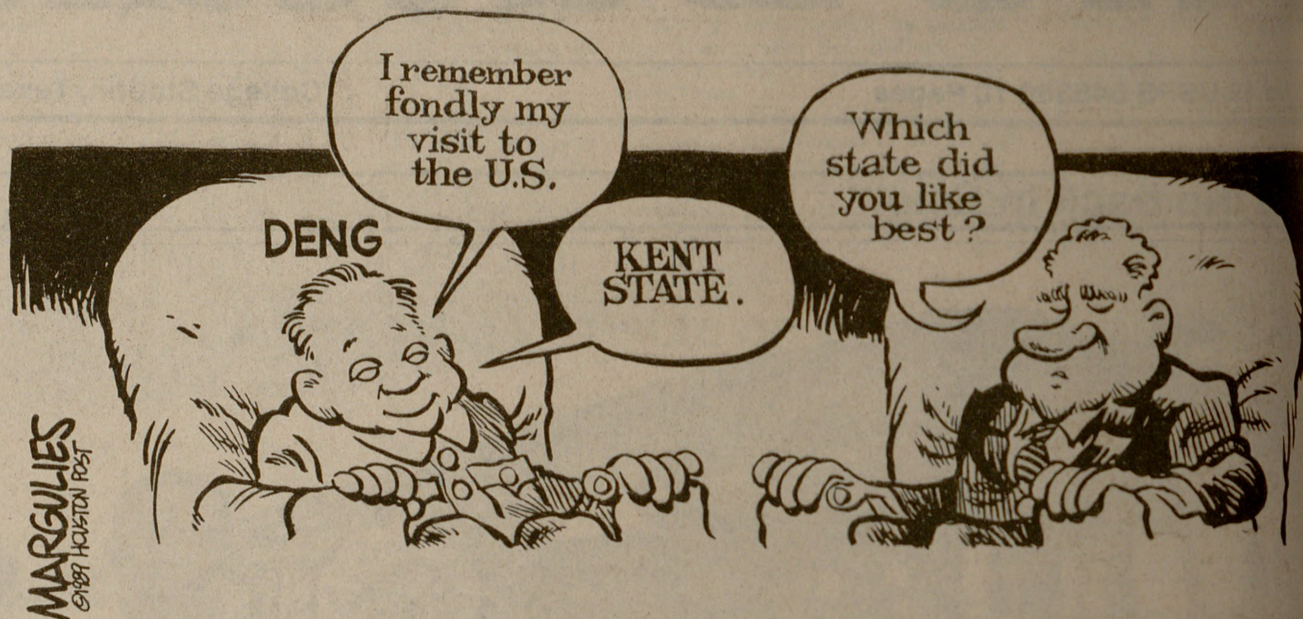


Racist acts not tolerated here

Once again Students Against Apartheid has built its shanty, and once again racial slurs have appeared on it.

Although racists should have the right to voice their opinions — the same as those opposed to racism — it is when those racist opinions translate into racist acts that toleration must stop. If people want to express racist beliefs, they should choose non-violent, non-destructive methods to do so. Vandalism, harassment and discrimination have no place at A&M.

The Battalion Editorial Board



The continuing saga of Aggies Against Everything

The meeting of Aggies Against Everything, the governing body over all A&M protest organizations, was dragging on longer than I'd expected. After hearing the entire committee of Aggies Against Life had committed suicide, the president called for a short break. People were finally beginning to retake their seats and the group started quieting down.

The president took his place at the front and said, "Now let's hear the first report from the new sub-committee, Aggies Against The Wall."

A man stood from the audience and said, "We had our first few meetings and are still not sure what the purpose of our group is. But we all unanimously agree that it's a really cool name for a protest organization. When we do finally latch onto a cause, we'll inform the rest of you."

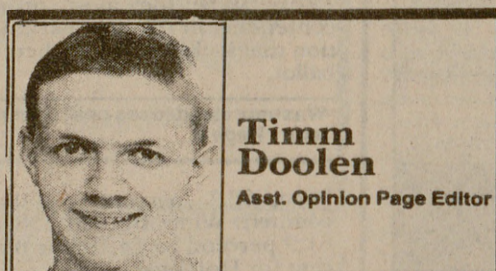
The president went on, "Next we'll hear from Aggies Against Abortion."

