



Aggie Ring Orders

CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 1993

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

1. You must be a degree seeking student and have **95 credit hours** completed at the end of the Fall '93 semester (co-enrolled hours **cannot** be counted). When calculating your hours, please remember that repeating a course cannot count as additional credit hours.
(Transfer Hours completed in the Summer of '93 or before that are needed to meet the 95 hour requirement, must be posted to your A&M transcript by the deadline.)
2. **20** of the 95 credit hours must be **completed** in residence at A&M (Summer '93 or before, if you were a transfer student).
3. You must have a **2.00 cumulative GPR** currently reflected on your A&M transcript (after your last final grades).
4. You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

1. You must receive your graduate degree from Texas A&M University to qualify for a ring. If you will graduate in **December 1993**, your order will be accepted (until November 12) contingent upon your December '93 degree being conferred and posted on SIMS no later than **January 21, 1994**.
2. You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Procedure For Undergraduate and Graduate students to order a ring:

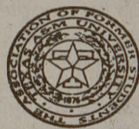
1. If you meet the above requirements, you must come to the Ring Office no later than **Wednesday, November 10, 1993** to complete the application for eligibility verification, which is a one-two day process.
2. If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring in **March 1994**, you must come back and pay in full (cash/check only) **no later than November 12, 1993**.

MEN'S RINGS	WOMEN'S RINGS
10KY - \$298.00	10KY - \$170.00
14KY - \$405.00	14KY - \$197.00

*Add \$8.00 for Class of '92 or before. White gold is available for an extra charge of \$10.83.

The approximate date of the ring delivery is March 9, 1994

Changes in the Aggie Ring Requirements



The Aggie Ring is the most personal and visible symbol of Aggie pride. For many years, The Association of Former Students has had the responsibility of protecting the spirit and integrity of the Aggie Ring. The challenge of this great honor and responsibility has led The Board of Directors of The Association of Former Students to approve the following policy changes regarding requirements for eligibility for the Aggie Ring, effective **January 1, 1994**.

Contingency Orders Will No Longer Be Taken - Ring orders will be accepted only after all requirements have been completed and are reflected on SIMS.

Requirement for Residence Hours Raised - The undergraduate residence requirement is raised from 30 credit hours to **60** (If an undergraduate student receives his/her degree with less than 60 hours, the degree being posted to the transcript will waive the 60 hour requirement.)

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

The following requirements are effective January 1, 1994, except for all candidates eligible as of December 31, 1993, who must order their ring by the February 11, 1994 deadline:

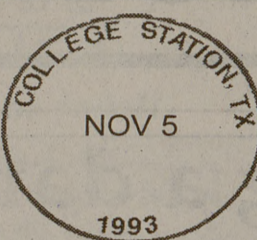
1. Must be a degree seeking student with **95 credit hours completed and reflected on SIMS** (a passed course, which is repeated, cannot count as additional hours);
2. **60** of your 95 credit hours must be in residence at Texas A&M University (will be waived if your degree is posted on SIMS);
3. Must have a **2.0 cumulative GPR** reflected on SIMS;
4. Must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

You must receive your graduate degree from Texas A&M University to qualify to order a ring. If you do not graduate in December 1993, you must complete the following requirements, effective **January 1, 1994**, to be eligible to order a Ring:

1. Must present an original "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies, which may not be obtained until you have completed **all** of your degree requirements (requires five (5) working days from the date of your request);
2. Wait until after your degree is conferred and posted to your transcript;
3. Must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have any questions regarding the Aggie Ring or its eligibility requirements, please contact the Aggie Ring Office at The Association of Former Students.



MAIL CALL

Religion in classrooms

I am writing in response to your recent front page article entitled, "Faculty criticized for preaching religion," specifically with regard to the comments attributed to Professors Noe and Bornstein.

I believe these two incidents should not be equated, and wish to make this clear. As aptly pointed out in the article, this nation was founded on the principle of separation of church and state. Although various writings of the time indicate the prevalence of deep and abiding religious beliefs among our nation's founders; division of the public and religious domains was then, and now remains the law of the land. Any assertion to the contrary is abject revisionism.

In my mind Prof. Noe's admitted behavior is inconsistent with the intent and spirit of our Constitution, as well as the mission of this great University. "Testifying" in an engineering class amounts to proselytization. It is holding your religious beliefs out to the world as exemplary. Accordingly, when placed in the context of a classroom in a state-supported university, it is potentially a violation of students' civil rights; the perpetration of which should entail sanctions, including (but not limited to) the review of his tenure. I would suggest that any student who finds these exhortations objectionable pursue all available administrative and legal remedies.

