

THE BATTALION
Established in 1893

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EDITORIAL

SHOW YOURSELF

Aggies for a student liaison should attend today's Board meeting.

Student presence at the Texas A&M Board of Regents meeting today at 3 p.m. in 292 MSC is vital. For 20 years, student government has attempted to place a student liaison on the Board.

The Board will vote on the issue today, and students should not discount the impact they might have on the decision.

A large student turnout at the meeting will show the Board of Regents the student body supports the idea of a student liaison.

The liaison would be an important addition to the Board of Regents for the simple fact the liaison is a student. It is crucial for the students to be involved in the policy-making of this University.

While a student liaison would not share voting privileges with the regents, he or she would be able to make recommendations and participate in board meetings.

In addition, a student regent would be able to speak directly about the students' reactions toward many issues.

The Board of Regents has been removed from the actual student body for far too long. The regents make the most important decisions at Texas A&M, yet they have been without regular and direct input from the students they serve.

More student input was desperately needed when the Board was considering the general use fee increase.

Now the regents have passed an increase without completely understanding the tremendous effect the new policy will have on students. Perhaps a student liaison could have better communicated that message.

The Board of Regents should no longer be an isolated element of our institution, and today's vote marks an opportunity for change.

Every student who supports having a student serve on the Board should attend today's meeting.

We cannot expect to have a voice in the future if we don't have one today.

Can't put a price on tradition

The selling of monuments around Gill statue cheapens The Twelfth Man

We've bought the books, and we've stocked up on the T-shirts and key chains. We may have even bought a Texas Aggie license plate. But one thing is missing from our Aggie collection — the Spirit of Aggeland.

But we should not worry — the Spirit of the Twelfth Man has been given a price.

In Old Army days, rumor has it that the spirit was free. Specifically, the Twelfth Man tradition started with E. King Gill, a football player who had stopped playing football to start basketball.

At The Dixie Classic, a sort of Cotton Bowl of its day — except that it mattered to somebody, the Aggies were faced with a tough opponent. Centre College had not been beaten in something like 240 years — legends aren't always accurate.

The Aggies were ahead at halftime, but they were also beaten up. In those days players played offense and defense and walked uphill to and from school in the snow.

Coach Dana X. Bible needed to protect his lead and was worried about running out of players.

He called Gill down from the stands, suited him up in an injured player's uniform and asked him to be ready to enter the game. Gill then had one of the best seats in the house, but he never used it.

Thus began a long Aggie tradition of standing during football games. Gill never entered the game, and we almost never have to, but it shows our willingness to be there for our team.

Much like all other Aggie traditions, the story of the Twelfth Man is simple and innocent. Only time has corrupted it.

As we slowly push through the masses outside Kyle Field tomorrow, we'll see the molestation of the Twelfth Man tradition. No longer will Gill stand alone outside the gates of the stadium. He has been joined by a supporting cast, including offensive and defensive squads and a head coach.

Three walls will proudly be displayed by the Twelfth Man Foundation to serve as monuments to people who have given large sums of money to A&M athletics.

The wall's honorary position players all spent \$100,000 and the head coach contributed \$3 million to see this wall erected.

After all, some may boast of checkbooks bold ...

MICHAEL
LANDAUER
AGGIELIFE
EDITOR



There is nothing wrong with supporting A&M athletics, of course. People have the right to do with their money what they please. But something is not right here.

People who contribute money do not deserve a monument. Gill showed with simple actions his love for this school. Gill never expected future Aggies to build him a monument.

And for all of our standing during game, we certainly don't expect one — even though Gill only stood for one half and we stand for every game.

The new Twelfth Man Plaza illustrates the clashing values on this campus. We can't decide if we value money or spirit more. We can value both, but we should try to make the distinction clear.

When someone gives money to the University, it is not the same thing as showing Aggie spirit.

And standing during games for four years isn't going to provide anyone with a scholarship.

So we should show our spirit without expecting a reward, and we should give money the same way.

Maybe our reward will come as time runs out at the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day.

In the meantime, we need to look beyond the self-serving slabs of granite to the statue of Gill and remember what a simple thing he did.

The Aggie Spirit can stay true to its origins or it can go the way of the money monuments.

If we can keep it simple, then standing during football games will continue to be one of the most unique and rewarding experiences we can have in college.

But if spirit gives way to egotistical self-preservation, then we should start saving up for our own monument.

Maybe we'll see a War Hymn fee on our next bill.

We could charge a toll for the Last Corps Trip.

Maybe we'll have marble monument vending machines that take Aggie Bucks.

Hopefully, things will never get that extreme, but with this monument the message is clear. There are two ways to be a good Ag — have spirit or have money.

If we're ever asked as old Ags to give money in return for a monument, we should remember what has happened to the Twelfth Man Plaza and tell them, "No thanks, I gave at Kyle Field."

Michael Landauer is a junior journalism major



OVERPRICING?

The new fees are too much for students to handle without warning.

After months of arguing, discussing, debating and haggling, the Texas A&M Board of Regents finally passed a general use fee increase. The agreed-upon amount was an \$8 increase now, and an additional \$4 increase in the spring.

The true blame for this debacle lies with the ever-cheaper Texas Legislature, which hasn't been increasing allocations for Texas colleges and universities recently. In response to inflation without relief from the legislature, Texas A&M decided to raise the students' fees.

For the Aggie taking 15 hours this semester, an additional \$120 will be tacked on to this semester's fee statement. For some students, this makes it difficult to pay the rent.

