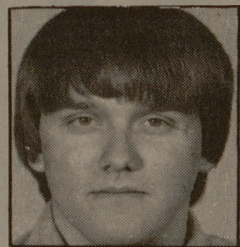


Opinion

Corps turns yell practice into tradition of violence

At Friday night's midnight yell practice several students decided to run out on Kyle Field. Nothing strange about that, it's tradition. Several cadets decided to stop them. Nothing strange about that, it's also tradition. The cadets usually grab the offenders and carry them off the field.



Karl Pallmeyer

This time, however, the cadets got a little carried away with their self-appointed position as keepers of the field. In Wednesday's *Battalion*, students said they were not only grabbed but also held down on the ground and beaten. According to these students, cadets even used helmets to ensure their punches had the maximum effect.

When friends tried to stop the pummeling, the students said their friends also were thrown to the ground and beaten. They also said the women who ran on the field were hit, thrown to the ground and called derogatory names, showing how well the Corps' fine tradition of chivalry has survived for 110 years.

The Corps sees a traditional right to protect the field, but traditional rights don't stand up against legal rights. The Corps' role as unofficial protector of the field does not give it free reign to bash heads. Even police are not allowed to use such violence as a form of crowd control.

According to University regulations, the Corps has no right to keep anyone from going onto Kyle Field. Appendix VI, Sec. 5 states that disruptive activity includes:

"Obstructing or restraining the passage of any person at an exit or entrance to the University or property or attempting to prevent by force or violence or the threat of force or violence the ingress or egress of any persons to or from said property.

"A lawful assembly is disrupted when any person in attendance is rendered incapable of participating in the assembly due to the use of force or violence or due to a reasonable fear that force or violence is likely to occur."

Violations of these regulations on disruptive activity can result in disciplinary action and possible prosecution.

Despite what the cadets say, Kyle Field is *not* a memorial stadium. The 55 flags that fly over the stadium are there to honor the 55 Aggies who died during World War I, but the field itself is not a memorial.

One cadet told *The Battalion*, "How would you feel if somebody ran over your father's grave?" in reference to the sanctity of Kyle Field.

To that I say, how would you feel if your father was buried under Astro-turf? Why do football players receive special consideration in running across "graves"?

I never had much respect for people who run onto the field. I think it's silly and childish. But they don't deserve to have their heads bashed in for their childishness. Fortunately, none of the civilians were injured seriously — only a few bruises, scrapes and cuts. But there are a lot of ill feelings and a damaged reputation.

Some things the Corps does in the name of tradition and being "red-ass" do nothing but make this school look like a collection of mindless apes. No wonder there are so many Aggie jokes.

In 1981, cadet Greg Hood did his best to defend tradition by drawing his saber and charging after Southern Methodist University cheerleaders who ran out on Kyle Field to lead a yell following an SMU touchdown. It's nice that Hood had access to a deadly weapon in his fight to save the field. What would have happened Friday night if the cadets had been carrying sabers as well as helmets?

And only two years ago Bruce Dean Goodrich, a sophomore cadet, died as a result of "motivational exercises," one of the Corps' finest traditions. Information about those "motivational exercises" was destroyed by cadet Gabriel Cuadra, who was afraid that the information would hurt the Corps. Cuadra's actions hurt the Corps much more than the truth.

The Corps may be one of the oldest institutions at Texas A&M, but that doesn't give it the right to physically intimidate other students. The ideals it claims to stand for are lost when it tries to hide the truth in fear that its image might be tarnished. The ideals it claims to stand for die when it uses unnecessary violence to protect them.

Like it or not, the Corps is the most visible aspect of the student body at A&M, even though it represents less than 6 percent of the student body. Whatever the Corps does reflects on the entire school.

And students will not stand for mindless violence in the name of tradition. If the Corps wants a school where those who won't adhere to its archaic ideals are beaten and persecuted, it might do well to remember its old saying:

"Highway 6 runs both ways."

