



De Frank

Editor **Thomas De Frank** and two of his assistants are officially removed from their positions on the paper by the A&M Student Publications Board. The board removed them because they ran an unsigned letter to editor. However, **De Frank** said the dismissal was due to *The Battalion's* criticism of the administration's slowness in forming a campus political forum, which would provide an avenue for students to discuss political issues and invite political figures to speak.

Champions

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The next one was a trip to Kansas to play the Razorbacks. Sports writer Jimmy Cokinios was not worried.

"Hogs, Frogs or Bears, the teams look like the same animal to the farmers and will be treated accordingly - a slaughter house," he wrote the day of the game.

Cokinios predicted the future as the Aggies won, 27-0, and aimed the number one ranking in the nation. Tackle Joe Boyd scored a end round, and Oates wrote it took longer than a sundial for him to score.

A&M had room to laugh, but those smiles quickly turned to frowns as Southern Methodist came to visit.

The question was raised by the national sportswriters: "Could A&M be overconfident?" Boyd answered that with an emphatic no and said "... A&M would beat the rest of SMU."

No phlegm was seen as A&M was beaten by, 6-2.

The Aggies traveled to Houston to play the Rice Owls and posted a fifth shutout of the season by a score of 19-0 to set up A&M's 10th meeting with the University of Texas.

After the game, Jeep wrote he received a letter from a fan in Los Angeles complimenting the Aggies for their fine football season.

"This guy had a question for me in his letter," Oates wrote, and he wanted to know if the Texas Aggies were kin to Texas A&M. If they were, (A&M) certainly had a swell football team. We congratulated us on our power and brains."

During the Aggies' off-week before the Texas game, they became the SWC champs for the first time since 1927. Oates wrote "... what a relief. Now we can get serious."

The first salvo was filed by the Daily Texan, the University of

Texas' student newspaper, in a headline. "Aggies Champs today ... Chumps tomorrow."

Oates said the Aggies would respond on the football field, and he was right. A&M overran the Longhorns, 27-0.

The regular season was out of the way. The Aggies had cleared 10

"The Aggies lived up to this promise that they would refuse to be beaten."

-E.C. Oates,
former Battalion sports editor

straight hurdles. They were ranked number one in the nation. Perfection was within A&M's grasp. But, there was one more mountain to scale in the Aggies' pursuit of a national championship. That peak was Tulane.

On New Year's Day, 1940, over 73,000 fans packed into the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans to see the battle between what writers were calling, the two best teams in the nation.

Kimbrrough, who finished sec-

ond in the 1939 Heisman Trophy voting, scored a touchdown to give the Aggies a 7-0 lead. Tulane struck back when Bob Kellogg ran an A&M quick kick back 76 yards for a touchdown to knot the score at seven.

The Green Wave scored another touchdown, but A&M's Herbie Smith stuffed the extra point. Tulane had a tenuous 13-7 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, A&M drove to the Tulane 26-yard line. Quarterback Cotton Price faded back to throw, spotted Herbie Smith open and hit him. Smith rambled to the 10-yard line and then lateraled to Kimbrrough for the winning touchdown.

A&M won, 14-13, and became the SWC's first national champions.

As usual, Oates summed it up best.

"This corner thinks that the best two teams in the nation battled it out in New Orleans in a fine exhibition of offensive power football that also had enough deception," Oates wrote. "The Aggies lived up to this promise that they would refuse to be beaten. A&M is and deserves to be the national champions."



A&M beat Tulane, 14-13, at the 1939 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

1960-1970 - The Rudder Years

J. Earl Rudder an icon in A&M history

By Geneen Pipher
THE BATTALION

Most students think of the Rudder Tower Complex or Rudder Residence Hall when the name "Rudder" is mentioned, but as the Waco News Tribune said in 1970 of the former president of Texas A&M University, "It is difficult to sort out the highlights of J. Earl Rudder's life. There were so many of them."

Rudder served as A&M president from 1960-1970, a turbulent time for both the school and the country.

Margaret Rudder, wife of the former A&M president, said the University drastically changed during his term.

"When he came to Texas A&M in 1958, there were less than 7,000 students enrolled, attending classes in unairconditioned buildings and living in unairconditioned dorms," she said. "The student body was all male, all military and the official name of the institution was Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas."

"During his tenure, women were admitted, the Corps was made optional, the name was changed to Texas A&M University, and the school was integrated quietly and smoothly in the turbulent days of the 1960s."

Former U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson noted Rudder's accomplishments in 1965 calling him, "my cherished friend," under whose leadership "Texas A&M has reached a new pinnacle of achievement and can look forward to the attainment of still higher goals in the future."

Under Rudder's leadership, the Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas became Texas A&M University in 1963, a name change that a 1970 edition of The Battalion said signified the evolution of the school.

In the 10 years he was president, the University research budget nearly doubled and five new college divisions were created.

"A&M literally grew so fast that the big problem was to find staff, housing and classrooms to accommodate the rush of students, which has continued to the present enrollment of 42,000," Mrs. Rudder said.



Rudder

The decade of Earl Rudder brought Texas A&M to the forefront in nuclear and space research, as well as computer operations and oceanographic activities.

J. Earl Rudder was a small town boy from West Texas who achieved international fame for his actions in World War II.

Rudder grew up in Eden, Texas. When he graduated from Eden High School in the spring of 1927, Rudder briefly attended John Tarleton Agricultural College before entering Texas A&M in 1930, where he majored in industrial education.

After his graduation in 1932, Rudder taught school and coached football in the small Texas town of Brady in the same school as his future wife, Margaret Williamson. When he was called to active duty, he was assigned as a company commander at Fort Sam Houston. In the fall of 1942 and winter of 1943, Rudder attended General Staff School and upon completing his training he returned to his division. Later that year, he was asked to organize and train the second Ranger Battalion at Camp Forest, Tenn.

In December, the Rangers were sent to England and in the D-Day invasion of 1944, Rudder led his battalion up the 100-foot cliffs at Pont du Hoc on the Normandy Beach.

Gen. Omar Bradley, commander of the United States Ground Forces in Europe at the time, said, "No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the 34-year-old commander of the provisional Ranger Force."

Rudder was decorated for bravery seven times during the war. His decorations include: the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart and decorations from the governments of France and Belgium.

In April 1946, Rudder was released from active duty with the rank of colonel. Upon returning to Texas, he moved back to Brady where he served as mayor from 1946 to 1952.

In 1955, he was appointed Commissioner of Texas' General Land Office which at that time was littered with problems.

According to the March 25, 1960, edition of The Battalion, "He stepped into an office shaken by scandals in the Veteran Land Program. In time, the program was dissolved and the office was returned to a place of integrity and respect in Texas government."

Rudder resigned his post in 1958 when the A&M Board of Regents appointed him as vice president of the College. Two years later, on March 26, 1960, he was inaugurated as president of the College and served in that capacity until March 23, 1970, when he died of a circulatory collapse, just three days short of a decade of service.

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