

Mail Call

Take hint, superficial moussers

EDITOR: I have a comment about Gregg Flinn's Oct. 26 letter concerning frats and the Corps. You know, Greg, when I was a fish I really didn't have a big "no frats" attitude. I also wasn't "told by some upperclassmen that frats were a no-no and that I should hate frats." Do you know why?

Because I did go out and try to form my own opinion. I went to frat parties and didn't like the superficiality of it. Some other things, however, helped form my opinion, too.

How about a frat being booted off of the Florida State University campus this summer for sexually assaulting a young lady and then leaving her at a neighboring frat house? Then there's the alcohol-related hazing deaths of pledges at Rutgers University and t.u. Of course, you're probably saying that the Corps was involved in the hazing death of a cadet. This is true, but unlike fraternities, the Corps has instituted measures to try to ensure that something of that nature doesn't happen again. Maybe, Greg, before you roll up those jeans and spritz that hair, you should ask Eva Nichols about her experiences with fraternities.

As for your insinuation that the Corps isn't important anymore, I like the Corps (I'm a non-reg, by the way), their integrity and honor (something that appears to be lacking in frats) and would much rather have them representing what A&M stands for than 2,500 mousse-head look-alikes. Oh, and as far as the "No frats" shirts are concerned—take a hint.

Stephen P. O'Neill '88

Anti-Corps attitude is anti-Aggie

EDITOR: In response to Greg Flinn's letter Oct. 26, I would like to point out that his adverse comments about the Corps of Cadets being "not as important today" are truly anti-Aggie. The Corps of Cadets has proven itself over and over to be the heart of Aggieland, and this status will never be taken away by the fraternities.

Take a look at traditions: Who works the longest and hardest hours on the world's largest bonfire? The Corps.

Who keeps alive the tradition of saying "Howdy?" Yes, the students on small level, but mainly the Corps.

Who presents final review? The Corps of Cadets. And you proclaim that the Corps is no longer important?

Take a look at the military. The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets commissions more officers into the different military services than any other university in the nation, excluding the military academies.

Whatever your political views, can you dispute the need for a strong national military? The Corps has the distinct respect for turning boys into men, and men into leaders. In fraternities, boys turn into Greeks. What do Greeks turn into?

As you state yourself, the Corps was the "original tradition from the beginning" as it is now and forever will be.

Texas A&M would not be unique or world-renowned without the Corps. So before you brainwash yourself in your eagerness to turn Greek, remember the old Ags, Silver Taps, bonfire, Reveille, old Army jokes, Howdy, final review and who created them. The Greeks? No—the A&M Corps of Cadets.

Heidi Halstead '92

Ag riled about bus incident

EDITOR: What happened may not interest every Ag, but I did get a little riled Monday night.

I had just finished a test and was riding the shuttle when it made its last campus stop at the Commons. While it was there, a woman got on the bus and told the driver she had left her ID (with her bus pass) on the Munson bus. The driver told her to wait so he could call in to see if it had been reported so if it was found she could ride home without anyone thinking she was trying to steal a ride, I suppose.

He called in and gave her name, to which there was a swift, brutal reply: "We don't do lost and found over the radio." That was it.

It's late at night and cold and now this girl has to walk home in shorts. Wasn't a girl just raped in College Station? What kind of person would shuck his responsibility of helping this girl get home safely because he's too lazy to ask any of his bus drivers if they had found an ID?

The Dartmouth/Scarlett bus goes to Post Oak Mall—a long hike. Neither the dispatcher or the driver volunteered to call a cab or the UPD to escort her this distance. This dispatcher is pure sleaze. I'm a little miffed the bus driver didn't let the woman ride anyway. Surely her safety is more important than his job. I ask you Ags, am I upset or nothing or are you as mad over this as I am?

Christopher Nunneley

Student services appreciated

EDITOR: In the day and age when students are critical of the tuition they pay and service they receive, it is nice to be able to report something more positive.

I was enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Texas A&M during the 1987-88 school year. During that time, my wife, three boys and myself lived in a duplex off-campus managed by First Asset of Houston. After completing the requirements for my degree and accepting a new job, we left College Station in July.

First Asset was given the required notice and request was made to have a representative present to inspect the duplex upon our moving out. The management company ignored our inspection request. They also failed to return any part of our damage deposit or provide a reason for withholding it within the 30 days allowed in our lease contract. Having moved out of state, we felt powerless to resolve the situation, especially after the management company failed to respond to numerous letters, some certified.

We decided to contact the Off-Campus Center at A&M and see if they could assist us. We struck gold. They were extremely helpful in offering advice and suggesting we approach the Office of the Students' Attorney at A&M. The Students' Attorney's Office acted as mediator for us with First Asset, contacting the management company several times in our behalf. Within a short period of time, we received our deposit refund.

I would like to commend the courtesy, professionalism and effectiveness of the services offered through the Off-Campus Center and the Office of the Students' Attorney. More specifically, thank you to Nancy Thompson and Matthew Nancarrow for their assistance.

Joe Barnhart Gunnison, Colo.

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.

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See Dudley cheat; don't be a Dud

Caution to all readers of this column! Please look at and carefully study the photograph of the author. This is the face of a crazed individual who has a nose for news, is unrelentingly on the make for material and is likely to eavesdrop on your conversations, whether they be in the bathroom or on the bus. The Battalion cannot be held responsible in any way, shape, form or fashion for this columnist capitalizing on juicy material she runs across. In other words, don't be surprised if your conversation is revised, reshaped, recalled and recounted in the form of a column.

