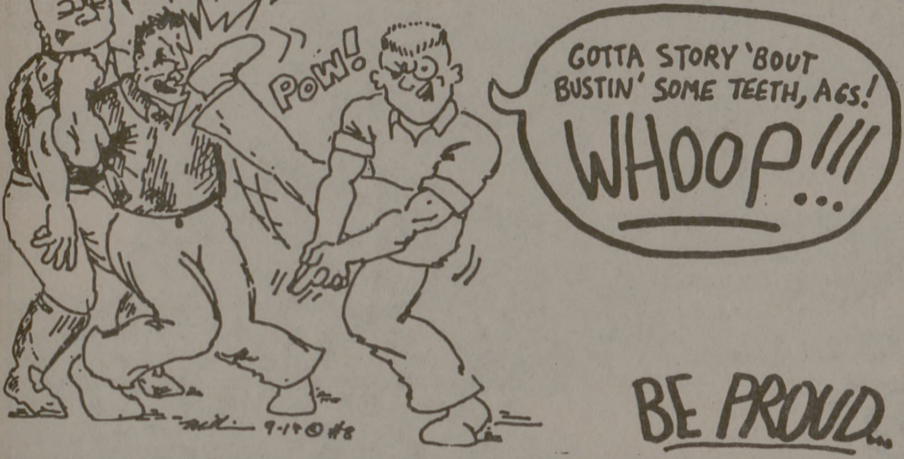


ANOTHER AGGIE TRADITION! COMING SOON!!
MIDNIGHT HELL PRACTICE!!



EDITORIALS

Midnight madness

Kyle Field for football, not boxing

Midnight Yell Practice has long been one of the most unique and unifying traditions at Texas A&M.

However, the ugly and divisive new practice of attempting to run across Kyle Field, a practice that has appeared only in the last few years, is bound to lead to the despicable and embarrassing violence many saw last Friday night.

Take a few hundred junior cadets who are supposed to defend the field only symbolically, and a group of civilian students trying, no one knows why, to assert their "right" to walk all over a memorial to Aggie veterans of World War I, and throw in a few drunks on either side. This is the recipe for the shameful farce we called a yell practice. Aggies uniting in support of their football team, indeed.

It would be far better to simply end midnight yell altogether than to

continue to assemble only to be disrupted by various factions acting out their hostilities. The taunting of cadets and beating of civilians and drunken brawling that took place are nothing but a mockery of the idea of "true to each other, as Aggies can be."

One thing seems clear. Though some cadets overreacted and used force that could only be described as excessive, the entire situation could have been avoided if all Aggies had understood and respected the sanctity of the field.

Let's end the childish games that have been taking place at midnight yell and all-university night. There's only room for one game on Kyle Field.

And in the words of the Head Yell Leader of the Class of '77: If you didn't leave Friday's yell as an Aggie, don't go back.

Grade point discount

Rates good for students, business

For automobile insurance agencies to adopt the state's proposal of cut rates for academic achievement would offer some much needed help to students.

The Texas Automobile Insurance Service Offices proposed a 15% discount on some insurance policies to students with a 3.0 GPA or better in the semester before purchasing the policy. The proposal offers the same discounts to students in the top 20% of their class and on the Dean's list.

Students generally pay more for auto insurance than people of any other age, though many are as responsible and cautious as older drivers. Since academic achievement often marks a responsible person, binding rates to grades seems reasonable.

Very few students stumble into a

B average, though most students can achieve the required 3.0 with some effort. Good grades indicate diligence and responsibility more than talent or ability.

Though the insurance industry lacks hard evidence of any correlation, it follows that the same sense of responsibility that accompanies good grades is likely to apply to the way a person drives. In fact, some companies already offer similar discounts.

Many students could avail themselves of the discount since it requires a 3.0 only in the semester before the policy is bought. The discount could therefore attract a significant amount of business.

When insurance companies offer academic discounts, everyone wins.

