

Here are five things you can do to save Aggieland

Perhaps you have heard of the book "50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth" (EarthWorks Group, \$4.95); it is a very popular book full of good suggestions for the individual who wants to help our global environment. Of course, we college students are supposed to spend every waking hour on homework (whether we do or not is another story), and so I am offering you the ABRIDGED version, specially adapted for our own local environment.

• **BUY GREEN:**

The single most important thing you can do to help our area environmentally is to consider the ecological impact of what you buy. Does it come in excessive packaging? Producing plastics, foils and bleached paper means toxic by-products, extra energy and worsening our local landfill problem. Are you

Charles Albert
Reader's Opinion

buying an energy-inefficient appliance or car? That is not only wasteful, but unpatriotic, since it is a large part of the reason we are at the mercy of OPEC. You can also buy recycled notebook and toilet paper, papertowels, etc. This helps save trees as well as reduce energy consumption and toxic waste.

• **RECYCLE:**

There are a lot of campus groups with paper and aluminum receptacles on campus. Your dorm or department may be recycling as a way to earn extra money. There are also local businesses who recycle plastic, newspaper,

cardboard and used household items. Look for a list of these recycling centers at the Texas Environmental Action Coalition table on campus, or pick up the list at one of our meetings.

• **AVOID CARS:**

Ask any Ag what the biggest problem with the campus is, and you will hear 'parking' loud and clear! By biking, walking, taking the buses or carpooling, you are avoiding a huge hassle AND reducing air pollution at the same time. Since Texas is leading the nation in air emissions for the second year in a row, this is no small kettle of okra.

• **INFORM YOURSELF:**

OK, be honest. How many of you knew before I told you that the Lone Star State is the number one air polluter? How many endangered species in Texas can you name? How

did our representatives vote on the Clean Air bill, or the Ozone Reduction Act? Did you know this country does more clearcutting than Brazil? There are a lot of very important issues out there, and unless we know about them we are not doing our duty as citizens of this republic. Fortunately, A&M has a large number of very knowledgeable faculty in every area from alternative energy to zoology. Talk to them, take some of their classes, or join a club (TEAC comes to mind, for instance) that works on these problems.

• **BECOME ACTIVE:**

One of the great things about the environmental movement is that it is non-partisan. Conservatives and progressives alike have realized the environmental dangers of our present system and are beginning to do

something about it. But as usual, our politicians need to know that their constituents care, and they need to be prodded. It is extremely important we become active and voice our concerns: write letters to your representatives, speak out, join organizations and consider the environment when you vote. Our generation is going to inherit what the world the previous generation leaves ... as it stands, that doesn't look like much. Aggies can either help lead the way to a saner future, or we can sit around and hope that someone else does it for us.

I believe Aggies make better leaders than followers.
Charles Albert is president of the chapter of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition and a graduate student in physics.

Mail Call

Fraternal unity is still unity

EDITOR:

I would like to point out a few things about Mr. Cox's column on fraternities. First, Mr. Cox's main reason for the dis-recognition of fraternities by the University is that they cause a lack of unity on campus. Oddly enough, he himself states that fraternities promote unity among brothers within any particular house but that University-wide unity is more important, but then goes on to say that fraternities are homogeneous on a national scale — or, in other words, UNITED on a national scale, but this too for some reason is less important than University-wide unity. I'm, to be honest, confused by Mr. Cox's definition of 'good' unity and 'bad' unity.

Also in the column Mr. Cox tells us that the unity brought about by African-American frats is a 'good' unity, despite the fact that he told us earlier that the unity brought about by a frat based solely on common interest and goals as opposed to race was a 'bad' unity. If it is good for people of a common race to have a place to "socialize together," why isn't it for people of common interest?

And I should mention the Corps. Mr. Cox separates the Corps from frats by saying that admission is 'open'; the implication being that admission to frats isn't. The last time I checked frats were required by law not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation (I'm not saying it doesn't happen, but it IS against the law). The same cannot be said of the Corps.

I personally do not like frats and what they appear to stand for or how they often act. I would love a good reason to boot them off of the University; but Mr. Cox's hodge-podge of faulty and contradictory reasoning and false facts with 'I'm not a bigot' qualifiers thrown in is not that reason. In other words, I dislike fraternities but am not going to simply make up a reason for them to lose their recognition - the recognition to which any organization of students with common interests has a right.

Michael Freeman, '91

You just can't bank on the Greeks

EDITOR:

As I see it, sorority rush is a separating period, kind of like

those coin banks that separate change. The lower values (pennies and nickels) go to their respective slots, while the dimes, quarters and fifty-cent pieces go to theirs. The other things you might try to put in that don't fit through the slot ... too bad! The shiny fifty-cent pieces go to the really "good" sororities and the pennies go to the "less prominent" sororities. I really hate to break the news to my fellow females, but women can be a vicious, backstabbing bunch. This is something guys have known for years.

