

opinion

Letters: Corps Commander's comment damages image more than cadet's story

Editor:
We would have to agree that lying to the police falls a little short of the Aggie ideal, but what about Corps Commander Preston Abbott's suggestion that Cadet Clarence Brown be shot?

Would Abbott want to do the shooting himself? If not, who should do it? More importantly, should Brown be killed or merely injured? Should he be shot in the throat so he can tell no more lies? Perhaps we should be good Christian Ags and simply ventilate his foot. The options are limitless.

We agree that the Corps has no place for those who "lie, cheat, or steal." But if the Corps is combating an image problem, perhaps it should consider such irresponsible statements from its leaders as a major cause of the problem.

Commander Abbott's comment will do far more damage to the Corps' image than Cadet Brown's senseless fabrication could ever do.

John Hundt '86
Kelly Parker '86

Statement idiotic

Editor:
I would like to comment on your amazing "Buddy Brown" story.

In that article, Brown admitted to lying about his heroic prevention of a rape. He also said he would probably leave the Corps voluntarily to save it from being associated with his actions.

However, no sooner was the Corps saved from the embarrassment of one cadet, than it was subjected to the idiocy of another.

I am referring, of course, to Corps Commander Preston Abbott's statement that Brown should be shot! No doubt Abbott has led a spotlessly clean life and has never lied so stupidly that he should have been shot.

Perhaps he has only been guilty of a few "white" lies which would be worthy of no more than having his tongue cut out.

I do not intend to denounce the Corps

in any way for Abbott's incredible statement, but I do wonder how a person of his apparent mentality rose to the highest cadet position in the organization.

I certainly hope there are not many others like him who will soon be entering our military to protect us from the terrible injustice of the communist system.

Michael Strickland

Corps thanked

Editor:
To all the men and women of the Corps of Cadets:

We would like to thank you for being members of the finest ROTC program in the country. Some of finest officers that my friends and I have had the honor to serve with were Aggie graduates. The system and traditions that you have in the Corps of Cadets helps prepare you for a sound future in the military or civilian life, whichever you choose. We also would like to remember the many fine officers and friends that laid down their lives in the defense of this wonderful country.

Now Mr. Jeng, I would say to you that 16 weeks of training does not make you an expert on military history or traditions of the military. Aggie graduates that become officers through the Corps of Cadets can stand beside the United States military graduates, Sandhurst graduates or any other military school graduate. Because it is the individual through the system that make the outstanding officer.

Robert C. Mathis
Jack W. Crowson
Brenner Sayers
Phil Roberts

Disband Cadets

Editor:
I would like to reply to the letter written by Johnny Jeng:

First of all let us say that I am not in the Corps and I really don't care if I date a non-reg or a C.T. with boots or a black-belt. I also have never been a girl scout.

To disband the Corps is not a bad idea, it is an unthinkable one. Texas A&M was built on the Corps. The Corps is as much a part of Aggie tradition as yell practice, muster, bonfire, and oh, yes, standing at the games and keeping off the MSC grass.

The medals that the cadets wear may or may not be for battle, but they do earn them. To make a 3.25 with 15 hours while being active in the Corps of Cadets deserves more than just a pat on the back. The Distinguished Student medal recognizes this effort and the Cadets wear it with pride. The other various medals are for extracurricular activities such as Ross Volunteers, special honor guard to Governor, and student government. These activities take a lot of extra time and dedication by the Cadet and deserve recognition.

If you are going to begrudge a senior or his boots, why not say something about the preps and their topsiders? After spending three years in the Corps, don't you think they deserve the boots for their fourth year?

If you would like to attend a World Class University that has no Corps, where you don't have to be in the Corps to be in the ROTC program, that recognizes fraternities and sororities, and where you don't have to follow tradition, why not go to t.u.? I have been told that they have a good ROTC program there.

One last comment: you talk about people "reacting with childish behavior" to your letter, grow up "Lech Walesa," let's pretend is a child's game.

Denise Pool '84

Corps respect

Editor:
In reference to the Oct. 19 letter to the editor concerning disbanding the Corps of Cadets: It is beyond me how someone

can possess the sheer audacity to even write, must less submit, a letter such as the one written by Johnny Jeng that I had the misfortune to read the other day.

Perhaps Mr. Jeng actually did complete basic training, etc. in the United States Army. Funny, it seems in the exact same letter, he also stated "Who cares?" Well, obviously, he really didn't care — about A&M, about tradition, about respect, and even about common everyday politeness which is really very sad.