Prof. Bornstein's critical comments were made within the context of a class on Western Civilization. I do not know the substance of these remarks, but they seem quite different from the espousal of a particular religious view. One of the purposes of academia in a democracy is to provide a forum for open and critical dialogue. Such is the rationale for academic freedom, and why some form of criticism constitute protected speech under the Constitution. However, protected speech is no excuse for insensitivity. Perhaps Prof. Bornstein should give greater consideration to the deeply ingrained and profound religious heritage of the South.

Wayne Grossman
Graduate Student

The article appearing on the first page of The Battalion brought grave concern to my mind about the dual issues of censorship and brainwashing on college campuses. The article dealt with professors expressing their religious views in classrooms, but addressed a larger issue - multiculturalism.

According to multicultural proponents, the reason for their proposed curriculum is to educate the student body about the similarities and differences that exist between another culture and the cultural environment that students grew up in, so that the student may be successful in an even smaller world.

In all major cultures, religion is one of the most defining standards of behavior. The most

often breached of etiquette and therefore civility is one dealing with religious customs.

Your article implied that religion should not be taught in the classroom because someone might be offended. How do you plan to teach the cultures of the world without addressing the cultures' basic foundation - their religion? Even here in America, geographical areas have a culture based on a primary religion, and a failure to understand that religion can affect your ability to be accepted by that society.

I think the real purpose of your article was to apply political pressure to censor those who would espouse their Christian beliefs. The argument of "separation of church and state" does not apply to colleges and universities, and the Supreme Court has ruled a number of times. The professors have a right to free speech, and your article is the beginning of a PC movement to intimidate and silence them.

I had Dr. Phillip Noe for EE 248. He and I have diverse religious views. His stating his views allowed me to gain an appreciation for another religion and help me to understand him as a person. On the other hand, when I took English 104, my lecturer, Joy Castro, took every available opportunity to bring up homosexuality and many of our readings dealt with the subject. I am offended by homosexuality, and it has no relevancy to freshman English. Should not the same "offense" standards be used here to silence her on the subject?

So, here we see why many students, professors and administrators oppose multiculturalism. It seeks to teach you what to think, not how to think, and not to give even treatment to both sides of the issue - liberal and conservative views.

Kevin Davis
Class of '94

Rudder lawn isn't the same as the MSC grass

I would like to respond to Chris Helms' letter from the Friday, Oct. 15, issue of The Battalion concerning staying off the MSC grass. That was me, the cocky/snarling one.

The grass in question here was located on the corner of Throckmorton and Joe Routh streets, or in other words, Rudder Tower - not the MSC. Had Mr. Chris Corpsman been paying attention to where he was, he wouldn't have made that blatant mistake in his letter.

The specific area of Rudder Tower is not only flooded when it rains, but also on occasion when it doesn't. In the type of situation Mr. Helms described, your choices are: step on the grass, walk in the street and get hit by a shuttle bus, or walk through the four-inch deep swamp-like puddle on the sidewalk. In this situation, call me crazy, but I prefer choice number one.

While I do not consider myself a two-per-

center and do respect the tradition of not walking on the MSC grass, I also do not appreciate being told I am violating tradition when I am not. I'm not the only person who has been in this type of scenario. Being yelled and screamed at to "get off the f--- grass!" or being pushed onto the grass and then have curse words associated with the "sacred memorial grass" and yourself are just a few I've heard of. I do not consider these good examples of "upholding the tradition" for which the Corps members are responsible. If harassment is part of this responsibility, there is certainly a problem to be dealt with here.

I don't have anything against the Corps as a whole. My brother was a commanding officer, Class of '90. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the Corps and their drive to uphold traditions; however, the types of occurrences I have described seem to be unnecessary and unjust, and I see that what I did was in no way a purposeful defamation of the memories of General Rudder and all the Aggies who gave their lives.

Marlo Mrak
Class of '94

Aggie Spirit more than Bonfire, yell practice

What is the precise definition of Aggie Spirit? I don't think it's just building Bonfire or going to the yell practices. They are really cool and I have been to cut a few times last year, but I understand them to be just the symbols of the spirit. It kind of scares me that some people would criticize and be critical about others just because they don't contribute to building Bonfire or just because they belong to a fraternity/sorority. Those arguments sound kind of dumb. Aggie Spirit is something that can "ne'er be told" as the song "The Spirit of Aggieland" goes. It is something you feel deep inside, and you can't really show it simply by building Bonfire and definitely not by criticizing other Aggies.

