

Opinion

Being an Aggie worth the sarcasm, ridicule of other

Did you get a chance to look at Wednesday's Houston Chronicle? We were on the front page — Texas Aggies in tents waiting for tickets.

Cynthia Gay
Columnist

Most students didn't seem to think anything of it, except perhaps they'd like to be out there too. But I wonder what the bleary-eyed Houston businessman, downing his fifth cup of coffee to digest the morning news, must think of all this: "There go the Aggies again, going out of their way to do things, well, differently."

Different is right. But at the time our actions seemed appropriate, whether they were traditional practices or spontaneous outpourings of emotion.

This comes from within, and it's something we usually don't talk about. It's prompted sarcasm, irony and downright ridicule on occasion, but we got used to that a while back. Remember when we first told our high school friends we were going to Texas A&M.

"WHAT?? You're gonna be an AGGIE!" they said in disbelief. I mean, after all, they always thought you were a normal, easy-going person.

So after weathering this fall semester, we'll be heading home, or just about anywhere but College Station. And a couple weeks from today we may be out with some of those same friends that still don't quite understand us, but tolerate us just the same. The conversation may go something like this:

"So tell me, how's school going?" asks the cute girl you tutored in your senior government class.

You lean back in your chair, and say with a satisfied smile, "Hey, we've got Cotton."

Somehow that line just didn't grab her. She looks a little bored. "What's the deal?" you think to yourself. "That worked on the third deck in the third quarter."

But that was Thanksgiving, and this is Christmas, and right then you're wondering what could possibly add more spice to that egg nog than tales of 42-10 and great expectations in Dallas.

Or perhaps you're seated with all your brothers and sisters and cousins and more cousins (whose names you can never remember).

And the husband that's newly-wed to

one of your nameless cousins says to this congenial gathering: "Say uh, I graduated from William & Mary in '79, and I was just wondering where the rest of you guys are going to school?"

You sit through a chorus of "UT, Baylor, U of H, Southwest and Sam," patiently awaiting your moment in the family spotlight.

"A&M." It speaks for itself, right? But you get the feeling it's no big deal to those who don't go to this University, or didn't, or wouldn't want to.

Regardless of the snide remarks we hear, or sometimes make about each other or certain groups on campus, we are Aggies. And that's what is essentially behind the initial stigma against women coming to A&M years ago and Greeks recruiting members now. Simply, that active grouping means separating, and separate groups threaten unity.

Aggies are famous for sticking together, for sticking up for one another. Old grads know we'll be successful, but will we be loyal? Each student must eventually answer that question for himself or herself. Are you an Aggie, or do you just go to A&M, discover its imperfections and complain?

We've heard so much about women's

rights, gay rights, racial strife and Greek recognition lately, that we sometimes lose sight of A&M's day-to-day atmosphere. There's no doubt we are diverse, yet we manage to mix freely under the umbrella of Aggieland. Just because a group is obviously distinctive in a particular area or lifestyle does not mean it should be singled out and excluded.

We're doing a pretty good job. Catching the drift of most any campus conversation, one usually hears about what the speakers have in common, not in conflict. If we do fall short, it's usually pertaining to the Corps of Cadets.

They aren't demanding rights, but they continue to be singled out. The Corps wants only to prepare its members to be officers in our armed services. And that's not especially easy these days. Consider the fact that we have at A&M the only ROTC program in the United States that functions seven days a week within a major university. The Corps is not asking for our approval, only our understanding to let them go about their business.

Maybe they should ask for more. We could give a little more, you know.

On Thanksgiving Day, our neighbors

in Austin with whom we compete about everything, outdid us in our backyard. The University of Texas decided to forego their traditional time finale and pay tribute to the men and women in our armed services. The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets

Both are in the business of preparing for our freedom. The Longhorn has the opportunity to express their interest for that freedom.

As students, we get that chance every day when we make the effort to treat cadets and treat cadets simply as equal students. We're all striving through the academic life, and there's no need for separating this group from our friends and acquaintances.

And perhaps if we have our friends at home who are consoling us, we might see a drop in membership. They need our support. As Aggies, the least we could do.

So when you head away from Station next week, prepare for Christmas, Cotton and being an

Cynthia Gay is a junior journalist and a columnist for The Battalion.

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Local C
By MEG C
Staff W

Ninety percent of the emergency room visits are for non-emergencies. They don't have a patient because they have an emergency room. Dr. A.W. White Medical Clinic.

Dr. Russ Tongco emergency room at Capital, agrees. He says the emergency room is not an emergency. "If you ask the patient it is," he says. Tongco says he's coming to on a regular basis.

In spite of the fact that they're back here, they don't turn them down. To avoid the cost of hospital care, many people are turning to local clinics, say the business AM/PM Clinic.

Nickerson says of cases seen at the sinusitis, sore throats and strains.

White says he's similar to those a few handle.

"You can think of a family practice with a bit more services," White says. The rate for an X-ray is \$25 with a lab test and a hospital is \$30.25 for most X-rays.

