



## EDITORIALS

### Blowing smoke

#### Rep. Wilson out of bounds

Texas State Rep. Ron Wilson of Houston, in a recent letter to the Texas A&M Board of Regents, voiced reasonable concerns about racist overtones at an Oct. 3 Sigma Alpha Epsilon party.

That was as much of the letter as could be considered reasonable.

Wilson, who is not affiliated with Texas A&M, presumes to dictate to this University the "proper" punishment for the fraternity.

His letter states, "Any actions that fall short of complete censure and banishment (of SAE) only serve to encourage this type of behavior in the future."

We find it hard to believe that any fraternity, or other student organization, for that matter, could feel encouraged to repeat the Sigma Alpha Epsilon mistake considering the fines and restrictions leveled at the

offenders, not to mention heaps of negative media coverage.

Wilson goes even farther out of bounds, however, by saying, "Should those actions (further sanctions against SAE) fall short of what I and others in the minority community think appropriate in dealing with this offensive behavior, I will not hesitate to use every means at my disposal as a member of the Texas House of Representatives to ensure that Texas A&M is not rewarded for this type of behavior."

Texas A&M President William Mobley and the Board of Regents are more than capable of running this University without the representative's help.

Ron Wilson should tend to his district, leave university administration to administrators, and save his hot air for those who deserve it.

### Celebration sense

#### Don't let ring dunking turn tragic

Drinking and driving is no way for seniors to celebrate. As thousands of Aggies get their senior rings on Wednesday, doubtless many will cram themselves into Duddley's, the Dixie Chicken and other Aggieland nightspots to ring in the last year of their academic careers.

While nobody expects to stop these students from observing a time-honored tradition of ring-christening, perhaps a little good judgment could be suggested. There's no sense in turning a celebration into a tragedy.

Students who plan to christen their new rings by immersing them in pitchers of beer or other alcoholic beverages should be careful to avoid one thing: getting arrested.

This can be done by following

three easy steps:

Remember "moderation." A word commonly associated with adult behavior, moderation also represents responsibility. You know your limit better than anyone.

Keep it down. This suggestion refers to your voice as well as your ring-christening solution. As the spirit of celebration rises, make sure your spirits stay down.

Don't drive drunk. Take a friend along as a designated driver. Call a friend. Call a cab. Walk. Do what you have to do to avoid driving while intoxicated.

Getting your Aggie senior ring should be a highlight of your college career. Be sure the memories you make are ones worth remembering and not the kind you hope to forget.

## Reflecting on life's best moments

### Greatest, worst of times all worth remembering

"Alas! how swift the moments fly!  
How flash the years along!  
Scarce here, yet gone already by, the  
burden of a song,  
See childhood, youth and manhood  
pass,  
And age with furrowed brow,  
Time was - Time shall be - drain the  
glass,  
But where in time is now?" - John  
Quincy Adams, *The Hour Glass*.

They say that life comes down to a few great moments. Often the key points of our lives pass by with stealth, leaving to chase at shadows.

We are left to question and evaluate the ebb and flow, the surges and phases of our existence. The times we felt lost. Times of love, sorrow, rebirth and injury. Events which made time stand on end. Events which made a minute seem like an hour and an hour seem like a week.

There are moments which impact us directly, voyeuristic moments we observe while they are acted out by others, and moments which we only deem as significant years after the fact.

I often reflect upon the moments of my life which have come together brick by brick to shape the pyramid of my character.

There was a crippled girl in my second grade class named Laura Jakes. Laura couldn't control her bladder. Every week or so, she'd urinate all over herself in front of everyone - helpless and blameless like a baby. Sometimes I remember wiping up her urine with brown paper towels while the other kids laughed and chanted, "Anthony and Laura sittin' in a tree." I often wonder if that was my very best moment.

Other moments are more fleeting. The good ones are like the shade of a giant oak tree on a scorching summer day. The bad ones hot and bitter like a dry prairie wind.

Just yesterday, an 11-year-old boy stood on the pitching mound during a Little League championship game. Bases loaded, two outs, his team leading 3-2. He strikes the hitter



ANTHONY C. LOBAIDO  
Columnist

out to preserve the win, his teammates then swarm and mob him on the mound in a wild celebration.

In the midst of that joy, that ecstasy, I remember thinking, "There will be lots of days like this." But through the Sandy Koufax League, high school and college, there was never another baseball day that ever quite equaled that one. Is it any wonder so many major league players still refer to their Little League accomplishments as their best of all baseball memories?

Perhaps the most emotionally charged moments come when the seeds of love are sown, only to vanish like the morning dew into that most magical of all places - the heart.

There was the most perfect day when I sat on a gazebo swing, sipping Cokes with the most perfect girl in the world. It was a moment which I wished would never find an end. A dream from which I sought no liberation. There was last New Years Eve, when I stood in Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport, my dream girl asking, "I wonder if I will ever see you again?" With each passing day, I still wonder.

The most important of moments are when wisdom takes root. We return to them seeking purified water to fill our empty glass. You might remember the time your mother told you, "Never be ashamed of your station if life; only be ashamed if you hurt other people," and "Give me the flowers now so I can enjoy them. Don't wait for my funeral."

