



April 17, 2024

# THE NAUTILUS

Serving Texas A&M University at Galveston since 1972

## Fire and Brimstone



By Gail Lonngi, '24, and Liam Bradley, '24

Photo provided by April Garza

Many Sea Aggies may agree that Tuesday, March 19, was packed with unusual and unexpected events. Those present were greeted with fire, brimstone, and protest. Many were left with questions about the nature of free speech, its limitations in an educational setting, and how to handle similar situations in the future.

### Electrical fire at Jack K. Williams Library

At 12:50 p.m., an ambiguous, urgent Sea Aggie Alert was sent to the campus community, stating that the Jack K. Williams Library was closed, instructing everyone to steer clear of the area and monitor their emails for updates.

According to library front desk workers, the sudden closure was due to a minor electrical fire. The cause of the fire was reportedly an exploded electrical circuit. Fire trucks were on the scene within minutes, while staff and campus police handled the situation by emptying the building and alerting the campus community.

### Street preachers

Across the quad, three traveling preachers assembled near the clock tower in the middle of campus. The group is called Open Air Outreach, a self-described, non-denominational missionary family who travels around the U. S. with an "open air preaching" approach with no church affiliation. They proceeded to livestream themselves as they announced their intention "to preach the Bible" and began denouncing the campus as full of sin and sinners. The group swiftly garnered the attention of the campus community using obscene language, perceived by many as discriminatory.

The missionaries remained in the area for five hours, drawing crowds of 50 to over 100. They engaged in prolonged, passionate debates with students and faculty over sin and condemnation. Many students were confused about who this group was and why they were here.

Explaining their presence at TAMUG, Morrell said, "I've preached

at A&M College Station multiple times and had never been to this smaller campus, and I feel like I've been neglecting it. We'd like to do a tour of Texas to all these smaller campuses I've never been to before." He continued: "The university is the marketplace of ideas, and the Gospel is an idea worth considering, so we're here to introduce those thoughts and ideas to the minds of students."

When asked about his group's message, Morrell responded, "My message is that if you're living in sin, you need to repent and be born again...if you are not born again you won't see the kingdom of God."

Morrell was wearing a warning sign targeting feminists, LGBTQ, Muslims, and many others. "I call this the 'You're going to Hell' sign," Morrell said. "So, if people walk by and see themselves on it then, you



Photo provided by April Garza

know, you're going to Hell. It's like a marketing strategy to get people's attention."

Morrell and his colleagues shared the consensus that they generally experience similar reception so far as crowds, questions, and debates at larger campuses. They claim to not have been met with any physical or legal force during street preachings so far, although—as can be seen in a video on their Youtube channel—they

have been confronted by a campus police department at least once for using vulgar language while preaching at a campus where high schoolers were attending.

### How did Sea Aggies respond?

Multiple students gathered to defend and support each other against the religious group, even banding together trying to drown out the preachers' voices with the "Aggie War Hymn" and music on a bluetooth speaker.

"I want to do what I can to make this space more comfortable for everybody," said Ash Reyes, '25, wielding a Pride flag and pirate flag. "They're encroaching and making people uncomfortable and I want to do something about it."

Sorcha Fletcher, '25, a self-identified Christian, said, "They're preaching condemnation instead of forgiveness. We should be encouraging people to repent, but not like this. But honestly, I'm really encouraged by the amount of Christians that have come out here today, defending their faith and respectfully talking to them."

Fletcher contended: "They're getting people's attention, but not pulling on people's heartstrings. They're yelling at people and they think they're having an impact, but they're not. They've parted people's hearts more from Christianity...instead of sitting down and having respectful conversations with people."

Student Alena Al-Awaj, '26, also commented on the Sea Aggies' passionate display of community: "It's genuinely funny. I've loved watching the campus come together to just clown on these guys."