Now, I come from a middle-class family and have decent clothes and my dad even has the right job. But I would never ask a bunch of yahoos to tell me what "slot" I belong in. The only slot I choose to be placed in is that of a Texas Aggie. It is really sad to see A&M be transformed into a primarily Greek school, just like Southern Methodist University, Baylor and, yes, Texas. We should put our loyalty in our school, not our sorority mixers and crush parties.

Those girls who were not picked for a sorority are the lucky ones. In a few years, you'll realize that you do not need a social organization to identify with and throw your money into just to feel like you belong. Hey, you are at the best damn University on the planet, and if that's not something to identify with, I don't know what is.

Mrs. Johnson, I would like to meet your daughter. She seems like she would be a good friend to someone. Unlike those Barbie dolls, she's not only an Aggie, she is a human being.

Kelly Crow '93

Aggie Bucks are no bargain

EDITOR:

As a purchaser of Aggie Bucks this semester, I go to the Underground Market on Northside to buy stuff for the refrigerator in my dorm room. I could not miss the prices! Last night I payed almost \$4 for a lousy package of Oreos. They were out of the milk I wanted, so I went back the next day. They had milk — lots of it — and not one of them expired more than one-and-a-half days later. I was furious! I pay more than I would at a regular grocery store and I don't even get the quality I deserve. A loaf of bread costs \$1.29; a six-pack of 12 oz. sodas, \$3.09; a peanut butter bar, \$.59; and a small package of Fruit Loops, \$2.65. And to top it off, the

Coke machines all over campus now charge \$.60. Forget it. Never again will I buy Aggie Bucks so that I can have the convenience to shop on campus.

Majken Teichmann '93

Participate in parking improvement

EDITOR:

My name is Steven White, and I have been appointed by the student body president, Ty Clevenger, to serve as special assistant to Parking, Traffic, and Transit. This is a subject that everyone is concerned with and has several ideas on. I'm responsible for working with Mr. Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Transit, and Traffic Services in developing improvements to A&M's vast traffic systems. I need your help to accomplish our goals. By writing your comments and ideas to The Battalion:

Ellen Hobbs — Opinion Editor
230 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M
College Station TX 77843-1111

Student Government can address your concerns. Opinion Page columns to answer your questions and inform you of important developments in Parking and Transit is in the works. Remember positive comments are as important as criticism, so let us know your ideas.

I am also starting a committee on bicycle traffic to address the problems of bicycle traffic problems on campus and to develop regulations for its management. Anyone that is interested in working on this committee can call the Student Government Office at 845-3051 to get involved.
Gig'em!

Steven White
Texas A&M Student Government Association

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

U.S. shouldn't meddle in other countries' affairs

Once again, liberal and conservative politicians, Democrat and Republican agree — the American soldier and taxpayer must sacrifice for others.

This time it's filthy rich monarchies that rule countries in which the people are deprived of the right to vote, the right to free speech, a free press, due process of law, etc., etc.

This is not a criticism of their way of life, it's a criticism of a military/foreign policy that throws away American lives and money to defend countries that very few of us would care to be born in and then, consequently, subjected to a very restricted life. No, I don't believe you'd find too many freedom-loving

Lynn Younts
Reader's Opinion

Americans opting for this type of society.

However, the chief reason the professional liars (politicians) are preparing to sacrifice our soldiers and bank accounts is the erroneous notion that Iraq's control of more oil fields will lead to increased oil prices.

These are fields that have been controlled for years by the OPEC cartel, nations that have banded together to

squeeze every dime they can out of importing countries. And Iraq will do the same, cash in.

Then why are oil products more expensive? Because our military, under presidential order, with Democratic and Republican support, won't allow them to sell their oil.

Now if you're still indignant about Iraq's invasion and feel the U.S. should "kick butt" as columnist Gizzard-brain advocates, then please feel free to volunteer in the Saudi armed forces, or, if you prefer to participate from a safer distance, send them a fat check every once in a while.

This is costing the taxpayers about a

billion a month so better make it substantial. But stay out of my wallet and allow American soldiers the right to come home on their own two feet. Do you really think this is worth the risk of tens of thousands of our young people coming home in body bags.

We Libertarians don't. As the 1984 Libertarian Party candidate David Bergland said, "Rather than trying to police the world, or meddle in the affairs of other nations, the U.S. government should confine itself to what is necessary to defend Americans and their property in America. It should simply recognize other sovereign governments and end

its military and covert methods of propping up or trying to topple any other government.

"Expensive and clumsy military approaches to foreign policy always seem to end in disaster and have made the world less safe for Americans. We would do better to rely on the obvious benefits of trade and peaceful relationships to promote democracy, free markets and human rights throughout the world.

"Marxism simply cannot compete with the appeal of capitalist consumer goods and what they teach about the free societies which produce them."

The Battalion

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"FRAT COMIX" by Don Atkinson Jr.

