

Wednesday • November 19, 1997

Follow the leader

Corps of Cadets' lifestyle offers example of strong work ethic, strict discipline

Fur better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take a course of easy life, which never offers much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows of victory nor defeat." — Theodore Roosevelt.



LEN CALLAWAY
columnist

This quote adorns the door of the Corps Commander Danny Feather's private quarters. It speaks volumes about Danny Feather, the Corps of Cadets leadership and the ideals that permeate the Corps of Cadets.

Within a few years of A&M's inception, it became a military institution and has since produced more leaders in many fields than any other university in the nation.

The Corps of Cadets is absolutely crucial to the proliferation of Aggie ideals and emotions as well as the proliferation of Texas A&M as it is now known. As I sat on the back steps of the MSC last week I thought of two things that disturbed me very much. First, two seniors in the band walked by and one of the two non-reg students mumbled "faggot jarhead BQ's"; the second was another male non-reg wearing a button emblazoned with the words "The Corps Sucks."

While it has been proven and accepted since the '60s the Corps' regimented lifestyle is not for anyone, their work ethic is for everyone. I re-assess the fact that if the Corps of Cadets had not been allowed to form, Texas A&M would never have had the opportunity to become the institution that it is and is now.

Last week, Corps Commander Danny Feather and Junior Operations Sergeant Adam Goren invited me to have breakfast with the Corps. As I arrived at the Corps guard room at 5:45 a.m. I expected to find a dorm of just-waking individuals scrambling to get their uniforms and upper classmen making underclassmen's lives hell. Much to my surprise the headquarters was very much awake and cogitant at this early hour. After venturing through the sacred "HQ" hallway to Danny Feather's room saying our hellos, I was invited to take part in a random morning inspection of a couple of dorms to see that everything was in order.

As we entered the first dorm I was immediately reminded of the movie *Full Metal Jacket*. Freshmen were running for their lives and rabid sophomores were in hot pursuit with authoritative rebukes of encouragement and correction. All were stopping in their tracks to acknowledge that the highest ranking officer in the Corps was now in their presence—with a guest. The freshman immediately got

"on the wall" expecting discipline at any second but seemed to have an added edge of trepidation because they weren't quite sure who I was and why the hell I was in their most sacred area.

I soon learned that what appeared on the surface to be chaos was actually disciplined, controlled order.

We have all seen military movies and many students can imagine what life in the Corps must be like, but until actually confronted with that life one cannot fully appreciate what value could be found in that lifestyle. Nor can one develop an intelligent opinion about the Corps of Cadets.

The most impressive aspect of it all was that all of the young men and women that I encountered were there of their own accord in hopes of becoming a better person.

In hopes of growing and becoming disciplined so that they could one day exercise absolute control over their own collective destiny.

It stinks of cowardice and poptroonery for people to sit back in their comfortable apartments or walk across our beloved campus and exhibit the temerity to criticize the Corps of Cadets.

I came to the realization that I personally do not have the intestinal fortitude to intentionally live in the manner in which the Corps lives. I like comfort and convenience and as a result there are lessons that I have yet to learn. Many of the Corps' students four years my junior learned those lessons within the first five minutes of mom and dad's mini-van pulling away from the quad.

