

## Bonfire? No thanks, I've stopped smoking

I didn't go to bonfire. Now, don't go calling me a two-percenter. I had lots of good reasons for not going.

• *I was afraid of being arrested.* No, I wasn't drunk. Just afraid. All the talk about paddy wagons and on-site arrest processing centers and judges staying up late to take care of all the arrests scared me. What if I stumbled at the wrong time and an undercover cop whisked me off to the paddy wagon and I ended up spending the night in jail just because I'm clumsy? I didn't want to take the risk.

Actually, I was a little disappointed. Only 16 arrests and 79 citations. From all the talk, I expected at least a third of



Ellen Hobbs  
Opinion Page Editor

the crowd to be rounded up and thrown in the 'clink.'

• *I don't like drunks.* I should probably be more specific. I don't like exchanges like this:

*Typical drunken Aggie, who is feeling rather 'red-ass' because of the occasion:* Uncover! That means take your hat off, \*#\*+! Face!

*Typical drunken two-percenter, T-sip or insecure balding guy:* I'll take my hat off when I \*#\*+!-well want to!

*Drunken Aggie:* Take your \*#\*+! hat off or I'll kick your \*#\*+! \*

*Other drunk:* \*#\*+!@+\*#\*+! \*

• *It was on TV.* It was on the radio, too. TV was better, though. You could see the fire. They just described it on the radio: "Yeah, Mike, this bonfire thing is really big."

• *There were no lines at any restaurants.* There were a whole lot of people here this weekend, and the waits at restaurants were awful. But at 8 o'clock on Friday night, I was able to get a table right away. And it was really near the TV, too, so I was able to watch bonfire with ease.

• *Smoke inhalation is hell on my lungs.* My eyes swell up, my nose runs.

It's really unattractive.

• *Porta-potties aren't real bathrooms.* I prefer real bathrooms. The real bathrooms in the surrounding buildings are always packed with people after bonfire. And, if you do get in, there's no toilet paper.

• *It was cold and wet.* Bonfire was just too close to finals this year to brave the damp cold weather and risk getting sick. That's the same reasoning I used when I didn't go to Elephant Walk. Sometimes it's even the reasoning I use when I skip class.

• *I thought I would be able to use the copy machines at the library.* I was wrong, of course, there were still long lines at all the working copiers. I think that this substantiates the theory that A&M actually hires people to stand in line for the library's copiers to prevent efficient student use.

• *I'm still holding a grudge about my shoes being stolen.* My freshman year I

wore these horrible 4-year-old high aerobic shoes with holes in the sole. I prefer real shoes with holes in the sole because I knew they would be all muddy. When I came back, they were really gross, so I just set the side my dorm room door so the mud could dry and I could get some of it off the next day. They were gone in 15 minutes.

• *I think we should use the money they burn at bonfire to build homes for the homeless and all those people who work on it should donate that time to volunteer work, and not only that, pollution-generating fire hazard, kidding.* I really don't think that.

I support bonfire. I support the business it brings to the city, the leadership skills and comradery developed by the people who work for it and for the spirit of unity it brings to Texas A&M students. But I didn't go.

### Mail Call

#### Walker misinterpreted beer ad

Editor:

I am writing in response to Scot Walker's column about the Michelob Light ad in Wednesday's paper.

Nowhere in the ad did it say to take beer to the bonfire site, as Scot implied it did. In fact, Anheuser-Busch has the only ad playing on the radio reminding people to act responsibly on bonfire and know when to say when if drinking.

"Light Up the Night with Michelob Light" does not mean to drink dangerously at bonfire. It, in combination with the caution to know when to say when, means to drink in moderation if you drink as a part of the festivities.

I feel Scot would have objected to any beer advertisement, regardless of its content.

Stacy L. Hilliard '93

#### Injured builder supports bonfire

EDITOR:

Two recent articles, one in *The Battalion* and one in the *Eagle*, have discussed Campus Ministry Association's opposition to bonfire. People have been complaining about Bonfire for years, so this is nothing new or out of the ordinary, but something about these articles caught my attention.

Both of them mentioned, but gave very little information about, some poor fellow who lost two fingers. This made me think that someone might wonder what this unfortunate goof had to say about the whole matter.

Well, here it is, straight from the goof:

There are two parts to bonfire, building it and burning it. The former takes two months, the latter took under twenty minutes last year. This would seem to indicate that the building is the main part of the event. The three thousand people who build bonfire generally feel that the forty thousand who just watch it miss out on a great deal. To many of the builders all the hoopla about "burning desire" is just a bunch of hoopla. Many of us believe bonfire burns only to clear Duncan for next year's construction. We watch it burn only to see the end of a job well done. There may be a problem with alcohol when bonfire burns, but please excuse the few who build it; for them, it's Miller time.

