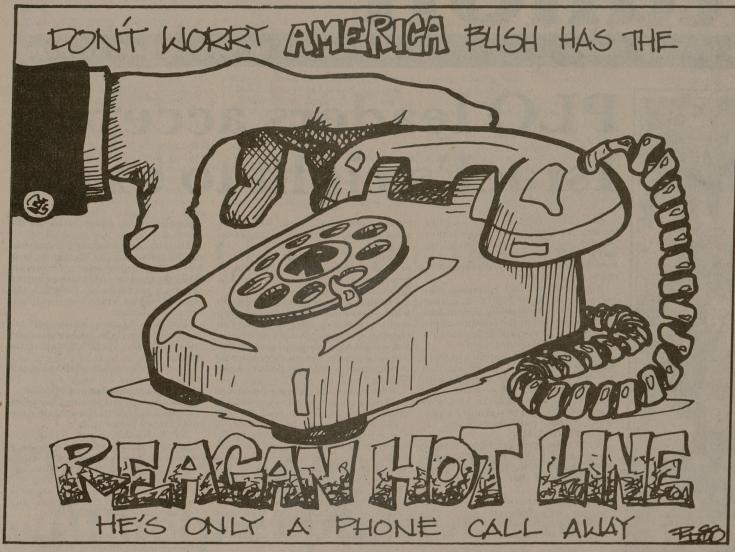
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Oh, for those C.T. tales of old

Yes, C.T.'s, B.Q.'s, R.V.'s, Quad Queens, and Bootchasers, it's the moment you've all been waiting for.

The Battalion's opinion page editor speaks his mind about the Corps of Cadets (a subject ranking right up there with squirrels and Batman). Actually, I hadn't intended on writing a Corps' column this semester, but while doing research for a speech last week, I found these interesting tidbits concerning the Corps in the Battalion's morgue:

November 1981 — Cadet Greg Hood draws his saber, waves it at SMU cheerleaders who had run onto Kyle Field after the Mustangs had scored a touchdown against the Aggies and then kicks one of the cheerleaders.

Hood, who was also the chairman of Student Government's Judicial Board and a member of the Cadet Court, was suspended for the remainder of the semester after being charged by the University with assault, improperly using a dets left a partially cut tree unattended weapon and creating a disturbance.

October 1983 — In what may be the wildest story I've ever seen concerning a student, junior cadet Clarence "Buddy" Brown tells University Police that he suffered knife cuts while fighting off three men who were assaulting a woman. Brown gave The Battalion a detailed account of the fight which included martial arts maneuvers and a chase. Brown publicly pleaded for the missing woman to come forth and provide more information about her attackers.

Three weeks later, Brown confessed that he had fabricated the entire story. He had actually been assaulted when he interrupted a boyfriend-girlfriend argument and was too embarrassed to admit it.

arrested for stealing highway signs which indicated distances to Austin for the upcoming bonfire. Corps Commander Preston Abbott feigned igno-



Anthony Wilson **Opinion Page**

Editor

bonfire tradition and although he had never considered how they were obtained, he was certainly didn't condone stealing them.

September 1984 — Sophomore Bruce Goodrich collapses and dies of heat stroke during 2:30 a.m. "motivational exercises." Three junior cadets were later convicted of hazing while a fourth was found guilty of tampering when he ripped up and flushed the exercise roster from that night.

September 1986 — Junior cadet Keith Van Boskirk sues A&M and the Corps of Cadets for negligence after cawhich fell on Van Boskirk and broke his leg during bonfire cut.

October 1986 — Junior cadets physically beat several civilians with their fists and helmets after the non-regs ran onto Kyle Field during midnight yell prac-

December 1986 — Junior cadet Simone Weaver files assault charges against six freshmen cadets who assaulted her and threw her outside the dia from knowing about their problems, perimeter area at the bonfire construction site. Five of the six were charged with misdemeanor assault.

November 1987 — George Russell Pulliam, a senior cadet, is found handcuffed to an anti-apartheid shack on the University of Texas campus wearing nothing but his Fruit of the Looms. Pull- Corps teaches young men and women. iam was a victim of freshmen trying to But deep down, I just can't help but 'earn their Corps brass" as Thomas hope that they'll do at least one silly November 1983 — Four cadets are Darling, commandant of the Corps said.

April 1988 — Three cadets attempt to prevent a College Station teen from performing "Born in the U.S.A." while rance by saying the signs had become a wearing the American flag. The girl was

participating in a contest to win tickets to a Bruce Springsteen concert.

The cadets decided that wearing the flag violated a state law against "the desecration of a venerable object."

So what's my complaint? If you'll notice, none of the above stories are dated after April 1988. In other words, the Corps just isn't providing us with the copy we've come to expect from them.

Not that I would ever want to see another incident such as the hazing death of Bruce Goodrich. That was certainly the biggest tragedy A&M has had to deal with in this decade, and possibly ever. But you've got to admit, some of these stories are so utterly ridiculous that they're entertaining.

