

Forces of good and bad battle it out

Many do not acknowledge the wonderful system of how Aggies know what is and is not socially acceptable in Aggieland. The secret is in the bull.

Columnist
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You see, instead of confusing all of Aggieland's residents with complicated rationales about why an Aggie should or should not perform a certain act, our forefathers compiled a comprehensive list of what was good and bad. Hence, the origins of good and bad bull.

Certain activities are labeled good bull and Aggies enthusiastically strive to do these things. Good-bull activities are also related to classes. This can be seen simply by watching highly motivated Fish Camp counselors and cadets.

Whenever something is declared good bull, the person committing the good bull becomes red-assed.

I'm not really sure if a physical transformation takes place, but that's not important. Just being known for having a rouge red end seems adequate for most good residents of Aggieland.

Dunking Aggie rings is one example of good bull that is practiced in Aggieland because it is disputably good bull to dunk one's ring in a pitcher. The Dixie Chicken's recent enforcement of an old law about serving pitchers to individuals caused many red-ass Aggies to worry.

How could they possibly act in a good-bull manner if they could no longer dunk their rings in one huge glass vessel of alcohol? The answer came roaring from the wise authority on good- and bad-bull practices. It was decided that dunking an Aggie ring in a substitute vessel, known as a schooner, would be proclaimed good bull. Red-ass Aggies heaved a collective sigh of relief knowing they could continue practicing good bull without violating Texas law.

But bad-bull distinctions can be just as tricky. Some may be able to relate bad-bull activities with being called a two-percenter. The hell of two-percenter has proven to be the downfall of many once-respected Aggies. It is a kiss of death in Aggieland.

Bad-bull activities include "pulling out" rather than one class when doing a "wildcat." Men who choose to whoop are put in this category.

However, whatever the distinction between



good and bad bull may be, Aggies should make sure to cherish the system. Knowing the difference has made my life much easier.

Questioning the reasoning or rationale behind society's values just leads to chaos. If all Aggies started to use their minds instead of the bull system, many different and new ideas might result.

But new ideas usually lead to change, and change is always bad bull in Aggieland. Perhaps if the United States could formulate universal good- and bad-bull traits we could end

racism, homelessness and the troubling phenomenon known as political liberalism.

So Aggies should stick to their guns and keep our bull system by following the general rule: If you detect any trace of bad bull, sniff it out and eliminate it. Do not allow room for pity.

But, on the other hand, if a demonstration of good bull occurs in Aggieland, give the participants an affirmative "gig 'em" and let them know that you appreciate the redness of their butt.

If we all work together as Aggies dedicated to good bull, we can move mountains.

Females win in 'Battle of the Sexes' at A&M

It is rare at this school that a "first" occurs. However, this freshman class marks the first time that males are in the minority. This is truly a big deal, because it was only back in the 1960s that females weren't even allowed to attend this University.

It is only natural around here that every "first" brings drama. You can count on the fact that, at this very moment, there are men scratching their buzz cuts and calling Grandpa, whining that girls are taking over their beloved A&M.

This is pitiful. How can anyone complain that females are wrecking tradition? Why, if this place were ruled by females, the University — and its traditions — would be far better off.

For instance, a little more style could be imparted around here. I have long thought that those beige Corps outfits are bland. Why not add a hint of color to them? It is unlikely that Old Ags would turn over in their graves if the Corps uniforms were snazzed up a little.

The yell leaders could benefit, as well. Those boring white jumpers could be shortened into really fly yell outfits and that stiff walk they continually do could be choreographed into a sophisticated strut. Of course, those raggedy Adidas shoes would have to go. Suitable replacements from the Lady Foot Locker would be a relief indeed.

As for the Aggie Band, they could certainly use some feminine consultation. Their formations are stunning, but don't you ever wish that they'd just lay down their instruments and shake their booties? Even if it were just the macarena,

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band members could certainly stand to learn a few moves from the gals. Maybe then they would loosen up a little.

And we can't forget Bonfire. For one thing, that sucker wouldn't be so high if this were a predominantly female campus. I get tired of straining my neck looking up at it. If we had a nice cute heap, the entire event would be much more

comfortable for everyone. The females could sport pink pots and make the male participants wear them as well. Any man secure in his manhood would not complain.

Anyone who remains unconvinced that Texas A&M would improve if females were in the driver's seat should consider the other extreme. What would this place be like without us? Guys would have to mug with each other at Midnight Yell, and that could cause some serious butt-kickings at Kyle Field. And whom would dudes party with? If they danced with each other, who would lead and who would follow? The picture is pretty grisly, eh?

Let's not even go the Bonfire Buddy route. It would be hilarious, indeed, to see fellows with paint pens putting the finishing touches on cutesy gifts for one another.

It is obvious — A&M minus estrogen would equal a sad campus.

So to the sweeties of the Class of '00, raise your head high and enjoy your legendary status. I cannot share the enjoyment of being in a predominantly female class, but I can cross my fingers and hope the trend continues.

It is obvious — A&M minus estrogen would equal a sad campus.



MAIL CALL

Responding to The Battalion's charges

Recent changes in the concessions guidelines have been detailed in Battalion articles, editorials and Mail Call for the past several days.