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

Mail Call

Mysteries of Sbsisa dining

EDITOR:

Would someone please explain to me the logic of the following rule? I'm in Sbsisa Dining Hall. I walk up to the line to get some barbecue, but the lady tells me I can't have a second serving of barbecue. I explain that I've yet to eat a first serving of barbecue, but no matter: to get some barbecue I must have a tray. I proceed to get a tray and sure enough, the same lady plops on my plate a helping of barbecue.

Question: Have I, by holding a tray, proved I have not had a serving of beef? I assume I have proved it, but I for the life of me can't figure out how. This worries me, for I'm in a logic course this semester, and my first test is just around the corner.

It's now dinner time the following evening. I'm once again in Sbsisa. I get in line for some steak. This time I hold in hand a ticket, distributed at the door, permitting only one serving of steak. Once again — why didn't I learn? — I don't bring a tray. But I have a ticket, which, of course, shows I have not had any steak. But what do you know? The lady (a different one) says I can't have any steak unless I have a tray because — why can I not see the light? — my ticket, which shows I have not eaten any steak, does not show that I have not eaten any steak.

I suppose my Logic 204 text will in a later chapter expose me to this deep process of reasoning, but I'd rather not wait. So would someone please explain it to me now?

Andrew H. Pendleton '88

Three years in waiting

EDITOR:

We also looked up the word senior. This term means "older or elder" or "member of the highest class in college or high school." Being a senior is an honor, and we've waited three years for the privilege.

A student must be a senior and have 92 hours to get his "Aggie Ring." This should also be true for 50-yard line football tickets. The last two weeks we've been stretching our necks to see the middle of the field while freshmen are standing comfortably on the 50-yard line.

We would like to go a step further than complaining and devise a solution to the problem. Giving us a priority day is not giving us priority seats. I suggest seniors still draw on Monday but be given a choice of the seats only between the 40 yard lines on all three decks. On Tuesday, juniors can draw as they do, still giving them a chance for good seats, but second in line to seniors and so on with the lowerclassmen. This may sound unfair to the lowerclassmen, but they will have three more years to earn the better seats.

Meanwhile, we'll try to enjoy our 15-yard line tickets so we can support our Aggies to the 1987 Cotton Bowl!

Tammy Hedgpeth '87

Annette Walker '88

Julie Hitchinson '88

Jill Kaml '87

Faith healing South Africa

EDITOR:

A few months ago I read an article in a campus newspaper that stated "Over 3,000,000 South Africans, both black and white, gather to pray and fast for their country."

What was more surprising than the sheer magnitude of the event was the fact that the secular news media never bothered to mention it. I know that the government has suppressed the media's activities, but I wondered how such a large event could escape their attention.

Perhaps the situation in South Africa is much different than the media would have me believe, since one-fourth of the South African population agrees that only God can heal their land.

My former roommate is from Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, a province of South Africa. He feels that disinvestment and other economic sanctions are not the solution to his neighboring countrymen's problems, partly due to the level of communist activity in his own country.

He knows, and I agree with him, that if the people would humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways and pray, then God would heal their land (and this goes for America as well).

As George Washington said in his farewell address: "Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths? . . . Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

David Panak

Graduate student

Deserving recognition

EDITOR:

I feel that a part of Texas A&M tradition goes highly unrecognized. I am referring to the Fish Drill Team.

The drill team is made up of freshmen in the Corps of Cadets who join on a voluntary basis. This year, the drill team has its largest number of volunteers.

These young men and women devote an extreme amount of time and energy to be a part of this organization. They meet at least four times a week Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m. at Duncan Field. I feel they deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

