

Opinion

Friday, February 14, 1992

The Battalion

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The Battalion Editorial Board

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The following opinions are a consensus of The Battalion opinion staff and senior editors.

Replant No. 1

New tradition suffers from inexperience

Aggies turned out by the hundreds Saturday to take part in the first replant. While the event went smoothly for some, others involved complained of the way the event was managed.

The sponsors of replant had a wonderful idea, and we commend them for starting a great new tradition. But they were unprepared for the amount of Aggie spirit that caused such a huge turnout.

Confusion surrounded the event from the start. Initially, organizations were told the event would take place over three weekends in February, giving them the flexibility to sign up for the most convenient day and time. Later, the story changed. The three weekends in February had turned into one, and the organizers assigned the planting times. Finally, plans changed once again. Instead of using an entire weekend, the project narrowed to one day only, last Saturday.

Apparently, no one had taken the time to lay out specific plans for the event until the last minute.

Organizers ordered only 10,000 seedlings. Participants went through these in a matter of hours. Those arriving to the planting site late were turned away for lack of trees to plant. In fact, some people reported that the

replant leaders told them to slow down their planting because of the seedling scarcity.

While some of the groups participating had few problems planting enough trees, others found themselves on foreign ground. They had no knowledge of how to plant particular trees, and there was no one around to teach them how.

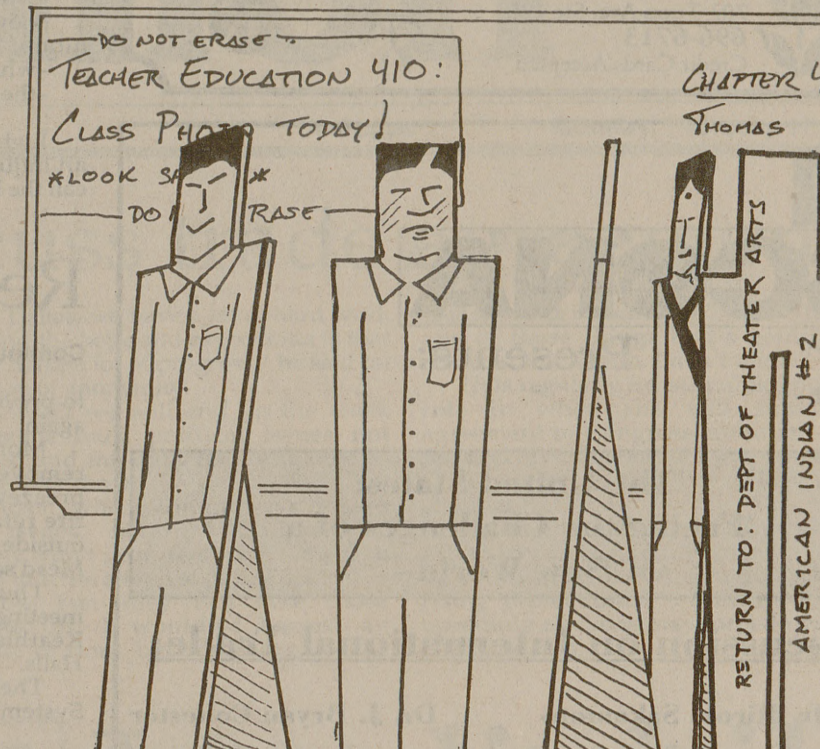
Perhaps next year, the bonfire pots can give a brief on-site lesson to students on exactly how to plant a tree and whether different types of trees require different methods.

The student government and the bonfire pots did not prepare themselves for the overwhelming number of Aggies who chose to take part.

But while this year's Replant missed the mark, there's always next year. We feel confident that the sponsors of the next replant, having had a year of experience under their belts, will have worked out the bugs in the tree-planting system.

The fact that so many Aggies came out for the event offers encouragement to those in charge.

With a little forethought and a lot of planning, A&M's newest tradition has the potential to become one of its most productive.



Red instead of black

Father's gift changes Valentine Day outlook, mood, clothes

Yes we've come to yet another Feb. 14, a joyous day for some, a day of living hell for others, Valentine's Day. A pseudo-holiday that most of us celebrate without knowing an inkling about why we celebrate it. We either look at it as a day to be with that wonderful significant other, or we look at it as a day to revel in the misery of our loneliness. Well, I'm here to say, "Snap out of it."