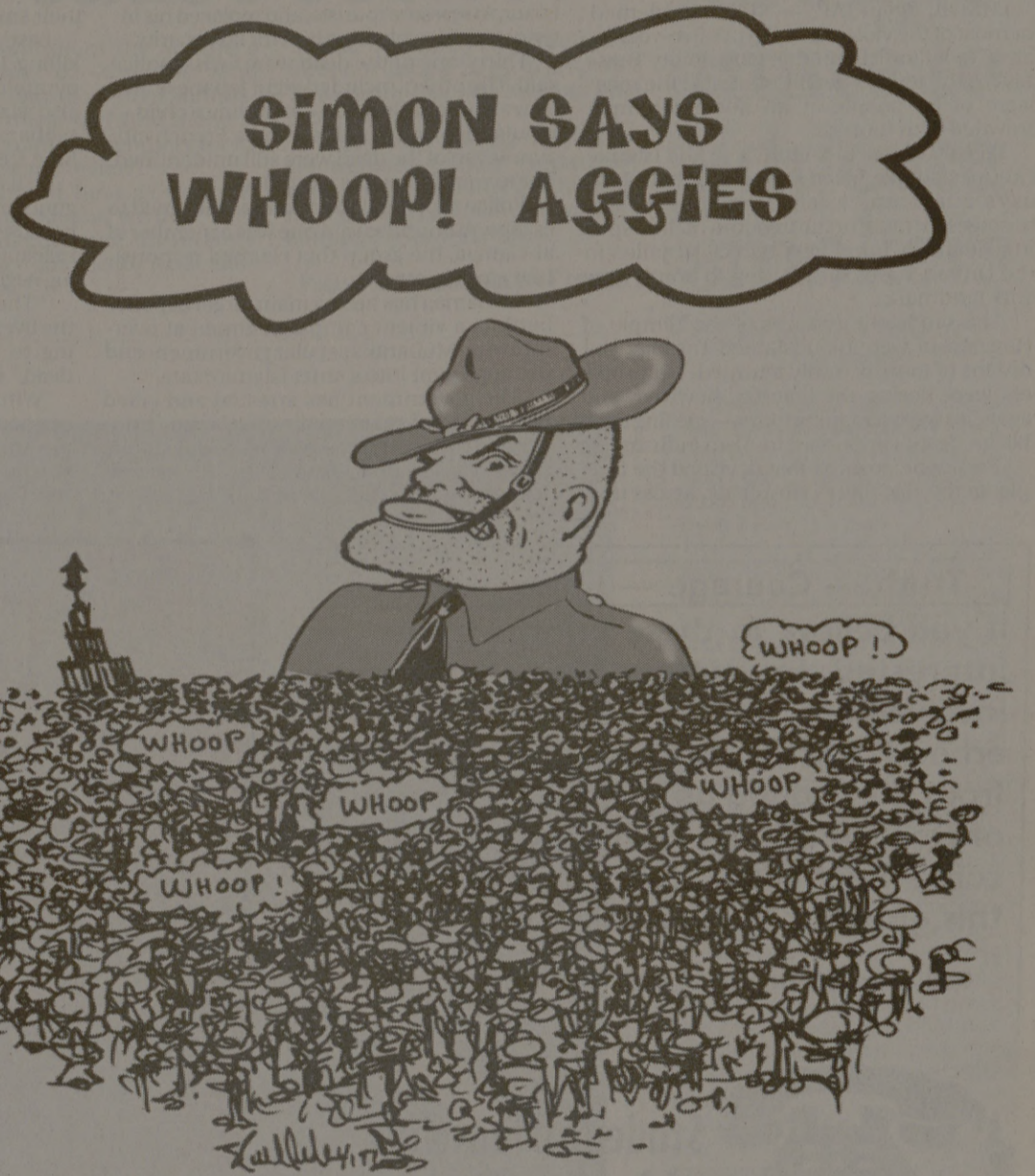
Because I realize what members of the Corps have confronted and overcome inside themselves they must have my respect. They also deserve the respect and admiration of the entire Texas A&M student body.

These students are intentionally making their lives more difficult and demanding so that they may accomplish more.

There are approximately 2,100 students in the Corps of Cadets and approximately 42,000 students enrolled at Texas A&M.

Through leadership, determination and tradition the Corps of Cadets often makes a more impressive or more powerful statement than the other 40,000 students. When was the last time that a goose bump formed on your skin because a non-reg sauntered by with their shirt untucked smoking a cigarette? When was the last time that someone spoke about the tradition and honor of Texas A&M without mentioning or alluding to the Corps of Cadets or the Aggie Band?

These two entities are rooted from a philosophical standpoint in positivity and camaraderie. There are an infinite number of aspects, accomplishments, people and ideals associated with these two organizations for all of us to be proud—yet some are too small minded to acknowledge them.



Danny Feather once reminded me of the three main personality types that are available to us all from which to choose:

The A type: one who sits on the fence griping and moaning with no positive input whatsoever.

The B type: one that does nothing and is too lazy to even develop an opinion.

The C type: one that rolls up their sleeves and attempts to accomplish something—one that is proactive in their own life and in the determination

of their own destiny.

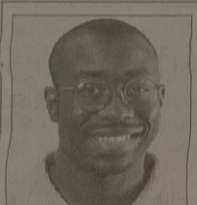
Each and every member of these hallowed organizations has taken a proactive stance in their own development and the lack of respect that they are all too often shown is what "sucks."

These organizations continually graduate accomplished military and civilian leaders and they deserve our respect and admiration.

Len Callaway is a junior journalism major.

Value of life determined not by money, but by memories

Life is filled with many unpleasuries everyone must face. There are times in our lives when a goal is not attained, times when we let those who depend on us down and even times when we all encounter death.



JAMES FRANCIS
opinion editor

To a parent, the death of his or her child can be the most tragic event to encounter. There always is the thought, "Parents should not live to see their own children leave the world before them." But, as many of us know and have come to realize, this always is not the case. People die before "their time," and those they leave behind are left with feelings of emptiness, regret and hopelessness. When this happens, people must realize the only way to determine that particular individual's life value, although unfortunately cut short, is to remember the good times shared with them, and not make an attempt to get back at others who may have had absolutely nothing to do with the incident.

