



Medicine Tribe member chains self to wrong tree!!!
"Red Pots" vow to continue construction anyway!!!

Have a gripe or a cause? Join Aggies Against Everything

"I will now call to order the meeting of Aggies Against Everything," said the president of the group as he banged his gavel.

The crowd got quiet as Annie, a friend of mine, and I took a seat in the back of the room. It was my first time, and I knew little about the group's background.

The president said, "For those of you who are here for your first time, here's a little background on our group. After the proliferation of groups whose names were 'students against this' and 'Aggies against that,' the need arose to consolidate the efforts of all the protest organizations on campus into one cohesive unit, thus creating 'Aggies Against Everything.' The governing body is represented by the president of each of the sub-committees, and we hold these bi-weekly meetings to hear reports and pass any related legislation.

"First, we'll hear the minutes from last meeting," the president said.

The secretary said, "Reports were given from most of the sub-committees and five pieces of business were brought to a vote, but all were voted down unanimously." The secretary, having finished reading the obviously abbreviated minutes, looked back at the president.

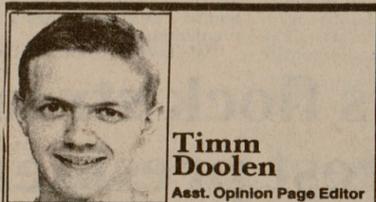
"First let's hear from our sub-committee of Aggies Against Killing Trees, who are currently working against the expansion of the MSC, bonfire and other projects," the president said.

The AAKT chairman stood from her chair and said, "As you all know, three or four of the trees around the MSC are going to die a few years early because of the construction during the University Center expansion. We've already named one of the oaks the 'Rudder' oak, and we're trying to find names for the other trees, but no one on our committee seems to know which other famous Aggies are dead. If anybody knows of some old Ags who are definitely dead, please tell us.

"We did some research to see if anything similar to this 'University Center holocaust' has happened in the past at A&M," she said. "We found that for over 90 percent of the buildings erected, at least one tree had to be killed; at least one bush or shrubbery had to be killed for over 95 percent of the buildings on campus; and for over 99 percent of the buildings on campus, a blade of grass had to perish." Tears began to well in her eyes.

The president asked, "Were there any protests when the other trees came down?"

The AAKT chairman replied, "No, because most of the buildings were



Timm Doolen
Asst. Opinion Page Editor

built a long time ago, before they let people like us in, and most of the rest of the buildings were built for the use of the administration and faculty. But this expansion is going to benefit students, and we don't want the public to think that students were the cause of some trees dying. It would also make our group look really bad, considering our name and all.

"We are going to try to show the administration and students, despite what they think, the reality that these trees are living human beings and should not be killed for the benefit of a few measly hundred thousand students over the coming years," she said as she practically began to cry.

I whispered to Annie, "I wonder if she can see the trees for the forest. She's got a screw loose if she really thinks trees are human beings?"

She continued, "We plan to make a strong protest of the removal of the trees when the time comes to bulldoze them. We're willing to sacrifice our lives to save the trees. We are having a slight problem figuring out how we're going to protest."

"Why's that?" asked one of the people in the audience.

"Well, we don't know how to chain ourselves to the trees without walking on the grass to get to them," the AAKT chairman said. "Turning to the bonfire front, we scored a major victory. One of our AAKT members found out where the cut sight is and he went and torched most of the trees before they could cut them down." Brief applause broke out from the group.

"We realize that it was kind of hypocritical of us, so we blamed it on somebody else. We also held a funeral for the trees, but weren't able to bury any of the trees because nobody wanted to dig up any of the grass.

She went on to say, "Those bonfire people need to realize we must preserve our forests or we'll all be in trouble.

"Forests don't grow on trees!" she said. Some people snickered.

"As far as other projects are concerned, we have been cooperating with Aggies Against *The Battalion* in a protest against the newspaper. The people

in charge at *The Battalion* have refused to cooperate with us in our requests for them to stop killing trees. On numerous occasions we have asked *The Battalion* to quit printing its news on paper, which would save thousands of trees weekly. They have consistently refused to quit printing on paper, citing something about cost and 'tradition,' — as if they knew something about tradition.

"So we've implemented a boycott against the newspaper and refuse to read any *Battalions*. We've received a lot of support from other students, mainly because our committee members stand by the *Battalion* newsstands with signs that read 'Don't do it — you're going to get ink all over your hands!'"

"Have *Battalion* sales dropped off because of your protest?" asked the president.

"Well, it's hard to tell. We've run into kind of a problem considering the *Batt* is free. But we're doing our best to fight them. We're also picketing outside the *Battalion* office at the Reed McDonald building."

"How is that working?" asked an audience member.

"Well, a lot more people know where the *Batt* is because of our protest, and they're writing in tons of letters against us."

"We were going to protest by building a shanty, similar to Aggies Against Problems in Other Countries, but nobody had the heart to build it out of wood," she said.

"Thank you for your report" the president said. "OK, we will now have the report from Aggies Against Life."

"They won't be having a report, and the sub-committee disbanded," somebody from the audience said.

"Why's that?" asked the president.

"They all committed suicide," he said.

"Oh, OK," the president said. "In light of that, we'll take a five-minute break and then continue with the reports."

Tune in tomorrow for the conclusion of "Aggies Against Everything" — same Batt-time, same Batt-channel.

Timm Doolen is a junior computer science major and assistant opinion page editor for *The Battalion*.