Certainly, the fact that Greg Hood, Buddy Brown and Russell Pulliam were members of the Corps put them under a higher degree of scrutinization than almost any other student segment with the possible exception of the athletes.

the consequences of their actions. And as you can tell by the above passages, they haven't always presented a positive

However, I must commend the Corps for taking the initiative to correct its own problems. The lack of incidents thus far this year is evidence of that. Either the Corps has excellent leadership this year, or they've prevented the meor a combination of the two.

Of course, there are still things about the Corps which I strongly disagree with, but those are the possible subjects of future columns and editorials.

I admire the leadership qualities the thing a semester. We journalists have to have some fun.

Anthony Wilson is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor for The Battalion.

-Mail Call

Kicking a dead dog

I am writing this letter in response to a letter by Roland S. Martin in the Battalion. He made one important point which I would like to reiterate. He

Absolutely correct! My ancestors owned slaves. It is not something lam of, but it is a part of American history with which I personally had nothing

I do not feel that I should take the blame for what they did, but rather bygones be bygones. I could care less whether the person next to me is blad white, yellow or purple. So why, Mr. Martin, do you insist upon kicking ade

Your main concern seemed to be about the Aggie Band playing "Dixie". The reason they do it is that this school was founded by southerners and Confederate officers and many of our traditions stem from those roots.

To wit, none of the lyrics of the song itself are about racism or slavery you care to write them in there). Rather, the lyrics were written by Dan Em a Yankee and hardcore abolitionist.

Ray Kornhoff'88

Remembering is not condoning

In reply to Mr. Martin, there is an explanation for the playing of "Dixe" Aggie Band — it's a catchy tune, pleases most ears and lends itself well toor

I enjoy the song, and in many years of hearing it, have not had any sond violent, racist reaction.

Yes, the song dates back to a less enlightened time when racial oppress the norm, but the song does not in itself create or foster such an environment

Mr. Martin complains that the song is a "reminder of the trial...blacks suffered during the slave era." I saw such a reminder break ratings records mini-series in the late 1970s. I've also seen a Vicksburg cemetary full of rem that before that time was over, others suffered.

My point: remembering is not condoning and knowing where we came! does not mean a desire to return.

Growing up in the deep South, I was exposed to many cultural percular. Some, such as like racism, I've tried to leave behind; others, such as my loved "Dixie", I have not.

I don't consider myself a racist. Mr. Martin equates the playing of "Dixie" bringing out the "white sheets" -something I hadn't planned on doing und week (when I take the blue ones off my bed).

I, in no way, intend to demean Mr. Martin's unique heritage with my enjoyment of "Dixie"; I would appreciate his respecting mine.

Alan Grantham Graduate student

'Dixie' not worthy of notice

I was astounded to read Roland Martin's letter calling the Aggie Band's rendition of "Dixie" insulting. He went on to say that playing the song was a invitation to return to slavery. A "blatant sign of oppression," he said

Certainly, the song brings to mind the Civil War. However, it hardly serve encouragement to go out and start burning crosses. There are, unfortunated plenty of racial incidents in this country and at this university. The playing of 'Dixie" as part of a medley of Civil War music hardly qualifies as one worthy notice, if indeed it is an "incident" at all.

Everyday people are denied housing, jobs and other opportunities because

Mr. Martin has instead chosen to point out the implied insult of a century piece of music. It's this kind of racial hypersensitivity that turns people off

Yes, Mr. Martin. It's 1988. And we've more important things to worry about than "Dixie." It's not the music that matters. It's the attitudes that foster radia that matter. If we can fix the attitudes, then everything else will follow natural **Jimmy Miller** '89

Dixie' rich in southern heritage

In response to Roland Martin's letter on Nov. 9, I would like to say to this uninformed soul that yes, an explanation for playing "Dixie" does exist.

The song "Dixie" was chosen as the official song of the Confederacy during Civil War. The fact that some blacks consider this racist does not make it so. lo consider it racist that my forefathers fought against an invading army to prob their heritage, homeland and family from political sanctions and tariffs forced upon them by the populous industrial north.

I am offended by people who try to steal my heritage by ways such as band the song "Dixie." I am offended by racist groups who desecrate the Confeder Battle Flag by waving it at racist rallies. Yet, even a biggot Klansman can insul ancestors because of his freedom of speech. I am offended by the NAACPse to remove the Confederate Battle Flag from the four state capitols that it flies

The American Stars and Stripes flew over legalized slavery for 80 years (#1 in some northern states during the existence of the Confederacy). Does this that we should remove the Stars and Stripes from the capitol in Washington Texas A&M is a school rich in southern heritage with Gen. Lawrence Sull

Ross being one of its first presidents. I am proud to be a southerner and itwi sad day in Aggieland when the 12th Man is no longer able to cry out a loud re yell (WHOOP!) to the Aggie Band's rendition "Dixie"

Phil Boyd-Robertson '88 Accompanied by four signatures

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit lette and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

The Battalion

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Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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