Lana Jones

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

The Battalion

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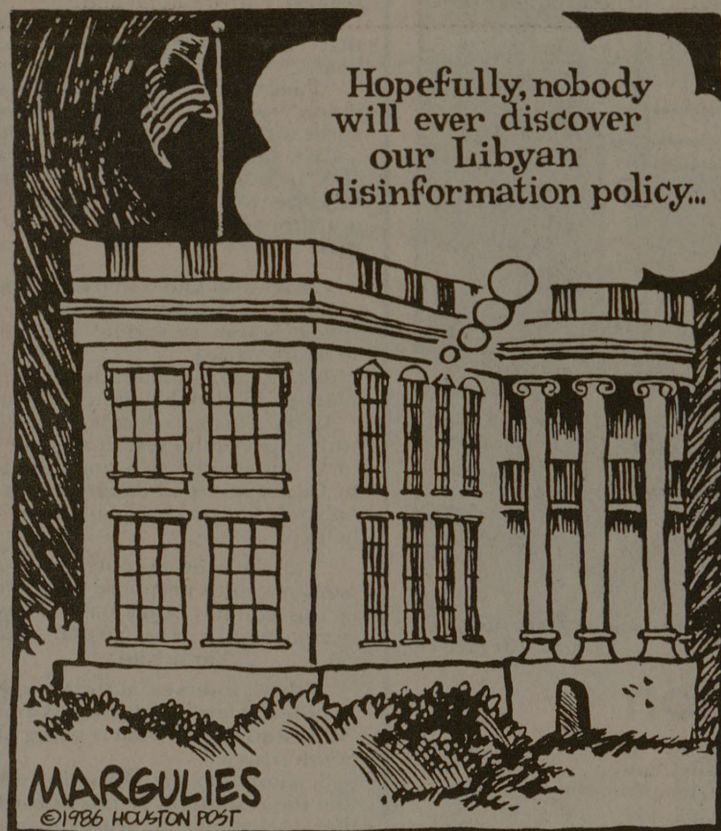
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MARGULIES
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News you can use — maybe

Did you know:

- One of eight Americans sleeps in the nude?

Lewis Grizzard

- Michael Jackson, who was at the White House to help promote an anti-drunken driving campaign, locked himself in a bathroom and refused to come out until the president personally asked him to.

- Hundreds of field mice are leaping from Golan Heights cliffs in what Israeli scientists say is an instinctive solution to overpopulation.

- There is no mold or mildew in Antarctica.

Of course, you didn't know any of that. Neither did I, until a publication called "View from the Ledge" arrived by mail the other day.

"View," published by DEADFROM-THE-NECKUP, Inc. in Washington, D.C., is a newsletter that describes itself as a "Celebration of the Submainstream," which means it is crammed full of little news items you likely won't find in your hometown newspaper.

I'm not certain how I got on the "View" mailing list, but I'm most appreciative. What this country needs is some-

body out there to collect the outrageous and the unreasonable to keep the rest of us from going insane.

Enough in the way of explanation. Let us now celebrate with "View from the Ledge" and its news form the sub-mainstream:

- QUOTE: "Nuclear war would really set back cable television." — Ted Turner.

- FACT: Rats rewarded in lab experiments hit the cocaine button two and a half times more than they hit the heroin button.

- THERE GOES THE JUDGE: A trial in Kenya was adjourned when a giant lizard invaded the courtroom. While the bailiffs tried to kill the lizard, 20 defendants escaped.

- DOWN UNDER: Two hunters in Adelaide, Australia, tied a stick of dynamite to a rabbit's back and lit the fuse "just to see what would happen."

What happened was the rabbit ran under one of the hunter's new trucks moments before the dynamite and the rabbit and the truck exploded.

- FACT: A survey of doctors in Japan reveals that more than 90 percent cheat on income tax. The worst: gynecologists.

- CRIME NEWS: A Tifton, Ga., man was arrested for driving around nude and slinging lard at women.

- DARN THE LUCK: A Los Angeles robbery suspect broke into a building to hide. It was the kennel of a training school for guard dogs.

- QUOTE: "We plant roses, we breed chickens, and we eat candy — but before we can eat candy, we must eat the kidneys of our enemies." — Moammar Gadhafi.

- ANOTHER FACT: In 1895, there were only two cars in the state of Ohio. They collided.

If you are interested in receiving "View from the Ledge," the best idea is to write P.O. Box 57141, Washington, D.C. 20037. If you want to contribute an item, send it to the same address.

Which reminds me: A reader in San Francisco recently sent me the following item from the San Francisco Chronicle. I quote directly:

"KIDNAPPING: A woman standing at the corner of Kearney Street and Broadway at 2 a.m. was forced into a man's car. He drove her to his apartment where he forced her to wash the dishes."

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