Little gun control goes a long way

Restrictions are prudent in today's violent society

by SHAWN RALSTON

This weekend I was reading a Houston newspaper and one theme struck me in particular. First I noticed that an elderly couple had been killed during an attempted robbery because the man "laughed at" one of the inept, teenage robbers. Next I read about the recent shootings at Palo Duro high school in Amarillo where six kids were injured. Finally, I noticed that a Georgetown rancher shot a noted biologist doing research on his land because the rancher assumed that the biologist was a "trespasser."

By now you know where this is going. And you probably expect a pat argument for one side or the other. But wait a minute, I think I've got something a bit different to say. I think gun use has reached a point in our society where things are violently out of control. Now, no matter what your position on gun control or what you think the solution should be, you probably agree that we have got an incredibly violent society. If you don't, take a look at comparative crime stats. Personally, I believe gun ownership is not guaranteed by the Constitution; I don't believe that was the intention of its framers. I believe strict gun laws are in order and I believe they work because the evidence from other countries which have implemented such laws indicates that they work. However, I realize that my opinion does not seem to be the majority opinion, if, indeed, there is a majority opinion on the issue.

But where does that leave us? Do we continue to do nothing and sink further and further into some kind of "wild west" scenario where you'd be a fool not to carry a gun? Most people aren't relishing a return to the old West and most people don't want their rights restricted, even their right to carry a deadly weapon. However, we've got a problem and few people think nothing needs to be done. Perhaps it's time for both sides to talk about compromise in the face of our rather desperate situation. However, compromise implies a discussion and neither side in the gun control issue is discussing anything, much less talking to the other.

Let me illustrate. Not too long ago the National Rifle Association threatened Sears with a boycott, lawsuit, etc. over their contribution of a portion of the profits from the sale of "Pound Puppies" to an animal welfare organization — not an animal rights organization. These are two very different things. Most sane people didn't even see how this affected

the NRA, much less bothered them. How could Sears' donation to something as innocuous as the Humane Society and its ilk hurt the NRA? Well, according to NRA logic, such organizations could be construed as anti-hunting organizations and therefore dangerous to all gun-toting individualists across the land. Now to most people, this does not seem like a particularly intelligent or well thought out argument.

Now, I'll use myself as an example of the opposite position. I feel the NRA position is irresponsible, reprehensible and just absolutely unacceptable as a way to run a country. I also feel the use of deadly force to defend private property is an immoral act. If I got together with the NRA we would certainly argue, we wouldn't communicate and we'd never come close to a compromise.

So here's a plea for the people in the middle of this issue to do something about this problem. The NRA represents a minority opinion and I represent a minority opinion. You should take the issue out of our hands and come to a sane compromise to the problem of gun ownership in this country. Something like the Brady Bill would help. I think it's a wimpy idea. The NRA thinks it takes a huge chunk out of their personal freedoms. We are both wrong. Something must be done. Lawmakers must not be paralyzed because they only hear the extreme voices.

Whenever I think of a compromise I inevitably think of my father, a hunter, target shooting enthusiast and owner of too many guns to count. He is not an NRA member; they are too extreme for him. He's probably an NRA sympathizer however, because he just likes guns. A seven day waiting period would not hurt him at all, nor would it offend him. With a little talking he would probably give up his right to a semi-automatic rifle and perhaps the uglier handguns, as long as everyone else did too. After all, he is a reasonable person. The NRA is not reasonable. Perhaps I am not either, at least not to the majority of Texans. But, unless you want to be shot at by every punk you might choose to laugh at or by every gun-nut rancher whose field you stumble on to, then you in the middle of this issue better take charge. A push to reintroduce the Brady Bill wouldn't be a bad place to start.

Ralston is a graduate student



MARGULIES
©1992 THE RECORD
NEW JERSEY

MAIL CALL

Aggie unity is but an old myth

I want to congratulate the Corps for kicking ass on Friday night. One must understand that there is no longer any unity at A&M. The only place where the student body is unified is at football games. Once they leave the field, the cliques (civilized gangs) get back to their own group, their own selfish little world. Here are some examples. Students cheer for the team but insult football players behind their backs. Girls call other girls in the Corps lesbians. Guys and other girls call some sorority girls sluts. An Asian girl said "Hi" to a frat member in class who didn't even reply, let alone acknowledge her existence. The Corps hates non-regs, fraternities hate the non-frat guys, dorm boys and girls hate off campus Aggies, and athletes hate academicians and vice versa

sa of course. Yes, it's business as usual at A&M in the fall of 1992.