The chairman of that sub-committee stood up and said, "In response to the liberals of this University, who insist on claiming their own rights and not letting us do it for them, we've begun taking steps to impose the right way of doing things on others."

The president asked "What have you planned so far?"

"Because they have no respect for the life of unborn cells, we have decided to take actions against the well-beings of those who advocate, perform or receive abortions. We're already taking steps to blow up some abortion facilities in the local area."

An obvious member of Aggies



Against Violence asked "What if people are inside of the building at the time?"

The AAA chairman responded, "Well I guess it'd be pretty hard for them to give any more abortions, now wouldn't it?"

"Also, if we find out that a woman is going to get an abortion, we plan to beat her up."

A member of the audience asked, "Isn't that kind of defeating the purpose?"

The AAA chairman replied, "Well, not in the long run. Maybe she'll think twice the next time she's getting pregnant."

The president said, "Let's move to the report from Aggies Against Getting Things Done."

The AAGTD chairman said, "We had a string of five meetings last week, and I'm happy to report they all were amazing successes. We had very low attendance at all the meetings which means we didn't have a quorum and couldn't approve anything. Despite this, we brought up several pieces of business, all of which were debated, tabled, brought from table, sent to com-

mittee, ripped apart, talked about, pasteurized, memorialized and finally buried under ground. We think that was a great lack of accomplishment."

He continued, "We did, however, agree by general consent that the direction of our group was solid and should not be changed, and we passed a strict resolution that we are definitely going to have a nine-hour, marathon meeting on Saturday. We hope to discuss several things, including when our next meeting will be, the quality of the hors d'oeuvres and if the wallpaper in the meeting room is conducive to good meetings. We hope to get nothing done," the chairman said.

The President said, "We're glad to see everything's going fine for your group. Now we'll hear from Aggies Against Problems in Other Countries."

A young man rose and said, "As many of you know, there have been famines in several African nations and people are being oppressed in many countries whose names are hard to pronounce. In response to these atrocities that are not of American interest, we are taking drastic action."

The president asked, "What exactly are you doing?"

The chairman replied, "We are currently building shacks all over campus and planning a sit-in at the MSC. We think this is the best way to directly help the victims in other countries."

The president asked "Why are you going to hold a sit-in at the MSC?"

The chairman responded, "For several reasons, but mainly because it's very visible to the students, the chairs are

comfortable and food's not too far away.

"We're also boycotting the products of Zambonia, because of the way the government treats its citizens."

An audience member asked, "What products does that boycott include?"

The chairman answered, "We're boycotting Zambonia's main export, which is fruit-shaped refrigerator magnets. We have written letters to the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, A&M's president and *The Battalion* asking them to boycott fruit-shaped refrigerator magnets. So far they have all been unresponsive, so we're going to build another shack and march on the Chancellor's office."

It seemed anybody who latched onto a cause and could motivate a few people to follow him could start an "Aggies Against" organization. Maybe even I could start something for a cause near to my heart: Aggies Against Protest Groups.

The president said, "Thanks for that report. It's getting kind of late, so I think we'll move on to the new business part of the meeting and hold off on the rest of the reports until next meeting." The reaction to this announcement was mixed, to put it mildly.

The president continued, "next meeting we will hear from the

following organizations: Aggies Against Thinking, Aggies Against Athletics, Aggies Against Jello, Aggies Against Aggies, Aggies Against Anonymous Gay Sex in Restrooms, Aggies Against *The Battalion*, Aggies Against the Wind, Aggies Against the Corps, Aggies Against Greeks, Aggies Against Non-regs, Aggies Against Chicks on Mopeds, Aggies Against Guys on Tricycles, Aggies Against University Tower, Aggies Against Drinking Age, Aggies Against Shits, Aggies Against Tradition, Aggies Against Call Waiting and Aggies Against the World.

"Now let's move to passing legislation. We have several pieces of business for consideration," said the president.

Random members of the group started yelling, "I'm against it! I'm against it!"

The president banged his gavel, "Haven't even brought anything up. Quiet down!"

