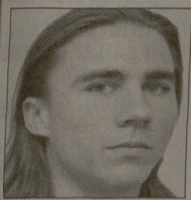


Dreams deferred by finals

Quanell X hides truth behind accusations

Columnist



Mason Jackson
 Senior marketing major

Ahh. Breathe deep. The fresh smell of pine and the faint scent of cinnamon are in the air. Alas, so is the sweet smell of failure. That's right. Once again, the Christmas season and all its festivities have been preempted by finals. And like cheatin' wives and dogs in a country song, it only seems right that the two be merged in verse. So, without further ado ...

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE FINALS

'Twas the night before finals when all through the dorm
 Not a creature was stirring, and that was abnorm;
 The scantrons were hung by the backpacks with care
 In hopes that the knowledge soon would be there;

The overachievers were nestled all snug in their beds
 While visions of 4.0s danced in their heads;
 But I with my No-Doz and a baseball cap
 Was absolutely positive I didn't know crap;
 When out on the porch there arose such a clatter
 I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter;
 Away to my Nikes I flew like a flash,
 Grabbed hold of my wallet and what remained of my cash.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear
 But my friends (all jackasses) and a large keg of beer
 With a shiny old tap and a pump so quick,
 I knew in the morning I'd surely be sick.

But back to reality and my senses I came
 I remembered my classes and called them by name:
 "Now Econ! Now Bana! Now Neuropsychopharmacology!
 On Physics! On History! On Paleobiology!"
 So up to the top of the library I flew
 With a bag full of books, and a Snickers bar too.

And then in a twinkling it was time for the test
 You've heard the beginning, now here comes the rest.

As I reached for my pencil and was turning around
 Down to the podium the prof came with a bound;
 He was dressed all in tweed from his head to his feet
 With a touch of polyester to make it complete;
 A bundle of tests he had flung on his back
 Some called him a doctor, but I preferred "quack."

He had a nice briefcase, but his shoes looked homemade
 And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of my grade;
 The notes I had borrowed, and the book I had read
 Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

I spoke not a word, but went straight to my exam
 And despite what they tell you, it does pay to cram;
 So listen up kids, as your finals loom near,
 Give them respect, but don't give them fear;

And remember, if the time for studying seems less,
 The procrastinators best friend is the educated guess;
 So hear me exclaim as I rhyme out of sight
 "Your finals aren't tomorrow, so have a good night!"



Columnist



Jon Appgar
 Sophomore
 Journalism major

Last Tuesday, Harley Schlanger and Nation of Islam Minister Quanell X came to College Station and proceeded to disgrace and degrade the campus of Texas A&M. The topic of their presentation was a ludicrous theory linking George Bush to crack dealers in South Central Los Angeles.

Quanell X and Schlanger, using information obtained from entirely reliable and factual South American newspapers, accused Bush of financing the Iran-Contra scandal with government-controlled drug trafficking.

Quanell X blasted A&M, saying a library in honor of a "crack king responsible for the destruction of thousands of lives" should not "disgrace" our campus.

Perhaps we should consult Quanell X more often for his opinion on matters concerning our University. Being the Aggie he is (not) and seeing how he knows what is right or wrong for 40,000 of us, maybe he can even decide if a fee increase would disgrace our campus.

For Quanell X to criticize and degrade a distinguished individual such as George Bush is downright irresponsible and immature, seeing as Bush has done a hell of a lot more for America than Quanell X has done or ever will do.

Bush was a respected member of the CIA, a loyal vice president for eight years and a successful president who held America together throughout the Gulf War crisis. It is because of these successes that A&M is dedicating a library to George Bush.

Quanell X has only succeeded in presenting misinformation as fact and turning the inner-city drug problem — a social ill — into a black versus white issue by using racist statements and stereotypes.

A look at the record of Bush will dismiss any claims that he advocated drug use among anyone. Bush began his War on Drugs on September 5, 1989 by outlining a plan to combat drugs, using \$7.6 billion from Congress and a \$2.2 billion increase in the budget. Seventy percent of this money went to increased law enforcement to fight drugs.

