

## Cadets alone not to blame

The three juniors in outfit F-1 who took Cadet Bruce Goodrich on his last early morning run are not solely to blame for his death. The official cause of his death is unknown and exactly what happened that morning may never be determined. The Corps of Cadets, and their long-held traditions whether they are thought of as good or bad, are not to blame either. Neither are any Texas A&M University Officials.

Not even the Texas A&M Board of Regents should accept the blame for this death.

Everyone — not just University officials or Cadets — should share the blame equally. Everyone who has ever broken a rule. Everyone who has stood by as someone else broke a rule — no matter how inconsequential that rule seemed at the time.

People that park in front of the 'No Parking Anytime' signs when they go to Church on Sunday morning, speed through school zones, don't follow traffic rules while riding bikes or drive home when they know they've had too many drinks are just as guilty.

The attitudes that 'the rules don't apply to me,' or 'if the rules are bent they aren't broken' are what led to Goodrich's death.

Hazing, or 'crapping out' or what ever you choose to call it, goes on.

How many times have students heard of similiar events on the Quad or dorm pranks or fraternity initiations and passed them off as 'good stories?'

Administrators should not think that just because a rule is passed, that it will be followed. Many administrators offer the fact that rules exist to deny the existence of activities such as 'crap outs' rather than enforcing these guidelines on a day by day basis.

It is only when a tragedy occurs that people open their eyes and look at the rules and how they are constantly — sometimes uniformly — broken.

It takes a tragedy for the national media to look at a situation. News organizations across the nation have reported that hazing is a longtime tradition at Texas A&M. If it is indeed a tradition, then why wait for tragedy to report on the facts? And in the process distort reality.

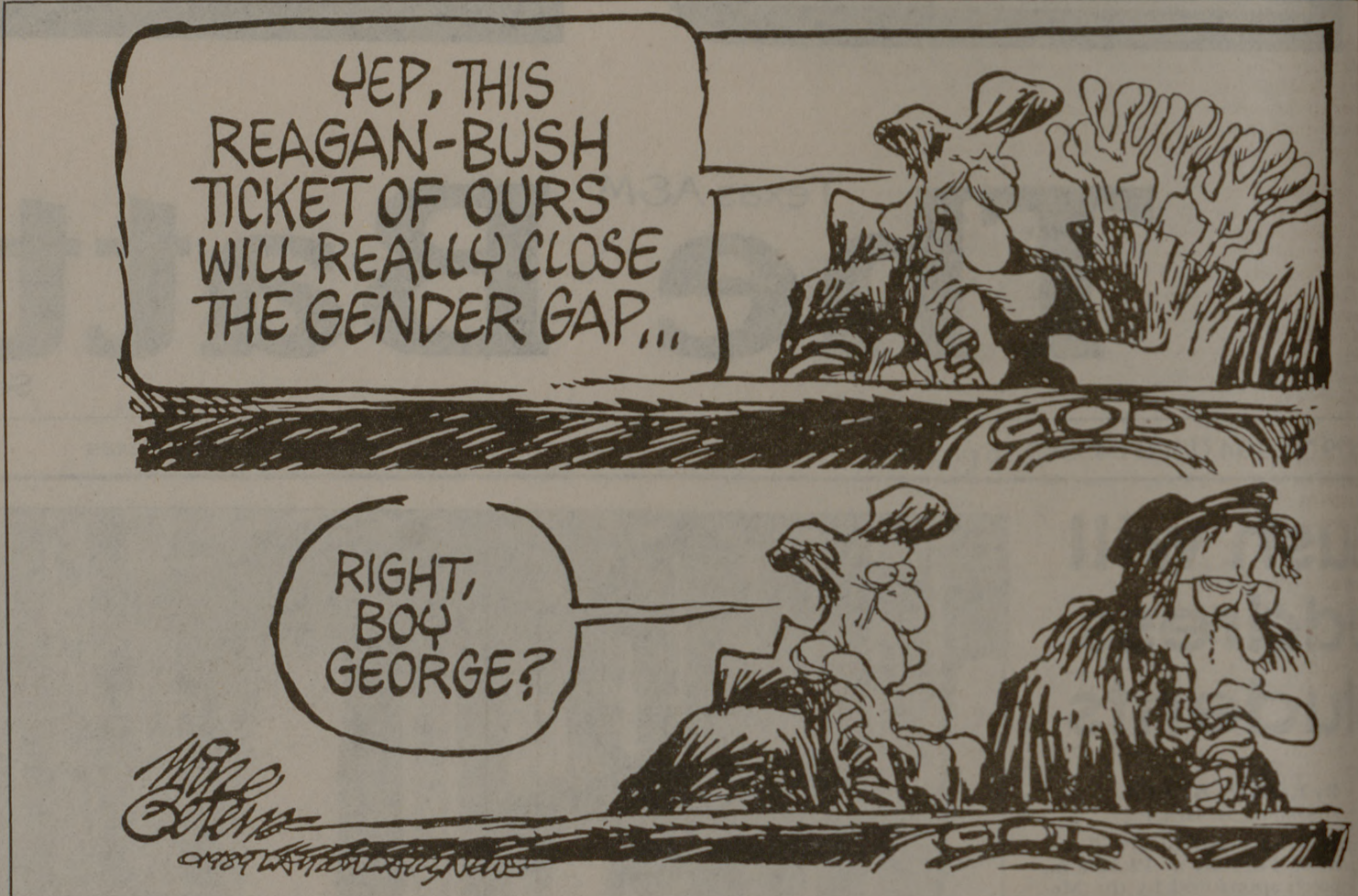
When rules are broken and something goes extremely wrong, the finger is pointed at the few who get caught. An example is made out of a minority.

