

## SLURRRP!



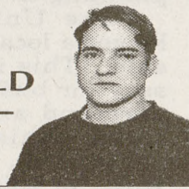
MARGULIES  
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NEW JERSEY

## A&M traditions shouldn't divide

New breed of Aggies often labeled by many as "two-percenters"

Recently I was told I was a two-percenter. It was news to me. I consider myself an "Aggie." I paid my tuition fees, didn't I?

**KYLE LITTLEFIELD**  
COLUMNIST



dents that the population of the University is positively related to the amount of crime that exists.

Ask anyone who has had a car broken into or a bike stolen, and you will see that they have little faith in the Aggie Code of Honor. Ask those who walk across campus at night if they sometimes feel scared that the person approaching them could be an attacker.

But to others this just isn't enough. True, I have never been inside The Chicken, I don't own a pair of Red Wings and my whoop is a bit rusty. OK, I admit it, some of those things are a bit stereotypical, but I think many students at A&M would agree: the concept of being an "Aggie" includes certain attributes.

It became clear to me that my "Aggie" experience, although exciting, educational and rewarding, does not resemble the one depicted on the multimedia kiosk in Rudder Tower.

You may wonder why I am indifferent to many of the Aggie traditions. And, that is what it is - indifference - not lack of respect.

There are many reasons. Why should I feel like A&M is one happy bundle of traditions? I look up from that delusion and see that "A&M" is actually a big business, with such assets as the athletic department, the students and the professors.

A&M makes so much money on the merchandising of its name and trademarks - in a way, exploiting the traditions to make a buck.

Many think that A&M seems like a small town - a community. I call this selective perception.

It is finally becoming clear to many stu-

The truth is that A&M is as much about married student lodging as it is about Schumacher Hall.

It is as much about the Engineering 109 class as it is about the Philosophy of Art class. It is as much about the Corps of Cadets as it is about the Gay and Lesbian Student Services.

For some reason, some students feel this is a threatening idea. "The traditions are what makes A&M so special," they will say.

"If they don't like it, they can go to t.u.," is one we all hear frequently. But should traditions affect our minds-turning us against our fellow students?

A label such as "two-percenter" is exactly what all of this is about. It implies that a student, if not consumed by tradition, is less an Aggie. I disagree.

I think the only criteria for calling oneself an "Aggie" is living by the Aggie Code - Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal.

An Aggie should not discriminate by race, sex, sexual and political orientation or religion.

In this context, the word Aggie comes to mean a "good citizen." Something that in the long-run will be more valuable than how high we can build Bonfire, or how much beer we can hold at "The Chicken."

A new breed of Aggie attends Texas A&M.

There are many students who come to A&M not for the traditions but for the education. If they happen to adopt the traditions, that's great, but if not, they shouldn't be ostracized from the rest of the student body.

Kyle Littlefield is a senior journalism major

### THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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## EDITORIAL

### A NEEDED VOICE

The state legislature should pass a bill that would allow for a student regent.

For the 22nd time, the Texas senate will consider passing legislation this year that would allow a student regent on the governing board of the Texas A&M University System. The legislation, if passed, would provide much-needed student representation.

Texas is one of only seven states that has not passed legislation giving students representation on public university governing boards.

The Texas legislators may be tired of hearing about the issue, but it is one that will not easily go away, as can be seen by the problem's continued existence.

The Texas legislature and the Texas A&M Board of Regents need not lose sight of the students, the reason for the existence of the Texas A&M University System. The students should be the most important issue, and who can better represent that voice than a student.

State Sen. Jeff Wentworth, who filed the legislation says, "A student liaison to a board of regents would give univer-

sity students the opportunity to be heard where it counts - in the policy-making councils of their universities."

While the student liaison would not be allowed to vote before the board or be included in executive sessions unless invited by the chairman, he or she would be able to voice student opinions, make recommendations and participate in regular board meetings.