Was Bush a supplier of cocaine during his presidency? That's hard to believe, considering that cocaine use dropped 22 percent during his tenure.

In fact, drug arrests went up by 69 percent from 1985 to 1989. Bush even appropriated \$2.4 billion to confiscate drugs as they entered the country. In 1989, the U.S. seized 181,000 pounds of cocaine, up from 12,000 pounds in 1982.

How anyone could accuse Bush of trafficking cocaine when cocaine use went down and cocaine seizures went up by 1,500 percent is beyond the realm of common sense. Quanell X stated that cocaine is the "rich man's aspirin and the poor man's dream." It is neither. Cocaine is Quanell X's scapegoat — an excuse for the behavior of millions of inner-city blacks.

Regardless of how cocaine gets to the inner city, it is ultimately up to the individual to decide whether he or she will start on the road to ruin by developing a crack cocaine addiction. The cocaine problem is not just a problem among blacks, as Quanell X would have us believe. Whites are also addicted to smoking crack. Contrary to Quanell X's argument that cocaine is meant to bring the black man down, cocaine damages anyone who uses it, regardless of color.

The drug problem in the inner-city will not be solved by blaming the White House or by using racist and stereotypical statements such as, "White folks have got more care for dogs ... than they have for [blacks]," both techniques that Quanell X has employed.

Quanell X hasn't done a single thing to reduce the drug problem except provide misinformation to the public and discredit a man who actually did something to help Americans.

Editorial Roundup

Houston Chronicle on Clinton's nominees:

Domestic issues dominated President Clinton's first presidential campaign and much of his first term. His recent Cabinet appointments indicate that domestic considerations still dominate.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations whom Clinton has nominated to be secretary of state, owes her appointment as much to her sex as to her impressive credentials and experience.

Clinton's choice for secretary of defense, former Republican U.S. Sen. William Cohen, reflects the president's desire to ignore a bipartisan Cabinet appointment in the hope of working more cooperatively with the GOP-controlled Congress. It might work with GOP senators, but House conservatives show few signs of being mollified.

The president's other two appointees, Anthony Lake to be CIA director and Samuel Berger to succeed Lake as national security adviser, are tested members of the administration.

Where Albright is known for her tenacity, however, Lake and Berger are known as low-profile, collegial players — a high priority with the president.

Whatever the qualifications of his appointees, only the president can lend consistency to U.S. foreign policy. Clinton has not done that, and his appointments betray no presidential vision for the future.

In his second term, Clinton will face the expansion of NATO, the need to craft a new relationship with Russia, instability in the Persian Gulf, China's unrelenting human rights violations and its takeover of Hong Kong, not to mention the chronic conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans.

The Dallas Morning News on need to revamp state liability laws:
 Let's say you own a store in a

neighborhood where crime sometimes strikes. Would you keep the store there if lawsuits started to arise because crimes were committed against people standing outside your door?

The problem is not so far-fetched. Texas law contends that someone who owns a store or apartment complex, for example, can be held responsible for another person's criminal act on their property. That's possible even if the building's owner had nothing to do with the crime. The owner can be held liable if a jury determines he or she could have "foreseen" the problem but failed to prevent it.

Admittedly, some store owners fail to keep their premises safe. But how does an owner develop a fail-safe measure against crimes on his or her premises?

Unfortunately, one way is to just not invest at all in deteriorating neighborhoods, where crime sometimes occurs. Consider the case of Dallas-based Kwik Wash coin laundries. A jury held the company responsible for a crime committed against a woman in one of their washaterias. Afterward, the company closed several dozen stores in "marginal" areas.

The Kwik Wash case is not unique. That's why Texas legislators should change the situation with some liability reforms.

They could also reinstate the "assumption of risk" rule, which Texas courts outlawed several years ago. It excuses a landowner from liability if a visitor knows of an apparent risk.

For example, landowners could be exempted from liability if a person is hurt walking across a construction site at night, knowing full well that a large project is being constructed.

These changes could bring greater evenness to Texas liability laws. They could also eliminate harmful, unintended consequences.



