

## Hazing indictments don't go far enough

Indict them all; let justice sort them out. Four Texas A&M cadets have been indicted in connection with the death of Bruce Goodrich. It's now in the hands of the court to determine the guilt or innocence of each of those involved. Goodrich's death is not simply a case of negligent homicide. Goodrich died because of the abuse of tradition. Traditions are supposed to be beneficial to those who take part in them as well as the institution they serve. Traditions are also supposed to be fun.

What happened to Goodrich wasn't fun. It may or may not have been hazing. That's up to the courts to decide. We're not entirely certain what hazing is. By law almost everything that is called a tradition at A&M can be considered hazing (see Hazing Statute below).

Good Bull and hazing; it's a fine line that separates the two. It's a line that is often not discernible to people outside the Aggie family.

The Dallas Morning News doesn't understand the difference between yell practice activities and hazing. In an article on Sunday, Sept. 30, they called the class-set push-ups done by cadets at yell practice hazing. They also don't seem to understand that hazing — by the legal definition — isn't limited to the Corps of Cadets. Physical and mental abuse occurs in many facets of campus life — including civilian dorm activities. Under the law many activities fall under the definition of hazing.

But law is never enforced to the letter. Laws are enforced to their intent.

Even if this law is loosely enforced, a few other people's action (or non-action) merit indictment under the Hazing Act. The University officials who admitted that hazing is alive at Texas A&M — but had not brought it to the attention of the proper authorities — should also be indicted.

The blame for all hazing at Texas A&M should not be allowed to fall solely on the four cadets charged in the Goodrich death. Those cadets should stand alone only on the charge of negligent homicide.

The removal of hazing from Texas A&M — as well as any other university — requires two things: Rules regarding such activities must be strictly enforced by university officials. And each one of us must share the responsibility of seeing that these rules are obeyed.

Until the rules are uniformly enforced and obeyed, the horrible possibility of hazing-related deaths will continue to haunt the American university system.

—The Battalion Editorial Board

## Texas Education Code: Hazing at state schools

### SECTION 4.19 OF THE TEXAS EDUCATION CODE: HAZING

(a) No student of the University of Texas, or Texas A&M University, or any state school of Texas, or any other state-supported institution of higher education, shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other person thus offending.

(b) "Hazing" is defined as follows:

(1) any wilful act by one student alone or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of submitting the student made the subject of the attack committed, to indignity or humiliation, without his consent;

(2) any wilful act of any one student alone, or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of intimidating the student attacked by threatening such student with social or other ostracism, or of submitting such student to ignominy, shame, or disgrace among his fellow students, and acts calculated to produce such results;

(3) any wilful act of any one student alone, or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of humbling, or that is reasonably calculated to humble the pride, stifle the ambition, or blight the courage of the student attacked, or to discourage any such student from longer remaining in such educational institution or reasonably to cause him to leave the institution rather than submit to such acts; or