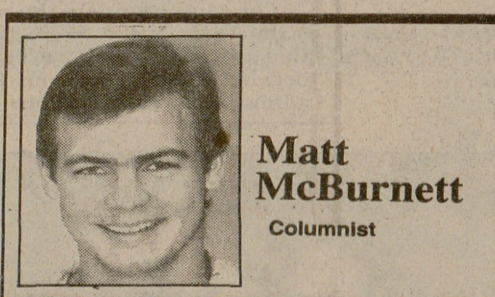
After unanimously voting down several bills, the president moved for adjournment. Everybody voted against adjournment, and it looked like they might be there forever so I left.

I went home, stunned at some of the things I heard. It seemed anybody who latched onto a cause and could motivate a few people to follow him could start an "Aggies Against" organization. Maybe even I could start something for a cause near to my heart: Aggies Against Protest Groups.

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

Drinking age law just a bunch of sour grapes

My roommate celebrated his 21st birthday on Halloween (and subsequently acquired about 750 new friends). For at least a month prior to the long-awaited day that ended the draught, he informed me of how he would be a legal drinker three months before I and what a joyous occasion this particular birthday would be.



As far as my past dictates, the drinking age law has been blatantly ineffective. On many occasions in my past, the law was simply disregarded by retailers, restaurants and me. I am asked to show identification only about 50 percent of the time I try to purchase alcohol.

If someone actually attempts to uphold the law, numerous methods exist to skirt it. Minors are not too hard-pressed to find a willing 21-year-old, especially in this town, to act as a supplier. For those more willing to take things in their own hands, a good fake ID will work most of the time. No matter what method is used, the result is always the same. Anyone who wants to drink can do it quite easily.

I played along with this for a few days until I couldn't take it anymore. "It is no big deal anyway," I said, as he looked at me in a bewildered manner. "It won't change anything." This was not a case of sour grapes (or even fermented ones) on my part, I just realized that being 21 is really of no consequence, because the drinking age law is a miserable failure.

For example, last Thursday I went out to a local establishment with my roommate and some other friends. My roommate ordered a pitcher of beer, and so did I. Both of our IDs stayed in our pockets. Had I been asked to show mine, I simply would have had to tell the waitress to forget the beer. Then, of course, I would drink my roommate's.

It is readily seen that the law is a failure, but almost as visible is the fact that the law is quite unfair.

Never mind the example: "If I can go to jail, or fight for my country, I should be able to drink." This argument is often effective, but overused. The bottom line is that, beginning at the age of 18, we are considered responsible, free-thinking adults. At 18, we are able to make our own choices and accept retribution for the bad ones we make. Alcohol should not be removed from this realm of choices.

Either the legal drinking age should be lowered, or the legal adult age should be raised. Only in our system can an adult be a "minor."

I like beer, not because it makes me a jolly good fellow, but because the taste appeals to me. I am especially fond of imported beer. Sadly, laws dictate I cannot have beer, so I break the law. I really do look forward to my 21st birthday this January, though. I cannot wait to see this Saul to Paul conversion I will undergo in the matter of minutes between my 20th and 21st years. One minute I am a youth, naive and unable to make rudimentary choices, the next, I am responsible adult ne'r to err again.

As is the case with most states, Texas raised its drinking age to 21 in response to pressure so generously supplied by our federal government. The pressure was in the form of federal aid, which would have been withheld from us had we not complied with the federal government's request. Blackmail is nothing new, though.

Apparently both parties failed to apply any brainpower to the subject.

The logic of the drinking age law escapes me.

If an individual cannot legally be intoxicated, and if he is severely punished if he drives under the influence of alcohol, then absolutely no purpose is served by an additional statute regulating adult consumption of alcohol.

Texas presently has laws which ban public intoxication. These laws are fairly well-enforced, and I have no beef with them. The Lone Star State also does not allow open alcohol containers in automobiles and has very strict driving-while-intoxicated laws. I am a strong supporter of both of these statutes. The problem lies with the overkill

dilemma supplied by the drinking age law.

If an individual cannot legally be intoxicated, and if he is severely punished if he drives under the influence of alcohol, then absolutely no purpose is served by an additional statute regulating adult consumption of alcohol. The damaging effects of drinking are regulated by other laws.

Though I am quite aware of the terrible facts surrounding alcohol abuse, I am also aware the drinking age law is definitely worth whining about. I do not conceive two different classes of adults with unequal rights. I guess I have to buzz over to the store and pick up a beer or two and further ponder this precarious predicament.

Matt McBurnett is a junior electrical engineering major and a columnist for The Battalion.

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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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.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: *The Battalion*, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

