

EDITORIAL

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Reported assault taints reputation of Corps

Twelfth day enrollment figures show a slight increase of women on this campus. The majority believe this is a positive step, considering at one point women were forbidden to attend Texas A&M. Obviously, The University has come a long way since.

Unfortunately, ignorance still lives and there are those who believe women still have an appropriate place in society — and one of those places isn't the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry.

The reported assault on the female member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets does several things for this institution of higher learning — none of which are positive.

First, it is a clear example of how one act can tarnish the reputation of an entire organization. The Corps has forever boasted of its dedication to discipline, honor and goodwill. Clearly, accosting a woman is not a sign of any of those characteristics. If anything, it shows how some men feel threatened by women wanting to take on higher roles. It shows ignorance in that some men still use physical means to reach an end. Lastly, it shows the lack of growth and stale mentality that some men still possess on this campus.

Secondly, this act could very well deter other women from seeking higher offices or joining male-dominated organizations. Violent acts like this show that anyone is susceptible to hate crimes.

And what are victims supposed to do? Hide and live in fear? Or fight back? Hopefully, this appalling incident will open the eyes of the administration that more time needs to be spent on promoting an anti-discrimination campus.

For now, it seems appropriate that these individuals and the organization should suffer the consequences. If it had been a fraternity and a hazing incident, the entire organization would receive punishment, despite the fact that only a few may have participated in the act.

In the past, the Corps has always stuck together. Now members have a real test ahead of them. How can the Corps expect female members to feel part of this large, influential organization if they could be its next victims?

The Battalion Editorial Board

Life at college vs. high school

Compare A&M experiences to life at home with parents

As those of you who are incoming freshman are beginning to realize, and as those of you who have been here for a while probably remember, life at home in high school and life here at Texas A&M are, though obviously related, distinctly different. I'd like to explore some of those differences in this column using the simple analogy form you'll remember from your SAT. High school is to Texas A&M as:

- Diet Coke is to black coffee.
- computer class is to BANA 217.
- shopping for school supplies with Mom at Wal-Mart is to chipping in with your friends on a Sam's membership to buy condoms wholesale.
- sneaking out before the pep rally is to passing out before Yell Practice.
- No-Doz is to ephedrine.
- sneaking cigarettes is to buying three packs of Marlboro Mediums so you can get a free T-shirt.
- going to "away" games is to taking road trips to New Orleans.
- parent-teacher conferences is to bumping into your TA at Duddy's.
- Miller Lite is to Shiner Bock.
- having fantasies about a "Latin lover" is to joining the South American Student Association.
- "parking" is to hanging a towel on your dorm room doorknob.
- dressing up as the school mascot is to having a class with Reveille.
- fighting with your parents is to fighting with your roommate.
- the family doctor is to the quack shack.
- trying out for the team is to thinking up a name for your intramural bowling team.
- shopping for underwear with Mom at the mall is to ordering bras out of the Victoria's Secret catalogue with your new Visa card.
- going off campus for lunch is to inviting everybody

over for barbecue.

- getting friends to buy you beer is to having a fake ID made at a flea market.
- PE is to KINE 199.
- going to the ASPCA to look for a family pet is to buying a lobster at Kroger for your aquarium.
- getting an advance on your allowance is to applying for a short-term loan.
- having a part-time job is to having three part-time jobs.
- renting porno films is to going to Adult Video.
- having your parents help you with your homework is to paying a tutor by the hour.
- being frustrated with your guidance counselor is to being frustrated with your undergraduate adviser.
- faking illnesses to get out of school is to using self-inflicted injuries to avoid taking exams.
- hoping for a fire drill is to phoning in bomb threats.
- skipping school is to sleeping in.
- recording soaps on your VCR is to arranging your class schedule around "Days of Our Lives."
- being grounded is to parking tickets.
- getting to bed early for school in the morning is to afternoon naps.
- driving around drinking beer is to putting the keg in the bathtub.
- Student Council is to Student Government.
- the principal is to President William Mobley.
- the cosmetology department is to Charles and Sue's School of Hair Design.
- a letter jacket is to 400 different Aggie T-shirts.
- going to the school library is to riding the library shuttle to Austin.

And finally:

- applying to college is to applying to graduate school.



Ellen Hobbs
Hobbs is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

Where does money from interest go?

Clevenger's Top 40 A&M questionable fees:

Where does all of the interest accrued by student organization accounts in the MSC Student Finance Center go?

Every organization on campus has an account at the finance center. Many of these accounts contain considerable amounts of money. They obviously earn interest; however, none of this interest is given to the organizations themselves.

The University should stop absorbing these hidden assets and return them to the student organizations which rightfully deserve them.

Chris Rawley '92

My friends and I are curious: Where do we take our IDs to get the \$4 maintenance done? The Pavilion? Heaton Hall? The University Maintenance Office?

My ID needs a lot of work. And yesterday my wife's ID broke down. Please help!

Tim Batt '93

Let students park on public streets

I am a fifth year senior attending Texas A&M. On September 14, I attended the A&M-LSU football game. I parked my car on Dexter, located opposite George Bush Drive in a residential area.

