

Opinion

thing catalog exposes adbare moral values



CORRIE CAULEY

the sofa, but don't stay there. Briefs conceal your excitement better than boxers. Negotiate a special group rate at a local motel. Sex can work in a single bed. Just be creative."

A&F is also devoted to making sure readers are equipped with all the necessary "Tools of Attraction." A checklist is included for all those nights that "sex-crazed college students" have unexpected company.

"Have condoms strategically placed around the room." "A bedside supply of water is a good idea. A bedside stack of crisp towels is an even better idea." And the one sure to be the favorite of all the girls—"Prepare an emergency kit—she'll appreciate your thoughtfulness when you pull out a new toothbrush for her in the morning."

And as if all this is not enough, there's "Drinking 101." The Quarterly suggests, "Rather than the standard beer binge, indulge in some creative drinking this semester."

"A&F has concocted a sampling of shooters perfect for after hours." Ten hard-liquor recipes follow with names like "Foreplay," "Hummer" and "Orgasm."

The pages of the A&F Quarterly consistently flaunt stereotypes and demean the maturity and character of the college student. Maybe sex sells, but there is a point when it is taken too far. Abercrombie & Fitch might represent an icon of good fashion taste, but the company's latest advertising antics have demonstrated nothing less than a serious lack of style.

As far as the centerfold goes, when you put it all together, perhaps the ad suggests that if you follow their recipe for a "Hummer," take your date to the local motel you got for the negotiated group rate, you might get to use the condoms that are strategically placed around the room for random company, and maybe you'll get lucky enough to run naked across campus toting your underwear in hand while she runs cheerfully along praising you for your thoughtfulness when you gave her a brand new toothbrush.

Corrie Cauley is a senior journalism major.

Aggie against Aggie

Student rivalries hurt campus unity, dishonor traditions



LEN CALLAWAY

Last week the students of Texas A&M had the sad opportunity and obligation to gather and pay their respects to seven fallen members of the Aggie family through Silver Taps.

Silver Taps has long been one of the most revered and treasured traditions here at A&M and almost everyone realizes and respects its importance. However, last week several residents of Hart Hall chose to desecrate the spirit of the ceremony by heckling members of the elite Ross Volunteer Honor Corps organization as the guard made their way to their staging area shortly before Silver Taps.

As the Ross Volunteers, or RVs, marched to their staging area in their formal white uniforms carrying rifles for the ceremony, a group presumed to be the "Hart Hall Howdy Committee" or the "Hart Hall Hecklers" began their extraordinarily immature routine of harassing bypassers.

There was shouting, obscenities and foolish questions. It sounds like the obnoxious tomfoolery one would expect to find in a scene from the movie *Animal House*.

This is a college campus, and a certain amount of jackassery is to be expected from those deprived of maturity. However, using one's childish impulses as an excuse to heckle and berate one of the most elite organizations of A&M on their way to perform a memorial service for seven dead Aggies is absolutely inexcusable.

The RVs were acting in an official capacity as representatives of A&M and one of the school's oldest traditions. Their charge during this and all other official duties must be protected from this sort of behavior and they must be allowed to conduct their affairs without interference.

The behavior of these couch-camping, rabid jackals cannot be tolerated by the students of this University, and if their behavior continues in the future the administration must take some disciplinary action.

The problem is not that someone dares to have different views than the RVs or that someone dare not wholeheartedly agree with the Corps of Cadets' lifestyle, the problem is that these young men were solemnly walking in formation to a solemn University function, to honor members of our student body that passed away over the summer, and they were actively heckled and interrupted.

One might add that the RVs did not break ranks or attempt to retaliate in any way, shape, form or fashion. They stayed focused and allowed their behavior to exemplify their maturity and sense of purpose, thereby adding more honor to their uniforms.

On the other hand, is there no Aggie spirit in Hart Hall?

Has Hart Hall become a place of safe haven for those that stand in opposition to A&M's time honored traditions? Will these young men camp out in front of Aggie Muster and vocally portray their righteous indignation to all those that come to mourn there as well?

and has been a tremendous asset over the years. When one thinks of A&M it is doubtful they think of Hart Hall, its empty beer cans and cigarette butts or its hecklers.

They think of tradition, honor and integrity, all qualities boasted and exemplified by the Corps of Cadets.

This is not meant to say that tradition, honor and integrity cannot be found in other student organizations. It does, however, mean that shouting threats and obscenities at the Ross Volunteer Honor Corps organization on their way to Silver Taps is an action that wholly lacks tradition, honor and integrity.

Second, life in the Corps is not easy and those that choose to subject themselves to such a daily regimen of disciplined life deserve our respect. Many Aggies are not standing in line to join the Corps only because they like convenience and personal freedom—qualities not exactly on the top of the Corps of Cadets amenity list.

The young men and women of the Corps have chosen to make their lives at Texas A&M more difficult because they are a part of an organization that many non-reggs will never understand.

They have an air of camaraderie and deep personal relationships that can only come from times of struggle and strife.