"The 14th of February is a day sacred to St. Valentine! It was a very odd notion, ... that on this day birds began to couple; hence, perhaps, arose the custom of sending on this day letters containing professions of love and affection," - Noah Webster

St. Valentine's Day, named after two martyred Roman priests that lived during the Third Century, is thought to be a day that we profess our love for our boyfriend or girlfriend with gifts, chocolates and flowers. Second only to Christmas, it is probably the most loved holiday by merchants everywhere. We buy billions of cards, spend obscene amounts of money on flowers and buy enough chocolate to make us gain all the weight back that we said we'd lose for Spring Break.

But those of us who receive none of that feel totally left out. Valentine's Day seems to be an endless day of coupled, smiling people who smooch and cuddle and sicken us with other PDAs (Public Displays of Affection).

Well, I used to be one of those sickened persons dressed in black who spent the day sulking around planning "pity parties" for myself and other lonely hearts. But I learned to

change my attitude. Not because I miraculously found a boyfriend, but because I learned that Valentine's Day is a day for all (not to mention red is my favorite color, and that's the only day I can wear it head to toe, legitimately). Why waste the day wearing black?

I remember a Valentine's Day about three years ago during my junior year in high school that assisted me in changing my negative attitude. I had planned my funeral-like wardrobe and was prepared to face all the couples at school and my sister that afternoon, who always seemed to come home with some flowers or candy to match my empty arms. To my surprise, that day I received a beautiful bouquet of balloons. No, not from my secret admirer or from the particular guy I had a crush on that week, but rather from my father. When my father woke me up that day and presented me with the balloons, I realized I didn't need to have a significant other to make it through Feb. 14 with a smile.

The only reason people persist to be upset on Valentine's Day is because they feel that they have no one to love or to give them presents. Valentine's Day is not about giving gifts nor receiving them, it's about showing our love. If we choose to show love through gifts, that's fine. But it's not the size, monetary value nor the amount of gifts that measures the love that we might have for another. What I'm trying to say is don't let your lack of gifts, or the miniature size of the present, get you down. Girls, lay off the guys if they don't get you a dozen roses or a ring. They're not rich (we're in college, remember), plus that one rose and note probably took more thought than buying a material expression of love.

To get back to my Valentine's Day that redeemed all others, my father's balloons taught me that, though we

often overlook them, there are other kinds of love in this world. Like I said earlier, Valentine's Day is for love, in general. It doesn't specify that that love must be for a boyfriend or girlfriend, it just has to be love.

Valentine's Day is a chance for us to show a special love for family, friends and even pets. Though we hopefully show genuine love to these people throughout the year, Valentine's Day is the day we can express our love in different and original ways. Be it through gifts, calls, or just simple expressions, use Feb. 14 as a day to exhibit authentic and sincere love to anyone that we care about, whether it be that special someone or not.

Another way that we can survive Valentine's Day is if we realize that it's a day that we take the time to love ourselves.

"Our first love, and last love is self-love." - Bobee

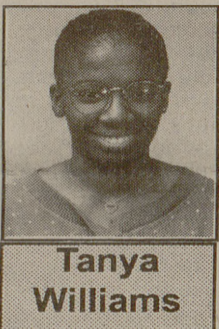
Take time today to do something for yourself; if you don't love yourself first, no one else will love you either. Skip on the diet and buy some chocolates or purchase yourself some flowers - you deserve them. There's no need to feel sorry for yourself because you think you have no one. You have yourself and that's the second most important someone to have.

The most important person, or rather being, to have is God. Thoughts of His love for us alone should put a smile on our faces, not just on Feb. 14, but everyday.

"Love is an image of God, and not a lifeless image, but the living essence of the divine nature which beams full of goodness." - Luther

Use today to contemplate God's love for you and your love for Him. I promise it will put a smile on your face for sure. I wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day filled with love.