### Title IX violation or free speech?

Many students were left questioning whether the preachers' sexually explicit language, often directed toward women's clothing, and



Photo provided by April Garza

hateful speech toward different religions and genders qualified as a Title IX violation. According to Dr. Todd Sutherland, '90, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Open Air Outreach's activities were protected as free speech and free practice of religion in public.

As Dr. Sutherland explained, Title IX establishes that one "cannot preclude anyone on the basis of sex participating in any educational activity in an institution that receives federal aid," essentially forbidding sexual discrimination in educational activities and programs.

The primary marker of a Title IX violation is that an action is

severe enough to be considered a civil rights violation and threat to safety, and thus it must be, according to Sutherland, "either persistent, happening frequently or all the time ... pervasive, happening everywhere, or it has to be so severe that it would stop a reasonable person from participating in an educational activity."

Real, direct, verbal death threats, threats to another's safety, or blocking pathways are also Title IX violations. Title IX is most applicable to functions within an educational institution's community. Even hate speech enjoys an amount of free speech protection.

The key factors, explained Dr. Sutherland, that prevent Open Air Outreach's actions from being Title IX violations were that they were not disrupting classes, activities, or work, or putting hands on people. And everyone present had the perfectly accessible choice of simply walking away and ignoring the preachers instead of engaging with and listening to them.

Dr. Sutherland commented: "I walked around and made sure people were aware they didn't have to engage with them. My goal was to make sure there was nothing physical, that things didn't escalate to where there would be consequences."

### How should students respond in the future?

Dr. Sutherland proceeded to explain that this was not the first time this preacher came to campus. He had visited 4-5 years ago, the only differences being that significantly more people gathered on March 19 and that he had brought his colleagues. Since TAMUG is a public institution and therefore largely a public space, Student Affairs holds a discussion during Howdy Week to inform incoming students of free speech, free speech zones, and of the fact they all have the choice to walk away, rather than engage with groups like these. In such cases, more encouragement and outrage will only motivate them to return.

"These groups are predictable," said Dr. Rebecca Ottman, Assistant Professor of English, "and they tend to distract the audience from the fragility of their claims through layering their messaging in aggressive, insulting, and downright abhorrent language. This is then targeted at a vulnerable audience that is likely to react negatively, which is exactly what these groups want. The more outrage and engagement that is generated from screaming dehumanizing insults at the audience, the more likes, clicks, views, donations, etc. that their live streams will generate from supporters online. And that enables these groups to continue doing these events around the country."

Groups like these do make a point of targeting public universities so that they do not have to ask for permission to use university grounds. As free speech zones designated by university officials are becoming more widely regarded as unconstitutional, all outdoor university grounds in A&M campuses are now open to public exercises of free speech and religion, with permission only being required for private institutions and property, and semi-public spaces; e.g., inside a classroom building or event center.

Multiple faculty agree it is essential that, for the possibility of future instances similar to that of March 19, students are mindful of the fact they can—and likely should—distance themselves from these occurrences. This way, the possibility of more serious confrontations are avoided, and groups like Open Air Outreach are not encouraged to return sooner, or more often, for the attention they are seeking.

Instructional Assistant Professor of English Dr. Sami Atassi said, "I hope they don't return. But seeing that they successfully orchestrated their spectacle—seeing that it's still being talked about—I'm not so hopeful. While this may have been cathartic...that show lasted for much, much more than two minutes. We all have much more important things to do than entertaining and being entertained by obnoxious hypocrites... We give them an audience, we give them a spotlight, they will keep coming back, and the revulsion will grow, the

insults, more vulgar provocations. That’s my major worry.” Dr. Sutherland ascribes to this perspective as well and encourages students: “Words can be hurtful, but we also need to learn we’re able to walk away.” He further implores: “I just wish people will realize the more they engage, the more we’ll get that guy back. Because, you know, hateful rhetoric can bring a crowd, but by bringing a crowd you have more people listening to this rhetoric, so it kind of defeats the purpose.”

