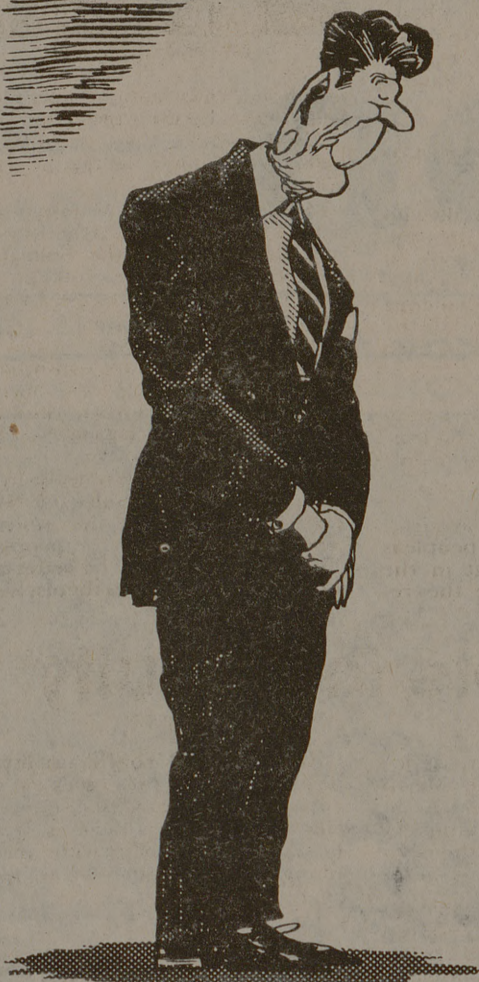


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OKAY, RON...
TAKE TWO!



LETTERS:

Traditions are living; don't force death

EDITOR:

One of the points brought out at the recent SWAMP face-off was that "traditions no longer reflect the views of the majority of the student body."

Traditions are much like living things: they are born and they die. If a tradition no longer reflects the views of those who carry it, they will stop handing it down to the younger generations, and it will slowly and quietly die — the natural death for traditions.

Personally, we don't believe that SWAMP's statement is accurate. If the majority of the student body's views were not reflected in our traditions almost everyone would be walking on the grass around the MSC and wearing their hats within.

Yell practices would be a lonely place indeed. Tradition is knit into the very

foundation of our university, and stripping our university of its tradition would strip it of its pride; it would become the second-class university that some people believe us to be.

We believe that SWAMP, though a minority, does enjoy the right of free speech. They can say anything they want. If they want to speak for or against an issue in a legal, orderly manner, we say let them.

SWAMP: don't murder our traditions — let them die a natural death.

Bryan A. Mau, '88
Scott Alan Fossler, '88

SWAMP has lost ideals

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to some observations of SWAMP over the last few weeks. I am adamantly in favor of free speech; I am a feminist; I am loudly pro-choice and pro-gay rights and all that good stuff. No one can accuse me of being conservative by any stretch of the imagination.

But, somehow I have begun to feel inadequate as a radical type person. What's a good liberal to do if she or he doesn't sit around naked, or give a damn about walking on the grass?

Recently I was driving down Texas Ave. near University and I noticed a demonstration in front of the adult bookstore. The mini-mob consisted of a group of anti-porn, pro-"decency" people (whose motives I seriously question), flanked by Hugh and Company from SWAMP. Waving pornographic magazines and raised fists.

However much I resent legislated moral and sexual attitudes, I don't think I could ever bring myself to support pornography even in the interest of freedom of sexual expression. I can't see how "Hustler" is helping people foster good self esteem or healthy body images — perhaps it may promote the opposite.

There is a huge gulf between "prodecency" (which often means "anti-sex-for-any-other-reason-than-procreation") and pro-pornography. I think this gulf extends to other questions as well. (Eg. either you get nude in a radio station or your are sexually repressed). There is an ugly sense of elitism that I've begun to feel that alarms me.

Is SWAMP genuinely trying to bridge the gap so that "blind conservatives" and liberals can meet comfortably in the middle? If they are, why did they turn down a suggestion to bring a speaker from the Klan?

I mention this not so much because I want to hear them particularly but because SWAMP claims to be for open discussion and for providing air for alternative views on campus. I think they draw suspicion when they won't bring a group that would certainly spark a great deal of discussion simply because they disagree with that group's views.

I am disappointed because I feel that SWAMP has succumbed to sensation-

alism and hypocrisy. They alienate moderates and lump them in with conservatives. They condemn those who don't agree with their rigid views. They stereotype dissenters as "sheep" or "fascists". They divide the campus into "us" and "them"s. Under any other circumstances these would be thought of as the crimes of bigots. Even groovy liberals are not immune to close-mindedness.

Carol Ann Ross
Class of '86

It's a privilege to stand while children starve

EDITOR:

In regard to Shannon Talkington and Stacy Hensley's letter of criticism of Scott Humphrey for speculating against A&M. Your answer was typical and predictable, "take Highway 6 the hell to t.u." Rationality at its finest — you obviously don't travel. While we're on the subject of rationality and irrationality, here are some mentionable points.

This school and its students make practically any tradition in the name of "good bull". Aggies throw out the non-conformist in the name of "bad ag" and communism. A&M has bonfire, the biggest annual woodburn in the country, except for some parched California valleys. Maybe in a California bonfire they omit the cut and stack nonsense and just light the forest.