Tongco says on higher emergency hospital emergency registered nurses. "They (the nurses) are there for the patient," he says.

Nickerson says avoids this expense. He says vocational registered nurses. She says emergency medicine laboratory technician. One type of specialty is X-ray for a few minutes according to a doctor required for most X-rays.

Local

By SYLVIA
Rep

The "Sparkle" special open-house light up downtown but with brand name and some brand.

The program Bryan Downtown will be from 3 p.m. Wendy Marsh coordinator, said statement will include a shopping spree.

"Children with Austin — 1 Court ruled West County rape case has discretion to the interest of justice.

A woman who was beaten in her apartment security guard on incident and the

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GOP looks fearlessly toward 1986

Republicans are bullish about 1986, an election year that history suggests they should be dreading.

Donald M. Rothberg
AP News Analyst

When that small band of Republicans who've managed to get elected governors held their annual meeting here this week, the mood was strikingly upbeat.

Vice President George Bush told the governors the party would turn history on its ear next year by reversing the pattern under which the party in control of the White House usually suffers deep losses in the midterm election during a president's second term.

It happened to Franklin Roosevelt in 1938. It happened to Dwight Eisenhower in 1958.

But, insisted Bush, "It's not going to happen to Reagan."

What some analysts call the "sixth year itch" has produced average losses

for the White House party of seven Senate seats and 48 House seats during Reagan's tenure — and, most important for the GOP governors, a loss of seven governorships.

The Republican governors are starting out so far down, they are practically assured of not losing another seven from their ranks next year.

Thirteen governors attended the two-day conference of the Republican Governors Association, and that wasn't a bad turnout considering there are only 16 GOP governors nationwide. The other 34 are Democrats.

The governors listened to a lot of upbeat talk about the expanding status of their party and the death of the Democratic coalition that dominated American politics for the past 50 years.

That coalition, said Bush, is "dead, gone, buried."

But he also cautioned against assum-

ing the Republicans have replaced the Democrats as the majority party.

"We don't yet have a new, equally strong coalition to take its place," he said.

Where that is most apparent is on the state and local level, where the Democrats remain strong.

The GOP governors devoted a lot of time to congratulating themselves on the innovative ways they have found to deal with state problems.

But innovation isn't unique to Republican governors. Democratic governors have been equally innovative, which is a reason for their success in state elections.

Led by Ronald Reagan, Republicans have succeeded in discrediting the Democratic Party on the national level, portraying it as being mired in the past and wedded to special interest groups that put themselves ahead of the nation's interests.

But while that argument has sold well in national elections, it has not been successful in the states.

Democratic governors such as Charles Robb in Virginia, Robert Graham in Florida and Bruce Babbitt in Arizona have moved ahead of their national party and captured the political center in their states.

That was what GOP Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. was talking about when he warned the GOP governors, "We must not let the Democratic Party move unfettered to the center or right of center and force our party to the extreme right."

However, as I hold a liberal arts degree from A&M, I was struck by the concluding sentence in the letter: "We guess liberal arts is not for people."

If anything, people should be desperate for the liberal arts, certainly is!

Just think for a moment about the social, economic, political and philosophical issues that surround the technological and financial arrangements that most of you are studying. For example, how do computers be allowed to invade our privacy? Should the government sue licensees for financial planners just as it does for lawyers and accountants? Who should determine when to pull the plug of the machine? (Indeed, is a brain-dead patient alive? (Indeed, is a brain-dead individual "alive" first place?) And how can mankind best deal with the technology called the "atomic bomb?")

Of course it's important to obtain a marketable skill: social people to build its bridges and balance its bank accounts.

But study of the liberal arts, even if such study consists of a few electives, helps broaden one's intellectual horizons, thus making a richer, more fulfilling life.

Finally, the authors of the Nov. 26 letter cite several examples of successful people who have academic backgrounds in some combination of liberal arts and business or engineering. But I know of one gentleman whose academic background is in the liberal arts who graduated in 1932 from a small Western school called Eureka with a double major in sociology and economics. You may have heard of him.

His name is Ronald Reagan.

Richard Braastad '83

Missing the real issue

EDITOR:
Dr. Kallendorf (Battalion, Dec. 2) seems to have entirely missed the "real issue" of the letter I co-wrote (Battalion, Nov. 26).

The words "inaccurate" and "deceptive" did not apply to the liberal arts education is beneficial in business. In fact, our letter was painstakingly written to avoid any challenge to the worth of liberal arts education, however, say the following two things:

1) It is "inaccurate" to say that a man holding a BS in electrical engineering has a liberal arts degree.
2) It is "deceptive" to tell people with liberal arts backgrounds that they are concerned about their futures, that a certain chairman holds a liberal arts degree without mentioning that he also holds an MBA from Harvard.

In conclusion, and in response to the quote that was directed at me, let me say that I find it difficult to respect the opinions of a person who quotes Ann Landers. I didn't know that she is translated into Greek.

Matthew Sullivan '87
Liberal Arts

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