A positive impact the event had, however, was serving as a reminder of the sense of community that students, staff, and faculty try to foster between one another, and how unshakable it can be. As multiple students and faculty remarked, it is among the few recognizable times recently that so many different groups of Sea Aggies banded together for and against a united cause.

Dr. Sutherland recalled being addressed by a student leader who exclaimed that they don’t remember a time that they’ve seen the student body so unified before. While Dr. Atassi recounted: “While I tried reminding others there to ignore the group and to laugh them off, one student beside me brought up a great point: ‘Professor, have you ever seen so many students together, and everyone’s smiling; all united?’ Despite the fanatics’ disgusting comments, I was very

impressed by all the students there, by the way they creatively and responsibly reacted to such egregious buffoonery.”

Despite how upsetting these events may have been, students can be reassured of the support and understanding of their faculty and staff. Dr. Ottman, for instance, shared: “My presence at the event was primarily driven by my concern for our students and their well-being. While a strategy of no engagement is typically the best way to deal with these situations, it was important to me to show solidarity with students, especially those who may have felt hurt or harmed by the incendiary language and messaging. It can be really difficult to refrain from reacting, particularly the first time we experience something of this nature, so I also thought it was important to be there to remind students that the things they heard were arguments made in bad faith in order to cause a reaction based on unfair appeals to pathos.”

While an unusual and upsetting sequence of events, situations like these can also exemplify the Sea Aggie value of community, and succeed in bringing different groups within the student body closer together. Moving forward, it is not only important that students remain educated in the exercising and handling of free speech, but also paramount that campus communities continue to find positive reasons and ways through which to better unite with and support one another.



Photo provided by Lexi Clifford

## Aggie Crew: Battle of the Brazos ‘24 and Future Events

By Melton “Bubba” Nelson, ‘25

Following the COVID-19 quarantine from 2020-2021, TAMUG’s Rowing Team, a.k.a. “Aggie Crew”, had dwindled into inactivity and essentially dissolved. In the last year, however, the team has been making a major comeback. On March 23rd, 2024, the Aggie Crew organization went to compete in the Battle of the Brazos in Waco, TX hosted by Baylor University.

Despite the long recovery process from the pandemic’s impacts, the Men’s 8 crew team won and brought home a second place medal. The Men’s 4 crew boat received help from a Rice University crew member while competing. Without his assistance, the boat would

not have been able to compete at all in the Battle of Brazos.

The campus sports organization has also revealed plans to host Hell Week in the upcoming fall ‘24 semester. Hell Week is just before move-in and allows students who participate to move into campus residence halls early. Participating students and crew members go through an intense week of training and fun activities to prepare for the upcoming semester and rowing season.

Furthermore, the Aggie Crew team will be hosting a rowing exercise competition in late April on TAMUG’s Mariner’s Lawn. Students will be able to participate in the competition for an opportunity to familiarize themselves with what a crew practice is like and for a chance to win \$50.00 gift cards.

## 4 Food Review: The Good Dough Kolache Bakery

By Melton "Bubba" Nelson, '25 and Quentin Young-Rittenhouse, '25

Mary Bass, the owner of the Good Dough Kolache Bakery, located on 1510 39th St. Galveston, is a fifth generation Galvestonian. She in fact has stated that her great grandfather was the police chief during the 1900 Storm. The reputation of her business is highly regarded because of its recent success. Bass states, "...We entered the Caldwell Kolache Festival, and we won Grand Champion with our brisket kolache. We were not even open a year yet."

Good Dough is open daily from 6am-6pm, besides Saturday from 6am-12pm. The company not only serves traditional Czech kolaches, but also surpasses tradition with sweet kolaches that are Texas-themed, and insanely unique. A few of the business's signature Kolaches are: The award winning Mr. Mary's BBQ (Brisket; available also in spicy,

and a weekend exclusive), The Lumberjack (Sage Sausage, Bacon, and a Maple Syrup Drizzle), and the Bum Bum (A sweetened Pepperoni Pizza).

