

Spirit does not a good Ag make

Avowed two-percenter still believes in spirit of Aggie Code of Honor

Over the last four years I've been accused of being a "two-percenter" more times than I can remember. These accusations stem from the fact that I can count the number of football games I've attended in the last four years on one hand, and that I'm not particularly fond of Bonfire (although I did actually go one time — whoop).

So, there it is — I'm a Bad Ag. Or am I?

I take Silver Taps and Aggie Muster very seriously.

And I've never even contemplated walking on the grass or wearing a hat in the MSC. But above all, I've never broken the Aggie Code of Honor. You know — that little thing that says "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal."

Gene Zdziarsky, director of Student Life said he takes the Aggie Code of Honor very seriously also.

Zdziarsky has seen to it that many students have been sus-

gin with? Apparently the upper classmen on this campus aren't instilling in new students the importance of holding the Aggie Code of Honor in high regard, because theft in particular is a growing problem.

Just this summer I was ripped-off by an Aggie thief. After the lecture in my History 106 class ended (I finally broke down and took that course), I went to the front of the room to discuss the final with the professor and left my backpack and umbrella at my desk. When I went back to my desk, my backpack was there but my umbrella was gone.

Now, this wasn't just any umbrella. My uncle, Class of '43, gave it to me when I first came to school at A&M and just like many seemingly minor things that are stolen, it held a lot of sentimental value.

By the way, it's a maroon, heavy canvas umbrella with a curved, blonde wood handle and blonde wood tips at the

CONSTANCE PARTEN

Guest Columnist



sea of maroon umbrellas for my kidnapped little bumbershoot. This incident not only made me very sad, but also very aware that theft really is a problem on this campus.

So what are we as Aggies to do about this problem?

Well, the first step could be to request tougher punishments for all the students who break the Aggie Code of Honor. Maybe the threat of listing their names in The Battalion would deter students from lying, cheating or stealing.

Or, maybe if we beat the hell 'outta thieves, liars and cheaters (as I suggested earlier) instead of t.u. and Tech all the time we could have a lower incidence of crime and academic misconduct.

For all you good Ags — and there are a lot of you out there — thank you.

I have heard countless stories of students being tracked down to have their senior rings returned to them. I've seen signs all over campus for "found" objects, and have even had a twenty dollar bill that I dropped between classes returned to me.

These acts of goodwill are all indicative of what it means to be an Aggie and to carry the Aggie spirit.

See — it isn't about winning the Southwest Conference Championship or watching a funeral pyre burn for a cow named Bevo.

It's about camaraderie and the love of honesty and loyalty we share that creates the Spirit of Aggieland.

Constance Parten is a senior journalism major



MAIL CALL

Football deserves spotlight

Upon picking up my copy of today's Battalion, I was astounded that our football team failed to receive front-page recognition. Instead, I read about endangered species and Harris County's death penalty rate. I do recognize that these are important issues, but what about something more local. After all the hard work that Coach R.C. Slocum, his staff and the Aggie football players have put in, shouldn't they receive a little more recognition than this for beating the hell outta of O.U.! The Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team deserves to be in the spotlight for everything that they bring to this place we call Aggieland.

Scott Thacker
Class of '96

End religious-secular bickering

Josef Elchanan's views were very offensive in his column (Sept. 13) on religion and freedom in America. Separation of church and state in the Constitution has, recently, been pushed to the limits. Our forefathers meant that the government

should not impose a set religion for everyone, not for there to be no religion.

Elchanan crossed the line when he said that religious groups trying to defy the Constitutional guarantees that ensure separation of church and state offend and threaten every American.

I am an American, and I am not offended or threatened. "Outright prayer in classrooms" is optional and voluntary, so he should not feel threatened. Saying that the ideas of Creationism were "backward and illogical" was too much! How can Elchanan look around at nature and at the stars in the sky and say God did not create these?

Elchanan said that those who say this country was founded on religion, lie and tarnish the names of those who sacrificed their lives for it." God let us win the war(s) for this country, and He apparently did not want or need those people (who died in the wars) on Earth anymore.

Even though it is hard for us to handle death, we have to accept God's plan. The Bible says, "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another" (Romans 14: 13a).

Let us stop this constant bickering between the "religious" and "nonreligious."

Jason O'Neill
Class of '98

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

Address letters to:
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Maybe the threat of listing the perpetrators' names in The Battalion would deter students from lying, cheating or stealing.

ended from the University even for first time offenses.

Last year there were 41 cases of lying (usually cases of providing false information), 12 cases of cheating and 74 cases of stealing Zdziarsky said.

Four of these students were expelled and six were suspended.

Although this seems like very few offenses for a campus of 40,000 students, it's actually a lot when you consider that all offenders are not caught.

And aren't Aggies supposed to be above such crimes to be-

ends of the frame. If you see anyone carrying an umbrella fitting this description, grab the umbrella, beat them repeatedly on the head with it (careful — don't break the umbrella) while screaming at them what a worthless heathen they are.

Then return the umbrella to The Battalion, room 013 Reed-McDonald.

You will be duly rewarded.

Obviously I'm still not over the loss. You should see me on rainy days scoping the horizon, searching longingly through a