

## Booze doesn't mix with spirit

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Editorial pertaining to Friday's midnight yell practice is appearing today because many of the people to whom it is directed already will be at local happy hours before the Friday Battalion hits the streets.

The mood will be quite different in Kyle Field Friday at midnight than it was in front of the Academic Building Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 10:30 p.m. Friday's crowd will be full of fun-loving Aggies, reveling in their drunkenness, trying their best to yell Aggie yells. That Tuesday the mood was much more somber. Silver Taps was played; few, if any, Aggies were drunk. None were boisterous.

"Typically well over half the Aggies remembered at Silver Taps died as the result of alcohol related motor-vehicle crashes," said Kirk Brown, president of the local Mother's Against Drunk Drivers organization.

Is the tradition of midnight yell practice so weak that it can't sustain itself without mind altering beverages?

"I don't think it's part of the tradition," said yell leader Terry Hlavinka. He said he doesn't condone drinking in Kyle Field; in fact, it's against state laws and University regulations.

"A few people get out of hand — but that's the exception rather than the rule," he said. "But what is really bad is when the people leave (Kyle Field) and there're beer cans lying all around."

Yell leader sponsor Don Albrecht said he thinks alcohol plays too big a part in yell practices.

"I know there's drinking there," he said. "I wish people didn't have to drink to go to yell practice, but it seems they think they do."

The people who think drinking is an essential part of yell practice need to realize Aggie Spirit doesn't come in a bottle. And more importantly, if you go to yell practice after a drink or two, have a sober friend drive you or walk.

Both the Campus and the College Station Police should stand ready to arrest any person who tries to drive away from yell practice drunk. If University officials don't make sure that the laws regarding the consumption of alcohol in Kyle Field are enforced — since many students come to the stadium in cars — they are condoning drunk driving.

Too many Aggies already have died in alcohol related accidents. Driving drunk kills.

## Discrimination, racism continue to occur here

"Nigger!" an offensive word born of hatred and ignorance. It is a word that should have died long ago. But it isn't dead at Texas A&M.

Tuesday, a truck swerved at a black student and the driver and passengers of the vehicle hurled racial insults at the student. Luckily the act didn't physically injure her; she says she didn't suffer any injury due to the harassment or the threat.

Once again Texas A&M University has been damaged. This time by a truck-driving bigot.

Richard Lewis, a sociologist, told the President's Committee on Minority Conditions just two years ago that 44 percent of all minority students he interviewed at Texas A&M said they had been victims of racial harassment here.

"Living with constant fear and/or social intimidation on a major university campus is intolerable," the report of the President's Committee on minority conditions said.

But because the nature of most attacks of personal discrimination involve limited verbal abuse rather than life threatening words or actions, the University is limited in its response.

The types of discrimination here can be broken down into two major categories, William Kuvlesky, a member of the minority conditions committee told The Battalion Wednesday.

• First, blind traditionalism such as flying the Confederate flag over the bonfire or conducting slave sales.

• Second, personal discrimination such as the incident Wednesday which usually involves a small group verbally assaulting a minority student.

Sheran Riley, special assistant to President Frank E. Vandiver, said most people don't realize that their blind traditionalism can sometimes be construed as an insult. She said most, after being told that such actions upset minority groups and damage the reputation of the University, halt or alter their activity. It's just a matter of people becoming aware before this type of discrimination can be reduced, Kuvlesky said.

Personal acts of discrimination are not as easily remedied. They won't stop until non-discriminators stand up and refuse to allow this type of abuse to continue. It's not enough to never call a black a "nigger" or a Mexican a "spic." It's time the notation *archaic* was added to every dictionary containing words like "nigger."

People must let those who live in a state of hate and ignorance know that we won't stand for their bigotry.

The Battalion Editorial Board



## Generic cathedrals could rescue tourists

Ever since I came back from Great Britain, I've been having nightmares about Gothic cathedrals.



Kathy Wiesepape

It's always the same. I'm standing in the nave, looking down the dark length of the cathedral toward the altar. The ribs of the vaulted ceiling rise to spectacular heights above me. Pines of medieval stained glass bend the entering sunlight into a rainbow of light at the far end.

Behind me, a professor is lecturing his class on Gothic architecture.

"Note the flying buttresses carrying the weight of the roof outward from the walls," he says. "Remember, a cathedral is built outward as well as upward."

I yawn, leave the class behind and walk down the center aisle. I pull my camera out of its case and a chaplain robed in black is immediately at my side.

