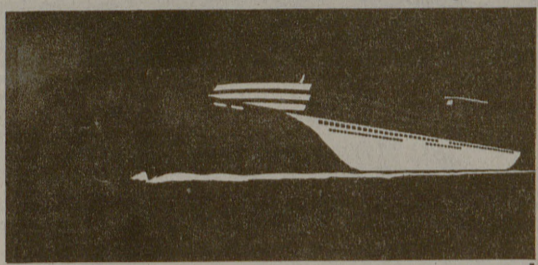


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MAIL
CALL

Bonfire, redpots work to
stop racist lyrics at site

I am writing in response to Steven S. Sims' letter that appeared on Oct. 10 in Mail Call. I would like to apologize to Sims and to the Texas A&M student body for the offensive lyrics that were heard at Bonfire stack recently.

Aggie Bonfire does not condone racism. This was an incident that never should have occurred. It is common practice for people who work on Bonfire to provide music for the redpots to entertain those working on stack. We have never had problems with this and therefore, have never needed to screen the tapes in the past. We have always trusted the student body to be tasteful.

On this particular day, a unidentified individual submitted this particular cassette tape to a junior redpot. It was several minutes before anyone noticed the lyrics but the redpots reacted quickly to remedy the situation.

Again, this was an incident that will not recur in the future. The leadership of Aggie Bonfire does not condone discrimination in any form. We work with one of the finer activities on this campus, and it is not important what race you are, what God you worship, how much money you have, where you are from or what language you speak. People earn respect on the Polo Fields by how much work they do.

If anyone comes out to Aggie Bonfire and puts in a hard day's work, they will know that the friends they make will be there for a lifetime. There is a common bond formed out there that thrives on tradition and Aggie Spirit - not racism. This is Aggie Bonfire. Beat the Hell Outta t.u. and Gig 'em!

Michael Owens, Class of '95
Head Civilian Redpot

Comments on the flap over
College Republicans' fliers:

This letter is in regard to fliers found across campus that read: "Ahh, poor Hispanics ... Your test scores are too low. Your grades are too low. But that's all right. We'll lower the requirements for you. College Republicans believe Hispanics are just as smart as any other race."

We looked at the admissions criteria listed

in the 1994-1995 TAMU Undergraduate Catalog. The standards for admissions, such as the SAT/ACT scores and high school GPA, were not lowered for Latinos or any other ethnic group. The requirements were the same across the board for all students regardless of ethnicity. Everyone admitted to attend Texas A&M University has met or surpassed these requirements. This is a fact, not a myth. Myths lead to stereotypes which create ignorance, which in turn leads to discrimination.

Fliers like this one enforce the stereotype that Latinos (as well as other minorities) cannot perform on the same level expected of other students. Regardless of whether the College Republicans did or did not authorize the reproduction of these fliers, their contents promotes this stereotype. These fliers are an insult to the intelligence, dedication, and hard work of not only Latino students, but all students who attend this institution. These fliers represent a lack of vision and common sense by the executives and representatives of the College Republicans responsible for the publication and distribution of these fliers (i.e. Mr. Bo Armstrong and committee).

Ignorant statements such as these tarnish the image of the Texas A&M student body, as well as discourage the participation of ethnic students from taking part in your organization.

Claudio Sosa, Class of '95
ExCELL Chair

Mario Jiménez, Class of '94
President, Puerto Rican Student Assoc.

Stephanie Montoya, Class of '94
President, Prime Time Posse

Accompanied by 246 signatures

I would just like to start off by saying that the editorial cartoon in The Battalion Oct. 12 was in extreme poor taste. Why should I be surprised though? Maybe The Battalion should apologize to Bo Armstrong for dragging his name through the mud! At least he was man enough to stand up and admit he was responsible for the fliers that went up on campus in front of a group of at least 300 minority students Tuesday night.

The Battalion however, is always able to take a bad situation and make it worse by printing stories and editorials that misrepresent the truth. Saying that the College Republicans are responsible for those fliers is wrong. Chad Walker, the College Republican President told everyone those fliers were UNAUTHORIZED. He specifically stated that he took it upon himself to remove as many of them as he could once he found them up on campus. Just because one member of a group does something, that does not always represent the feelings of the whole group. Blaming the College Republicans for those fliers is not right. Yes, their name was at-

tached to those fliers but, with a computer, printer and 20 dollars for copies, anyone on this campus could make distasteful fliers and attach an organization's letterhead to it.

David Washington, president of Alpha Phi Alpha, and Shawn Williams, president of the A&M NAACP chapter, should think about this: Say someone printed some distasteful fliers, attached their organization's letterhead and distributed them on campus. Would they issue a written and public apology? I doubt it. They would say just as Chad Walter has that their organization was not responsible.

Before they go making irrational requests for unneeded apologies they should stop and put themselves in his position.

Clint E. Tracy
Class of '95

We applaud Bo Armstrong, former vice president of publicity for College Republicans, for his strength to take responsibility for his actions. So many times people keep their opinions quiet because they are not seen as correct. We think that standing by his opinions under the circumstances took a lot of courage, and it is a shame that such a person was forced to resign from his position.

Armstrong did make a mistake by not having the fliers approved. For this reason, there is no need for the College Republicans write an apology. They have apologized for the fliers, and Bo Armstrong has apologized for offending anyone, because that was his intent. At this point, a written apology would serve no purpose.

We realize that many minorities are angry about the fliers, and that is their right. We also feel that white Americans have the right to be angered by reverse discrimination. But, they are not allowed because it is not "politically correct."

All Americans should receive the same opportunities regardless of their race. This was the point the fliers were trying to get across. We understand how people could have taken the fliers as racist; however, we do not think that was their intent. Many people have overreacted to a simple misunderstanding.

Paige Lackey
Class of '95

April Turney
Class of '95

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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