So let's get to the heart of the matter. I lost two fingers building bonfire by making the stupid mistake of putting them where they didn't belong. I will readily admit that building bonfire is somewhat dangerous, and everyone that helps build it knows that there are dangers involved.

So why do we build it despite the danger? We might just think it's fun. Building bonfire is a form of recreation and should be treated as such. Bonfire can be dangerous, but so can skydiving and mountain climbing.

People say bonfire is a waste of human resources; this is called goofing off and is part of the definition of recreation. The effort could be put to better use, but for the non-regs it is our effort and we will put it to whatever use we want to. No one forces us to build bonfire.

Falling grades have been blamed on bonfire, but whenever people spend too much time having fun, their grades suffer.

In short, leave us alone. We're just trying to have some fun.

Brian Norrell '92

#### t.u. vandals were probably t-sips

EDITOR:

Before you start in on the standard *Battalion* Aggie bashing over the vandalism at t.u., let's look at several facts that clearly indicate A&M students were not the likely culprits.

First, it is not in the Aggie style. While Aggies have been known to steal items of interest (such as mascots), I challenge you to show through A&M history where Aggies marked up another school's buildings. If the logo from the middle of Memorial Field was missing, it would be a different matter.

Second, it is in the t.u. style. The police chief at t.u. admitted such conduct was common (*Bryan-College Station Eagle*, Dec. 1). More importantly, the t.u. people marked up the Memorial Student Center grounds no less than two weeks ago.

Their motivation is not hard to identify — bonfire. Unlike the past, the point of their actions is serious and damaging to A&M: Motivate the t.u. students to come to the Aggie bonfire where they will drink and start fights. When picked up by the police, they will claim to be Aggies; the police will not bother to check I.D.s. The t.u. students will laugh all the way back to Austin. Bonfire will be blamed.

Leonard Quiram '67

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.

## Student finds success in parking

Recently, designated parking spots for off-campus students (blue) and random staff (brown) have changed on the west campus. I want tell you how these changes came about so you can learn the successful way to make your voice heard in the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic.

Many of us who learned about the new parking arrangements before the semester began quickly took our complaints to Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic. He listened patiently and said all comments would be used in parking rearrangements for Fall '90, no sooner.

Others gathered petitions and sent them to *The Battalion* or to Traffic and Parking. These people also deserve great accolades, but their petitions as well as the phone calls were placed in a file. They were the evidence Williams would need to increase campus parking in the future, not a mid-semester rearrangement of parking.

After trying to talk to Williams decided that he required some explanation of our need for more blue parking on west campus before Fall '90. I went to the Board of Regents. Two people brought up parking at that meeting, College Station Mayor Larry Ringer, and myself. The Board expressed their surprise that NO group, NO organization and NO other people came to testify on this subject. I walked in, wrote my name down and they gave me a polite 20 minutes.

Williams was quite flexible after that and talked of changes for Spring '90.

After a follow-up call to Williams a week later word came from everywhere and nowhere that I should stop these weekly calls. This 'word' stopped just as fast as it started.

During the next two weeks, the medical school kept Traffic and Parking quite busy. Those involved at the medical school apparently provided the proper stimulus to get changes for their students. Changing any parking was still a dream prior to Spring '90 until they got involved.

On Sept. 28 Williams told me told that an inventory of available spaces in



Marianne Oprisko  
Guest Columnist

West Campus staff and random lots would occur Sept. 30. Any free spaces would be rearranged and assigned the first week of October to relieve parking pressure if it was required. When asked to elaborate on this unbelievable statement, he said that Carol Rhodes, Parking Coordinator for area 10, had not reported a lack of student parking. If she didn't report it, it didn't exist.

Carol Rhodes is also the office manager for the department of Soil and Crop Sciences. When she learned of Mr. Williams' statement, she was quite surprised. Since she currently did not have any petition or proof of student parking

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needs, she could not initiate a request.

Working with Rhodes on the exact wording, a petition was circulated in that department over the weekend. This petition with its 11 names, which stated that graduate student research, teaching and classwork had been disrupted by the lack of blue parking, was the only one used by Rhodes to get a rearrangement.

Area 10 parking consists of lots 65-68, 70, 71, 74, 86 and Agronomy Road parking between University and Joe Routt. Rhodes worked closely with Kathie Mathis, a parking administrator, for three weeks on this rearrangement. Rhodes fought for two designated blue rows in lot 61, next to Kleberg, but with one small petition it was denied until

sufficient evidence could be gathered is still under negotiation. Mathis worked with Rhodes for three weeks for a solution. Williams was working on the ger problem of an overall increase in parking space and gave Mathis the semester rearrangement of parking problem.

