

The Invasion of the University

My name is Preston Phillips, a proud Industrial Engineering student of the Class of 2023. I hope this letter finds you all well.

If we're honest with ourselves as Aggies and as conservatives, recent years have been a challenge to our movement. This has been especially pronounced in our institutions of higher learning, including our beloved university. We have witnessed our university shutter its campus for over a year, banishing its student organizations from campus, students protesting great (if imperfect) Aggies such as Sul Ross, and we have had to endure our university grovel in its acquiescence to "woke" talking points. While many of you may have attended our great university years or even decades ago, I write to ask you to stand with students like myself and those in organizations such as Young Americans of Freedom to fight for our future.

In some ways, what we have witnessed is like a resurgence of "religion" in America. Indeed, this New Religion has plans for total domination of our culture. Such a goal, of course, requires total war, a revolution. Thus, the university, from the Humanities to the sciences, are to be conscripted and weaponized. We could see the armies for this new religion amassing four or five years ago in places like Evergreen University, or in the "social justice warriors" attacking men such as Dr. Jordan Peterson. If we look back on the riotous first year of this Pandemic, 2020 may then be seen as like the landing at Normandy, the creating of a beachhead in our culture by these armies. The ideologues in the University - professors, administrators, and students - after surveying the chaos of 2020 can gleefully say about the old University, "The King is dead. Long live the King."

Not even elementary school children can escape this impulse that has swept across America. Nor can one turn on the TV without seeing the poisoned fruits of their labor. Everything from the Starbucks you drink to the Nike shoes you wear has been touched by Critical Theory. And what is the end result of all of this? What is the purpose of our debasement of language and history in the lecture halls and in popular media? It is the reordering of our nation to a new Constitution and new Spirit, a Spirit of 2020 and not of 1776. It is easy to see in all of this a concerning anti-Americanism. The soul of our nation, our institutions of higher learning, have become a cancer.

We must be reminded of the past, if we wish to fight for the future. For it is the past which tells us to never lose hope or give in. Things looked bleak in the 1950s, as communism swept over the world and the Left began its first march on the universities, yet we can all look back in victory at the collapse of the USSR, and with it the threat of a communist takeover of the United States fading away. History is not certain, and what we do in the present can change the future. While many students are fighting the good fight here at Texas A&M, we are limited in our resources and numbers.

I do not believe for a moment that most Americans of all stripes actually hate this country or like where it is headed. Rather, I think most Americans are indifferent or are afraid to speak up. For many alumni, the thought to bring their money, their time, and their voices to bear in fighting back against the progressive agenda, the monster lurking in the shadows even here at

A&M, simply never occurs. Some believe relying on government pressure at the State and Federal level can tame that which has reared its head. This can help, but we must understand that the university is composed of people, and people are shaped by ideas. Community is important.

We as American conservatives cannot trust that government action can make up for our inaction. This crisis of the University started with individuals, and it must end with individuals fighting for a change, be they students current or former, professors or administrators. Like the freedom fighters in Ukraine, it takes great courage to persist in what can appear to be a lost cause. But this is the history of *our* country as well. Local governance and individual action to better our shared inheritance and stand up for what is right are what make America great.

It is the Christian who believes that the Soul, no matter how dirty it becomes, can become renewed and washed clean once more. We must have faith in the good sense of the American people, and our fellow Aggies, to rise to the challenges of our times, and indeed here at Texas A&M. It is our heritage and our duty. It is our honor. And I hope you all will join me in that as we face this new challenge together as fellow Aggies and Americans.