Williams is a sophomore journalism major



Tanya Williams

Tilton's victory

Support courts over TV charlatan

A federal judge Friday issued a ruling that will allow television evangelist Robert Tilton, who is under investigation by the state attorney general, to con more people out of their money in the name of God.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin issued a temporary restraining order that keeps the attorney general's office from checking the tilton ministry's financial records. Attorney General Dan Morales is investigating the ministry to find out whether it has participated in deceptive trade practices or violated solicitation laws. Sparks set a hearing for March 4 to decide if the state can investigate the ministry's records.

News agencies have reported that money sent to Tilton intended for orphanages and other good causes wound up in the minister's pockets.



The case could have serious First Amendment implications. If Tilton is allowed to keep his records closed, the precedent set would give constitutional protection to con artists to practice their craft.

All these thieves would have to do to escape justice would be to claim they were part of a church. They could amass the same millions of dollars in wealth that Tilton has.

Freedom of religion is one of the most important foundations of a free society. People have the right to worship in any way they choose. Government's power to control church operations should have limits. In most cases the limits are just.

But when charlatans like Tilton so blatantly use people's devotion to rob them, the courts must draw the line.

Mail Call

Prank fires cause damage

Last Friday night, residents of Fowler Hall and I were treated to a special surprise. Someone was kind enough to set fire to the trash receptacles in the downstairs breezeways. What made it really special was that it was right outside the only two exits of Fowler Hall. Besides the fact that the two fires were set at the same time, we would like to thank this person or people for setting the fires at 3 a.m. and waking us up to the pleasant aroma of burning plastic, brick and wood. Fortunately, many of us were still awake and able to realize the severity of the situation. Being on the third floor and able to see the flames that had spread to the ceiling had a certain sobering effect on even the sleepest person. When exiting the building we all came within 10 feet to the flames that spewed ash and noxious plastic fumes throughout the area. My reaction to the situation was an attempt to put flames out with a fire extinguisher. Although I was able to suppress half the flames, it took three more fire extinguishers manned by three other residents to completely put the flames out. Being so close to the fire, I had the pleasure

of breathing in the wonderful fumes that landed me a visit to the Beutel Health Center for smoke inhalation. My actions were stupid, yes, but necessary. I realize that trash receptacle fires don't sound very serious, but all I can say is you had to be there. Not only were the fires set outside the only exits, but they were set right in front of the air circulatory ducts.

I received a call from the North Area Office thanking me for what I had done, as well as checking to see if I was OK.

They told me that a rough estimate of the damage was between \$9,000 and \$10,000. If any of you out there still have doubts on the severity of the fires, we invite you to come down to our breezeways and look at what is left of our walls.

We at Fowler hall would like to thank this person or people for the wonderful experiences that they provided us. The loss of sleep, smoky rooms, and the inability to breathe were some of the most pleasant that I think we shall ever have, and shall treasure for the rest of our lives. We would like to show our appreciation by meeting with you personally just to show you what we really think of you. If the fire had spread more quickly, you could have had to deal with more than just damage to our building and our safety; you might have had to deal with the fact that you

killed someone. If there is even one shred of humanity in you, you should be feeling like total crap right now. I don't think you'll ever know the severity of your actions, but we could probably convince you in less time than it took for you to light those fires.

Mike Marketos
Class of '95
accompanied by 61 signatures

Worsham walkout hurts credibility

I would like to say a few words about Worsham's note on Stephen Ruth and the Corps of Cadets. Worsham wants us to think that having a member of the Corps of Cadets speak in favor of King's efforts for social change is an obscene contradiction. I do not believe that it is and Ruth did not think so either. The Corps of Cadets is a military organization, and it is difficult to see how the non-violence concept can exist within it. However, when a leader within the organization tries to explain, we must give that person our attention and willingness to

understand. Worsham was so disgusted by Stephen Ruth's appearance at a previous non-violence event that he chose to leave. That is a real contradiction, refusing to listen to Ruth's opinions by walking out and then praising non-violence. This does not help to establish communication, and compromise. To achieve this we have to speak, listen and certainly not walk out.

Ronald Lorenzo
Class of '95

Have an opinion? Express it!
The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers.
All letters are welcome.
Letters must be signed and must include classification, address and a daytime phone number for verification purposes. They should be 250 words or less. Anonymous letters will not be published.
The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee the letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.