Anyway, something truly revealing happened to me when I lost my wallet. I had everything from my student ID, driver's license, and MasterCard to scuba license in it. It sent a chill down my spine. Then about two weeks later, I lost my keys when I was studying with my ENGR 201 team in the library. I got really scared because they were the only keys I had for my car, bicycle and the apartment. I checked at the lost and found counter in the library between classes. The fourth time I checked, somebody had turned in my keys.

Two weeks later, I lost my calculator. Somehow, I was less scared this time, and two days later my professor gave it back to me because some honest person had turned it in. And here comes the climax. My roommate told me one of our friends saw my ID at the MSC. When I got my old wallet that had been missing for more than a month, everything was in it.

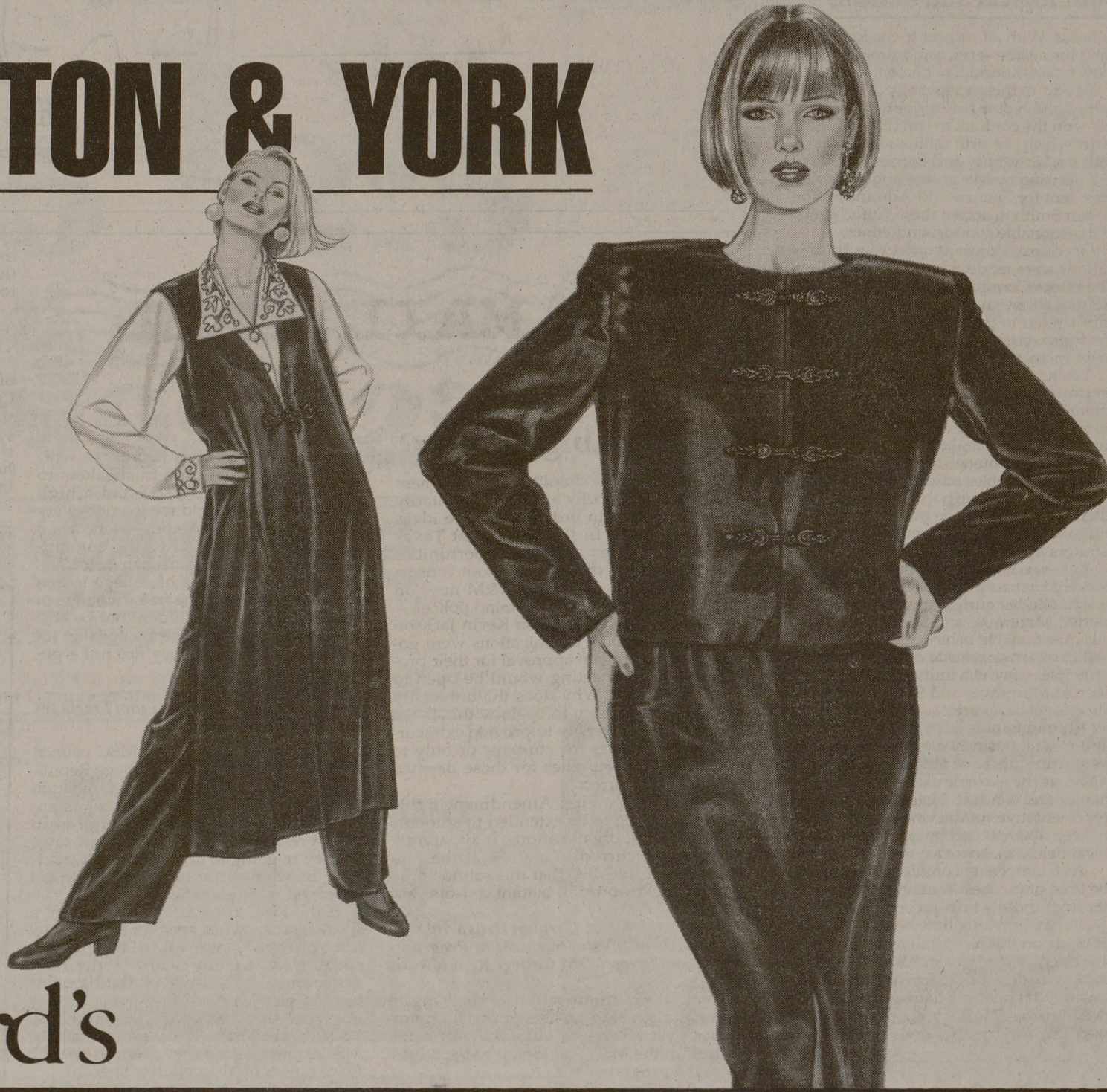
It was red ass! I now have a feeling that I might have glimpsed what Aggie Spirit really is all about thanks to those honest Aggies. And I wish those people who love to criticize and feel bitter would reevaluate their attitudes.

Toshi Makiya
Class of '96

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