For your information, Mr. Jeng, Texas A&M has been a military school for a lot longer than you have been around. It might still be now except they decided to let us non-regs in as well. Personally, I have a lot more respect for the members of the Corps of Cadets than I do for any of the fraternities or sororities.

And another thing: Texas A&M University is, was, and hopefully, always will be, the Home of the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. I have never met anyone in the Corps who made me feel that I am not a true Aggie nor do I consider myself a "local boot-chasing girl scout." I am sure many people will agree with me.

As for you, Mr. Jeng, I am sure you have heard the saying, "Highway 6 runs both ways." If you are so apparently disgusted with the state of affairs, you certainly are free to leave.

Julie Hope '87

More Corps support...

Editor:
In response to Johnny Jeng's letter appearing in the Oct. 19 Battalion.

HIGHWAY 6 RUNS BOTH WAYS.
Lori Graham '86
(Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 20 signatures.)

Insults unwelcome

Editor:
This letter is in response to Johnny Jeng's contribution to The Battalion on Oct. 19. I want to say that your pompous statements and insults are unwarranted

Advice for drivers and pedestrians: Read the 'Texas Drivers Handbook'

Editor:
Stephen Weiss, who thinks that "pedestrians always have the right of way, no matter where they are," should consult the "Texas Drivers Handbook," which contains a page of laws and safety tips for pedestrians. The "Texas Drivers Handbook" says that pedestrians who cross a street other than within a crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

Mr. Weiss is apparently confusing rules for pedestrians with rules for drivers. It is true that pedestrians must yield to all drivers except in designated crossing areas; however, drivers are taught that when a pedestrian enters the street anywhere, the driver should act as though the pedestrian has the right-of-way. If all drivers follow this advice successfully, the pedestrians will not get run over in the street, but they may still be ticketed for jaywalking! The reason that drivers should yield to pedestrians who are in the wrong is to prevent pedestrians from getting hurt because some (such as Mr. Weiss, perhaps) refuse to follow the rules, and others (such as "little children in the street") may not know better.

I agree with Mr. Weiss that Texas A&M has many drivers who seem inattentive or incompetent or rude, but pedestrians are just as guilty of contributing to the bad traffic situation as drivers are. Until a solution is found, the only way to alleviate the problem is for all who use the streets on campus to be courteous, follow the rules, and use common sense.

Monica A. Mallini

Right-of-way is given

Editor:
Anyone who has taken a defensive driving course, Mr. Weiss, also realizes that right-of-way is something that is given, rather than taken.

Drivers are not entitled to run down pedestrians who are outside of the crosswalks, but neither are the pedestrians entitled to step out into traffic whenever they please.

We are all supposed to be big boys and girls and be able to cross the street by ourselves. Cars require a certain amount of energy to stop, idle, and accelerate. We as pedestrians should be sensitive to the effort required to operate a motor vehi-

cle; it is much easier for us to stop and wait a few seconds.

I agree that, optimally, all vehicles should remain outside the core of the campus. This doesn't mean that we should harass the people who presently desire to drive there.

Perry G. Ramsey

'Basic Aggie' gay

Editor:
I am writing this letter as an outlet for my total frustration and anger toward my fellow Aggies. I have been at Texas A&M since 1980. In most respects, I am your basic Aggie. I stand at all football games and go to midnight yell practice, I don't walk on the MSC grass, I wait in line at pre-registration, I eat at the cow-hop, I dislike 92 KTAW, and I study like crazy. To see me on campus, you wouldn't think that I am different from the rest of the student body. And as far as I am concerned, I am not.

You see, I am one of the 1,000 students here at A & M that is gay. That's right — I am a good Ag and a homosexual. And I am sick and tired of putting up with the daily oppression dished out by my fellow Ags. Not a day goes by that I am not reminded of the hatred that this campus has for gays. Every day there is a joke about faggots or AIDS, or something some prejudiced straight person has come up with to mock us. Well, the day has finally arrived — I am not going to sit by and listen any more.

Why can't people give us a break? Do you think that any gay person wants to be gay? Do you think that one day we just wake up and say, "Hey-I think it would be neat to be ridiculed the rest of my life. I want all of my classmates to joke about me and laugh behind my back. I think I'll be gay." No one has a choice whether or not to be attracted to the people of the same sex. Our only choice is whether or not to accept our sexuality and deal with it. I spent nine long months in counseling in trying to convince myself I was straight. But all I was was miserable. I can accept all of you just like you are — so why can't you accept me? I'll mind my sex life, and you mind yours.

