

LETTERS:

Hazing, harassment synonymous terms

EDITOR:
An October 4 article in the Houston Chronicle by Roy Bragg quotes Chuck Rollins, head of the Corps, as having said at a Wednesday rally, "There's a certain amount of harassment that needs to go on because of the way we are structured and what we are set up to do."

Harassment is defined by Webster's as "trouble, worry or torment" from repeated attacks or raids. That sounds very similar to hazing which is "to initiate or discipline fellow students by forcing them to do ridiculous, humiliating or painful things."

Thus, Rollins seems to advocate harassment as an inherent quality of the Corps. Not only is hazing a violation of Texas A&M University regulations, but can we seriously expect any positive change in the Corps when the leader views hazing as necessary?

Rollins said that physical punishment is effective. "As soon as you do it, you feel like you're cleansed of your sins," Rollins said.

I wonder how I survived all these years without cleansing myself by physical punishment? Ridiculous, humiliating and painful things do not seem very cleansing; rather that statement reflects the ridiculous excuses used for the defense of an illegal practice.

"There are still going to be violations," he said. "There are always going to be violations."

With this type of leadership, I am not surprised.

Michael Crawford, Senior Journalism
Thomas Hanus, Senior Business

A&M to lose fine chemistry instructor

EDITOR:
I would like all students to know we are going to lose a good instructor in Dr. O'Connor, if the organic chemistry faculty does not stop pressuring him to conform to their methods of teaching. The faculty think that O'Connor is doing a disservice to the students because he does not teach in the same manner as all the other organic professors. I know O'Connor is a caring and good teacher for I have had him before. He would stick his neck out for any student and has on numerous occasions. I feel it is an honor to be in his class and the University and all students would be at a great loss if he resigned.

Why does the faculty think their method is the best? I took Chemistry 227 last year and made a C. Most students would have just taken the C.

However, I did not feel I had learned anything. I simply memorized what was necessary. I took the class again this semester, hoping I would learn the material rather than memorize. Now that I have a professor that can teach the material because of his own method of teaching, he is being pressured to change. The students like his way of teaching and are asking their professors to teach as such. I do not expect the other professors to change to O'Connor's way of teaching but I think all instructors should be able to teach the way they feel is best without being harassed.

If O'Connor leaves what am I supposed to do? They will replace him with a professor that teaches the same as all the others, so I am back where I started.

Dr. O'Connor does not have to teach for a living. He does it because he loves A&M and the students. I would not blame him for leaving because of the crap he has to put up with due to the faculty. I hope the faculty will open their minds to a new way of thinking. If all people were close-minded in thinking there is only one way of doing things, A&M would not be the great University it is.

Tim Votion
Class of '86

Gramm appalling in many ways

EDITOR:
As a Bostonian, I found Phil Gramm's most recent comment on toxic waste appalling. Mr. Gramm, however, has supported enough perverse legislation to potentially inspire disgust in everyone.

As students, we should be concerned that Phil Gramm proposed an \$854 billion cut in educational benefits which include cuts in Pell Grants and Student Loans for higher education.

As Texans, there should be concern that while large parts of Texas were devastated by droughts this year, Gramm fought against drought relief.

As citizens concerned about a secure future we should note that the Social Security we may come to depend on will be no help to us if Gramm has his way (Gramm is callous enough to have stated that it's "hard for him to feel sorry" for the elderly whose Social Security would be denied because they were already bestowed with the "luxury of living to be 80 years old").

As people who want our civil rights protected it is disturbing that Phil Gramm voted against emergency aid to investigate the murders of black children in Atlanta.

This is a very brief overview of the insensitivities of Phil Gramm to Texans, students, farmers, minority groups, the elderly, and just about everyone who isn't Phil Gramm.

Catherine A. Girard
Class of '85

Coed dorms do exist in Texas A&M System

EDITOR:
In regards to the previous letter by Hennon Gilbert, I would like to clear up a misconception that seems to be widespread. The misconception is that there are no coed dorms at A&M and there will never be. This is wrong! I went to school at Texas A&M at Galveston and they have 3 (count 'em) COED DORMS and COED floors. Shocking isn't it. There has been no problems whatsoever with this system. There is even a CORPS COED dorm!

Oh yes, TAMUG is really a part of A&M, even though everyone tries to pretend that we don't exist.

Bonna Smith
Class of '84

Males only band maintains unity

EDITOR:
I am writing in response to the argument of letting females join the Aggie Band. Before coming to A&M for the first time this fall, I participated in high school and junior high school band programs for seven years. During my senior year, I was a drum major. I can easily say that my experiences in band have been some of the happiest and most rewarding times of my life, and I really miss not being a part of that now.

Watching the Aggie Band perform puts chills up and down my spine. There is one thing that the band has that every band strives for but only occasionally reaches, and that is unity. That unity is representative of the unity of A&M, the bond that all Aggies share. The reason that so few bands have this special characteristic is that their members are not as closely knit as those of the Aggie Band. I really feel that letting females join the band would be a threat to its unity. The relationship of brothers is a special kind of closeness - and this is what the band is built on.

I do not think the band could pass any challenge onto a female with band experience that she could not handle, but the question is not who is the most capable or the stronger sex. It is a matter of continuing the type of system most beneficial to the band's existence. I believe in equality of the sexes, but some things must be examined closely before they are mistakenly accused of discrimination. Coming from the viewpoint of a musician and a girl, I feel the band should remain all-male.