I have tried to park since the rearrangement on west campus at all hours of the day, during all the days of the week. Only once have I had to go to the third lot. Lot 71, although parking usually had at least one space free during those times. We have a major problem of state vehicles incorrectly parked in lot 71. Rhodes is currently trying to locate the offending departments to relieve this situation. Any petitions regarding further rearrangements west campus should be given to Rhodes and the wording checked with her forehand. If things get difficult, just take it to the Board of Regents.

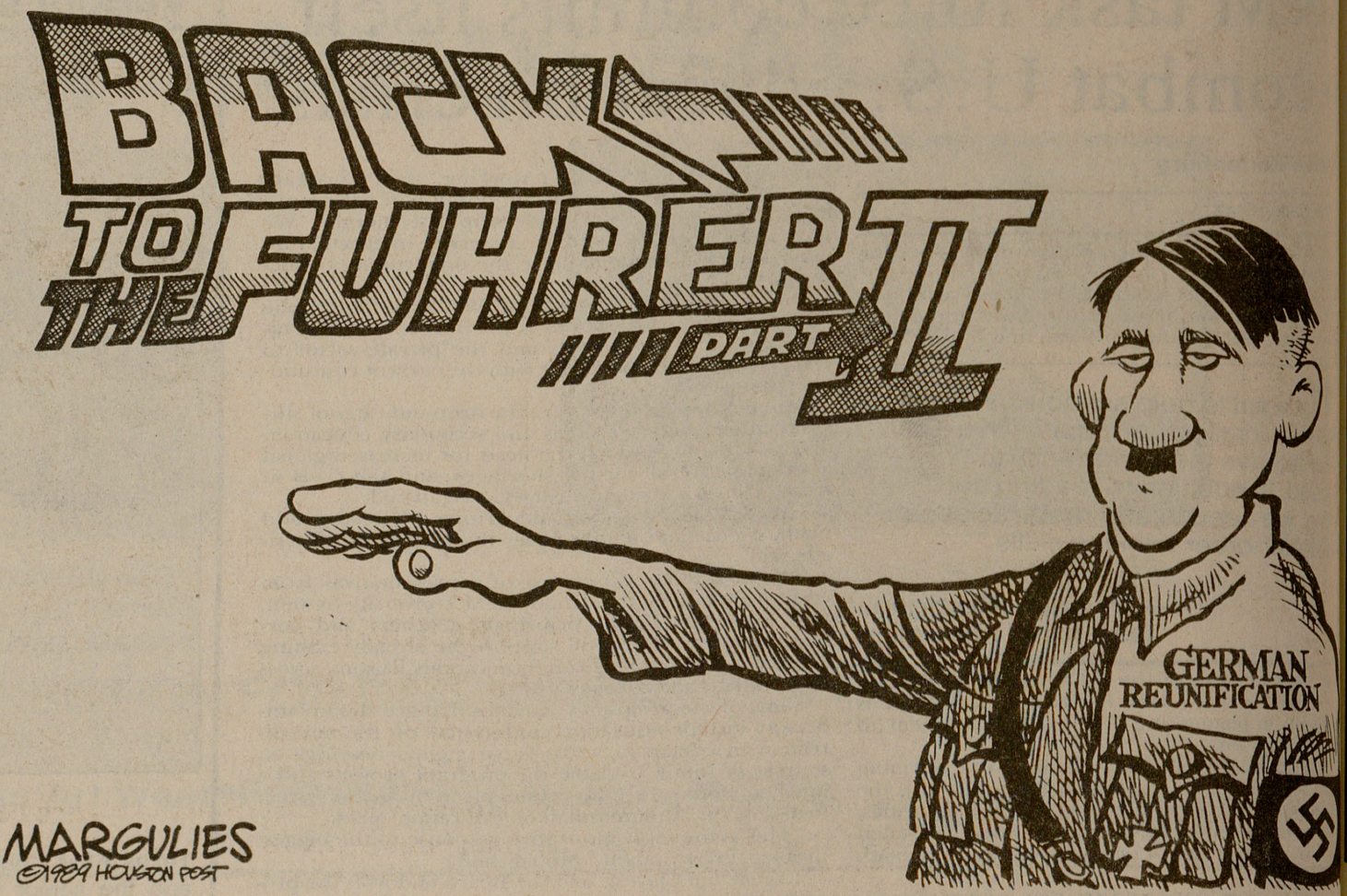
This mid-semester parking situation occurred because of constant pressure from students, pressure from above determined medical school and two dies who did their job.

The unsung hero's of this story were Rhodes and Mathis, who worked and implemented the best plan for documented need in the shortest time possible.

Let's remember who applied the initial force that started the whole process, the Board of Regents. Their open meeting plan allowed for student needs to be addressed, not through intermediaries but directly.

I, however, have a lot of work to complete by this semester's end. I hope my report will allow someone else to succeed. This requires a person who is not afraid to respond to a challenge. You'll know who you are when someone says to you "Highway 6 runs both ways" and you respond "Great, let me show you to my car."

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