

Opinion

Silver Taps honors living, deceased

Silver Taps will be held tonight at 10:30. Since April 21 — when Muster was held to honor all Aggies that died during the previous year — eight Texas A&M students have died. In any community that grows to more than a few thousand, deaths become a common occurrence.

At Texas A&M University, with more than 36,000 students, death is common. A professor calls the role and the call goes unanswered. A seat in an overcrowded classroom remains unoccupied.

When a student dies, the loss affects only a minority of the student body — the woman he used to flirt with in Math 152, the man she used to watch as he walked into Bolton Hall each morning, the group he used to sit with when he ate dinner at Sbis.

They all know why an Aggie is missing and can't be found. They shed the tears and ask why someone "so young and so good" has died.

The rest of the campus doesn't shed a tear; they don't have to ask "Why?"

But on the first Tuesday night of each month after an Aggie has died the activity on campus slows for a few minutes. At 10 p.m. campus lights begin to dim; Aggies slowly assemble near the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. At about 10:30 the Ross Volunteers make their way through the hushed crowd for the tribute to the dead.

The families will be in the crowd. From the hallway of the YMCA Building the moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandfathers and grandmothers, will be led to the spot of honor in front of the Academic Building. It's a special feeling for the families and friends of the deceased, seeing so many people honoring someone that was so special.

Tradition itself is not a good enough reason to attend Silver Taps, but those that do go become a part of the tradition. Attending makes a person more a part of the history — more a part of the campus — of Texas A&M University.

So tonight at 10, dim your lights and go to Silver Taps. Go out of respect for the dead; go out of compassion for those that live on.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



GOP convention: a media farce

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Sherlock Holmes tapped down the tobacco in his pipe and prepared to light it with a match. He was studying press clippings from Dallas.

Dr. Watson, who was playing "Trivial Pursuit" by himself, said, "Holmes something seems to be bothering you."

Holmes replied, "You watched the Republican National Convention, didn't you, Watson?"

"I certainly did. Rip-snorting good show it was too. There was not a dull moment as far as I was concerned."

"Quite, Watson. But wasn't there something missing?"

"Missing? I can't think of what it could be. If anything, it had too much of everything."

"Too much of everything, and yet an important ingredient was lacking. Wait a minute, Watson, I think I may have it. Would you hand me that book on the shelf, 'History of the Past Republican Conventions Since 1956.'"

Holmes excitedly went through the pages. "That's it. It was right in front of our noses and we didn't see it."

"What did we miss, Holmes?"

"For the first time in modern history the Republicans did not attack the media. Everyone passed up a surefire opportunity to get a standing ovation by

refusing to complain that the reporters were not giving their side a fair shake."

"By Jove, you're right, Holmes," said Dr. Watson. "It was a love feast. Usually the Republicans shake their fists at the convention network booths; and beat up on the Washington Post and New York Times. What do you suppose turned them around?"

Holmes lit his pipe. "It's elementary, my dear Watson. Rather than attack the media this time, the Republicans decided to manipulate them. Whatever they wanted the GOP gave it to them. They served up everybody for interviews from Jerry Falwell to Joan Rivers."

"All animosity toward network anchor men was absent. Vice President Bush called Rather 'Dan,' Barry Goldwater called Brokaw 'Tom,' and Phyllis Schlafly called Lesley Stahl 'Honey.'"

"Every Republican star was on a first-name basis with the interviewer. By playing the good guys, the Republicans wound up co-opting anyone who wore a press badge in Dallas."

"Amazing, Holmes. How did they get away with it?"

"There was no story in Dallas, my dear Watson. The networks were desperate to fill two hours of time every night, and the Republicans were more

than happy to oblige them with the reverse right-wingers as Bunker Hunt and Jack Kemp. In the past the far right refused to talk to the press. This time not only sought them out, but invited them to their \$1000-a-plate parties."

"Why the change of attitude, Holmes?"

"It was quite simple, Watson. The media and the GOP Convention had no choice but to suck their thumbs. The pack of journalists who passed up the GOP were going after Geraldine Ferraro, John Zaccaro. The Republicans wanted to antagonize the press who were so intent on nailing a Democratic vice-presidential coonskin to the wall."

"So that's why the Republicans gave up an opportunity to make the scapgoats of their convention. What clue tipped you off to their strategy?"

"I became suspicious when all the media dogs were barking every time I saw Ferraro and Zaccaro on the screen. But not one of them barked in Dallas."

"Why didn't they bark in Dallas?"

"Between the heat, the tequila, the speeches, they all went to sleep, gave the Republicans an opportunity to commit the perfect crime."

LETTERS:

Corps needs to reorganize

EDITOR:

Startling headlines on the front page of the Houston Chronicle Friday reads: "A&M Cadet Dies Following Hazing."

Many day-to-day activities of the Corps, however futile and irrational they may be, remain unnoticed by those of us labeled civilians. It causes me to wonder who has the better life. Events like quadding a lower ranking cadet, double time push-ups, and other strenuous exercises in the middle of the night may convey the image of a strong, unified group.