The rules were broken. That should not be overlooked. But, the juniors who broke the rules in this incident should be reprimanded or punished for breaking the rules not for the accident that occurred. Whatever they were doing, they weren't trying to kill a fellow Aggie. From now on the rules must be enforced.

The tragedy in this situation is that someone died, and it took something like that for the world to stop and look. Perhaps the memory of Bruce Goodrich will bring about a change in the way rules are looked at.

Rules are made for a reason; rules are meant to be followed. If we don't like the rules, we should work to get them changed, not disregard them.

The Battalion Editorial Board



## Souvenir sales up for CIA

By ART BUCHWALD  
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Many stories have come out about the CIA, but this is one that is still buried secretly in the archives. It has to do with an agent named Greensleeves. He was young, energetic, and imaginative. The CIA decided to set him up in a souvenir shop across the street from the palace of a Central American dictator, where he could keep tabs on the comings and goings of government officials.

They gave him enough money to buy the shop and the souvenirs so the operation would be legitimate. This exchange of cables, after they were decoded, tells the story.

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Business excellent. Have sold \$16,000 worth of souvenirs thanks to Dictator Tacos' three-day anniversary celebration in front of palace. Please tell our people in Taiwan I need more Tacos ashtrays, paperweights and letter openers. If all right with you, am planning a sale on Tacos music boxes that play 'South of the Border.' — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves: Glad to hear you are doing well businesswise, but what the

hell is going on at the palace? We hear Tacos may be overthrown by right-wing colonels. Please advise at once. — Frogmaster."

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Sorry I have been too busy taking inventory to pay much attention to palace, but have good news. Discovered a factory outside Siesta that makes cuckoo clocks and hand-painted scarves. Have bought three gross at half-price. Expect sales figures in June up 20 percent over May. Had to pay off customs to get cigarette lighters into country, but will add bribe to price of item. — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves: Why no word from you on Tacos assassination attempt and his exile from country? Who is now in charge of Paella? Urgently need list of junta and whether it's pro or anti-American. — Frogmaster."

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Agency has nothing to fear from Tacos overthrow. I got wind of it two weeks ago and had Tacos Birthday Sale on Saturday, where I marked down all Dictator Tacos items 50 percent. The bronze busts moved especially well. We also unloaded 4,000 plates with portraits of Mrs. Tacos.

Only item that didn't sell as well as expected was night-light of Tacos star, next to Virgin Mary. Tell of Hong Kong people that I am sending them photograph of Colonel Castro which I would like them to have framed with sea shells. Also need 3,000 beer mugs commemorating the junta's revolution of July 5. — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves, Paella, Central America: What has happened to U.S. Ambassador? Is he being held hostage by revolutionary urban guerrillas as reported by AP, UPI, Reuters, and Agence France Presse?"

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: U.S. Ambassador was kidnapped three days ago. One of my salespeople has brother who told her about kidnapping plans last week. I immediately took steps to check Ambassador's charge account. He owed us \$89. Managed to get his check before he was grabbed. We haven't lost a dime on him. Any chance of shipping Fidel Castro baseball caps? They're expecting 15,000 armed Cuban tourists, and it could be hottest item this summer."

## LETTERS:

### Blame for death rests with Corps

EDITOR:

Who is to accept responsibility for the tragic death of Corps of Cadets sophomore Bruce Goodrich? After carefully reflecting on my past Corps experience and my present knowledge of the circumstances surrounding this tragedy, I've concluded that the blame rests inherently within the widely abused Corps system.

Although I refuse to exonerate the other cadets involved, their lack of responsibility and disregard for university regulations are secondary to the failings of the Corps system as a whole. The cadet Corps is designed to be a self-governing militocracy. The officers of the Trigon act only as referees to the never-ending 'games' conducted by the many cadets in leadership positions, but on Thursday August 30 at 2:30 a.m., the referees defaulted and the autocrats broke the rules. The end result was fatal.

