

OPINION

We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we

The actions of a few shouldn't condemn the many



Lindsey Gawlik
@LindseyGawlik

As a member of the Aggie Greek community, I grow frustrated when I hear about an incident in which Greek life's reputation is dragged through the mud. The actions of a small few affect the lives and reputations of many.

When I heard about the video of the racist chant by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Oklahoma that got two students expelled and the chapter disbanded, it was hard not to audibly groan. Coming on the heels of reports last month of a "border patrol party" by the FIJI chapter at the University of Texas, this newest incident obviously made Greek life a target.

Students rightfully should be upset by the actions of these other chapters — they are disgusting. But what they shouldn't do is condemn the many for the few. The students at these other schools acted crassly and carelessly, but that doesn't make all of Greek life crass, and especially not Greek life at A&M.

There have been rumors circulating that A&M Greek members are getting heat for the actions of these chapters at other universities, and it doesn't make sense. These incidents were hateful and ignorant, but if people retaliate toward Greek chapters at A&M that had nothing to do with these incidents, their actions are also hateful and ignorant.

As Collin McCaskill, the Texas A&M SAE president, said in a statement, "The actions taken by certain members of the Oklahoma Kappa Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Oklahoma were intolerable and do not align with the values and ideals of the Texas Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon [or the Greek Community] at Texas A&M University."

To clarify, I'm not saying racist inci-

dents in Greek life or in general at A&M never occur. There have been racist occurrences at Texas A&M within Greek life, including in 1992 involving black-face costumes at an SAE jungle-themed fraternity party, but if we were all guilty of the sins of the past no organization would exist.

The values displayed by the SAEs at Oklahoma just aren't the values of today's Aggie Greeks and it's a shame

to hear people are lashing out at A&M's members of fraternities and sororities. Being both Hispanic and a member of the Texas A&M Greek life, I have never in my time here felt discriminated against. I know many people of different cultural backgrounds in both fraternities and sororities at A&M.

A&M has taken significant strides since 1992, and A&M Greek life now regularly holds mixers and co-hosts events between the fraternities and sororities in the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and Multicultural Council.

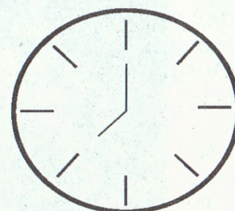
What people forget in times like this is the good that comes out of Greek life. Those in sororities or fraternities tend to have higher GPAs, higher graduation rates and higher levels of success getting a job right out of college.

Ten percent of A&M undergraduates are involved in Greek life, and Aggie Greeks are estimated to contribute over \$50,000 dollars annually to Bryan-College Station. A&M has graduated over 20,000 Greek alumni and continues to grow as new chapters form, according to the Student Activities Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life.

So I write this imploring everyone out there not to condemn A&M Greek life.

The only chant I have ever heard at any Texas A&M fraternity or sorority event is, "We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we, true to each other as Aggies can be."

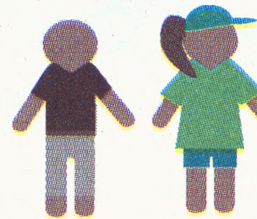
Lindsey Gawlik is a telecommunication and media studies junior and news editor for The Battalion.



Nationally, Greeks contribute 10 million hours of community service annually.



Greeks have higher graduation rates nationally.



More than 20,000 have graduated as Aggie Greeks.

Claire Shepherd — THE BATTALION

YELL CONTINUED

Case 67-02, which alters the original unofficial election results to list the first, second and third place candidates for Senior Yell Leader as Lawrence, Ritchie and Cook, respectively. According to a letter from Chief Justice Brenton Cooper to *The Battalion*, this final version of the 2015 election results is correct and "reflect compliance with the election regulations."

Kyle Cook, "5 for Yell" candidate, said because he agreed to the revote, he sees no reason to be upset that he would have won after the recount.

"I knew the votes from the original election would be void," Cook said. "So I'm not going to whine or complain about it, because I agreed to it in the first place."

While he wishes the student elections hadn't been surrounded with drama, Cook said he is pleased with the final decision.

"I have had a pretty rough go-round in this whole thing, but these five guys are all awesome," Cook said. "And the students voted, so it's what the students want, and because of that I'm happy with it."

BUSH CONTINUED

Student motivation is one of the most important parts of education, Bush said, and teachers who seriously invest in their students inspire them the most.

One of those special teachers to thousands of Afghani girls is Razia Jan.

Jan is a celebrated education activist, born in Afghanistan, who emigrated to the United States in 1970. Through Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, she continues to support the community education of women in her home country, a place where they have regularly been refused the right to a proper education.

"Afghan people are very intelligent and they want to really learn," Jan said. "[Education] is a great asset for them. I built a school in 2008 with 100

students and today we have 557 girls."

Jan acknowledged the challenges that decades of war has had on her country, and the social and educational difficulties that come along with that.

"It took 30 years to destroy that country, and it will really take 30 years to rebuild it," Jan said.

Bush has been active in rebuilding the education system in Afghanistan along with Jan, working with USAID to open the American University in Kabul in 2005. Both women said they will press on to rebuild broken communities and countries through education.

"There are so many needs to be met and so many ways that we can help," Bush said. "I'm proud that so many Texas A&M students are preparing here for a life of service."

FOOTBALL

IHEANACHO ARRESTED FOR SHOPLIFTING

Sophomore wide receiver Frank Iheanacho was suspended from athletic activities after being arrested for a Feb. 26 shoplifting incident.

THE TEXAS A&M STUDENT MEDIA BOARD INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

Editor AGGIELAND 2016

Qualifications for editor-in-chief of the *Aggieland* yearbook are:

REQUIRED

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.25 grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;

PREFERRED

- Have completed JOUR 301 or COMM 307 (Mass Communication, Law, and Society);
- Have demonstrated ability in writing, editing and graphic design through university coursework or equivalent experience;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible position on the *Aggieland* or comparable college yearbook.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Sandi Jones, Student Media business coordinator, in Suite L406 of the MSC. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

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(More logos available)

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etsy.com/shop/aggiesandbows by Charlotte, Reville's Seamstress

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Second Location:

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979-255-8905

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Be a Class Officer!

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Go to classcouncils.tamu.edu to learn more about how to serve your class as a Class Officer!

Applications DUE:

March 25th @ 5:00 pm in Koldus 153AA

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TODAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE

to have your picture taken for Texas A&M's 2015 *Aggieland* yearbook. Your portrait sitting is free.

Just walk in 9 A.M. — 5 P.M. Thursday, March 12, to the Student Media office, Suite L400 of the MSC.



It's your yearbook. Be in it.