MAIL CALL

GUF increase will take from needy

Regarding Brandon Hausen-Fluck's Dec. 6 column, "Students present the only outlet for funds":

Full-time work during semesters strengthens my will as full moons coincide my visits to Northgate.

Eighty-hour work weeks in the summer build my character, while blood drive T-shirts most frequently add to my wardrobe. Plasma donations stimulate my body on a subsistence of rice, potato and noodle entrees.

An academic scholarship's good fortune imparts the wisdom of humility unto me as I fill out loan applications.

Finding one-third of my veteran's benefits going toward increased tuition and fees after 2.5 years of service (and school debt repayment) constantly firms my academic resolve.

Yes, the newest Aggie joke helps me in so many ways. The pleas of our destitute student organizations and faculty in an atmosphere of "consumer-funded" and "money-equals-wisely-instructed" education strikes the insane laughter deserved by such pitiful ends.

I have time to rest assured of nothing except the truth of my ever-livin' desire to oppose such times when the needs of the many are twisted by the need-less few to no end.

Russ Jessup
 Class of '97

Blame should not be put on elephant

Regarding Aja Henderson's Dec. 4 article "Only Elephants in danger belong to Class of '97":

I would first like to point out that elephants are not predators, as Henderson believes. They are herbivores. They eat plants; they do not prey on other animals, including humans.

Second, elephants are not a "resource of ivory" to be used at our whim.

They are living animals with as much a right to exist as us. Pardon the cliché, but how would you feel if a species decided to hunt you down and kill you just because your brain made a good aphrodisiac?

Henderson says it is the overpopulation of elephants that has caused the destruction of villages and agricultural lands.

I say its our own overpopulation, coupled with an egotistical ideology that has caused this problem and many others.

Elephants have roamed this planet peacefully for millions of years without overpopulating the region, let alone the planet. Only recently have humans emerged.

Yet, with our rapid rate of growth, combined with the "I came, I saw, I conquered" philosophy, we have quickly pushed animals and even other races of humans into a fraction of the land that their ancestors once occupied.

The overpopulation of our

species has caused people to live in regions that common sense would say are hazardous.

It has also caused the depletion of resources.

Finally, it has caused the decline of the planet we live on, whether it be through the contamination of the environment or the destruction of natural habitats.

The solution to all of these problems is realizing we are not the only beings occupying this planet.

We need to manage our own population, rather than annihilate others.

Cris Hein
 Class of '95

Senate does not represent students

Regarding the Nov. 6 editorial, "After asking for student opinion, the Senate voted against it":

The Texas A&M Student Senate has quickly become the laughingstock of this campus, and the funniest part is it has no idea.

It believes it is serving the student body — informing the ignorant, protecting the weak, and shielding us from the "evil" administration.

However, it has once again tripped over its own feet in its efforts to "save" us from ourselves.

On three separate occasions, since the senators have been elected, they have gone to the student body with polls or referendums to solicit our opinion.

First they came and asked us whether we wanted runoff for yell leader elections.

After students answered "YES!," the Senate promptly turned around and voted down yell leader elections.

On another occasion, they

came and asked us about the Hopwood decision, and the polls indicated that a majority of students were in favor of the Hopwood decision.

So the senators passed a resolution against it.

Finally, on a third major issue, Student Government came and asked us if we were in favor of the GUF increase.

Again students tried to tell their senators "No more fee increases," but again the Senate refused to listen and passed a resolution supporting the increase in fees.

Three clearly expressed student opinions — three failures for the Student Senate.

If we cannot depend on our student senators to represent our views to the administration, then why do we have a Student Senate at all?

If the Student Senate wants to sit in Koldus and make all the decisions for us without any regard for the students they represent, fine.

But don't waste our time by coming and asking our opinion about it when it obviously doesn't matter anyway.

Jason Herrick
 Class of '97

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:

The Battalion - Mail Call
 013 Reed McDonald
 Texas A&M University
 College Station, TX
 77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111
 Fax: (409) 845-2647
 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.