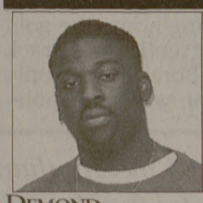


Putting the gentle back in gentleman

Women should show understanding, take proper steps to help chivalry make a comeback

We are women hear us roar" is the collective cry of many double-X-chromosomed inhabitants of this country. Women have made Rebecca Lobo-sized rides in many fields once dominated by men, such as sports and government. The once held notion that women were the weaker sex who were only good for cooking, cleaning and birthing babies is long gone.



DEMOND REID

It has been replaced by the idea women are these super-diva, Wonder Woman, man-eaters with the ability to jump over tall discrimination in a single bound.

With women taking a more aggressive role in society, it is only natural that finding a gentleman in this country is harder than playing charades with Stevie Wonder for a partner. With the eradication of gender roles in society, when it comes to day-to-day social contact with women, men find themselves confused.

Chivalry is not quite dead, but feminism has beat up so badly that it is on an artificial respirator in the intensive care unit.

According to The Backlash, an online magazine, only three percent of men in the United States fit the feminist extremists' notion of men in general. Nine-seventy out of every 100 men today stand maliciously and unjustly accused of chauvinism.

That is why in this Texas two-step of gender interaction, men are so afraid of stepping on toes they opt to stay clear of the dance floor and become so antisocial they make Norman Bates look like Kathie Lee Gifford.

In the not too distant past, it was customary for a man, no matter how busy he was, to stop and hold open the door for a woman. He would do this because he was guaranteed three things: (1) a genuine smile, (2) a heart-felt thank you and (3) an unobstructed chance to stare at her butt.

Today, the only reason it may be safe to open a door for a woman is if she has no arms. And even that is only about 95 percent definite because there is the slight chance Stubby will let the man know that she is an independent woman and could have

pushed the gray handicap button that opens the doors with her nose, which leaves a guy feeling about as useless as the Sears' security guard during the L.A. riots.

To all women wondering if there is anything they can do to bring a bit of Rhett Butler out of her man, well I do declare Ms. Scarlett, there is a way. But the remedy to this problem will take a female gender group effort. Considering the fact that at one time or another every man will be involved in a relationship with a woman, the best place to solve this problem is one-on-one in an relationship.

While many relationships will not work out, if each and every woman implements the following steps with the man they are currently seeing, chances are the next man she meets will already have been embedded with the confidence and self-assurance to be a gentleman. Only confidence and self-assurance can combat the feelings of intimidation being around a strong woman can cause.

The steps are real easy to follow. First, be a tad bit more submissive. Hold on a minute Sadie Hawkins before the rest of the Estrogen brigade is rounded up to riot with Susan B. Anthony silver dollars; just listen. This does not mean having to pull some brain-dead Stepford wife on lithium routine, but at the same time it does not mean having to run over a man like a Sherman tank.

Let him hold the remote for a little while longer. If women sit through an hour of female midget mud wrestling, men will choke down "The 90210 High School Reunion Special."

Second, next time a man points out a mistake, just say "thank you" and move on. Do not remind him of the thousands of times he has been wrong. There is no need to bring up the time he asked what the capitol of East Dakota was.

Third, and most important, be patient. The rules of the game are rapidly changing and men are still



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

trying to catch up.

If all women adhere to the previous three steps they can be guaranteed a more chivalrous man with whom they can spend the rest of their life. But if for some reason their men do something a little bit too

ignorant, they can take comfort in the fact the next man they come across will have already been trained by another woman.

Demond Reid is a sophomore management major

Fraternities need to think realistically about banning alcohol from houses, functions

A new semester is upon Texas A&M and it is time for that special tradition Aggies look forward to at the beginning of every semester, fraternity rush. A week of colorful shirts showing every possible combination of Greek letters and the slightly less popular, less thought out maroon and white "no frats" shirts.



RUSSELL PAGE

Once again, the smell of testosterone hangs thick in the air, inspired by this magical season. Each fraternity seeks to draw in potential rushees by promising they are the smartest, most athletic or smoothest with the ladies.

It is the time of the semester during which young men pledge their loyalty, li-jidos and livers to an organization that promises their time and money will be well spent and they will reap the great rewards of brotherhood, babes and beer.

These are the images most people think of when they hear the word fraternity. Two national fraternities are making new policies to change this negative view of fraternities. Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta have made the commitment to go alcohol-free in their houses by the year 2000.

One are the days of half-naked men wrapped in sheets drinking their fill of beer and chanting, "Toga, toga."

Or are they? These two fraternities have passed an amendment forbidding alcohol on fraternity premises or in their houses, thus beginning the Greek prohibition. Other fraternities will most likely follow this initiative and give into the popular pressure to

ban alcohol at all fraternity houses.

Did anyone bother to consider if this change was actually feasible? Fraternities without alcohol, like A&M without the Corps, sounds great in theory, but the problem of enforcing new rules and changing old traditions is difficult at best.

While the Interfraternity Council (IFC) promotes a "dry rush in which alcohol is not allowed before, during or after a rush event," it is common knowledge that afterwards there is ample opportunity for actives and rushees to drink.

If fraternities are willing to break the rules during rush, when they are monitored by IFC, then what will keep them honest when there is no one watching? Who is going to make sure there are no spirits in the house? If a violation does occur, who is going to report it? The national headquarters of these fraternities are not going to have a way to control the actions of each chapter house.

With no logical answers to these questions, it appears the reasons the Phi Deltas and Sigma Nu's are doing this is for public relations. The Phi Delt General Headquarters Website discusses the fact all fraternities have had lower memberships over the past seven years. In order to boost membership, these two fraternities have decided to target a new audience: the rushees' parents.