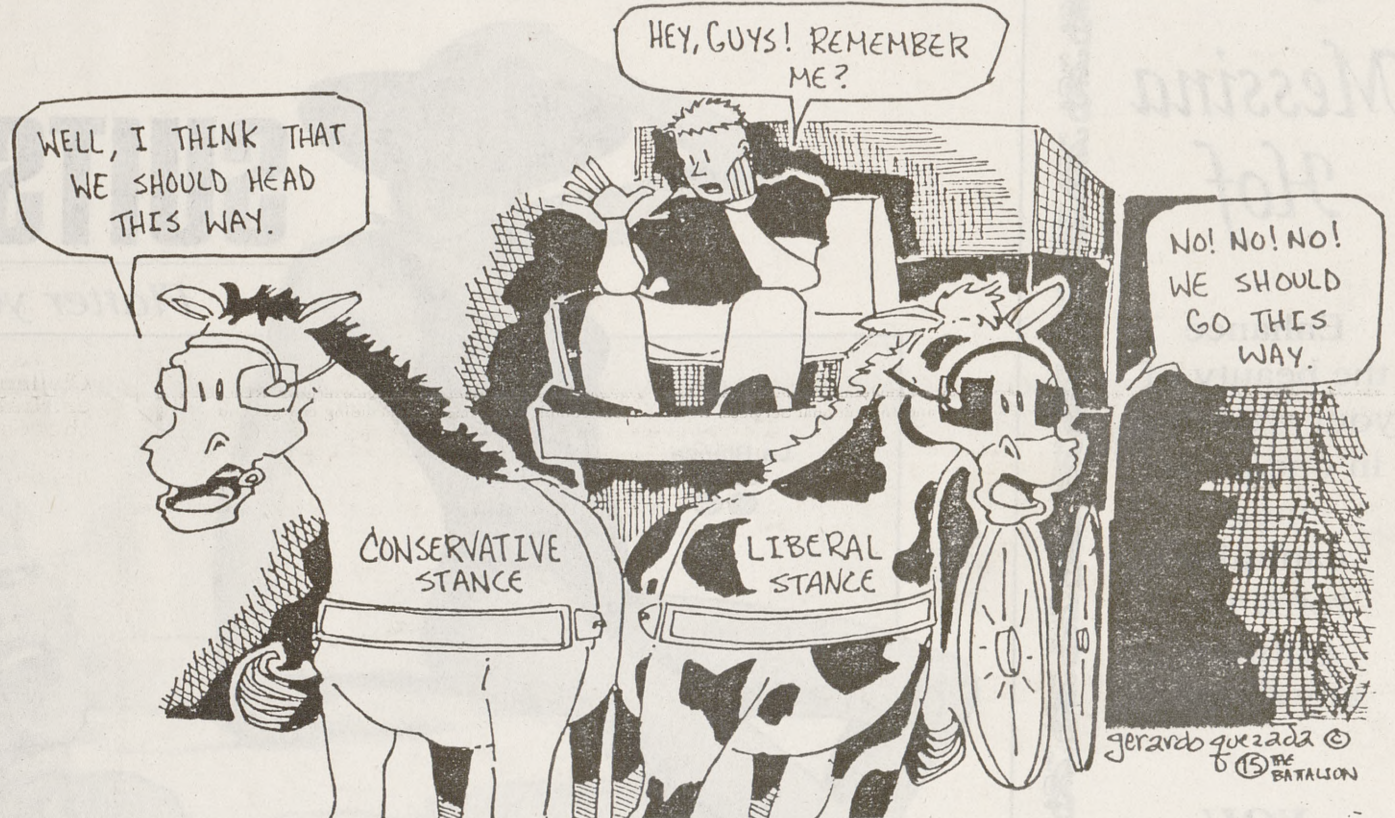
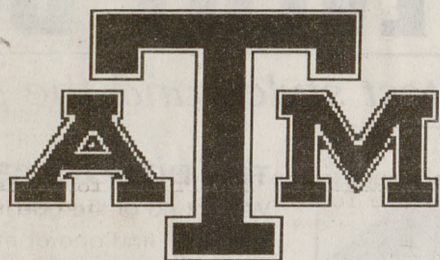
Even though the student liaison would not be able to vote, this legislation is a step in the right direction.

Once the board members witness the benefits of a student liaison, they might grant that student the right to vote before the board.

Far too often, university officials are unaware of the wants and needs of the students they represent.

A student regent would help to represent the A&M student population much more effectively and would give students an official voice.

The Texas senate should finally pass the legislation this session.



## Find time to stop procrastination

The diagnosis was in. I had tested positive for the disease that afflicts so many students on campus. It has affected everyone at least once in their life, but for others such as myself, it is a chronic problem that knows no bounds.

Let me relate a few of the symptoms, and you can see if you too have the disease.

Symptom one: It's early Tuesday morning. You are sitting in a booth at the Kettle, preparing to inhale your 21st glass of Dr. Pepper.

You guess that it is around 2:30 a.m., but time is not a factor for you. All that matters is that it is the morning of your test, and you're still two chapters behind on the material being tested.

Symptom two: It's Sunday afternoon, your standing in the middle of the Albertsons' parking lot and you estimate that you are #239 in the line waiting to purchase Mr. Bill tickets.

You haven't been to your chemistry class in four weeks. Heck, all you can remember is the 53 you made on your last test. You are also debating whether or not you should join the group of people who are worshipping the life-size poster of Mr. Bill.