There you have it, readers. My disclaimer. I'm a news hound always on the make for grist. And it just so happens I heard a really interesting conversation two weeks ago as I was riding home on the bus. So take heed. Be careful of what you say, and when and where you say it. I may be there.

Five of us were on the bus: me, the driver, an innocuous-looking girl and "two other" guys. These "two other" guys were sitting directly behind me and I just couldn't help but overhear their conversation. They were talking and laughing about a friend, who I'll call "Dudley."

It seems as if Dudley has it made: he has a devoted girlfriend (who I'll call "Dufus") and no classes. The conversation of these "two other" guys went something like this:

Guy 1: "Yeah, can you believe it? Dudley hasn't gone to three of his classes all semester!"

Guy 2: "Well, he has the perfect set-up. A girlfriend who's so crazy about him that she's willing to go to class for him and take his tests."

Guy 1: "Yeah, those big lecture classes have so many students that the professors don't know who's who and unless they have some scheme set up for checking i.d.'s or something, they don't even know who's taking the exam and who isn't."

Guy 2: "Lucky for Dudley he's in some of those classes where the prof doesn't know or care what's going on during the exams. Dufus has taken all of Dudley's tests for him and so far, it's worked!"

Guy 1: "I know it sure has freed up a lot of his time for partying and he's passing all of his classes, too! And you know what's funny is he hasn't taken any tests. Dufus has taken them for him."



Suna Purser Columnist

Guy 2: "I wonder what's gonna happen when Dudley gets outta school and finds a job. He isn't gonna know anything."

Guy 1: "Well, that doesn't matter, I don't think. He's goin' to work for his dad, so he'll probably do OK."

Guy 2: "The big clencher is that he doesn't even really like Dufus that much. She's lookin' for her MRS. degree and she thinks she's found it in the form of Dudley."

Guy 1: "Yeah, she's so crazy about him that she'll do all his school work and he hardly has to lift a finger except for one other class."

At this point of the conversation, I had thankfully arrived at my stop. I say thankfully because when I got off the bus, I was incensed at Dudley's behavior and appalled at Dufus' stupidity. Quite frankly, I couldn't believe what I had just heard. I mean after all, Aggies don't lie, cheat or steal... or do they? Unfortunately, I'm afraid Dudley and Dufus are doing all three and even more unfortunate is the fact that they're doing so without compunction.

And fair reader, you may ask, "So, why are they lying, cheating and stealing?" And I say, "Can't you see what's as plain as the nose on your face?"

Hey, Dudley, get real. College life in particular and life in general ain't no party. And you're lying to yourself if you think it is. Dad won't always be around and what are you going to do when you have to make it on your own? Besides, aren't you lying to Dufus? Apparently your friends think you are when they said you don't even like her that much. Just where is your sense of moral and academic integrity?

And Dufus, you're lying to yourself, too, by clinging to a guy who's a loser, a liar and a louse. Can't you see he's living a lie, and you're both an instrument and victim of that lie? Come to the program: live life and make the grade for yourself, not someone else who doesn't give a rip about himself, much less you.

And aren't both of you cheating? Since when is it an accepted practice, any institution of higher learning to "in" for someone else? Dudley, aren't you cheating yourself out of an education? Aren't you cutting corners just for a few good times? Aren't you taking the easy way out by taking advantage of other and cheating the system that's eventually going to catch up with you?

Poor Dufus, what else can we do your situation but out-and-out cheating? How can you justify your actions? Aren't you blatantly cheating when you offer your work in place of someone else's? Don't you think you're cheating yourself out of some badly needed leisure time, just so you can please some "dud" and pass his exams?

Aren't both of you stealing? Dudley, don't you wind up claiming a degree that isn't yours? Aren't you ripping Dufus off? Aren't you using, abusing and stealing from people and things you have no right to? How can you rationalize stealing a degree and someone's dedication, when you obviously don't care about either one?

Dufus, I don't know what to say about you except you're stealing from yourself. You've been suckered in by a dud and are depriving yourself of your individuality and identity. Aren't your goals and ideals important? Or have you been snookered so badly that your life has taken a back seat?

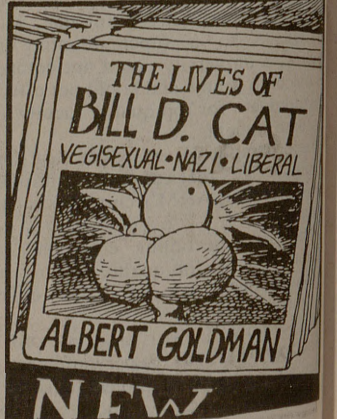
Obviously, the pressure to party a semester, pass all the classes and please someone else has overridden the fundamental goals of a college education. In an effort to beat the system and ease other, students have become master manipulators who are obsessed with a perverted kind of success.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the students who lie, cheat and steal their way through school—for whatever perverse and selfish reasons—are setting themselves up for failure when they get to the "real" world. But then again, wonder if the "real" world exists for a bunch of fakes.

I just hope there aren't many Dudley and Dufuses running around fooling the system, themselves and each other. If that's the case, I feel sorry for them; their short term pleasures won't make up for the long term problems. All I can say is, good luck, you'll need that... and a lot more.

Suna Purser is a journalism graduate, a graduate student in English and columnist for The Battalion.

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