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 MSC Box Office 845-1234 Mon-Fri 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Williams Communications Presentation**  
 When: Monday, February 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Where: Rudder Tower, Room 308
- **All students are invited to attend.**

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OPINION

**Statements in Vail story appropriate**

In response to J.S. Hancock and K.D. Holsinger's Feb 9 mail call.

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor concerning my comments about the death of Barry Vail.

I in no way intended my remarks concerning this young man's tragic death to be humorous or to intentionally use a pun to make a point. I have the unfortunate honor to be interviewed nearly everytime that a student at this University is killed, maimed, drowned, raped or beaten up as the result of the excessive use of alcohol. I find nothing funny in any of it!

I feel nothing but the pain of a loss that could have been avoided concerning Mr. Vail's death.

I cannot hope to imagine what horror the family of this young man must be going through at this very moment. The loss that we as a campus feel cannot hope to come close to their sense of loss. My heart, my prayers and any comfort that I could provide for them is a given.

As to an apology for the words chosen, I freely apologize to anyone who felt those words were inappropriate. They were not chosen to make a joke or a pun, they were factual concerning the effects of alcohol. I would never make a joke about the tragic loss of a person's life.

I think that there is another apology owed. However, that apology cannot come from me. It can only come from those who are largely responsible for the death of this young person. Those who furnished the alcohol illegally to a minor, and those who stood by and perhaps even encouraged him to drink until his judgement was overcome, and ultimately caused his death due to the effects of the alcohol.

The outrage and disbelief belongs there.

Dennis J. Reardon, Ph.D.  
 Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Programs

I lost a close friend at the hands of a drunk driver. He and the driver, his A&M roommate, were partying during spring break several years ago when the tragic accident occurred.

The alcohol in their systems certainly played a major role in that deadly spring break accident. While some may think the coverage by *The Battalion* was tasteless with respect to the recent Vail accident, the point was made clear that alcohol affects judgment and clearly results in some deadly choices. The Vail family certainly needs our concern and prayers, but the incident and facts should not be swept under the rug.

I hope the facts are used by other Aggies to prevent such incidents in the future and reduce the number of Silver Tap Ceremonies.

Richard Gallagher  
 Graduate Student

**Proposed parking fee hike depressing**

I was really depressed to read the article on the new parking rates.

I bought my beat up 1988 Chrysler LeBaron for \$350 last year, and now I have to pay \$348 a year for a garage spot.

Is there something wrong with that?

Anthony Garza  
 Class of '02

**Minority attitudes blocking equality**

In response to the Feb 3, article "BAC hosts events for Black History Month."

I was disappointed by the article. How many times were the participants of the event quoted as making some kind of reference to slavery? When will it end? I am sorry it ever happened. I understand how many of you could, to this day, be suffering the conse-

quences. But that is partly your blame, because you can't let it go. The Jim Crow laws, segregated schools, it was all so long ago. Why are we still so divided? Whose choice is that? Do you want your descendants to forever carry this baggage?

I am not referring just to the black community. All minority groups are responsible for the lack of unification. Is it really necessary to have multiple sub-cultures based on something as trivial as color? Why does your definition of being American or an Aggie have to diverge from the rest of the community's? How do you ever expect to advance with a stone tied around your neck? Are we not big enough to swallow the pride and find some peace?

Yes, I too, am a minority. I know how it is to walk through life every day fully conscious of the fact that people look at me and the first thing that they see is color. But I have learned to live with that. I know who I am, and I am a person before I am color. Ethnicity only enhances the person.

We are the enemy of equality, because equality will never be achieved with division.

Cecelia Pizano  
 Class of '99

**Creatine column sad, embarrassing**

In response to the Tim White's Feb. 10 guest column.

I am saddened and embarrassed that a graduating senior at Texas A&M believes that the penis is a muscle.

White should be informed before he pens an article in the future. This article, which hints at various studies, sites none such studies, and is a thinly veiled attempt to sell a product which the author is hocking.

If White wants to sell his product, next time he should buy an advertisement like everyone else. He should NOT write a misinformed article hinting to gullible students that his product is harm-

**Texas film posters tasteless**

The recent full-page advertisement for the Sixth Annual Texas Film Festival features a young dog pressed up against a wall and the caption, "Texas Texas Film Festival... shoot this dog."

I encourage the despicable advertisement to sponsor the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter where animals who are not lucky enough to be claimed or adopted die.

Please have enough quality of your films to show them instead of violence against animals.

The Battalion encourages letters for length, style, and content. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name and address. Letters should be mailed to: The Battalion, 013 Reed Moore, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Campus Mail: (409) 845-3333. Fax: (409) 845-3333. E-mail: batt@tamu.edu

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The Battalion

845-26... for Display... or... 845-05... for Classified

**Loose Diamonds**

**Round Cut**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.39	J	SI2	\$4955 <sup>00</sup>
1.03	J	SI2	\$3670 <sup>00</sup>
.78	F	SI2	\$2900 <sup>00</sup>
.71	F	SI1	\$2675 <sup>00</sup>
.71	E	SI1	\$2530 <sup>00</sup>
.70	E	SI1	\$2650 <sup>00</sup>
.70	E	SI2	\$2490 <sup>00</sup>
.34	G	VVS1	\$850 <sup>00</sup>
.33	H	VVS2	\$790 <sup>00</sup>
.31	H	VVS2	\$790 <sup>00</sup>

**Marquise Cut**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.21	K	SI3	\$4150 <sup>00</sup>
.94	K	SI1	\$2915 <sup>00</sup>
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 <sup>00</sup>
.49	J	SI2	\$1155 <sup>00</sup>

**Emerald Cut**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I	SI1	\$7175 <sup>00</sup>
1.12	H	VS1	\$4900 <sup>00</sup>
.71	F	SI2	\$2200 <sup>00</sup>

**Pear Shape**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.92	K	VS2	\$2550 <sup>00</sup>
.79	K	SI1	\$1850 <sup>00</sup>
.72	D	SI3	\$2200 <sup>00</sup>

**Oval**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 <sup>00</sup>
.54	H	SI2	\$1050 <sup>00</sup>
.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 <sup>00</sup>

**Princess Cut**

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.48	F	SI2	\$7900 <sup>00</sup>
1.08	F	VS2	\$6200 <sup>00</sup> EGL Cert
.72	E	VS2	\$3700 <sup>00</sup> EGL Cert
.52	G	VS1	\$1638 <sup>00</sup> EGL Cert
.51	H	SI2	\$1050 <sup>00</sup>
.49	J	VS2	\$1075 <sup>00</sup>



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