Unfortunately, another in-

crease will take effect in the spring. A student taking 15 hours will pay \$180 in addition to the normal fees.

It is wrong for the Board of Regents to expect the students to solve A&M's financial woes.

Adequate finances are vital for Texas A&M. Funds are needed to give the faculty the raises they deserve, to expand educational opportunities, and to maintain one of the largest campuses in the nation.

In the future, the Board of Regents should more thoroughly consider the impact that such an increase will have on students. Hopefully, Texas A&M will always remain an educational institution accessible to all students, and not only the privileged.

Our education is too high a price to pay.

AGGIE FOOTBALL

The Aggies prepare to dominate the gridiron and earn a national title.

The scene is set. It is 2:30 in the afternoon, and the sun is beating down on this sweltering Saturday afternoon. And again it starts.

Thousands of Aggies will fill the stands as their Fighting Texas Aggie Football Team takes Kyle Field with a national championship title well within their grasp.

The intensity on the field will be matched only by that in the stands as freshman through multi-year seniors hump it to the masterful direction of the yell leaders.

The cannon sounds, signaling the start of the Aggies' journey to a national championship.

The offense takes the field led by the steady arm of the experienced Corey Pullig.

Suddenly a blur shoots up the middle. And in the end zone stands Heisman Trophy candidate Leeland McElroy.

Of course this will be a fa-

miliar sight for the entire game as well as the rest of the season.

On the other side of the ball, the tradition of the most feared defense in the country is continued as the new defensive coordinator, Phil Bennet takes charge.

Outland Trophy candidate Brandon Mitchell and last seasons leading tackler Larry Walker will yet again deliver the bone-crushing hits that has given A&M's defense the nickname of the "Wrecking Crew."

And after the smoke clears the yell leaders will be rolling up their pant legs for the first in a series of many ceremonial dunkings in the fish pond.

The usual tidings of good luck would be expected. But if the 12th man has anything to do with it the Aggies will prove and surpass their number 3 preseason ranking, no luck needed.

Beat the hell outta LSU!

Mom, I love you — can I borrow \$50?

Relationship between mother, son gets lost amidst expenses of college

Dear Mom, Enclosed is the latest school bill and a list of expenses for the coming month.

The first day of class was long. I stood in long lines, and oh by the way, I forgot to order a sports pass back in April when I registered.

You see a sports pass allows me to attend football games and other sporting events, and well, everyone has one. I usually order one but I forgot — so I ordered one and stuff, and it was \$100 ... and it would be great if you could reimburse me for it.

True, that sounds absurd seeing as you invariably pay for everything anyway, which reminds me ... can I borrow the credit card so I can get some shirts? Mine are getting old.

Love,
Drew

Drew, Enclosed is the credit card. Don't spend too much. Your gas bill was outrageous. Have you renewed your insurance yet? Better not get anymore speeding tickets. Gosh, I shell out a lot of money for your education, you better damn well be getting one.

Love,
Mom

Drew reads the letter, pays a visit to Fo-leys, and returns home with a couple of new shirts, a pair of khaki pants and a belt. When will he talk to his mother again? When will she call him again? When was the last time they had a substantial conversation that had nothing to do with money?

Like so many other relationships between parents and their children in college, this one revolves around nothing more than the allo-

cation of a limited supply of dead presidents. Feeling like every time he talks to his mother, it's just to ask her for something, he decides to give her a call, maybe turn the tide.

DREW
DIENER
GUEST
COLUMNIST

He picks up the phone ...
Mom: Hello.

Drew: Hey mom, what's going on?
Mom: Nothing much, what do you need this time?

Drew: Why do I always have to need something?

Mom: I don't know, but you always need something. You know I just sent you the credit card, paid your gas bill and jeez was that outrageous?

Let someone else drive for a change. Why do you always have to drive? I don't know why you always have to be the one to drive. You need to learn that I'm not made of money.

Drew: I know you're not made of money. I have that part-time job, you know, to help pay for some stuff. I could get some more hours or something.

Mom: No, you just worry about school. I pray that you're graduating soon. It's time to get your act in gear. You know you can't do good in class if you party all night.

Drew: I don't party all night and it's "do well" mother, not "do good."

Mom: Are you smart talking me? I don't need another smart ass in the family especially when I'm paying all this money to send you to school. You're lucky you know.

Drew: Yes I know, well I've gotta run. Bye.

Mom: Get to class in the morning, bye.

"All he cares about is money," Mom thinks to herself. "Days spent watching him play till sundown on the beach with his friends were so long ago. I really miss

him, and will never let him do without. I just don't think he realizes that I am his mother, not just some financial institution."

"Does she love me anymore," Drew wonders. "I don't think she even knows what classes I'm taking, what apartment complex I live in or who my roommates are."

Saddened by the realization of what their relationship has become, Drew decides to write his mother a letter.

Mom,
Hey look, no bills! And guess what, I don't want anything. Well, I take that back. I want you to know me and I want to know you.

I don't think she even knows what classes I'm taking, what apartment complex I live in or who my roommates are.

It seems like every time we talk to one another it always has to do with money. You probably think I'm some money grubbing pig that doesn't care about milking all the money I can out of you.

That's not the case at all. College is expensive, and I appreciate all the help you give me. But it just dawned on me the other day that I don't think you know who I am anymore.

And I'm certain that I don't know you anymore.

I miss you. We need to spend some time together soon.

Quality time.
Love,
Drew

Drew Diener is a junior English major