There are moments of relief, when impending disaster passes by like the angel of death over the doorposts marked with lamb's blood. The negative pregnancy test. The passing grade. Your plane touching down after a turbulent flight.

Since time will eventually grind the sum total of our lives to dust, it's important that we identify and cherish the moments that define our personal existence. Like a detective, we must comb through the mundane and rudimentary elements of our daily routines to unearth such hidden jewels. You can start today - this very moment.

LoBaido is a doctoral student in educational technology



State Rep. Ron Wilson throws his weight around at Texas A&M.

## MAIL CALL

### I'll leave the game whenever I want to

I cannot believe that in a period of time in which Texas A&M is fighting to uphold its reputation as a world-class university, despite charges of racism and sexual harassment, that Tammy Brown and the Traditions Council would have the nerve to whine about something as insignificant as Aggies leaving football games early. I fully support Aggie traditions, mind you. I say "Howdy" to everyone I meet, I support bonfire, and I am never seated while the Aggies are on the field.

However, I will leave the football games whenever I damn well please. If Brown and the Traditions Council don't like it, well, they will just have to suck it up and find a real crisis to voice their opinions on.

Jay Knioom  
Class of '95  
accompanied by two signatures

### PTTS explanation explained nothing

I was appalled after reading Thomas G. Williams' contradictory response in the Battalion article, "PTTS Responds to Allegations of Mischarging Parking Tickets." In one breath, Williams says, "we do not bill tickets to a student's roommate unless it's an error. Why would we do that? We have no reason." Later in the article, Williams contradicts his statement by saying, "If a car without a parking permit receives a ticket, PTTS traces or 'connects' the car by license plate and registration. If anyone at the address to which the car is registered is affiliated with A&M, the department charges the fine to that student's fees." Maybe I have clearly misunderstood this weak explanation, but billing "anyone at the address" certainly does not assure me that PTTS fees will be charged to the appropriate person who incurred those fees.

My sister, Alexis Pastorek, was victim to one of these "errors." She was charged \$90 for a roommate's parking tickets. In the article Williams denied that his employees have told some students that it is "perfectly legal" to be charged for a roommate's tickets. An employee, Mark, not only told Alexis this, but also the roommate involved and myself. I was the first to hear this, and very surprised. I was told that it was "perfectly legal" and there was nothing that Alexis could do.

I find it hard to believe that this employee would fabricate the legality of

this situation on his own.

As long as this haphazard billing practice is a PTTS policy, these "errors" will continue to occur. This practice is both outrageous and unlawful. Frankly, I do not want to be held accountable for any roommate's bills, and if this practice has been condoned by Texas A&M, it's a sad day in Aggieland.

Gretchen Pastorek  
Class of '91

### Kappa Alphas got off with slap on wrist

There's a feeling of nausea deep in my stomach, and I don't think that Pep-to-Bismol is going to cure it. No, I think the only cure for this would be a re-evaluation of the penalty given to the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Doesn't anybody find it ironic that the KAs were given the same penalty for grand larceny as the SAEs were given for a questionable case of unintentional "racial insensitivity"?

Come on, people, they stole equipment from a church playground! Comparatively, this doesn't even count as a slap on the wrist.

Last time I looked, there was something called the Aggie Honor Code, but I guess that doesn't apply to the Greek system.

Had this been a unit in the Corps of Cadets, it would have been instantly

disbanded.

But of course, we must look at who's running the show: the IFC. Is it just me, or does this seem a lot like allowing the fox to guard the hen house?

Does anyone honestly think that the IFC will do anything that might damage the Greek system? Plain and simply put, Kappa Alpha should be removed from recognition by Texas A&M University.

Joshua A. Covey  
Class of '94

### Anti-tradition column itself narrow-minded

In eight days here at Aggieland, we will have a ceremony that symbolizes much more than a "tree sacrifice and drunken disorderliness party." Ken Fontenot, apparently you have never dedicated yourself to an ideal higher than yourself. I feel sorry that you have a dim view of bonfire, and I am offended that you label something you do not understand as a blind following of things that have gone before.

As you lay asleep last night I and many others stayed up and worked through the night building bonfire. This action was not blind obedience. If someone tried to order me to be out there from midnight to 6 a.m., I would have told them where to go, and to do so quickly. Yet we were out there. How do you explain this? It is not

merely to follow, but to prove to ourselves that it can be done.

You call yourself a free-thinker, yet you close your eyes to the opportunities bonfire provides. Bonfire goes beyond a party, as apparently you don't understand. The friends I make out at site do not care how I look or think, or how much money my parents have. They judge me according to me and my actions.

Do not call me "narrow-minded," a "sheep," or "un-American" because I have a different view than yourself. Perhaps, Fontenot, if you had had the courage or the faith in yourself to dedicate your time to an ideal you would see and understand why we stay out there and return year after year for this thing they call bonfire. Until then, take the blinders off and look around you. There is more offered at this University than what is acceptable in your narrow view.

Clinton Findley  
Class of '95

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