Symptom three: You stumble into class just as your English teacher is picking up the 12-page research paper that was due at the beginning of class. You look like Frankenstein because you haven't slept a wink in 48 hours, and you have consumed an entire can of Folger's coffee.

No one seems to mind your looks; after all, your class looks like a gathering of characters from *The Night of the Living Dead*.

If you can relate to one or more of these symptoms or similar ones, then you too are a chronic procrastinator.

Procrastination - or the act of putting things off until later - is a curious behavior that affects us all. It is a bad habit that seems to develop and worsen as we grow older.

Ironically, it is a bad habit that often prevents us from correcting other bad habits.

How many times have you said to yourself - "after this beer, I'm going to give up drinking," or "after I finish this slice of cake and two scoops of ice cream, I'm going to go on a diet and never eat another fattening thing again?"

My favorite - and biggest personal problem - is procrastinating my efforts to stop procrastinating.

"When my tests are over this next week, I will never

ZACH HALL  
COLUMNIST



again wait until the last minute to study for my next five tests."

While procrastination in itself is not often a life or death problem, it can very well lead to life or death situations.

Many people could have avoided a heart attack or cancer if they had not put off getting checked or had not "waited until tomorrow to start exercising and eating healthily."

It is for these reasons that procrastination can be seen as a disease almost as dangerous as alcoholism.

However, in most cases, procrastination only causes grief, stress, headaches or tension between family, friends and employers.

What is it that causes us to procrastinate? Is it laziness, contempt or simply the lack of initiative or motivation?

Why do we continue to put things off when we know that we will eventually get caught in last minute situations.

As a college student, I often feel like I have more time than I do to accomplish something.

Like telling myself that I don't want to start studying for

**All of those things you have put off for the last two weeks suddenly have to be done over the next two days. Is there a simple solution to stop procrastinating?**

a test two weeks ahead of time because, "I'll have plenty of time later."

However, it is funny how everything you procrastinate always seems to culminate at the same time; all of those things you have put off for the last two weeks suddenly have to be done over the next two days.

Is there a simple solution to stop procrastinating? Probably not, but maybe the best advice for quitting is to "just do it."

Stop reading this column right now and start studying for your test.

Seriously though, don't wait until tomorrow to stop procrastinating. Do it now while you have the time.

In an irony that is only fitting, I have waited until the day after deadline to write this column.

Hopefully after printing this column, my editor will believe me when I sincerely tell him that, "as of tomorrow, I will never again wait until the last minute to start writing another column."

Zach Hall is a sophomore mechanical engineering major



## MAIL CALL

### College Republicans should avoid hypocrisy

Friday, Feb. 24 was supposed to be a day to remember, but instead it turned into an event which heightened my disrespect for the Aggie Republicans.

It was an event to be shared between Senator Phil Gramm, to announce his Presidential candidacy, and the community - both students and residents - to see and hear the Senator give his address.

This peaceful assembly in front of the Administration Building was disrupted when several members of the "esteemed" Aggie Republicans followed around several people, censoring what they had written on some posterboards.

These unfortunate individuals were attempting to voice their opinion about some views they believe Phil Gramm stands for.

They were completely stripped of that right by the College Republicans.

I urge the College Republicans to think before they act and to please practice what they preach; nobody likes a hypocrite.

Jamie Treinen  
Class of '96

### Events at A&M not liberal or conservative

I am writing in response to Zane Anderson's letter to the editor Feb. 22. He argues that Aggies don't attend the "high-caliber events" that A&M prepares because these events are liberal.

I think that Zane is missing the point. The editorial also mentions small crowds at football games, basketball games and concerts.

I guess that the Lady Aggies Basketball team is full of liberals, because they don't get big crowds to their games.

I guess that either our football players or some of the players of the schools we play against are liberals, because Kyle Field is not always full to capacity.

Maybe the Kandinsky Piano Quartet, which came on Feb. 13, is composed of liberal musicians, or maybe Mozart is too liberal, because the attendance was composed mainly of local residents of the Brazos Valley and A&M students forced to go by their music class professors.

Maybe there was not a big crowd at Oliver Stone's speech because he "has made...far-leftist anti-American films."

I don't see in what way his films are far-leftist or anti-American, but everybody is entitled to their opinion.

However, Aggies, the fact is that we do not support our sports teams and that we don't attend to many kinds of "mainstream" cultural and artistic events.

As members of a "world class" university, we should be open-minded and willing to seek new experiences, ideas, and points of view.

I don't understand how so many people in this campus can separate everything into the two narrow categories of liberal and conservative.

Julio Toró  
Class of '96

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