



EDITORIALS

Personal problems

Cigarette lawsuit made little sense

Last Thursday, at the request of the Cipollone family, a judge dismissed a suit against Philip Morris Companies, Inc. that blamed the tobacco company for the death of Rose Cipollone. Cipollone first sued the corporation in 1983 after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Cipollone believed that the health warnings printed on the labels of the cigarettes which she had smoked for 42 years did not adequately address the health hazards involved in smoking.

In addition, she felt that the advertising practices of the tobacco industry tended to minimize the dangers involved in using tobacco products.

Though the family agreed to drop the case, the tobacco industry is unable to breathe any easier. In

1965 the Supreme Court ruled that federal warning labels on cigarette boxes do not protect tobacco companies from state personal injury lawsuits.

However, the ruling also states that smokers must convince juries that they are not primarily at fault.

Sexy advertisements don't put cigarettes into people's mouths: people do.

Vaguely worded warning labels don't take cigarettes out of people's hands: people do.

While certain groups, including the American Heart Association, express disappointment over the dismissal of the Cipollone case, the fact remains that regardless of warnings or advertising practices, individuals should take responsibility for their own actions — including smokers.

New world instability

Chinese grasping for armed might

A scenario well-suited for a Tom Clancy novel threatens the peaceful "New World Order" Americans hoped would emerge from the post-Cold War era.

One of the world's worst kept secrets is that China has been combing the former Soviet Union for advanced weapons that will dramatically boost her ability to intervene militarily far outside its own borders.

More alarmingly, U.S. intelligence says that China is actively recruiting legions of out-of-work Russian scientists and engineers.

China holds more than \$40 billion in U.S. hard currency reserves, providing her with the capital outflow needed to procure biochemical and

conventional technology from the Russians, who are themselves in the midst of an economic catastrophe.

China has made no bones about her desire to call the shots in Asia.

China recently purchased 24 Russian-made long range Su-27 fighter jets. In addition to these purchases, China is negotiating with the Russians to procure tanks, transport aircraft, and aircraft carriers as well as state of the art air-to-air refueling capabilities.

It would be prudent for President-elect Clinton to work with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for ways to contain this frightening proliferation of arms in China in order to preserve the peace of President Bush's "New World Order."

Thoughts on tolerance, tradition

Aggie ideals can promote awareness, inclusiveness

"When we build fences to keep others out, erect barriers to keep others down, deny to them the freedom that we ourselves enjoy and cherish most, we keep ourselves in and hold ourselves down; and the barriers we erect against others become prison bars to our souls."

That quotation by Benjamin E. Mays, noted author and former president of Morehouse College, eloquently expresses the destructive nature of prejudice and intolerance. Tolerance is compatible with the goals of an educational institution; intolerance is not. Tolerance comes with wisdom; intolerance stifles the intellect. Tolerance reflects self-esteem; intolerance reflects insecurity. As President Mays pointed out, by excluding or denigrating others, we imprison ourselves.

Part of the greatness and potential of Texas A&M University derives from traditions such as the Twelfth Man, the Big Event, Silver Taps and Muster. Those traditions grew out of concern and respect for one another, the willingness to go the extra mile, and being part of the team. These characteristics are just as relevant today as when they first originated.

Racism, sexism, exclusion, harassment or denigration of any kind are contrary to the Texas A&M University philosophy and the spirit of the Twelfth Man.

The Texas A&M University student body has grown increasingly diverse. Our student body now includes more than 18,000 women. African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American and international students now total some 9,000 talented individuals representing more than 21 percent of our student body who are active and valued participants in all aspects of the University community.

Change is afoot in Texas, the nation and the world. By the year 2020 or 2030 there will be no racial or ethnic majority in Texas. The strength of our economy will be dependent upon our ability to compete and function in the international marketplace by effectively utilizing all our human resources, independent of gender, race or any other subgroup category.



DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY
Guest Columnist

Changes in the profile of our student body and faculty combined with strong curricular and co-curricular programs give Texas A&M University the opportunity to demonstrate that we have an educational and interpersonal philosophy that is highly relevant in today's world and the world of the rapidly approaching 21st century.

Although the legal basis for non-exclusion on the basis of various subgroup classifications is firmly established, the behavior patterns and attitudes of exclusion, separation and intolerance can continue to linger.

Tolerance requires vigilance, effort and commitment. Intellectual and emotional vigilance are necessary to combat old patterns of behavior based on habit, stereotype, or ignorance.

Effort is required to sort through the hearsay and stereotypes and challenge ourselves with questions about how we would function in the shoes of the other; to constantly anticipate how our behaviors will affect others in our University community and beyond; and to actively seek out how we can learn from those who are of a different race, gender, religion, national origin or other subgroup category.