In an Associated Press report out of Stamford, Conn., it was stated "St. Joseph Medical Center will pay \$3.3 million to settle a lawsuit filed by a Spring, Texas, couple who contend their daughter died after an incorrect diagnosis." The young woman's name was Beth Linnick, and on Jan. 13, 1990, she was admitted to the center's critical care unit, suffering from "flu-like symptoms and low blood pressure." After being

diagnosed with septic shock from the result of an infection, Linnick died the next day.

What her parents are suing for is related to what later reports determined Linnick's death to have resulted from. The AP report said, "An autopsy determined the woman actually suffered from a buildup of fluid around the heart, which impaired its ability to pump blood." This proves the hospital did not have all the correct information on Linnick's case to admit her under the treatment for septic shock. This, in essence, would prove the hospital was wrong.

But are Linnick's parents right to sue the hospital for millions of dollars? Yes, they have endured a terrific loss, and their daughter will never return to them. But will suing the hospital prove the just actions needed to take? What Linnick's parents are doing, and other people in similar situations or those of less life-altering events such as the problem with divorce court cases, is placing a monetary value on their daughter's life. She was not born to them with papers stating her net worth, or how much interest her parents could agree from her over a span of 21 years. She was born unto them for love, a symbol of their union in marriage and a desire to further their bloodline in this world.

It is sad the Linnicks had to lose their daughter, that they will never see her get to grow old and experience things yet planned out. It is even more sorrowful Linnick's parents have to deal with such an unexpected tragedy. But what will millions of dollars bring them in the loss of their daughter?

The settlement from the lawsuit will not bring their daughter

back, nor will it provide a sense of satisfaction to "get revenge" on the doctors and the hospital where she died. The only thing the money will give the Linnicks is a constant reminder their daughter is no longer alive, thus, they will never be able to move on with their own lives. Instead, they will spend every day, with every dollar from the lawsuit settlement, and always brood over their daughter's death—they will not remember her life.

So what can help the Linnicks accept their daughter's death? The one true aspect of living many people take for granted: memories.

If the Linnicks choose to remember their daughter and all the good times they shared together as a family, this process should prove helpful in their acceptance of her death. She may not be around for them to talk to now, but they always can think back on better times, times when their daughter Beth was able to give and receive the love a family shares.

It seems Americans have taken on an active role in the process of seeking revenge for actions that are sometimes unpreventable. Mistakes happen. It is not acceptable a young woman died due to hospital error or miscommunication, but it also is not acceptable for people to place dollar-value on someone else's life.

Life is undefinable. It is one of those particulars of being a human that is simply accepted. We cannot control every action of life, and when unpleasant situations come our way, we have to deal with them in a respectable manner.

James Francis is a junior English major.



Short speech offers usual offensiveness

"Queer!" Tom Short screamed in front of Sully on November 17th around 3 p.m. At this point I could take no more of his rhetoric and left saying some explicatives of my own.

I attend Short's soap-box speeches for two main reasons: one's selfish, the other is not.

I am selfish in that I enjoy seeing Short, whom I take to be poor in argumentative technique, get tied up in his own words and flounder in explanation.

My other reason for attending is that I worry about those folks who Short may actually convince to

hate others.

Legally, I agree that Short's hate speech is, and should be, protected under the first amendment. While his language is offensive and his arguments are flawed, he is neither being coercive nor directly inciting violence.

His speech is protected, but why is it promoted?

This letter is not for Short, nor the *Battalion* Editors. I am writing to the student body at large and, most especially, to the student group which brings Short to campus each semester.

In the past I have heard Short cite the adage, "hate the sin and love the sinner."

The word 'queer,' however, does not refer to a sin, but a person. It is like saying, 'spic,' 'nigger,' 'kike,' 'mick,' 'honky,' 'giny,' 'kraut,' 'chink,' 'jap' or the like.

Again, these words do not refer to traits, acts or sins of a person, but instead, they refer to the person, him or herself.

To reply that the University should be a place where differing views are allowed to be aired will not help Short or his sponsors here.

Though it is certainly the case that all views should be tolerated to the exhaustion of their merits, Short was merely engaged in hateful name calling.

His point could have been served by objecting to the moral permissibility of homosexual acts.

Again, the word 'queer' not only adds nothing of merit, but it redirects the moral issue in question from the actions of persons to the persons themselves.

Finally, though I agree that usually sponsors are not responsible for everything that their speakers say, Short's behavior today is not an isolated instance. In the past he has made other anti-homosexual remarks and anti-semitic comments as well.

Given this history, Short's sponsors can no longer claim only general support.

Reinviting him to campus with full knowledge of his actions, in effect, endorses his positions.

It is my hope that he will no longer be invited back; if he is, however, we will now be very sure of the position of his hosts.

Simon Dembitzer
Graduate Student