Either way the "take one napkin, save a tree foundation" has a declining membership. A&M has a world university belltower, an \$800,000 juke box that stands above the many condemnable dorms on Northside. For our nationally famous football team, we stand at every game. It really is a privilege, what with all the poor kids in China who have never even seen a football game.

All Aggies have only one thing in common, we receive a state sponsored tuition price that makes A&M very affordable. Perhaps Scott Humphrey, like some of us, can afford nothing north of A&M on Highway 6. We are here to go to school and have found a lot more "bull" than expected.

Well, we've said our part, our bags are packed, the good ags will be here soon to put us on the trains bound for the relearning camps for bad ags. Oh, speaking of trains...

Greg Muse, '85
Brad Clark, '86

Will the dome be tarnished again?

EDITOR:

Will the dome of the Academic Building ever be green again? I hope so.

Elaine Evetts
Class of '86

A new tradition: discrimination

EDITOR:

Traditions, for the most part, are a fine thing. They serve to bring students, races, even generations closer together. Texas A&M University has a reputation for tradition that is, in my opinion, unparalleled in Texas. As a result, many look at Texas A&M with a sense of pride and admiration. They feel, as I do, that traditions are sacred and good, as well as being an integral part of the university.

However, I am becoming increasingly concerned about a new "tradition" being fostered at Texas A&M — a tradition of prejudice and discrimination. Once again, Aggies have shown their institutional bigotry by discouraging women from the band and refusing to accept the Gay Student Services.

The fact is, whether, or not the Board of Regents or the student body will admit it, A&M is obviously very traditional but obviously very narrow-minded. People should realize that traditions are important, but when they show blatant discrimination against a person because of sex or sexual preference, they should be amended or abolished. It is not our place to pass judgment on each other. We are not perfect individuals and should not expect others to be.

If Texas A&M can look at itself objectively, it will see a fine school, but it will also see a school that could be much better if students can learn to coexist with one another. I hope that you, as members of this institution, have the courage to look at yourself, and to decide for yourself if discrimination and prejudice are the answers.

Remember, the Bible teaches tolerance, and the Constitution teaches equality. Think about it...

M. Brett Burns
Class of '88

A&M India Association urges end to violence

EDITOR:

This is to note that the India Association of Texas A&M University places on record its grief at the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and of many others that have followed.

The Association also urges that the Government of India takes all steps to stop the mob violence that is causing the death of innocent citizens of India.

Nazir Khalil
President, India Association

Eating your way across the USA

It's 11 a.m. and I'm already hungry.



Kevin Inda

I wonder what I'll eat for lunch today. Maybe I'll go get one of those generic Northgate hamburgers. Well, maybe not.

It's too bad I don't have the variety of food to choose from that I did when fellow Aggie, Mark Rudolph, and I traveled across the country — on the other hand, maybe I'm better off.

During our adventure across the country I took every opportunity to sample different and interesting types of food, served in even more unusual places. Unfortunately this led to the downfall of my once physically fit body.

But gaining 20 pounds was worth having the opportunity to tantalize my taste buds with culinary delights.

Let me share some of the more interesting places with you:

— **Bob Evan's Restaurants** — located all over the Eastern United States. Uncle Bob's we called it. Best homemade biscuits and sausage gravy in the world — \$2.25.

— **Gyros** — South Bend, Ind. Have you ever had a gyro? A gyro is the Greek solution to a fajita. Instead of good old Bevo, they use poor little Lambchop. Yuck.

— **Sportsman's-Lake** — Greenwood, S.C. This little hole-in-the-wall is where all the seasoned fishermen go after a hard day in the boat. Their specialty? Try a T-bone steak, fries and a Budweiser — \$4.50.

— **Catfish Inn** — Cocoa Beach, Fla. "Catfish-All U Can Ate — \$5.95," the menu said. You can tell by the spelling on the menu this place obviously did not have valet parking. But when our waitress brought out the biggest plate of catfish filets and hush puppies I'd ever seen, I didn't care whether she could spell. I ate so much I had to flop back to the motel.

— **The Playboy Club** — Miami, Fla. I had "Hefner's Favorite". It was great, but I would have rather had Miss December.

— **Pat's Restaurant** — Henderson, La. According to the locals, Henderson is the crawfish capitol of the world. (Don't ask for crawdads, or the Cajuns will make boudin out of you.)

— **Eagle Cafe** — San Francisco, Cal. This wharfside dive is the place to eat if you're a salty sailor or would like to meet one. For \$3 or \$4, you can eat well and hear some interesting stories.

— **Nepthenes** — Big Sur, Cal. This old and nostalgic restaurant sits atop a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Nepthenes specializes in California (health) food and their wine list is thicker than the phonebook. They say the movie stars hang out here.

— **The Pacific Princess** (Love Boat) — Los Angeles, Cal. The food was terrific but after 16 days of eating steak, lobster, prime rib, caviar and baked Alaska, I was ready for a bologna sandwich. I can still hear the head waiter ringing his bells in the intercom: "Ladies and gentlemen, dinner is now being served in the Coral dining room. I wish you all Bon Appetit."

Well, it's noon, and after thinking about all those places we ate across the United States I'm even hungrier than before.

I guess I'll go down to the corner for a steamed weenie and a Coke.

Kevin S. Inda is a senior journalism major.

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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 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. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.