I haven't eaten the award winning BBQ Kolache, but I have had The Bum Bum and Lumberjack kolaches. Eating these two during my first visit made me look forward to coming back. There are so many flavors that you can easily find a great kolache based upon your preferences. As an individual from San Antonio, all I'd had before were Sausage and Cheese Kolaches. I'd gone to legendary stores in West, Texas that serve supposedly the best Czech Kolaches in the state, but had still never tried kolaches of genuine European tradition.

I'm glad I embarked on this food journey by checking out Miss Bass' Good Dough Kolache Bakery. This is one of the best, if not the best place to have your first Czech-styled kolache. The bakery's foundation is built on tradition and uniqueness. With Kolaches so tasty and mind-blowingly sweet, you'll find yourself craving more and wanting to find your way back soon after your first visit.

## Bubba's Bites feat. Q: Taqueria Flores

By Melton "Bubba" Nelson, '25 and Quentin Young-Rittenhouse, '25

### Bubba's Bite:

Food trucks can either produce some of the best, worst, or a mixed bag of food. In the case of Taqueria Flores, a food truck located at 3202 Broadway Avenue J #4228, across the street from the Michoacana on Broadway, it's definitely a mixed bag that also happens to be full of delicious food. Confused? Let me explain.

The majority of the items are absolutely delicious, whether it be beef fajita street tacos, barbacoa/beef burritos, or the chorizo, or beef or barbacoa quesadilla it's honestly pretty hard to go wrong here. The food truck's price point is more accessible than that of Marmo Cafe, reviewed in the previous issue, and boasts the absolute best barbacoa I have ever had. I have not had a lot of barbacoa, but Taqueria's is pretty darn great.

If you read my last review, however, you know that I love chicken. Because I love chicken, I have to dock a few points, because Taqueria Flores' chicken just wasn't as great. It was just okay. With every other meat being amazing, it's pretty surprising that the chicken is the one that falls short. Regardless, the go-to for me at Taqueria Flores is the Barbacoa burrito. It's massive, which makes it well worth the price and, as previously mentioned, has positively stunningly delicious barbacoa.

### Quentin Young-Rittenhouse Commentary:

Taqueria Flores' chorizo also deserves a round of applause, being the perfect meat to bring together their large quesadillas. The small wait is definitely worth it for a big hot quesadilla stacked with avocado, creamy cheese, and some of the juiciest and tastiest chorizo I've had. The price was definitely not too high considering the proportions, and as a foodie I will say this is a must have again.



Photo provided by Bubba Nelson

## Film Review: Dune Part Two—A Sequel that Eclipses its Original

By Caleb Castro, '27

The following article may contain spoilers.

Taking place moments after the conclusion of the first film, *Dune: Part Two* succeeds as a sequel by retaining elements that made its predecessor great, while also ironing out its story's flaws. Unlike *Part One*, it forgoes the exposition-heavy story beats and instead focuses on Paul's internal struggle of resisting the prophecy that will lead to a catastrophic holy-war in his name. Watching him and his mother find their place among the Fremen and his rise to power as the false messiah, Lisan Al Gaib, is more action-packed and perhaps more engaging to follow than the House of Atreides' downfall.

Many characters, familiar and new, are well-developed and highly entertaining to follow throughout. Zendaya's character gets much more screen time in this sequel, guiding Paul in the ways of the Fremen while still keeping him at arm's length because of his dangerous potential. The audience also gets to see just how barbaric the Harkonnens are with the introduction of Feyd-Rautha, the brother of Glassu Raban and played by Austin Butler, who perfectly portrays the persona of an insufferable sadist who takes pleasure in others' pain.

The beauty of this well over 160 minute piece of cinema is that the numerous elements and fundamentals of storytelling and character development are so incredibly well-executed and synchronized, any potential flaw can be easily overshadowed. So much happens within the plot's events, yet there is hardly ever a dull moment through the lengthy runtime. From monster-wrangling to liberating from foreign forces, *Dune: Part Two* has a lot going for it.