Third, one would assume that Coprs members are each attempting to be more pro-active than the average bear in determining their own destiny and developing a sense of true responsibility.

There are many more reasons for students to, at minimum, refrain from public disrespect of the Corps of Cadets as a whole or its individual units, most of which are historic.

Whether one agrees with the lifestyle of the Corps or not, the simple fact of the matter is the Corps is the organization primarily responsible for the mystique that surrounds the A&M campus, and any attempt to interfere with their activities is intolerable and inexcusable.

The Corps of Cadets and its various manifestations deserve the respect of all Aggies. The fact they are often treated like second-class citizens by people of half their fortitude is the only aspect of this matter worthy of jeers and obscenities.

Len Callaway is a senior journalism major.



GRAPHIC BY BRAD GRAEBER/THE BATTALION

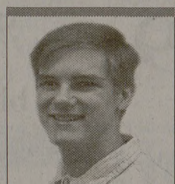
One would hope for better behavior from fellow Aggies.

While this type of behavior on such a solemn occasion is reprehensible, it is also indicative of a much larger problem. The Corps of Cadets is often not afforded the respect that it and its various manifestations deserve.

This fact is troubling and unacceptable for several reasons.

First, the Corps of Cadets dates back to just shortly after A&M's inception as a university

Abortion clinic lawsuit shows immaturity, self-centered attitude



CHRIS HUFFINES

proceed is so other potential litigants have the opportunity to see the case get shot down in flames.

On the day of the shooting, Gaines, two-months pregnant, was smoking on the clinic steps (in the interests of continuity, the writer refuses to more than allude to the benefits of pregnant women smoking). John Salvi III opened fire inside the clinic's waiting area, then ran out of the building. Gaines saw Salvi approaching and leapt out of the way. Suffice to say, the abortion she had scheduled for that day did not take place, however, did not reschedule either.

Seven months later, Gaines gave birth to a baby girl. The girl, Vivian, is learning disabled and hyperactive. Gaines had to quit her job and send her other three

children to day care so she could concentrate on raising Vivian.

Now Gaines is suing the abortion clinic. The suit claims the shooting was the result of poor clinic security. The suit states that, in light of the rash of shootings in the early '90s, the clinic should have installed such "reasonable measures" as armed security guards, a police presence, metal detectors and locked doors.

Gaines also said she could not reschedule her abortion appointment due to post-traumatic stress.

What makes this case an exercise in judicial overtolerance is that the abortion clinic should not be held liable for a situation that was entirely out of their control.

The clinic had hired multiple security

guards, but wisely kept them unarmed. Hitting either a pregnant woman, a doctor or protesters outside (whose numbers often included children) with a stray round is obviously not a good thing. The clinic had hired what security it realistically could.

Further, if Gaines felt uncomfortable with the "lax" security at the clinic, why did she not go to another clinic with all the "reasonable measures" she desired?

Finally, Gaines could have scheduled an abortion at any clinic that had adequate security, after the shooting. Going back to the scene of the crime is something no one could have realistically expected of her, but out of every clinic in Boston, there had to have been one that Gaines would not irrationally fear.

The only bright light in this case is that it will go forward, and it will, hopefully, blow up spectacularly, leaving a better precedent on the law books. Perhaps this trial can dissuade future legal antics.

Gaines was a victim, there is no doubt of that. She was thrust into a traumatic situation no one should have to face.

However, with this lawsuit, Gaines is choosing to remain a victim. Gaines originally sought the abortion because she wanted to turn her life around. It is time she returned to that ideal instead of continuing her current foolish, destructive course.

Chris Huffines is a junior speech communication major.

MAIL CALL

ny share credit recycling project

Response to Sept. 8 articles:

As A&M has come a long way toward becoming an environmentally friendly campus and student leaders behind recycling efforts are due credit, however, the name of Student or Marianne Ibrahim has been absent from the coverage.

Ibrahim's involvement began a year ago with the advent of numerous bills concerning specific recycling issues such as buying recycled paper first, recycling all board boxes and recycling attalation.

As far as issue-oriented leadership on this campus are concerned it is not only fair but also necessary to say that recycling is Ibrahim's pet issue. It is difficult to call a student leader on this issue that has done so much to promote a single cause.

Closing I would like to take the opportunity to laud Ibrahim's zeal in dealing with the issue. We could all take a lesson in persistence and conviction from her example. I know she will continue to do a wonderful job with the Student Government Association on behalf of the students of Texas A&M.

Labels not erased by racial equality

In response to Manisha Parekh's Sept. 10 column:

Manisha Parekh's column about PC terms for ethnic groups makes a very good point, but offers no solutions. Of course we should "focus on including all people in understanding our differences." This is the goal of equality.

However, this does not solve the problem of labels, unless one is idealistic enough to believe people will stop distinguishing between skin colors completely.

No matter how tolerant and accepting we become, people will always distinguish between different races. Since racial classification is inevitable, what does Parekh propose we call each other?

Josh Lee
Class of '02

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less 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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