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## Black History Month poster burned



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A Black History Month poster in Fowler Hall was set on fire Sunday. The poster, between the first and second floor in the east breezeway staircase, was one of many distributed on campus by the Black Awareness Committee.

### ROUND TABLE

Continued from Page 1

general atmosphere of A&M itself; it's more close knit because we are Aggies and all that, so I think that comes more into play than anything else. I think it's less rather than more because we are here at A&M.

**Hight:** I have a question along with the whole 'Aggie' thing, as far as student activities like going to football games and participating in bonfire and things like that, is that something you feel African American students are real comfortable participating in?

**Davis:** I disagree with what Preston said about 'We're all Aggies and we're all one,' because when I first got here, me, my mother and my father were here for my summer orientation, and we were in Rudder Auditorium, and they were talking about the 'Aggie community', the ring and the star...and when you get here, it's a hostile place — you see Confederate flags all over the place. And, as far as bonfire, why am I going to go out there with a whole bunch of drunk, excuse my language, white people with axes? Like 10 black folks out of 2000 out there cutting trees, you never know what somebody's going to do.

**Hight:** We're laughing about that, but do you really feel that it would be dangerous?

(The majority of participants responded with a resounding "yes.")

**O'Bryant:** You don't know the mind sets of those people.

**Jenkins:** I can speak — and maybe my experience has been different because I am in the Corps [of Cadets], so I come from a different experience than most, so maybe

it's because I feel closer to that that I can better relate and maybe everybody else can't — but I have been out to cut several times, and that's the furthest thing from my mind is that somebody's going to try to do something to me.

**James:** He's like a 'house Negro,' not trying to be funny, seriously, because he's

**"I don't care if you are black, white, green or red, if you don't want to talk to me, I will come and talk to you, that's the way I feel."**

— Samuel Ogungbemi  
president of African Students Association

in the Corps, he's a little bit better than just the regular 'non-reg,' as they say.

**Ogungbemi:** I have a different perspective. I think the way you act or the way you relate to other people depends on the how you were raised. It depends on your mind set. I am from Africa; and, to me, I don't care if you are black, white, green or red, if you don't want to talk to me, I will come and talk to you, that's the way I feel. About the bonfire thing, that's false, last fall I went with them and cut wood and nobody tried to do anything to me.

**Ballare:** I agree with Sam and Preston to a certain extent. I feel that when you come here to Texas A&M, you know that it's a majority white school, therefore, you try to get to know them, as well as they should try to get to know you; but don't think that they are going to go by and say 'hi' all the time. As for me, I have never

been discriminated against on campus. Everything is not perfect on this campus on any other campus...

**Johnson:** I want to go back to the traditions. I don't know if it's a personal thing or our culture, but it just doesn't interest me to build bonfire. It doesn't interest me to go to the game and have to stand up the whole game instead of enjoying the game. Those are just not things that interest me, and I feel like that's the characteristics of a lot of the traditions on the campus; they're just not interesting and that's why we don't participate. Well, that's why I don't participate.

**Figaro:** Personally, I have had a lot of fun with the traditions and I really felt any discrimination because I don't give a flying f---. Maybe you're from a different area, like my cousin came down from Port Arthur, Texas, which is predominately black and she came down for bonfire, and

she got upset because there are a lot of drunk white people here. And she said, 'I never come to a school like this.' And the reason that I really like A&M — I told her this and I meant it, and it wasn't to sound racist or anything — but I told her, they are the type of people you will be dealing with. Who will be hiring you, who will be employed with you, you more than likely will work with. Either you'll be above them, right beside them or below them. You have to learn how to communicate a network with them because once you get in, and once you have this ring, it will be against a lot of the prejudice that I've seen. Sometimes, even with traditions, you have to forget that you're black and do something that you don't want to do and learn how to enjoy it because you're not going to enjoy everything or everywhere you go. That's just life in general.



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### THE BATTALION

Marium Mohiuddin  
Editor in Chief

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Acct 229 Dr. Hayes Billy's Video	Part I Tue Feb 29 10pm-1am	Part II Wed Mar 1 10pm-1am		
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Tickets go on sale Sunday at 9:00 PM.

4.0 & Go is located on the corner of SW Pkwy and Tx Ave, behind KFC next to Lock's. Check our web page at http://www.4.0andGo.com