While the *Dune* franchise can be a hit or miss with general audiences, I share the popular opinion—and sincerely believe—that *Part Two* is a more appealing sci-fi movie than *Part One*. Even if the



Entertainment Tonight

first movie didn't captivate you, it's genuinely worth another watch just to provide the full context for the sequel. YouTube summaries can't do this franchise justice, I personally believe these movies are best watched back to back. Upon first viewing of both films, my initial ratings were equal to one another. Now after rewatching both, I can confidently give *Dune: Part Two* a high rating of 10/10 and would likely watch it again.

## Music Review: Cigarettes After Sex Single "Tejano Blue"--Nostalgia, Intimacy, and Heartbreak

By Gail Lonngi, '24

Music often transports us places we've never been to. But sometimes, it also takes us back to places we've been to. To things we've felt, and people we knew. The music of indie ethereal pop band Cigarettes After Sex accomplishes both of these things, but draws from and executes their strength in the latter masterfully. Their latest single, "Tejano Blue", released February 28, 2024, exhibits this brilliantly and delicately.

Originally formed in 2012 in El Paso, TX, the three-person band fronted by born El Pasoan Greg Gonzalez smoothly climbed their way to fame from social media to the stage following their debut EP, *I*. The band has risen to the current top 222nd in the world and has amassed millions of listeners, captivating the hearts of audiences worldwide.

Along with their other recent singles, including "Pistol" (2022), "Bubblegum", and a cover of Radiohead's "Motion Picture Soundtrack" (2023), "Blue Tejano" is one of the pieces to their long-anticipated third full-length album, to be titled *X's*. The album's release date is set for July 12th and is currently available on pre-order, while their discography is available on Spotify, Apple Music, Youtube, and many more listening platforms. Newly announced tour dates can be found on the band's Instagram page @cigarettesaftersex.

Cigarettes After Sex's signature dreamy sound is reminiscent of life's ephemeral moments of intimacy that inspired their name, eliciting emotions of longing, melancholy, bliss, nostalgia and passion; invoking thoughts and memories of late-night conversations, sunset drives, chill bar nights, hazy breaths of smoke, and unrequited love. As

Gonzalez has expressed before in multiple interviews, the simplicity of Cigarettes After Sex's songs is fundamental to both their sound, and their messages. Keeping their songs from becoming over-embellished, and maintaining tranquil, straightforward melodies that effectively capture the concept of repressed emotions, the band successfully demonstrates how sometimes, in art, less is more.

The band's lyrical themes embrace and explore the human experiences of vulnerability, intimacy, heartbreak, and the impacts that an inability to commit can have on relationships. Gonzalez has confirmed his songs are more often than not deeply personal, maintaining a level of transparency regarding his life experiences. And his voice, often described as soothing, sentimental, and androgynous, encapsulates the quiet human struggle of reflecting on and healing from the wounds that emotions can inflict on the heart.

What makes "Tejano Blue" unique among many of their other works, however, is how heavily influenced by his hometown and youth Gonzalez's songwriting was in the creation of this single. Though the song is an exploration of a relationship's joyful beginnings and slow, painful deterioration, it is also a work of cultural inspiration and profoundly expressed nostalgia. Gonzalez cited being significantly motivated by memories of his hometown, El Paso, TX, and the music he grew up listening to, specifically mentioning inspiration from the "Queen of Tejano Music", Selena Quintanilla-Perez (formerly known by the mononym "Selena"), who was fatally shot March 31, 1995.

This single manages to tie together every element that makes Cigarettes After Sex what they are, relating hometown nostalgia, cultural inspiration, passionate love, and profound heartbreak to one another. As the complete release of *X's* nears, "Tejano Blue" seals the promise that has been dictated by its preceding singles of an album that exemplifies how music can be both fragile and powerful.

To learn more about visit their website: [Cigarettesaftersex.com](https://www.cigarettesaftersex.com).

