



Cherished Aggie Ring belongs here

There is some extremely bad bull getting ready to happen in regard to the name change that was opposed recently by our own Texas A&M University System Regents. The fact that the name of our beloved university could be prostituted out to lesser universities is abhorrent enough, but to universities is intolerable.

The Aggie Ring is a cherished symbol that is possessed and recognized by Fightin' Texas Aggies all over the world. I recently got my Aggie Ring and it came with a pamphlet that says "when you see one (an Aggie Ring), say 'Howdy,' for you know the owner is someone special-A TEXAS AGGIE." Do you think that a student from Laredo State University would say "Howdy" in response or even know what it meant?

Or how about Yell Practice, Elephant Walk, the 12th Man, or Muster. Do you think that you could carry on a nostalgic conversation about working on Bonfire with a former student from Corpus Christi State University who would be perplexed at being asked to pick out the Aggie War Hymn from a "Name That Tune" session.

If we allow this to happen, the Aggie Ring that we have worked so hard to obtain will be as meaningless as it is at most other universities. We will be hesitant to approach others wearing the Aggie Ring when we are far from home because we do not know if they are a "real" Aggie or not. Although I have never heard these schools mentioned in the same breath with Texas A&M and other top universities, that is not the main reason for my disapproval. I would not want any university in the world to be able to obtain

an Aggie Ring whose symbolism and traditional value have been built up for over a century.

This is all-important concern should be the first order of business for our new student body legislature. If you want to accomplish something that will be remembered forever by Aggies everywhere, this defense of our sacred ring will prove that we have indeed elected the best government to represent the values and integrity of Texas A&M University- the one and only. THE AGGIE RING STAYS HERE!!!

Mike Regitz
Class of '93
accompanied by 41 signature

**Ed note: The Battalion ran a story on Friday, April 2 stating that the Aggie Ring will not be made available to other Texas A&M System schools.*

Reader offers insight into war hymn history

During the recent student body election, an "opinion poll" was distributed concerning the "Aggie War Hymn." It stated that we sing only the second verse of the hymn and asked the students responding if we should start singing the first verse at events.

Not only was the question clearly biased in a manner to get students to respond "yes" to the question, but stating that we sing only the second verse is a matter of text placement, not history.

The September 1980 issue of "The Texas Aggie" ran a special story on the history of "The Aggie War Hymn" following the death of the song's composer, James V. "Pinky" Wilson '20, who died in

July of that year.

A portion of that article is as follows: "Although the sheet music for 'The Aggie War Hymn' carries the familiar 'Good-bye to Texas University' lyrics as the second verse, the first verse wasn't written until five years later.

"In 1926 the Former Students Association and yell leaders pestered me to write a second verse that could be more readily used at all athletic events," Wilson told John Adams, Jr. '73, author of We Are the Aggies, the story of A&M's Association of Former Students. "I felt at the time like I do now," he said, "that the student body has a mind of its own and would, regardless of how many verses are added, continue to sing the first and most meaningful rendition." Numerous attempts to introduce the "second verse" to incoming freshmen classes have consistently failed to win student acceptance.

For your information, the library in the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center has almost every yearbook (Longhorns and Aggieands) and issue of "The Texas Aggie" available to anyone interested in looking through them.

I'm not sure what results you (whoever was responsible) will get from your 'poll,' but next time word the questions fairly. As far as I'm concerned, the poll was more of a scam and a waste of time.

I will continue to sing the original verse of the 'Aggie War Hymn' and before you bother to ask the question, I will never sing "true" and "AMU" in place of "we" and "AMC" in 'The Spirit of Aggieand.'

Lee 'Leo' Olymnic
Class of '92

Students respond to homosexuality issue

I am writing in response to Brandon West's opinion on the gay poem circulated at last weeks College Republicans meeting.

I agree that people have the right to "make fun of" various groups. But what was the purpose of the poem? Was it written for comedy's sake, or was there another point to be made? When the poem was circulated was the intent to

ridicule homosexuals or was it just humorous?

I don't know the answer, I only heard a small part of the poem, and I wasn't there. But, I believe the intent of those circulating the poem is important.

I do take a strong objection to one of Brandon's statements. "My opinion of gays is not from ignorance; it is from what I know is right and moral!" My question is how do you know what is right and moral? What I know is that homosexuality is wrong, for me. But I have never been conceited enough to think that my beliefs of right and wrong are absolute and should or even could apply to every human being. And short of God appearing before me and giving me the answers all I have to work with are my personal beliefs.

If you choose not to tolerate "gay lifestyle" that's fine, more power to you. I only know a few gay people, and what I know is that I've never had to deal with another persons gay lifestyle. If those individuals had not come out and told me they were gay I never would have guessed. They look, act, and talk as straight as you and I and ninety-four percent of the population do. But, again that's your choice, not right and wrong, just your choice.

But what do you do when your best friend tells you he or she was gay? If you think that is an impossibility, I'm afraid you are just kidding yourself. But once again, that's your choice, right or wrong. I'll make my choices based on my beliefs of right and wrong. In the end I believe God is the only one who can judge anyway.

Ryan Isenberg
Class of '94

I am sick and tired of the idea that because I KNOW homosexuality is wrong that I am somehow a bigot, homophobe or just plain ignorant. I can hardly be called ignorant, I read the newspaper everyday, watch CNN, watch the national news and read news magazines.

I know the arguments being used to try to make homosexuality palatable to the majority of people such as "It's only a different lifestyle" @!#!&@!, prostitution is "just another type of lifestyle" but it is still illegal and immoral. There are laws

against prostituting oneself and there are laws of sodomy.

Another idea is that since there is some evidence that people are genetically predisposed to the homosexual "lifestyle" they cannot be held responsible for their actions since it's in their genes. Another @!#!&@! to that, first of all we all know that some people are predisposed to become alcoholics, myself included, but that doesn't mean that they lose their will and cannot stop themselves from taking a drink, it's absurd to think that just because one is genetically inclined towards something that it is some sort of automatic permission to do whatever they please. Secondly, if genetics really the way we conduct our lives to such a degree then what about all the people who were supposed to be drunks but sobered up for good or the homosexuals who have come to their senses and renounced their "lifestyle", I have personally seen both of these things happen many times.

I am definitely not a homophobe, I worked for three years in a bookstore with lesbians and one homosexual and not once did I go into homophobic seizures when these individuals were around me. To show that I am not a close-minded individual my phone number is 846-3946, I invite Ms. Reed, any member of the GLSS, or anyone disagreeing with me to call and perhaps we can have lunch so I can show you person that you are wrong.

Erik We...

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