Brent Overturf
Class of '92

Silver Taps is a beautiful thing

Lately, it seems that all anyone does is complain. Granted, most complaints are legitimate. But I have decided to change this trend, at least for today. Instead, I would like to say "thanks."

This thanks is not to one particular person, but rather one entity. I want to thank the group of students, faculty, friends and family that took time to remember fellow Aggies at Silver Taps. It is a night I will never forget.

I am not familiar with anyone honored Tuesday night. In fact, I am a transfer student. But Tuesday night I realized that being an Aggie is more than an identification card, more than a sticker on my car, more than a diploma. Being an Aggie is abstract — a natural, unexplainable, uncontrollable feeling anchored in the heart of every TAMU student. Although I did not know anyone specifically being honored, I felt like they were a part of my family. They will certainly be missed.

The ceremony had another special

meaning for me. A close friend of mine died Memorial Day weekend. He had been considering transferring to A&M. Although he wasn't an actual student, he had the heart of an Aggie. In a way, this ceremony was for him. I finally got to say everything I wanted to tell him without having to say a word. After three months, I finally got to say goodbye.

I will never forget the bells chiming "Amazing Grace," nor will I forget standing with thousands of friends, bathed in bright moonlight. The wind swooping through the trees while the Ross Volunteers' rhythmic cadence echoed through the plaza sent shivers through me.

I will never forget September 8, 1992 because at 10:30 p.m., I witnessed something truly magical and beautiful.

It is for that I want to say thanks.

Denise Dickmann
Class of '95

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the opinion page staff and editor in chief only. They do not represent, in any way, the opinions of reporters, staff, or editors of other sections of the newspaper. Columns, guest columns, and Mail Call items express the opinions of the authors only. The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters should be addressed to: The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald / Mail stop 1111 Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843

FROM THE CORPS COMMANDER

Once again the Corps of Cadets finds itself the center of the University's attention. This past Friday at yell practice I saw an incredibly irreverent display by a group of students who claim the Aggie name. Often the most simple solution escapes us. Stay off Kyle Field. It is unfortunate that this group of dolts would choose to desecrate the Kyle Field memorial for no other reason than to taunt Corps members. I'm sure many of these individuals would not run across the field if they had been aware of the tradition. However, there is no reason for the Corps to stand idly by and take another kick in the teeth. We are the founders of the tradition and the keepers of the spirit, and we will defend these ideals.

What happened should make every Ag's blood boil. The juniors in the Corps did the best job they could under the circumstances. They had no idea that the field would be flooded with so many individuals. Sure, tell them not to chase the people, tell them to escort them off the field. Now try it with a drunk individual who hits you, and you will be in the same situation as many of the juniors were that night. Those juniors felt a need to defend the spirit of Kyle Field and those Aggies who gave their lives in defense of our country. Kyle Field is a memorial, regardless of Mr. Horner's perception of its worth, to the 55 Aggies who gave their lives in World War I, and most recently to the parents and family of James Glenn, our own place kicker who died on Kyle Field last fall.

I am not condoning the violence that took place, and in the future this type of incident will be handled differently. Those juniors who overstepped their bounds Friday night should never have been put in the position of having to tackle A&M students in the first place. In the past, students who ran across the field were fans of the opposing team and could expect to be incapacitated for some time; however, in this day and age, as we move toward the 21st century, we have lost sight of what makes this university great: Aggie traditions. All this because we forgot what it means to be an Aggie. All this because we forgot to be "true to each other as Aggies can be." All this because we forgot "to fight together for the Aggie dream."

In closing, I would like to thank the fraternities that aided Corps members in removing students from Kyle Field. The maroon line runs especially deep on this side of the campus, so if you can't or won't respect the traditions, then please stay home so those of us who do can enjoy the spirit which makes Texas A&M a world class university.

Matthew John Michaels '93
Cadet Colonel of the Corps