Mail Call

Formal apology needed

EDITOR:

Last weekend at the Rice football game I found myself wishing I had brought a sweatshirt, but I wasn't cold. I was just totally ashamed to be wearing my Aggie shirt and wished I could cover it up. I went to Houston to see my grandparents who were having their 50th Rice reunion, my parents who were celebrating their 25th Rice reunion, and my brother, who was celebrating his senior Homecoming at Rice. The night before the game, I attended a reunion party with my parents where I told all of my parents' old friends I loved A&M and was proud to be an Aggie.

This was not how I felt by the end of the game's halftime the next day. I was extremely shocked and angered by the rudeness and disrespect my fellow Aggies were displaying toward the Rice Band and fans. Don't forget, this was Rice's Homecoming halftime, an event that occurs only once a year. People from New York, Chicago, California and many other places had come to Houston especially for the Homecoming game.

When I came to A&M this year I was under the impression Aggies were friendly and courteous people. If we are only these things to each other, then we are not friendly and courteous at all. I believe in the spirit of Aggieland and believe true to each other, but I also think Aggies need to realize A&M is just one university. There are many other universities in this state. They all consist of people. To get by in this world you need to be able to get along well with and give the respect of all different kinds of people. You cannot gain respect if you don't give it. It is embarrassing enough when one or two individuals from an institution do something to give it a bad name, but when its leaders are involved it is more than embarrassing, it is disgraceful. That is why it was gut-wrenching for me to look over and see yell leaders, people who are supposed to represent our school's finest qualities, showing such disrespect to another school.

The only honorable way to redeem ourselves would be a formal apology to Rice University. If our yell leaders were the "gentlemen" true Aggies are supposed to be, they would do so. Many of you are probably thinking I should have never come to A&M. If I had witnessed this scene last year, I wouldn't have.

Missy Davis '92

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

Abernathy did the write thing

I was surprised that some people were surprised, even outraged, about the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy's mentioning that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave in to sexual temptations.

The Rev. Abernathy, a former aide to Dr. King during the civil rights movement, has written an autobiography titled, "And the Walls Came Tumbling Down." In it, he reveals Dr. King even had separate encounters with two women and an argument with another the night before he was murdered in Memphis.

There were even plenty of rumors around, even before Dr. King was killed, that he was somewhat of a ladies' man, but I don't understand what all the fuss is about.

Another Atlanta minister has asked his congregation to do "the right thing" and boycott the Rev. Abernathy's book.

There are several reasons that's a dingbat of an idea.

First, when one looks back through the history of our country, many of our finest leaders were, well, bad to fool around with women.

We all know about George Washington, the John Tower of the 18th century.

And what about Thomas Jefferson? All the slave girls talked about him.

Ever notice that smug look on Thomas Jefferson's face in history books? You can look at a man like that and tell he's been up to something.

And speaking of Tower again, that's exactly what cost him a spot in the Bush Cabinet.

A friend of mine put it this way, "He just looks guilty."

President Grover Cleveland supposedly fathered an illegitimate child. FDR had a mistress. So did Eisen-

Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

hower. And John Kennedy? When the man have time to be president?

He probably could have taught G. Hart, not to mention Rob Lowe, thing or two. Jimmy Carter even thought about it.

And we know about certain men in the cloth, too. Jimmy Swaggart likes watch prostitutes do unmentionable things, and if we knew what all Jim Baker actually did, we probably wouldn't believe it.

I'm not going to try any Oral Roberts lines here, but where did a name like that actually come from?

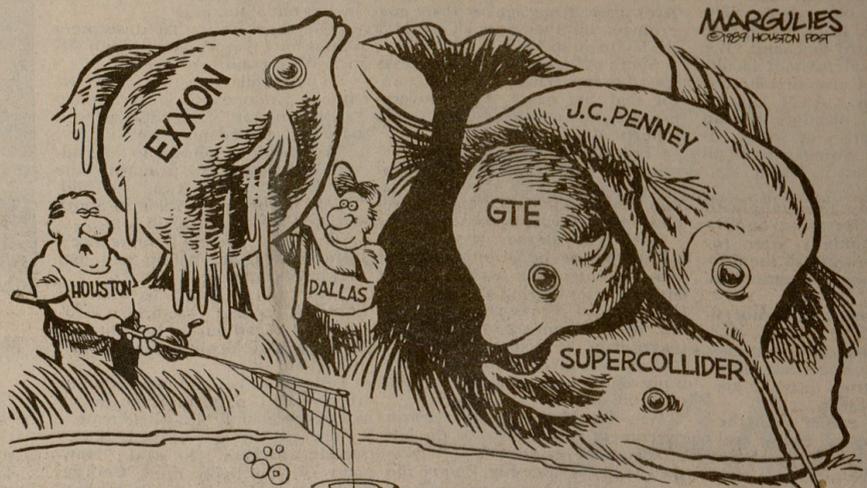
Two: Just because Martin Luther King Jr. might have had a healthy sexual appetite it certainly shouldn't diminish anything he accomplished.

The man changed the world. Changed it forever. And did he have any of these women to have sex with him?

Apparently not. They offered, but he accepted. That sort of thing has been going on for a long time and likely won't stop any time soon and let's most fervently hope not.

Third, I think it took some guts to put the part of Ralph David Abernathy's autobiography to include Dr. Martin Luther King's sexual escapades in his book.

What's left to do now is defend Ralph David Abernathy and his right to put what he pleased in his autobiography, to understand the favor he's done all of us who want the inside story on people and events that affect our lives profoundly, and to ignore the dingbat who chirps about a boycott. Do the right thing, indeed.



"Uh...would you mind if I asked what type of bait you're using?..."

The Battalion

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