

Mail Call

Awaiting Karl's graduation

EDITOR:
Words cannot express how glad I will be when senior journalism major and Battalion columnist Karl Pallmeyer, along with the rest of the so-called Aggies who expectorate in the face of Aggie tradition, walks across the stage in May. Is it really that big of a deal to you that when some rich Aggie donates a lot of money he requests that his name be remembered at the same time?

I get so sick when people like this kick in with the ol' "why don't they buy books with the money" sob story. Last year it was the Albritton Tower controversy and granted I was pretty steamed when I didn't receive some extra books out of the deal, but I soon got over it.

Like the people from AIRCO Technical Institute say... "The mark of any college lies in the success of its graduates." Be grateful that the Albrittons, Blockers and Zachrys of this University have chosen to leave their mark on the world here on the campus of Texas A&M. If you have a problem with that, Pallmeyer, I'm sure the folks at Moscow U. will welcome you for their graduate school program.

It is my suggestion to The Battalion staff that you refrain from printing any more of this righteous trash. It's just a lot of the stuff that cattle are so good at making. Some rich Aggie might see it and decide that we really don't want his donation.

Steve Lueckemeyer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry Steve, Karl won't be graduating until next December.

Too much to ask?

EDITOR:
All North Side residents wishing to copy anything have faced desperate times in attempting to copy their important papers in the A-1 Lounge. It seems the beautifully computerized, newly acquired copy machine simply never functions. We are not sure if it has ever worked or if there are actually functioning parts within. The machine that it replaced at least worked 50 percent of the time. Students have made futile reports of this malfunctioning alien to no avail. Could we please have a working copy machine — is it too much to ask?

Katrina Miesch '86

Becki Achee '88

Karen Majors '88

Accompanied by 162 Signatures

Beware of falling buildings

EDITOR:
Nov. 18, right before noon, I was walking to a class in Heldenfels Hall. As I passed the Biological Sciences Building on the sidewalk between it and the Analytical Services Building, a relatively large chunk of cement broke off the third story of the Biological Sciences Building and crashed on the sidewalk directly behind me. The cement missed me, but only by a few inches. I was able to laugh at the time as several witnesses stood staring at me with huge eyes and open mouths.

I have written this letter in the hopes of drawing attention to the proper party that should be aware of this potential hazard, if they are not already aware. I would not want the Biological Sciences Building to fall on one of my fellow Ags. I would also like to warn my fellow Ags to beware of falling buildings!

Laura Doiron

Selective Aggie-ism

EDITOR:
In response to Greg Dean's letter of Nov. 12, I would like to address a problem which I call "Selective Aggie-ism." This problem strikes those who choose to participate only in those traditions which are fun or convenient.

Regarding the reprimand Deans received for booing: it's true — good Ags DON'T boo! First of all, it is extremely rude. Secondly, if you are so

willing to "stand up to support our team" with all the rest of us, why is it so difficult to express disapproval with all of us? Anyway, I think it is much more effective for 37,000 people to "give 'em a horse laugh" in unison.

Concerning the request to remain off the MSC grass, this was not some arbitrary decision made by the persons with the "conspicuously shaved heads" to irritate the non-regs. The MEMORIAL Student Center and the surrounding grass was dedicated to 1951 "in humble reverence... to those men of A&M who gave their lives in defense of our country. Here is enshrined in spirit and in bronze enduring tribute to their valor and their deep devotion. Here their memory shall remain forever fresh — their sacrifices shall not be forgotten." Have YOU forgotten, Deans?

To me, Deans' letter exemplifies the pattern of "Selective Aggie-ism" that seems to be growing here. If a tradition is enjoyable and exciting, then it should continue to be upheld. If, however, a tradition does not meet with someone's approval, such as not booing at football games, or — worse yet — is slightly inconvenient, such as taking an additional four steps around the grass (or "sections of mud") surrounding the MSC, then OBVIOUSLY the traditions are useless and merely touted by "holier-than-thou, power-hungry traditionalists."

Also, the same traditionalists that you criticize are the very ones that made A&M a "better, friendlier place" by instilling the importance of a cheerful "Howdy!" to everyone they meet (which is sadly becoming a dying tradition).

By the way, if we "turn down the volume of the closed-minded traditionalists," you may not be "having a blast" at too many more midnight yell practices.

Kim Stout '87

Library gifts benefit all

EDITOR:
What would you say is the most important aspect of a university? The ranking of its football team? The number of National Merit Scholars who are students there? What about the excellence of its library?

Dr. Frank Vandiver, president of Texas A&M, emphasizes the importance of a library in our modern technological society: "The library has evolved into much more than a collection of books and documents. It has become an information center essential to all aspects of the University."

A library is an indicator of the excellence of education available from a university. To elevate A&M to a position of world leadership in scholarship and research we must begin by improving the resources of our library.

The Sterling C. Evans Library is currently ranked 42nd of the 105 members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). This places the Aggie library a scandalous 36 slots below the 6th ranked University of Texas.

The problem could be easily solved with one very important ingredient: money. There is a direct correlation between the ranking of a library and its total operating expenditures. The libraries which spend the most have the highest rankings. Harvard, ranked number one, has total expenditures of \$24,658,246. Texas spends \$17,012,306 and is ranked 6th. A&M spends less than half of what Texas spends: \$8,260,270.

Because the library is essential to all academic programs, gifts to the library benefit all students, regardless of their academic interests or abilities. Anyone wishing to benefit this University may not readily do so by support of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Helen L. Miller
Sterling C. Evans Library Development Council

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.

MSC Camera Committee

Bonfire Print Sale

The "official" bonfire print

SIZE	PRICE
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8x10	\$5.25
11x14	\$10.50
16x20	\$21.00

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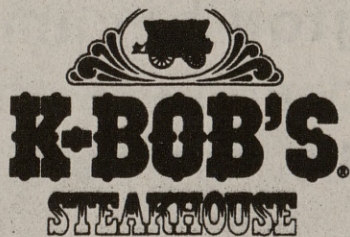
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