But people of the Corps... Take two steps back! Examine the benefits from you ancient traditions. Get with the times.

Corps commandant Col. Donald Burton needs to answer a few questions:
Col. Burton of the Corps:
Are hazing activities supported by you?

Col. Burton:
You banned activities such as the one that led to the death of Bruce Goodrich. Do you plead guilty to the charge of enforcing the rules in a loose, undefined manner?

Col. Burton:
What will be your action should the corp ignore your authority and another casualty results? Will you disband the Corps altogether?

Roger Pearce
junior History major

Cadets need more supervision

EDITOR:

To beautiful Texas A&M,
To its glorious war memorials dedicated to those who so valiantly gave their lives,
To its time honored traditions,
To that special bond that holds Aggies together.

I have a few questions for you.

First, I want to know what has hap-

pened to the respect Aggies are supposed to have for their fellow man? Is that one tradition we decided to drop? Or is it that we just temporarily forgot it?

Second, is the Corps actually trying to help their cadets, or is it just a front so that people can take their hostilities out on someone?

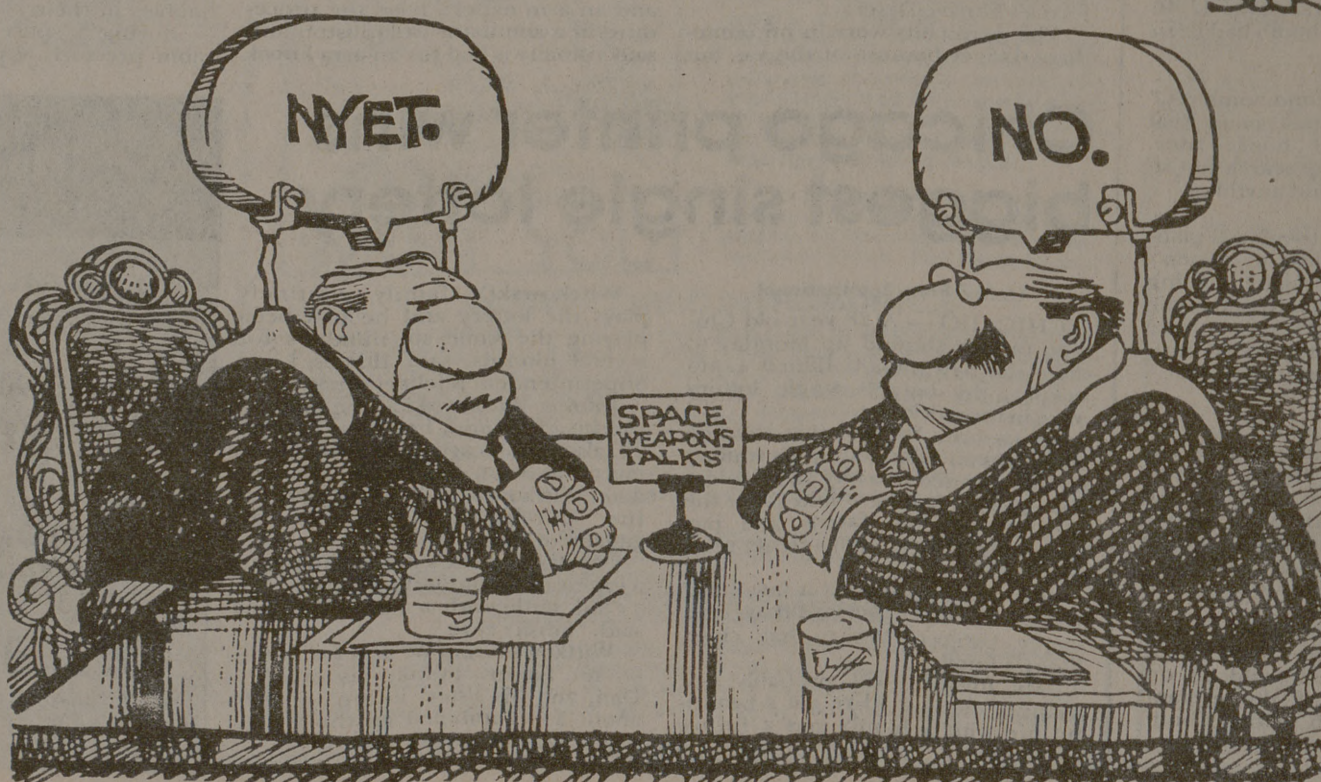
Finally, we have memorials for those brave men who died for our country, but what is going to allow us to remember this? Are we going to chalk it up to experience, and just forget this death like we would a passing thought?

Well, this is one death that better not be forgotten.

It wasn't just a few cadet's fault, nor was it the Corp's fault. This death was everyone's fault for not having the courage, the sense, or taking the time to speak out earlier.

The purpose of this letter is not to suggest the abolishment of the Corps but rather to request closer, more reasonable supervision of the Corps by people willing to take responsibility of the Corp's actions.

Jay R. Porter '86 accompanied by 21 signatures.



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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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