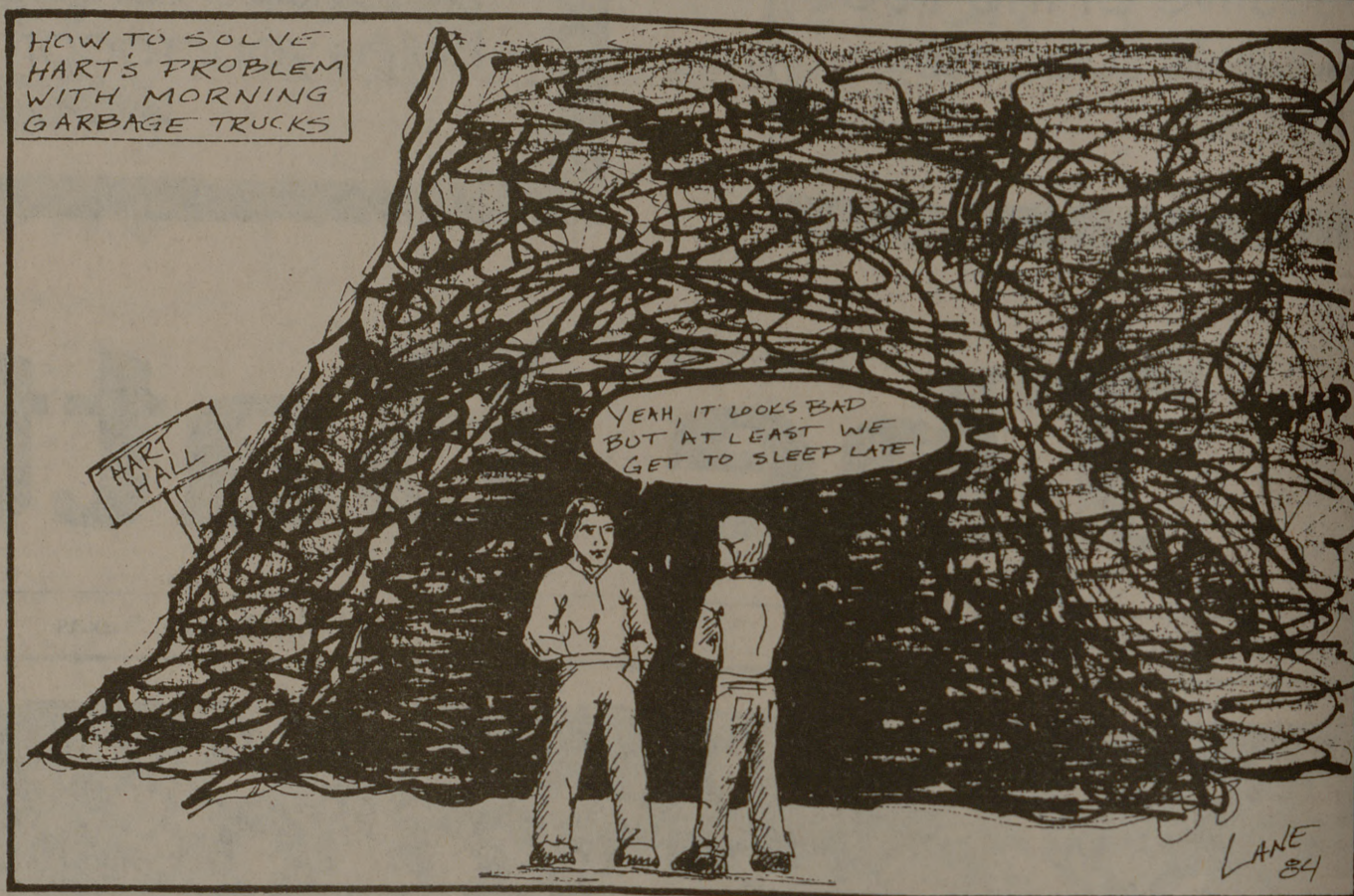
(4) any wilful act by any one student alone, or acting with others, in striking, beating, bruising, or maiming; or seriously offering, threatening, or attempting to strike, beat, bruise, or maim, or to do or seriously offer, threaten, or attempt to do physical violence to any student of any such educational institution or any assault upon any such students made for the purpose of committing any of the acts, or producing any of the results, to such student as defined in this section.

(c) No teacher, instructor, member of any faculty, or any officer or director, or a member of any governing board of any state-supported educational institution shall knowingly permit, encourage, aid, or assist any student in committing the offense of hazing, or wilfully acquiesce in the commission of such offense, or fail to report promptly his knowledge or any reasonable information within his knowledge of the presence and practice of hazing in the institution in which he may be serving to the executive head or governing board of such institution. Any act of omission or commission shall be deemed "hazing" under the provisions of this section.

(d) Any student of any state-supported educational institution of this state who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$250 or shall be confined in jail not less than 10 days nor more than three months, or both.

(e) Any teacher, instructor, or member of any faculty, or officer or director of any state-supported educational institution who shall commit the offense of hazing shall be fined not less than \$50 or not more than \$500 or shall be imprisoned in jail not less than 30 days or not more than six months, or both, and in addition thereto shall be immediately discharged and removed from his then position or office in the institution, and shall thereafter be ineligible to reinstatement or reemployment as teacher, instructor, member of faculty, office4r, or director in any state-supported educational institution for a period of three years.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as in any manner affecting or repealing any law of this state respecting homicide, or murder, manslaughter, assault with intent to murder, or aggravated assault.



### Pound coins still filling purse

## Ugly American happy to be home

Yesterday I reached for a quarter to put in the Coke machine and pulled out a thick, heavy gold coin instead.

