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Students today continue to confront racial tension

This letter is in regard to the statement made by Shawn Williams, president of the local NAACP chapter - "If people had more interaction with minorities, they would know what is offensive."

How can we possibly interact with minorities when they are setting themselves apart? Can a white student be a member of the Black Engineering Society, ExCEL or Fade to Black dance team? Because of organizations such as these, there is limited interaction. No organizations should exist that base their membership or title on race.

No one at A&M is a minority. Everyone attending this world-class University is an Aggie here for an education. I see no reason for those race-based clubs.

Katie Kam
Class of '98

In response to the opinion cartoon in Wednesday's Battalion, I would like everyone to know that this cartoon is an absolute misrepresentation of the viewpoints of the majority of College Republican members.

It is easy to see how some people were offended by the fliers. However, the cartoon has committed the same crime as the person responsible for the offensive fliers.

As a member of College Republicans, I find this cartoon insulting.

College Republicans is NOT a bad organization; it just so happens that individuals sometimes make mistakes. Remember that all of us are human, and all of us make mistakes.

Instead of screaming and hollering about College Republicans, I would encourage people to get involved in our organization. We are NOT racist. There is nothing to stop you from joining College Republicans.

If some members of the offended groups would participate in College Republicans, maybe we could work together to prevent this racism problem from happening again.

Also, in response to people who would like to see College Republicans suspended - I say that you have your rights and we have our rights. College Republicans is NOT funded by the University; therefore, we have the right to convene regardless of what anybody says.

No one is going to stop the College Republicans!

Gage Blackstone
Class of '95

I have read, enjoyed and agreed with many of Aja Henderson's columns. However, her column on Oct. 12 was way off the mark. It was representative of too many people's "the government needs to do something about this" attitude. Henderson does not mention any specific program or policy ideas to help young black man, and for good reason - there are none.

The only solution is to address the situations that are problematic. Henderson states that the major problem is single parent households, and implies that this is the cause of the poverty in which many young black males grow up. Aside from the fact that this situation is not unique to young black males, the fact is that government can do nothing about single mothers. Until people stop procreating without first establishing a lifelong commitment to one another, this condition will exist.

As for the contention that young black men need "their hurdles just a little lower" - I reject that as a condescending and limiting opinion that in the long run hurts the individuals at which it is targeted. I, along with many black leaders, am of the opinion that young black males are just as capable and bright as anyone else and do not need lower standards in order to be successful.

The bottom line is that at some point, people need to begin to take responsibility for their own actions.

Responsible individuals need to avoid becoming single parents. And, regardless of the situation in which they grew up, people must accept responsibility for their own actions. Pointing a finger at a deprived

childhood and a bad "deck of cards dealt to them early in life" does not absolve anyone of the consequences of their actions.

And in this land of opportunity, nothing can keep those who follow the American work ethic from leading productive, successful lives.

Although Henderson points out that young black men see the "drug dealer up the street is the one with the money," they and everyone else who sees these predators should take into account the fact that they are destroying other's lives, and make the right choice.

If they make the wrong choice, they should be prepared to pay the price - period.

James R. Tomberline
Graduate Student

I think it's great if a person is proud to have been born and raised conservative.

I do not think it's fine for people to demand that the newspaper reflect their beliefs.

One purpose of college is to make students learn to think. Students do not have to change their beliefs, but they should allow them to be challenged. Even gold is tested in fire.

To open your mind does not mean to change your mind. Thinking about and considering other points of view does not mean abandoning your own. You may begin to see some of the opinions you were raised with in a different light. Other views may become more firmly grounded in the development better, intellectual arguments that support those beliefs you were raised with.

Being conservative should not mean being closed-minded.

It is a lot more comforting to be surrounded by people who agree with you, but that security is not necessarily better for your intellectual and personal growth.

It may be painful to have to read every day in the paper about opinions you don't agree with (I know it is for me when I go home to Washington D.C. and read the ultra-liberal Washington Post) but I sincerely agree with Kahlil Ghibran when he said "pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding."

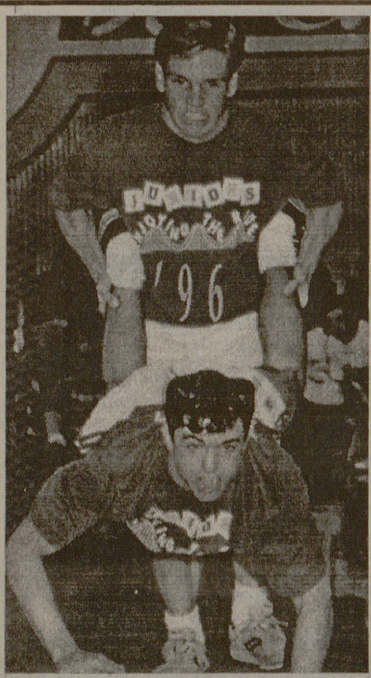
Meg Gray
Class of '95

Zum Schnitzel Haus
Scrumptious Desserts & German Beer

This Week's Schnitzel Haus Report

Downtown Bryan - The Schnitzel Haus Restaurant will be celebrating Oktoberfest Friday and Saturday, October 14th and 15th. Friday, Demetri, the Versatal Acordian Player will be performing on our very own stage, playing all types of festive music. Try our \$7.95 evening special Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Now is the time to make reservations for your Christmas parties. Please make arrangements with the Chef. The Schnitzel Haus is open for lunch Wednesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Dinner Tuesday - Saturday from 5 - 10 p.m. - Closed Sunday and Monday. For reservations and additional information call 323-8974. We're located at 218 N. Bryan.

Auf Wiedersehen



JUNIORS

Grab a friend and wheel on down to get your pictures in the 1995 Aggeland. AR Photography will take Junior pictures from 9 to 5, Monday-Friday for the AGGIELAND until Friday, Oct. 28.

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\$12 a couple, couples only

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It's on SATURDAY!!!!

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And this week, it's improv with air conditioning

Admission: \$3 per person, \$5 per couple
The line forms at 9:30, so get there early.

YOU'LL LAUGH. YOU'LL CRY. YOU'LL PEE IN YOUR PANTS.

SATURDAY, Oct. 15
Line forms 9:30 p.m.
The Forum in Rudder