Each semester I (and all other gays) talk to hundreds of students in psychology, sociology, and physical education

classes at the request of their professors. To each class I pour out my coming-out story and try to give them some understanding of what it's like to be 21 and gay. And I enjoy it — speaking to classes is one of the pleasurable and rewarding parts of being gay — to have a chance to speak to a "receptive" audience. Students are generally polite and respectful. If you can be polite while you're sitting in front of us, why must you make jokes behind our backs? Once while grocery shopping, a girl recognized me from her class. She said, "Look! It's that queer from GSS that spoke to us!" I wish you could have seen the people coming to the aisle to get a real look at a genuine homo. C'mon! We don't have three heads and we don't all have limp wrists and swayed walks. We are human. We laugh, we love, we cry, we bleed, we hurt, and we live. And we are Aggies. Please think about that next time you laugh at a faggot joke.

Oh, for any replies, I am not a faggot — I am a lesbian.

G. Brown

Greek personality

Editor:
This letter is in reply to the provocation submitted by Cathy Smith in the Oct. 19 Battalion. In that issue, Ms. Smith claims that the stereotyping of Greeks at Texas A&M is justified, and through her personal experience as a waitress, she has uncovered enough evidence to have every Greek on campus, or in the world for that matter, fed to the lions at sunset. Well, Ms. Smith, if it is true that stereotyping is an art only practiced by the narrow-minded, then you are indeed a master.

I am a Greek, and I too can speak from experience when I say your letter is full of holes. I worked at a popular "drinking spot" myself as a waiter, and then as a bartender, and to tell you the truth I can sympathize with your problem of large crowds at one table, boisterous behavior, and drunk and disorderly customers. But, you know what? I've got a surprise for you — they weren't all Greek. But I guess when you're looking for scape-goat, the Greeks are the easiest to point a finger at, for you that is.

and unwelcome.

You began your assault on the Battalion by stating that you made it through camp... Well congratulations, but you must state that I am not in the Corps the more reason for this letter.

You first showed your ignorance by degrading the Corps medals. They were not earned by picking up shit in summer school.

After your career in boot camp, I assume you entered special forces with great ease. Have you received any medals for counseling MacArthur or for bravery maybe? And I wonder how one of your stature decided to commit suicide by writing such a work of art, certainly impressed. Do you have any medals for being a writer in camp?

On the "Corps mentality" of... Do you have a 4.0? Of course not. You wouldn't knock someone without having a perfect record.

Next, you put down the Corps — boots, sabers, cannons, Fighting Texas Aggie Band. I would not mind wearing boots, medals and a uniform at Texas A&M other places, as they so proudly claim. I certainly do not mind claiming to be a member of the Aggie Band.

At the end of your letter you ask "Who cares?" I'd like to state that the signatures that accompany this letter are not to support me in picking up with you. They are, in fact, just a list of "Who cares."

I know this letter will probably make you furious... But who cares? Closing now Mr. Jeng, I would say that the Corps may have its times, everyone does. But no one gets rid of it. Be sure and travel soon — I'm sure you'll find a Corps to pay for your gas.

(Editor's note: This letter was signed by 616 signatures. Those who signed, however, do not necessarily support Deavers' letter. The signatures are from those who wish to show support for the Corps of Cadets.)

When you took the job as a waiter, you had to know that you were dealing with the public, didn't you? To be a waitress means you have to adapt to your customer, and you must be an expert. And as far as waitresses, I personally enjoyed being a waitress. I know that the people I worked for at least had a personal touch. The way, it's a prerequisite to being a Greek, besides being loud and obnoxious. When I go out for a drink, I have fun, not just to inconvenience waitresses, there are other ways to

In closing, Ms. Smith, my advice is to start judging individuals on their own merits instead of the group they belong to. And another thing, quit your job if you haven't been already for your poor attitude. Drinking tables just doesn't seem to be your thing. May I suggest perhaps being a radar on the North Pole. Again you'd probably complain about polar bears.

Major topics avoided

Editor:
What is going on here? Everyone is giving their own trivial topics. If Ags, regs, non-Greeks have nothing good to say, remain wallpaper.

C'mon and let's write something to the editor about some topics.

David D. Deavers

Expensive restrictions

Editor:
\$400 a space to restripe the lots?! Consider this my submission to do it for \$50.

Perry S. Ray

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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.

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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.

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