"Photography is permitted in the ab-

bey only with a permit," he tells me politely. I hand over 50 pence and he pins a bright yellow card on my shirt, branding me with the mark of the tourist.

I stroll through the cathedral, taking pictures — lots of them. Chapels and more chapels, tombs and more tombs. Paintings, carvings, tapestries, stained glass — all of it part of my photographic record.

Then the scene changes, and I'm back home again, showing my prints to a friend.

"Where was this?" he asks, holding up one of the cathedral photographs.

Vaulted ceiling, flying buttresses — yep, that's a cathedral. But which one? I take a closer look.

"Westminster Abbey," I say. "No, Yorkminster. No, maybe Lincoln Cathedral. Give me a minute."

I think back, frantically trying to remember. Let's see, Salisbury has the one with the spire, Winchester has the longest nave. Or is it the other way around?

It can't be Yorkminster — that's the one with the burned roof. I think the one at Bath was the most ornate. The wood carvings at Chester and Lincoln looked a lot alike, but Chester also had the mosaics. Or was that Carlisle?

Maybe Durham — no, that one was Norman, not Gothic.

That's when I wake up, my head spinning.

It seems like every town in Great Britain has its own Gothic cathedral. All of them are beautiful. That's because they all look the same.

In six weeks on the island, our group must have hit the majority of cathedrals in England and Scotland. I'm sure we saw all the biggies, and I doubt we missed many of the semi-biggies.

After about the fourth one, I was cathedralized out. The vertical lines designed to draw the eye upward to heaven drew only yawns from me. More stained glass. More flying buttresses. Neat. Let's go.

Cathedral saturation is a common tourist malady. But I have the solution.

Build one generic cathedral, one that outdoes all the rest. Make it the longest, highest, most ornate. Bring the most important historical tombs and shrines, the most inspiring art, and the most impressive architecture together in one place.

One visit and you've got all your cathedrals over with for the rest of the trip.

Kathy Wiesepape is a weekly columnist for The Battalion. Her column will appear on Thursdays.

## LETTERS

### Name proposed for new bell tower

EDITOR:

In the search for world class status, Texas A&M has a new Football coach, there are even Nobel Prize winners on staff and, of course, an eternal Flame. Probably the biggest edition to campus is the ALBRITTON Bell Tower.

After announcing the proposed location and cost of this Bell Tower, the Battalion hit with several editorials and letters. The outcry seemed to come from the "world class" among us. It's very easy to tell someone else how to spend their money after it's earned; the little red hen taught us that. These persons also kept on using tacky words like phal-lus (My, My, is that world class?). The one thing that makes A&M the home of the Aggies is that spirit of Aggieland. It seems to me the real spirit of Aggieland has been lost in this search for world class status.

In an attempt to revive some of the Aggie in us and move away from this world class tackiness I would propose an aggie name for this structure. A real cowboy name for those of us who haven't heard of a clarion.

How about the Albritton Ding-a-Ling?

M.D. Baker  
Class of '85

### Commanders responsible

EDITOR:

The current investigation of the death of cadet Bruce Goodrich appears to be misguided. The responsibility for the death, and in fact all Corps activities, lies with the persons in positions of au-

thority, Charles Rollins, student commander of the Corps of Cadets, and Col. Donald L. Burton, Commandant, Corps of Cadets. The military courses taught at Texas A&M teach that authority is accompanied by responsibility and

those who hold ultimate authority are held ultimately responsible. A Naval investigation of a collision at sea will not be of the helmsman but of the captain of the vessel. Considering this fact, it is interesting to read Rollins' statement that

this investigation will, "... not cover up" for any guilty cadets. The cadets that were directly involved in this unfortunate incident are guilty only of exercising poor judgement since they were engaged in a tradition that is officially prohibited by Corps regulations but has been officially condoned for years.

I am not suggesting that the Corps should be disbanded or that the indoctrination period should not be stressful. Army boot camp is still a rather stressful experience yet there the air temperature and the humidity are monitored to determine appropriate levels of physical activity. Neither am I suggesting that upper classmen should not be given positions of an officer. I am suggesting that those individuals in positions of authority begin exercising that authority and begin accepting responsibility for their actions and the actions of their subordinates.

An investigation should be conducted to answer one question: Was this an isolated incident or was this the tragic result of an occurrence that is both accepted and common? It is an obvious conflict of interest for anyone associated with Texas A&M University to conduct this investigation.

Mark L. Spearman

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

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