

# Opinion

## Post-game antics: festive or fatal?

**Traditions.** According to the dictionary they are modes of thought or behavior followed by a people from generation to generation. According to the students of Texas A&M, they are the things that make this school special.



**Karl Pallmeyer**

Granted, traditions play an important role in life here at Texas A&M, but they must not be followed blindly. Traditions must be examined and changed, if necessary, by each generation before they are passed down to the next. Once a tradition causes someone to come to harm, that tradition should be changed.

There is tradition that needs re-examined at this school. At the end of victorious home football games, freshmen cadets run out on the field, grab the yell leaders and take them to the Fish Pond for a quick dunking. Aggie fans also run out onto the field to congratulate the team. There is usually a pretty huge stampede when hundreds of freshmen and fans run onto the field to celebrate the Aggie victory. Last Saturday the "traditional" stampede got out of hand.

A 12-year-old girl's leg was broken when she ran out onto the field after the game and was run over by a group of freshman cadets pursuing the yell leaders. Considering the wild confusion after the games, it's been fortunate that nothing like this has happened before.

This type of accident is inexcusable and something should be done to keep it from happening again.

The blame can be placed on several people. The Corps freshmen should have acted with more care while running across the field. The fans should have exercised more constraint at the end of the game. The parents of the girl should have taken care to see that their daughter didn't get away from them. The University Police should have taken steps to prevent this type of stampede.

But placing the blame on someone is not as important as solving the problem.

The Corps can help solve the problem by changing their practice of chasing after the yell leaders. In the long history of Texas A&M, the yell leaders have never escaped the after-game dunking in the Fish Pond so why should they run to escape the inevitable? If the yell leaders would line up to be carried off peacefully to their dunking, the Freshmen cadets wouldn't have to stampede like a herd of wild animals.

The fans can help solve the problem by staying off the field until the end of the game. There is no reason that fans can't walk onto the field to congratulate the players after a game well played. The fans have no right to act like a wild herd of stampeding animals either.

The parents should watch their kids before, during and after the game. In any crowd as large as the one at the game Saturday, parents should make sure their kids don't get away from them. There are a lot of other problems that could be solved if parents took more responsibility for their kids.

The University Police can help solve the problem by making announcements during the game and posting signs on the field asking the fans to be more responsible after the game. The University Police Department doesn't have the manpower to prevent the crowd from rushing the field and handle the traffic outside of the stadium, but they can warn people of the dangers of such careless activity.

There is no reason the Corps and Aggie football fans can't show their joy after a victorious game by congratulating the coaches and players and dunking the yell leaders. The games and the after-game festivities can be enjoyed by all as long as everyone is careful and respects the rights of others.

**Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.**



## Boosters should stop meddling in college football programs

**Football.** The word alone commands attention.

In fairness to the other athletes, other sports do exist, but none get the respect of the Texas A&M community more than football.

When Aggies talk sports, they talk football.

Never mind that A&M's softball team has won the national championship twice in the last three years. Forget about the A&M volleyball team, currently ranked No. 15 in the nation and the successful men's tennis and baseball programs. Who cares about those sports that have and continue to produce winners, teams that really bring respect to the University?

What is it about football that garners all the attention?

Let's face it, football is more visible than any other collegiate sport, making it the perfect means of bringing instant notoriety to the University. And notoriety is very important to a university with an inferiority complex.

However, should this obsession become so important that nothing else matters? Should NCAA regulations be dropped by the wayside?

No. But it happens anyway. This past Thursday, TCU Head Football Coach Jim Wacker dismissed senior tailback Kenneth Davis, a Heisman Trophy candidate, and suspended five other players from the team. An investigation by TCU revealed that Davis had accepted cash from a Horned Frog booster. The six players admitted to receiving payments from the same alumnus.

## Mail Call

some people were admitted free. The \$3,000 was spent for promotions, including advertising, flyers and T-shirts.

## Women are Ags, too

I am offended! Yell practice is a fun tradition and I've always enjoyed participating in it... BUT... the chauvanistic comments have to go. Here's the quote I'm referring to: "Let's go out there and make Northeast Louisiana look like a bunch of women." And all the males say "whoop."

Well, to me, that sounds like a compliment to last week's opponents. Look around and notice all the amazing accomplishments women have made — this is 1985, that doesn't even need to be said. What time warp are you from, yell leader? What's your excuse? I'm sure you don't actually think that the women at yell practice (who voted for you) were overly impressed by that statement.

I'd just like to request that in future, whoever is leading the yells, please take the whole student body into consideration. That was the first yell practice for the class of '89 and what were these new Ags thinking? Don't make A&M appear to be behind the times.

A man of quality is one who respects equality!

**Laurie Human '88**



**John Hallett**

SMU is currently under a three-year probationary period for recruiting violations. The violations included cash payments to athletes and resulted in the NCAA's decision to order SMU to disassociate itself from nine boosters. Both schools denied any knowledge of fringe benefits provided to players by overzealous alumni.

Now A&M enters the picture with the accusations made against A&M quarterback Kevin Murray by Gerry Oher of WFAA-TV in Dallas. Once again the accusations involve a booster, in this case a former student, Rod Dockery, Class of '66, making cash payments to a "student-athlete." A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill has denied any knowledge of the incident.