It is obvious to me, as chair of the Concessions Committee, that considerable confusion exists as to what changes were made to the Concessions Guidelines and the reason for these changes.

The guidelines now in place deal with various aspects of public sales and solicitation on campus, including how often they can occur.

For the first time, the rules specify that items being sold to the public must:

1. Reflect the mission and/or purpose of the organization; and
2. Display the name of the recipient student organization or University department in a location, size and design clearly visible to the public at all times when the merchandise for sale or distribution carries a licensed mark of Texas A&M University; and
3. Be from current student organization or University department inventory purchased by the organization or purchased on consignment with return privileges or reserved on consignment.

These new guidelines are admittedly restrictive.

However, the changes were implemented after a year-long study of the problems that have existed in concessions by student organizations.

The Concessions Committee has been concerned for several years that many of the sales in the hallways of the MSC and Rudder Mountain area were not by student organizations, but by vendors using the student organization name.

Previous attempts to restrict sales vendors and place responsibility

for the sales on the student organization have not been successful.

You may be wondering why would the University be concerned about vendors "setting up shop" in the MSC. The answer to this question is not simple.

The original intent of sales in the MSC hallways was to provide student organizations with an opportunity to promote their organization and raise some funds to support the organization's endeavors.

The Concessions Committee remains committed to this purpose. However, the University has entered into contracts with corporations such as Coca-Cola and Barnes and Noble Bookstores which restrict sales of certain items by others on campus.

Further, commercial vendors in the community have questioned why certain vendors were selling merchandise in the hallways of the MSC virtually every day.

By affiliating with many student organizations, certain vendors were able to have almost unlimited access to buyers without the expenses associated with a regular business — rent, utilities, advertising costs, etc.

In essence, certain vendors were being given preferential treatment leading to large profits while many student organizations received a mere pittance for letting the vendor use the student organization name to gain access to sales on campus.

Throughout the Concessions Committee's discussions on revising the concessions guidelines, we asked ourselves (student representatives included) how would these new guidelines affect student organizations. We reviewed several drafts, some more lenient and some more restrictive.

We arrived at guidelines that we believe are in the best interest of students and the University.

We fully recognize that some student organizations will be affected by the new guidelines more than others.

We remain committed to working with student organizations in finding appropriate means to raise funds for their organizations.

At the same time, we are working with student leaders in evaluating the new Concessions Guidelines and their impact on student organizations' fund-raising efforts.

Brent Paterson
Director of Student Life and Chair, Concessions Committee

Death should not cancel out tradition

In regards to Connie Schmitt's Oct. 8 Mail Call, "Costs of Bonfire outweigh benefits:"

In the history of Bonfire, there have only been three Bonfire-related fatalities. Although these deaths are unfortunate, this number is extraordinarily low when compared to other tradition-related deaths.

Consider the thousands who have died on the highways during holidays. In order to prevent these accidents, should we cancel Christmas and Thanksgiving?

Death is an inevitable part of life. Breaking the tradition of Bonfire would not help us to escape this fact. Instead, it would only take away one of the joys that makes our lives worth living in the first place.

Heather Phillips
Class of '00

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and phone number.
The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:
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WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF MEN ARE FROM MARS. WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS?



Manners replace Mao in campaign

Miss Manners may not be your next-door neighbor, but she has captured the hearts and minds of Chinese government officials.

Communist China's latest attempt to enforce discipline is through the venue of good manners. However, politeness does nothing to hide China's misguided hypocrisy.

Motivated by a desire to boost President Jiang Zemin's reputation, the Chinese have cloaked their plan in the guise of calming a country maddened by economic growth.

At this moment, Chinese officials are visiting local bicycle shops and Communist propaganda bookstores. They are busy affixing signs to walls imploring citizens to act with kindness and consideration toward their fellow comrades.

The signs bear such inspiring slogans as: "Be a civilized citizen together" and "Strengthen the construction of socialist spiritual civilization."

The only thing the signs inspire in me is a distant memory of reading *Animal Farm* in eighth grade. Just imagine if Kinko's had invaded China — the Great Wall of China would now be plastered with large, three-color banners admonishing citizens to kowtow to passing mice.

However, the government is not only invading the streets, but the airwaves as well. Those who wish television in the United States would clean up its act could take a few lessons in

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quality family programming from the Chinese government.

A recent program profiled a kind bus conductor who is always willing to lend a helping hand.

How China hopes to get anyone to listen to its weak pleas for decency and good manners remains a mystery to me.

As those who have undergone Chinese water torture will attest to, China has complete disregard for human rights — yet the Chinese government expects its citizens to have the utmost respect for their fellow comrades.

China should abandon its "act as I say, not as I do" slogan and clean up its own act. What is so amusing about the entire situation is the United States has found itself in a similar quandary.

Turn on the any television show (thankfully minus the friendly bus conductor) and it is nearly impossible to miss politicians decrying the moral state of our nation.

I haven't noticed any politicians winning too many good citizenship awards, though. Their hypocritical statements are about as convincing as Fabio's romance novels (not that I've read any). Even at this University, one hears pleading cries begging students to be polite, civilized Aggies. Mail Call after Mail Call floods my desk. "What happened to 'Howdy?'" they ask. Start digging a hole to China, and you might find out.