My wording is harsh but necessary. Lack of supervision and enforcement killed Bruce, no matter what his physical problems may have been.

I feel deeply for Bruce's parents, but I only hope they hold no bitterness in their hearts towards the cadets involved. Instead I hope they vent their remorse, frustration and anger at the foundation, the basic ideology, of the Corps.

The Cadets only followed tradition; for this mistake I hope they are forgiven. I only wish Bruce's parents can see through the haze and find the root of the 'deadly tree' — the status quo. The self-governing society has failed.

Too long has the Corps been an un-governed institution, free to break rules, sometimes even laws, without serious reprimand if any from the leaders. Often the 'men in charge' condone acts which are specifically forbidden by University Regulations or law. Punishments are received only when the Trigon notices these acts. One must confront the truth. The Fighting Texas Aggie Cadet Corps has become a secular society, a large fraternity which contains several separate but united fraternities within itself. If Bruce had not died last Thursday who would have discovered or cared about what was happening?

I'm a believer in the Twelfth Man, the Aggie Code of Honor and the Aggie way. For that reason, I write plainly and boldly. If I failed to sign this opinion, all impetus it might have had would fade into oblivion. Because of my convictions, I must sign.

Lawrence Van Fulton  
Former Member A Company Band

### Elimination of hazing essential

EDITOR:

Today I was approached by a newsteam from Channel 13 — the ABC affiliate in Houston — in which I was asked to appear on camera and give my opinion of some of the circumstances at Texas A&M that would allow hazing such as that surrounding the death of Cadet Bruce Goodrich. I refused, because I felt I could not portray specific instances of such hazing, but I did confirm to the newsteam, off camera, that unnecessary and sadistic amounts of

hazing do exist. It would be wrong to blame the Juniors involved directly for the death of Goodrich, but this instance does bring to light what is occurring in the Corps. From talking to members of the Corps during my four years at A&M, I have been made aware of the fact that unusually cruel and humiliating forms of hazing, such as involving Goodrich, are not isolated. However, this hazing should be isolated, and better yet, it should be eliminated altogether.

In talking to the cameraman of Channel 13, he related to me what Dr. Koldus had stated: that it is difficult to control the Corps' hazing activities. Does this mean that the administration closes its eyes to this harassment among Corps members? Does it take the death of a cadet to bring about change? I am aware of the new rules regarding hazing that were enacted last Spring, but they seem ineffectual.

Good news travels fast, but bad news travels faster. As I'm graduating in December, I wonder what kind of impact this incident will have and the kind of image A&M will reflect on me. Not to sound self-centered — I also wonder what kind of image it will reflect on students graduating from Texas A&M in the future.

Perhaps Texas A&M is destined to remain a 'good' university and not mature into its potential of becoming a great University. Perhaps I was wrong not to appear on camera, to give the outside world a look at the civilian side — the majority of the student body — that doesn't condone this sort of hazing.

May we live and learn.

Mathew Cole  
Class of '84

### Say 'Howdy' students plead

EDITOR:

"Howdy, Damn it!" For such a 'friendly' campus, Aggie land sure is losing its small-town school charm. Regardless of size, A&M has ways seemed to capture the closeness and unity of a small school. For the past three years, we've noticed a decrease in enthusiasm for 'age-old traditions,' especially from upperclassmen.

'Old Army has died, again.' Tradition and spirit have taken backseat to trivial problems and selfish pride. A simple, sincere "howdy" and smile are not too much to hope for from every dedicated Aggie.

Traditions, like everything else, can be forgotten if not put in practice. What is the next inevitable step in this deterioration of Aggie Spirit? Are we going to sit down at football games? Hell no! We won't sit!

Sherrie Couch  
Laurie Cannon  
Amy Kardell  
Harold Hinckle

## Correction

The reader's forum in Friday's Battalion, "College students face vital national issues," appeared without a byline. The editorial was written by Matt Holley, a senior business major and chairman of Youth for Reagan. The Battalion regrets the omission of this information.

The Battalion  
USPS 045 360  
Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

In memoriam  
Bill Robinson, 1962-1984, Editor

Stephanie Ross, Acting Editor  
Patrice Koranek, Managing Editor  
Shelley Hoekstra, City Editor  
Brigid Brockman, News Editor  
Donn Friedman, Editorial Page Editor  
Kelley Smith, News Editor  
Ed Cassavoy, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff

Assistant City Editors.....  
Melissa Adair, Michelle Pove  
Assistant News Editors.....  
Bonnie Langford, Kellie Dworaczky, Lauri Reese  
Assistant Sports Editor.....  
Travis Tingle  
Entertainment Editor.....  
Bill Hughes  
Assistant Entertainment Editor.....  
Angel Stokes

Copy Editors Kathy Breard, Kaye Palmeier  
Photographers.....Peter Rocha,  
John Ryan, Dean Saito

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2630. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.