Molly Sweatman

Physical discipline essential to military

EDITOR:
It seems to me that, although A&M has a large military institution, most non-regs are ignorant to the facets of military life. I am in the military and was in the Corps during my fish year. And being myself a non-reg, I would like to share with you the reasons for physical discipline.

In a football team, the only way to win games it to remain in top physical shape as well as having superior knowledge of the sport. So it is, too, with the military. It must maintain high standards of physical endurance and mental ability to remain prepared for the ever present threat of war. And to maintain superiority over the enemy takes discipline.

Discipline can't be learned, it has to be instilled. Instilled through hard work and motivation. But one cannot always stay at the level of motivation it takes to maintain discipline.

Thus, reinforcing factors are applied from outside sources. In the Corps of Cadets this used to be through physical exercise. In the actual military while in recruit training or Officers Candidate School, this is how it is done all the time. The reason is two-fold: to maintain top physical endurance and to provide the extra motivation that is necessary to instill discipline. It is not meant to be malicious or harmful although it is hard work physically as well as mentally.

Discipline is what it takes to maintain the toughest military in the world today and physical discipline is the key factor in maintaining high standards. The military is not a game, neither is war. We must not allow the high standards to slip because of ignorance. Our freedom was hard won, would you want to lose it?

Steve Dareing
Class of '87

Volleyball team needs support for UT game

EDITOR:
We need your help! Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White that small junior college from Austin will challenge the Texas A&M Women's Volleyball Team.

The Ags and the Horns are both undefeated in conference play. We sport a record of 18 wins and 2 losses. The sips are currently 11 and 2 and are ranked 8th in the nation. The winner of the Wednesday night match will have taken a significant step towards the Southwest Conference Championship.

Last year over 2,500 people attended the game. This was the largest crowd to ever attend a women's sporting event at TAMU. G. Rollie White can hold 7,900 people and we want to fill it to capacity this year. We can only do this with your effort and support. Please help us, Ags.

See you Wednesday at 7:30.
Gig 'em.

Chemine Doty
Sheryl L. Brinkman
Co-Captains Women's Volleyball Team

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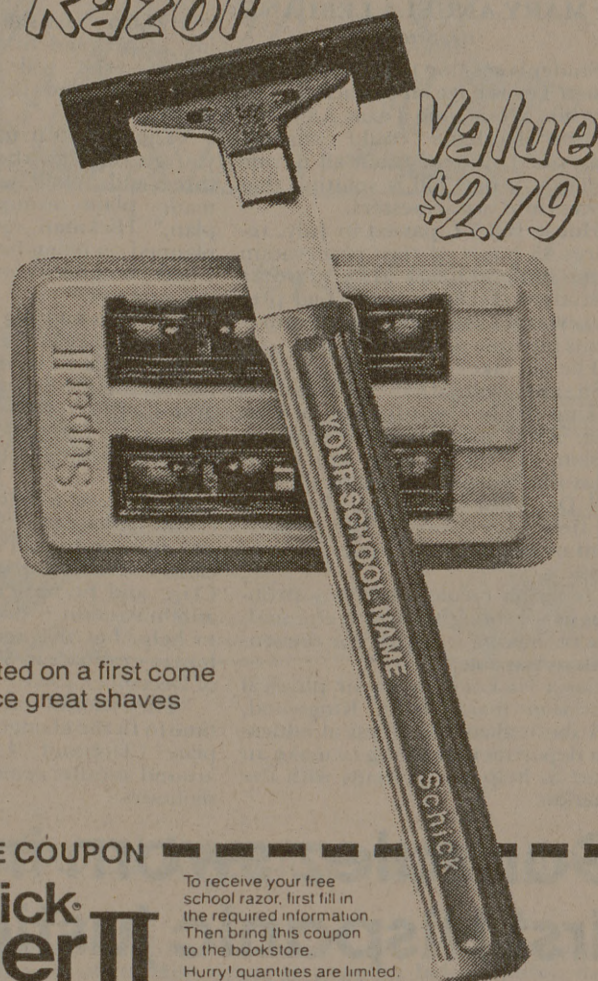
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All things in moderation...especially alcohol.

That's good advice.

We're learning that moderation is the key to a safe and healthy life. We are each becoming more concerned with nutrition, exercise and overall physical fitness. That's why we're watching our salt intake, for example.

We know that there are certain safety lines and we don't cross them. Because excess means abuse and abuse means problems.

The majority of people who drink alcohol do so responsibly because they do so in moderation.

They know how to enjoy alcohol beverages and gain the social, personal and health benefits that come with responsible drinking.

They know the responsibility they take on when they drink alcohol beverages or serve these beverages to others...a responsibility for safety, health and proper conduct.

And they know the best way to practice that responsibility is through moderation.

By knowing their limits, and sticking to them.

By neither accepting, nor offering "one-for-the-road."

By neither condoning nor contributing to irresponsible behavior.

And by exhibiting at all times, a responsible attitude about alcohol.

They know the special responsibility that comes with the decision to drink alcohol...moderation.

That's the only way to drink...responsibly.

"A Proud Participant of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week" October 8-14, 1984



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