It is the parents who most likely write the dues check, so it is a good idea to keep them happy. A lot of parents would be more willing to write a check to those nice boys at Sigma Nu who have rules against drinking as opposed to the evil We Tappa Kegga's. The strategy is sound. Unfortunately the new policy focuses more on the check-

book of the parents rather than the safety of the member.

The second reason for these policies is to cover the national organization in the case of a lawsuit. If the chapter breaks the rules and something bad happens, well the national organization is not responsible. It is a good idea and especially convenient to have potentially dangerous situations involving drinking as far away from fraternity property as possible.

Unfortunately, in this era of lawsuits and passing the blame, it will only be a matter of time before someone who lives at one of these houses is injured or dies from a drinking-and-driving-related accident and sues the national organization for not allowing him to drink safely at his home. No alcohol in a fraternity house is not meant to encourage the safe and healthy fraternal environment. It is meant to protect the national organizations' bank accounts from dwindling membership, insurance premiums and litigation.

For local chapters, there are plenty of ways to get around the rules. With A&M's proposed fraternity row, members could move their official house to the campus address and keep the current house as the party house. Alcohol may not be allowed "in" the house, but kegs kept "out" in the yard or in the back of trucks is acceptable.

Of course, there is the very real possibility that the members of these fraternities could disregard the rule all together and bring alcohol inside the house.

As for the rushees, they have something new to consider this year.

Russell Page is a senior political science major.

EDITORIAL

The Battalion

Editorials appearing in *The Battalion* reflect the views of the editorials board members. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other *Battalion* staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff. Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors.

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THE ACTIONS OF A FEW

SBSLC should continue at the University

This past weekend, the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference came to the campus of Texas A&M. Following two days of intense learning and working for the future, it is only natural for the attendees to want a chance to relax. Many attendees chose to attend SBSLC-sanctioned events. However, other attendees chose to go to some of the private parties held in the area.

After a series of events, a crowd of 1,000 people gathered outside the Rack Warehouse, trying to gain access to one such private party. Police agencies were called to help control the crowd, and following an altercation, according to the College Station Police Department, an officer used pepper spray on the fighters.

Because of this incident, some have called for the removal of SBSLC from campus. If this happens, it would hurt the efforts of the University to promote diversity and cultural understanding on campus.

If the University were to remove the conference, it would be guilty of merely paying lip service to the long-debated issue of diversity.

Perhaps more disturbing than the incident, is the student body's willingness to throw away the opportunity to take advantage of the learning opportunity the conference offers.

The incident at this private party could have happened to any group holding a conference of such proportions, whether it be a fraternity conference, Conference on Student Government Affairs (COSGA) or New Student Orientation.

When such a large group of people are barred from entering a bar, tempers are bound to flare and the inevitable scuffle will occur.

In the past, the SBSLC has sponsored parties with unintended results. This year's party, while targeted at conference participants, was not advocated by, or held in conjunction with the conference. The efforts of the conference organizers to address past issues are apparent in that this year all SBSLC-sponsored events went smoothly.

A successful event such as the SBSLC should not be judged for the actions of a few party-goers who may or may not have been conference participants.

MAIL CALL

Students debate conference's merits

It seems that again the "great" university we all call home has blundered in its own ignorant denial of continued anarchy sponsored by the Southwestern Black Student "LEADERSHIP" Conference. One year ago, I wrote regarding an elderly couple stranded for forty-five minutes due to the fact that approximately 40 officers were required to subdue riots at our university.

Apparently, the individuals in charge of this event have again neglected their responsibilities to the student body. Why does my school continuously sponsor riots that require every available officer in the

Brazos Valley to subdue? Last year, the Department of Multiculturalism informed me that this problem related to improper entry by those who didn't even attend the conference.

This year, Theresa Cooper informs us that "We encourage people not to have those parties, and we encourage people not to attend." Yeah. Somehow, there seems to be a direct correlation between the Southwestern Black "LEADERSHIP" conference and huge incidents such as these that are conveniently pushed underneath the bureaucratic rug of Texas A&M University.

Has anyone in authority at this institution ever pondered upon the

fact that a serious accident could happen (God forbid) during such immature displays of "leadership development?" We "strive to promote a wonderful learning environment" at this university. This ignorant denial of sponsored anarchy must stop. Someone with intellect needs to draw a direct correlation between the SBSLC and annual riots. Better yet, we could start a new Aggie tradition; Fish Camp, T-Camp, Big Event, Muster, Silver Taps and of course "THE SBSLC RIOTS".

Stop Stupidity. Stop Anarchy. Stop the Southwestern Black "LEADERSHIP" Conference.

Allen Gardner
Class of '99

Texas A&M claims to embrace diversity and support its minority students. Unfortunately, every time there is an opportunity to lend credibility to this statement, the University falls flat on its face.

Why is it that less than a week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, and less than a month into the New Year, *The Battalion* decided to make a spectacle of African-American students? SBSLC is an exemplary example of the unification of minorities to provide enrichment and support for students on campus and around the country. Instead of focusing on this, more attention was placed on a private party that wasn't sanctioned by SBSLC. It is a downright shame that a larger article was written on

the party than on the conference. (A party, free of fights and property damage ... a fact omitted in the article).

It never ceases to amaze me how "minority parties" mysteriously make front-page news. I have yet to see an article about the drunkards that stumble up and down University and Northgate every Thursday night and every weekend. Drunkards, who cause commotion, fights and property damage ... and who also "draw law enforcement agencies."

Shame on *The Battalion* for such poor judgment. In the future, send reporters to photograph and report on the actual conference, not unrelated events! *The Battalion's* past and present coverage of minority

events has been less than fair, and can be compared to the hypocrisy of those pointing fingers at President Clinton, when they were doing the same things themselves.

Maria Okafor
Class of '00

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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