It was a one-pound coin, left over from my trip to Great Britain. I remembered how small and flimsy American money looked to me when I first got home, after six weeks of carrying a wallet strained with the weight of quarter-sized ten-pence pieces and the huge, seven-sided 50-pence coins.

It seems like a long time since this summer, when it was easier to figure prices in pounds instead of dollars. My first blast of Houston heat and humidity getting off the plane made me miss Scotland. Now, six weeks later, I'm ready to go back.

Yes, I missed my family and friends. And no, the food in Great Britain wasn't the best — especially on a student's budget. I don't miss the greasy dormitory breakfasts of runny fried eggs, chewy bacon, suspicious-tasting sausage, almost edible toast with bitter marmalade and the obligatory grilled tomatoes. Especially not after seeing it on my plate every single morning for six weeks.



Kathy Wiesepape

And for those of you who think Archie's 39-cent hot burgers are bad — try Wimpy Burger, where they don't even clean off the tables.

I also appreciate my morning shower more now. It seems progress in Great Britain came to a halt when they invented the bathtub. During our weeks on the road, the most welcome words at the end of a long day were, "We get shower!"

But aside from that, there are things I would have loved to bring back to America with me. Like the beautiful gardens of England, with multicolored blooms as bright as a fireworks display. And the parks, havens in the midst of the bustling cities, with fat pigeons strutting around the statues and squares so tame they'll climb up your legs to get food out of your hands.

I miss the rugged beauty of Scotland, the crags cluster with the pink blooms of heather rising above the black depths of Loch Ness. The weekend we spent there, in search of the monster, was one of my favorite parts of the trip.

Kathy Wiesepape is a weekly columnist for the Battalion. Her column appears on Thursdays.

## Mr. Right column response overwhelming June, Lynn

OK, OK, we admit it. June and Lynn aren't our friends, they're us. Some of you already figured out that one.

In last Wednesday's Battalion, we said we had two friends who had a lot of guy friends, no dates, and "high wholesome factors." "What's wrong with being wholesome?" we asked, and wanted to hear from those who answered "Nothing."

We weren't looking for prospective husbands. We weren't even looking for dates.

We wanted to take your mind off depressing issues and give you a laugh.

We were tired of reading letters from people who want to disband the Corps and tear down the Bell Tower.

We thought you were, too. Obviously, you were. We got over 50 letters. We expected some letters, but 50? "Disbanding the Corps" didn't even rate 50 letters. We also didn't expect the three dozen roses. Or the dinner invitations.

Although we can't share the roses with you, we can share some of the responses we got.

Even with Mom 500 miles away, wholesomeness and romance — hugs, roses and midnight walks — are still popular. As one man put it, "Being with someone that you care about while looking at the stars or watching the sun rise on the shore of a lake is indescribable."

Another wrote: "Let's hear it for

women with 'high wholesome factors' who enjoy receiving flowers and respect from guys who truly do respect and appreciate them."

They were happy to hear they weren't alone. "I'm tired of teases and flirts and CT chasers (nothing personal, guys, but ever notice how they're more interested in your uniform and meeting the rest of your company than they are in you?)"

"It's fun wearing bedsheets and dancing until the sun comes up or seeing how many quarters you can make in a row, but there has to be something more than this."

Then there were letters filled with advice. We were told shining armor and white horses were out of style: "Princes today wear blue jeans and drive nondescript cars."

We were told to look for our knights in the children's section of the library — under fairy tales.

"Some may even be within your circle of 'guy friends,'" one said. Maybe so.

One guy wanted to take us home to his mom.

There were encouraging letters, too: "Keep looking. The gentlemen of Texas A&M are out there, you just have to look for us. Don't give up. It will be worth it."

Some people just didn't like what we had to say. One woman wrote: "Today's women should realize that fairy tales such as these are a disservice to their gender — they promote extremely poor mental health."

The most bizarre letter we got:

"Dear June or Lynn, While there is nothing wrong with girls who like 'hugs, roses, quiet dinners for two, dancing, midnight swims, etc.," I wonder if 'wholesome' girls actually 'suck face.'"

He may never find out.

Cyndy Lynn Davis and Karen June Bloch are both on The Battalion staff.



Karen Bloch and Cyndy Davis

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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.

### 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 holidays 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.

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