I thought nothing of since I had done the same thing last year. But when I returned after the game, I had receive a parking ticket. College Station had turned that area into a no parking zone.

Why? Is it just another way for the City of College Station to squeeze money out of us students? From all the other cars parked near me, I estimate the city profited close to \$1000 that afternoon. Not bad for a day's "work."

After talking to a College Station city official, I thought maybe my initial reaction was wrong. He told me the residents on that particular public street were upset because people were parking on it during football games.

Is it that inconvenient to have people park around your house for three or four hours, five or six Saturdays out of the year? Need I remind you the streets belong to the tax players, not the people who own the houses next to it.

Something needs to be done about this. How can people living off-campus support the

Aggie football team if we are not allowed to park for the game! Please give us our parking back!

Patches Fleming '91

Hobbs' column may be misunderstood

I liked Ellen Hobbs' column in the Sept. 16 issue of The Battalion.

Although the tactics used to disrupt the Pennsylvania shoot were classic "animal liberation," she was right about this being a case where there's broad-based, rational opposition.

It's important to clearly state (as she did) drug abuse is a more pressing social problem today, but the shoot's slogan is like asking people to rob rather than rape.

Since she will no doubt get some reactionary trophy hunters writing in in self-defense or some sport hunters who aren't careful enough readers to figure out she wasn't attacking them, I thought I'd write in a line of support.

Gary Tanner
assistant professor

Humans don't have hunting instincts

I recently finished reading Kevin McDaniel's response to Ellen Hobbs on the subject of hunting in last Thursday's Battalion.

He wrote that she attempted to disguise an attack on hunting and it offended him.

McDaniel wrote that hunting was a "time-honored tradition."

"Howdy" is a time-honored tradition, not decapitated heads which hang on people's walls. Your attack on animal rights activists showed nothing but pure ignorance.

I know what it is like to hunt. I grew up doing it. It was only in the last few years I have matured and realized that those are not man's true instincts.

And finally, you wrote of "the aesthetic values which encompass a hunting trip." There is nothing aesthetic about hunting.

Eddy Wylie '95

A&M should teach computer literacy

I was an assistant teacher for a freshman computer science course for five semesters. It is interesting to note that often the computer science majors are outnumbered by non-majors in CPSC 110.

Why are all of these non-majors taking the course? Sure, some are genuinely interested in learning a programming language (Pascal in this case), but most of these people are there to satisfy the computer requirement of the core curriculum.

In my opinion, some of these people have no business being in a course like CPSC 110. Even though it is a first-semester freshman course, it is not trivial. It is designed to prepare computer science majors for their sophomore-level classes.

Many of the people come into the class without ever having touched a keyboard, and they are expected to be writing programs within the first week or so.

The lecturer can't slow down the course for them, so a lot of people soon get left behind. Most of these non-CS majors, especially those in non-technical majors, will likely never have occasion to write another program after taking this course.

Part of the problem may lie with undergraduate advisers, who probably have no idea what the various computer classes involve.

Beyond that I think the main problem is that the University initiated the computer usage portion of the core curriculum without first considering what the needs of the students would be.

For example, an English major does not need to know how to program in Pascal, but he or she probably would like to learn how to use the major word processors.

The majority of the students who get non-technical degrees are sure to use computers to

some extent later on, but probably in the capacity of using word processors, databases, spreadsheets and the like.

What A&M needs is a "computer literacy" course for those who are not interested in programming. A lot of people are afraid to come near a computer.

A computer literacy course would be designed to de-mystify people about computers, teaching such fundamental things as how to use the operating system and various major applications (word processors, spreadsheets, databases). This would be a lot more useful to these students than would a programming course.

To their credit, some departments have their own computer courses tailored to their particular majors, but as far as I know, no such course exists at A&M that is open to all students.

I would encourage the University to arrange for such a course and to let the advisers know the course is available. In the meantime, advisers need to become a little more familiar with what is now available.

Tim Thornton
graduate student

Don't use others to promote your cause

Understand that on the subject of Bonfire, I am one of the pitifully apathetic.

I feel the trees would most likely be dumped and unused if Bonfire didn't provide a use for these victims of strip-mining. But there might be a more productive, less smoke-filled outlet.

However, there's no denying it makes a helluva spectacle.

Instead, I'm writing about one of the tactics an anti-Bonfire person or group is doing.

They have had an ink pad stamp made saying, "Stop Bonfire" and used it to stamp leaflets posted on bulletin boards, most notably on the second floor of the Harrington Educational Building.

These leaflets were posted with a purpose to notify of upcoming events or the sale of computer components, probably without a thought to the Bonfire situation.

It is wrong to use other groups' advertisements as a social or political spring board to forward your own beliefs. It is also a form of graffiti.

There is a small chance some of the people in these groups do not share your ideas and might actually resent being used for your purposes.

Jerry Carol '92.

Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters to the editor are welcome. Written letters must be signed and include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee letters will appear.

Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.