Regardless of the outcome of the ongoing University investigation, the Murray incident and others like it around the country have brought to light a serious problem — athletic boosters meddling with sports programs.

Most boosters have noble intentions — to bring glory to their university's hallowed halls — but the means by which they accomplish their goals are less than honorable. To guarantee that their university gets the best athletes, some boosters have resorted to providing "student-athletes" with incentives. When their actions are exposed the football program, not the booster, suffers the consequences. Cash payments to student athletes are not against the law, they are against NCAA rules. So boosters are accountable to no one.

Some people may find it hard to believe that coaches don't know about the relationship between boosters and athletes. Perhaps Sherrill's comment, made

after he learned of Oher's accusation says it best: "... I don't want to know Dockery made the payments)." They not to say that some don't condone such payments — some do, some don't — others choose to ignore it. Why?

Because the boosters provide enormous sums to athletic programs, don't forget who pays for the majority of many head coaches' salaries — athletic boosters, not the universities. Coaches are placed in a difficult position. Without boosters, many programs would fold because states won't appropriate enough money to support an athletic program.

At least the state legislatures have forgotten what a university's primary goal is — to provide low cost education to produce athletes for the NFL.

**John Hallett is a senior political science major, a columnist and a News Editor for The Battalion.**

## Mail Call

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.

## Thanks, radio club

I wish to commend the Amateur Radio Club on the community service they provided by helping my family contact our relatives in Mexico City. The worst part of the disaster was not knowing if anything had happened to them.

They came through with the news of their safety. As has happened many times before, the only communications with a disaster area has been provided by persons like themselves.

I thank them for their time and trouble. Their unselfish actions are greatly appreciated.

**Benito Flores-Meath**

## Drunken sex or rape?

A strange thing happened last night. I ran into two people having sexual intercourse in the hallway of Heldenfels Hall. It was about midnight when I saw them. At first I thought that maybe they had a bit too much to drink, and they didn't realize where they were.

I walked away thinking about how immature they were being, when it occurred to me that perhaps I had been the witness to a rape. The more I thought about it the more I realized that it just wasn't natural to have sex in the hallway. This must have been a spur of the moment decision!

When I got to my destination I couldn't rest. What if it was rape? Would the girl be all right? I ran back to the building to see if I could be of any help. It had been less than five minutes since I had seen them, and now they were gone.

I began to examine my actions. Should I have just kept on going? Maybe I should have asked, "Do you

need any help?" I never really thought about the situation before, and now I had no choice.

With this in mind I thought that I should at the very least let other people know about the situation. Maybe if people think about the possibility of such a situation, then they will know what they should do if they ever have such an encounter.

**Michael Forbush**  
Graduate Student  
Physics Dept.

## 'Big Kiss' clarified

In the Sept. 16 Battalion a clarification was printed concerning the MDA donation made from the proceeds of the "Big Kiss." After reading this with great interest, I now find myself totally confused.

The article stated that attendance was "more than 2,400 Aggie couples." The article goes on to state that the event grossed "about \$11,000". According to my calculations, 2,400 couples times \$10 (the amount of admission per couple) is equal to 24,000 dollars. This sounds like a bad joke about an Aggie accountant.

The article also states that about \$3,000 was spent on advertising, yet I was under the impression that this event was only given publicity on KKYS-FM Radio and that the time was donated as a public service. Surely, someone could have found a better deal than this if such money was required to handle such a charitable cause. I personally know of another radio station in this market that would have done the promotion for free.

**Neil Harrison**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The article did indeed read "2,400 Aggie couples." It should have read "2,400 Aggies." The figures don't add up to \$12,000 because

**The Battalion**  
USPS 045 360  
Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

**The Battalion Editorial Board**  
Rhonda Snider, Editor  
Michelle Powe, Managing Editor  
Loren Steffy, Opinion Page Editor  
Karen Bloch, City Editor  
John Hallett, Kay Mallett, News Editors  
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

**The Battalion Staff**  
Assistant City Editors.....Kirsten Dietz, Jerry Ollie  
Assistant News Editors.....Cathie Anderson, Jan Perry  
Assistant Sports Editor.....Charean Williams  
Entertainment Editors.....Cathy Riely, Walter Smith  
Art Director.....Wayne Grabell  
Copy Editors.....Rebecca Adair, Mike Davis, Sarah Oates  
Make-up Editor.....Ed Cassavoy  
Staff Writers.....Tamara Bell, Meg Cadigan, Ed Cassavoy, Cindy Gay, Doug Hall, Paul Herndon, Wendy Johnson, Tammy Kirk, Jens Koepcke, Trent Leopold, Mary McWhorter, June Pang, Tricia Parket, Brian Pearson, Lynn Rae Fowles, Marybeth Rohsner, Gigi Shamsi, Kenneth Surt  
Cartoonists.....Mike Lane, Scott McCullar, Kevin Thomas  
Columnists.....Camille Brown, John Hallett, Karl Pallmeyer  
Photographers.....Greg Bailey, Anthony Casper, Frank Hadda, Jaime Lopez, Michael Sanchez

**Editorial Policy**  
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.  
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editor, Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.  
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.  
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$10.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.  
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-5318. 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.