demanding of considerable time and energy, both of which are usually in short supply to a student. However, if these strange, nontypographical errors are apparent to a poor old Biology student, one wonders how many more would be equally obvious to any person who had ever taken classes in editing or in English.

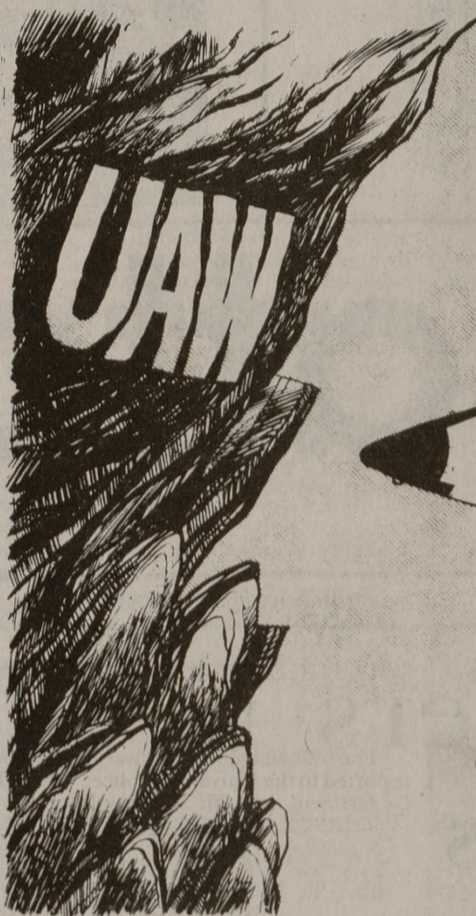
Mark Stevens '84

Parking problem twofold

Editor:

Your front page article of the parking problem at TAMU in the Oct. 13 issue was enlightening. The statistic on the number of citations issued in September 1983 is mind-boggling, as is the number of people with six or more unpaid parking tickets. Even more incredible is the fact that there are individuals with 20 or 30 unpaid tickets.

I applaud the "get tough" policy the police plan to pursue in penalizing these blatant violators of campus traffic policy. Everyone driving a vehicle on campus is an adult and should be held accountable for his or her own actions. As a student that has had to try several lots before finding a parking space and observing in all of them cars that did not belong there, I feel that habitual abusers should have their car towed away. Why not forbid chronic violators from being able to regis-



Jaywalking is dangerous

Editor:

I was recently the victim of a collision on campus involving my moped and two hit-and-run jaywalkers, Wednesday at noon.

Of the two, I would like to thank Rich for his quick thinking in calling the ambulance and for staying with me until it arrived.

As for pedestrian #2, young lady I'd like to discuss the price of a new headlight with you! But, because you left so quickly — no one got a chance to get your name.

After speaking with a campus police officer, I was told pedestrians DO NOT have the right-of-way over motorized vehicles (like a moped for instance!) unless they're crossing at designated crosswalks.

I hope this letter helps to clarify the ole "right-of-way" myth and perhaps prevent a few accidents in the future. Although some may wish to argue or even ignore this fact about right-of-way — I, for one, would not gamble with my life just to prove an ill-informed point by walking out in front of a moving vehicle and expecting it to stop!

I was very lucky that I didn't break anything but I will have to learn to use a cane for a little while. This prompts me to warn all jaywalkers to please at least look both ways before breaking the law.

Catherine Campbell

Axes damaging property

Editor:

There seems to be a widespread amount of inconsideration in several dorms when cutting day comes around. What I'm referring to is the yelling and screaming and beating on doors with axes handles at 5 in the morning. Not only is this a big inconvenience for those who are trying to sleep but it destroys university property.

It cost the university hundreds of dollars to replace damaged doors in Crocker Hall. In my opinion that is money spent unnecessarily. I think this should stop.

Robert A. Funk

Greeks earned stereotype

Editor:

This letter is in reply to Mr. Beauchamp's statements in his letter of Oct. 12. He was complaining about the stereotyping of Greeks. He was also complaining that some judge his Greek counterparts based on one bad experience. I agree with Mr. Beauchamp. Greeks are stereotyped and they are judged based on bad experiences, but I ask you, what other kinds of experiences have non-Greeks had with Greeks?

I believe I can speak knowledgeably when I say that there are no other kinds. I worked at a major Greek stumping ground for almost a year. During that time, a kind word or patient attitude was rare. Among my fellow workers-Greeks were known for their rudeness and refusal to follow normal social customs such as speaking at a moderate level, showing consideration for the other customers, and tipping.