No matter what our origins, we are all members of the Twelfth Man, and are preparing for effective citizenship and leadership in the global village. Now is the time to learn and demonstrate the tolerance, understanding, and collaboration that are essential to our individual and collective future success. Accomplishing this goal is not a matter of more policy, bureaucracy, or pronouncements. It is a matter of individual awareness, commitment, and effort, and of taking advantage of programs and opportunities that already exist.

The quality of our University is judged not only by its academic standards, but also by the atmosphere in which those standards exist. At Texas A&M, we can take the lead in securing an atmosphere of tolerance, understanding and collaboration by building on our great traditions. Those traditions guide us to our goal where each individual is treated with respect, civility and appreciation of his or her uniqueness and dignity; where inclusion and tolerance are the rule.

The Twelfth Man should aspire to nothing less.

Dr. Mobley is the president of Texas A&M University



MAIL CALL

Escort services show Aggie helpfulness

To stay or hike alone? That was the question put before me last Thursday at 11 p.m. Like most everyone else my car was parked in fish lot, and I needed it. Recalling all the warnings about walking out there alone, I debated going out at all.

Needless to say, I chose another route. I would like to thank Dustin Faulkner from Hotard Hall for giving me another alternative to hiking alone. There are several Hotard escort service signs posted in my dorm, and I called their number. Despite the fact that Hotard was putting on their haunted house, Dustin readily agreed to meet me and walk me to my car.

It is encouraging to see that despite all the problems and controversies this campus is facing, there are still a few people willing to sacrifice their time to

help others. Thank you, Dustin, and all those in Hotard who participate in the escort service.

Mykil Powell
Class of '95

The number for the Hotard escort service is 847-0999. In addition, the Corps of Cadets offers a 24-hour escort service through its guardroom, which can be reached at 845-6789. — Editor

PTTS surprises with fines by association

Friday, Nov. 6, I went to the Pavilion to pay my tuition, and to my surprise and shock, I found a \$90 charge for parking tickets on my fee statement. I knew that I had not received any parking tickets, so I immediately contacted Parking and Transit. They returned my call and informed me that these tickets on my present statement were from one year ago. The real surprise was that they were aware that these were not my tickets, but the tickets of a former roommate! I was told that it is "perfectly legal" to charge ME for the tickets of my old roommate.

I suppose that this also means that I am liable for any roommate's bounced checks, overdue bills, unpaid tuition, etc. If I had known this, I would have

opted to find a couple of extra jobs and live by myself. I do not think that my parents realized that they were not only putting me through college, but also anyone that A&M can't get their money from!

I contacted the campus attorney, and he informed me that this did not sound "perfectly legal" in any way. I have an appointment with the Assistant Director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, Kathie Mathis, though her first available appointment is not until Nov. 13. Hopefully, Mathis can explain the legal intricacies of the A&M billing system. I am awaiting a call from the Director of Student Affairs, whom I am counting on to help me resolve this matter.

Ags, there is a moral to this story: be sure to look at your fee statement charges with scrutiny, and do not let your roommates alone for a single minute ... it could happen to you (or may have already!)

Alexis Pastorek
Class of '94

Bus system alleged to be unsatisfactory

This letter is in response to ... just kidding! I have a problem. My problem is Parking, Transit and Traffic Services here on campus. Sit back and I'll

tell you a story. This tale begins at 9:50 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, when I arrived at my bus stop (6 and one half minutes from campus). I was going to a Physics exam that began at 10:20 a.m. That's 35 minutes after I got to the stop.

After a fun-filled drive to campus during which the bus driver stopped to hold a lengthy conversation with another bus driver going in the opposite direction, I was pleased to enter the test site at 10:32 a.m. (12 minutes gone and 33 minutes to take the exam!) Needless to say, I did not finish the exam, and I had to hurry so much that I'm sure I made multiple errors.

We pay \$110 per year for this glorious service, and I have been late to class and other "optional activities" on multiple occasions because of poor service on the part of PTTS. Hey PTTS, get it together or charge less! (Or both?)

R. Michael Prince
Class of '94

Aggies showing lack of enthusiasm

We'd like to bring attention to some bad bull that has occurred at Aggie football games this year — Ags leaving the game early and some even sitting toward the end of the game.

We'd like to ask all who think it's OK to leave the game early to think

about the legend of E. King Gill and the Twelfth Man. Do you think he left the sidelines early and walked into the locker room just because the Ags were winning? Remember that he also stood along the sidelines ready to go in at any moment, he did not sit on the bench.

One other problem is some are leaving as the "Aggie War Hymn" is being played. Lets stay for the War Hymn and show our support for the Twelfth Man kickoff players and the rest of the players.

On a more positive note, we'd like to thank the entire team for participating in the War Hymn after our victory over SMU. It represented the respect the team has for the Twelfth Man. In conclusion, remember that we are to uphold the traditions of Aggieland and not to ignore them.

Tammy Brown
Class of '93
and the 1992 Traditions Council

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