## 6 Study tips for the rest of the spring semester

Dear Aggie, as the semester is starting to pick up, I'm having a hard time keeping up with my classes. The notes have started to pile, and the concepts just keep getting tougher and tougher, not to mention my several upcoming tests. I would like to be able to study in a group with some peers, but I'm still pretty new here and not sure how to go about doing so. Can I get some advice



for how to handle all this?  
Thanks for the help! Sincerely,  
Cramming

Dear Cramming, while classes may be picking up and increasing in difficulty, and deadlines may be drawing nearer, there are several ways you can manage and supplement your studying!

If you prefer studying in groups, and a group study in a quiet place with some of

your classmates is what you are looking to do, you can easily reserve a study room at the library by going into Navigate through your Howdy Portal, or asking the library staff. You can also find information on room numbers and their seating capacity by going to the TAMUG Jack K. Williams Library website and then clicking on "Students" and then "Study Room Reservations" right underneath. If you are ever having trouble with reserving a room through Navigate or finding information about the study rooms, don't hesitate to ask the Library staff for help.

Besides reserving a room for group study with your classmates, it's also possible to attend tutoring sessions for certain classes if you

need help digesting the material. You can schedule appointments for tutoring either through the Navigate mobile app or on the Navigate website.

These tutoring sessions often include group tutoring slots so when you do arrive at your scheduled session, you can also ask fellow students taking the same course about any questions you may have in regards to coursework. The library staff may even know about the time slots for a particular course's tutoring sessions or where to find information on tutoring times. One of the most important things to remember is that scheduling a tutoring session is completely free, so please make sure to take advantage of this resource!

If you're looking for help with writing any papers, or coaching in your writing skills, you can also schedule appointments with the writing lab and its writing tutors on Navigate or attend tutorials there. You can also do this by contacting the writing lab advisor, whose information you can find on the library website, along with relevant information on the writing lab. The writing lab can be found at the end of the hallway behind the library desk. For help and tools for editing and presentation projects, the studio also welcomes students via walk-in or appointment during operating hours.

So far as managing rising levels of stress that come with your class workloads, remembering to space apart your study sessions and screen-time, even for just a few minutes, can be very helpful in that it'll help you retain your energy by relaxing and clearing your mind intermittently. Taking time to move around and even change your environment and surroundings during or between your study time should also have a similar effect, and will help you avoid painful side effects from sitting still and staying tense for too long.

**The Dear Aggie column will answer questions on all matters of interest to students at TAMUG. Submit a query by emailing [tamugnautilus@gmail.com](mailto:tamugnautilus@gmail.com). Names will be kept confidential.**

## Jumbles

Unscramble these jumbles, one letter to each square, to form TAMUG-themed words.

s	t	a	o	c

m	r	i	n	e	a

e	h	a	c	b

a	u	c	i	t	n	l	a

l	b	a	a	r	t	s	s	o

s	o	r	e	h

t	N	e	n	u	e	p

e	a	u	r	e	t	s	r

s	a	h	e	l	l	e	s

o	s	P	e	i	o	d	n

c	a	e	n	o

r	o	l	a	i	s

s	r	a	h	k

t	r	i	m	a	m	e	i

## Conundrums

I run, but I do not walk. I have a mouth, but do not talk. I have a bed, but I do not sleep. What am I?

Man loves me more than life but hates me more than death, or mortal strife. I satiate man's desire. The poor have me, and the rich need me. The hoarder gives me away. The spender saves me. I can never last forever, but all carry me to their grave. What am I?

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By You!

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# MAST 489

## RHETORICS OF THE INTERNET

How does the internet shape our language practices, influence our daily interactions, and fundamentally transform the ways in which we engage with each other? This course explores the rhetorics of the internet and how rhetoric writ large mediates the ways in which we are rhetorically situated in connection with the algorithms, social media environments, and digital tools that shape our communication.

Fall 2024  
TR 9:35am-10:50am

For more info, contact  
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