I and my fellow workers have been yelled at, flirted with, and talked down to. Greeks can ruin a waitress' entire section by crowding around tables, speaking loudly and disrupting the restaurant without regard for others.

Carol Caldwell '87

ter and operate a vehicle on campus? Such a policy should either force changes in a person's parking behavior or reduce the number of cars on campus.

However, in addition to changing the behavior of drivers on campus, there is a serious need to change the attitude and behavior of the University Police. Their lack of flexibility, sensitivity, and logic does nothing to promote good relations with the university community.

It is very hard to feel positive toward the campus police when you cannot communicate with them. It is a sad state of affairs when a trip to the University Police station to try to clear up a parking ticket results in frustration, since you will be insulted, treated rudely, and/or told lies.

Maybe some of those 6,500 people with six or more tickets have tried to pay those tickets but after a conversation with the police station personnel have decided that walking on hot coals is less painful.

Steven P. Lewis

Gift shows devotion

Editor:

In regard to the Oct. 5 editorial concerning Ford Albritton's gift of a bell tower to Texas A&M; the issue is not how Mr. Albritton can best use his money. Rather, we ought to appreciate his thoughtfulness. The editorial noted that "the money could be put to better use by providing academic necessities." Since when does The Battalion dictate how a former student should spend his money?

We feel that the carillon will be reminder of the continuing devotion of former Aggies to Texas A&M. This university already has outstanding educational resources, and a bell tower will further enhance the A&M campus.

Let's stop being so greedy and appreciate Albritton's fine gift.

Bradleigh Walters
Patricial Westall

Attitudes unbelievable

Editor:

I can't believe the attitudes of the letters printed in The Batt. Why is half the campus rejecting the idea of a former student donating the generous gift of a bell tower? Of course A&M has merits, more than most universities (t.u. included), and a bell tower can symbolize these and be a beautiful structure, too!

Jackie Sherrill is doing a fine job with what he has. The team is turning around and building up; things can't happen overnight. Remember — it is not his personal fault that there are so many incomplete passes.

And finally, I couldn't believe that Bad Ag that visited here and cited his conceptions of our traditions. There is no way that he didn't notice how friendly aggies are. I am new here and still get overwhelmed when so many people go out of their way to smile and say "Howdy" in one day.

This campus has more spirit and more unity than all the others combined. If he went to a quiet game, it wasn't ours. No other campus has such fine yell leaders that can led the entire student section in one yell at one time. No other campus has students that practically wear out a pair of shoes a game just to show their Twelfth Man spirit by standing. I'm proud to be a member of a group that can rise above immature acts such as throwing items at certain games in Lubbock. And they were winning! I'm proud to be an Aggie and am looking forward to my next four, five, or six years here (however long it takes to get that diploma) at Texas A&M.

Greeks demand all of a waitress' time: the drinks are never there enough, the food always takes too long, "why can't we have 13 separate checks" and finally, "boy was she grouchy, not leave a tip."

I even had two Pikes pick up a phone and interrupt a phone call. I informed my caller that I couldn't talk to the phone because I was performing unmentionable acts on their unmentionables! What class! And Mr. Beauchamp wonders why non-Greeks feel such animosity toward his fellow Greeks.

I'm sure, if Greeks were polite, they would follow the normal social customs others do, the feelings of animosity would change. Perhaps, Mr. Beauchamp, you feel there is a problem between Greeks and non-Greeks, you might be willing to do something about it. The problem lies with you and your friends, not with the non-Greeks.

I believe these feelings will exist as long as Greeks insist on such behavior. Perhaps you could make this to your fellow Greeks, who seem to think they've cornered the market on class.

Cathy

Preachers part of college

Editor:

I would like to submit this letter in response to Timothy B. Ashmore's comments on "Preachers Disturbing" in the October 12th issue of The Battalion.

Upon reading your letter on Preachers, I immediately found tendencies which render your comments absolutely worthless. As a Christian, I should know that in Mark 16:15, commissions us to go and expose the gospel to His Good News. Obviously, those who haven't received the Word are going to be in the church building if you want to confine the preachers to "disrupting" the campus.

Preachers are glorifying God and Christians, that is our number one priority. And how can their actions deprive students of the "college atmosphere" you describe as one of knowledge, and peace, when those are exact qualities provided us by the Holy Spirit?

Timothy, our spiritual leaders are an integral part of our college experience and if they are guiding fellow students toward Jesus Christ, then we should give them whole-hearted support.

Darryl Fuhrman

Slouch

by Jim Eads



"I'm old enough to remember when we talked about how bad slouching girls on the campus were going to improve our dress code."

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 and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

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