

Arkansas Paper Describes Incident At Little Rock

(Ed. Note: The following is a sports column which ran in the November 4 edition of the Arkansas Gazette. It was written by Orville Henry, and the headline said, "Closer Inspection of A&M Incident.")

Every moment and every aspect of the incident involving the Texas A&M students at War Memorial Stadium Saturday night are to be deeply regretted, and sincerely so.

NO ONE ever wants to make a visitor uncomfortable, or treat him shabbily, and least of all on a night, the one night, when everything was going in record-breaking fashion for the Razorbacks.

BEFORE we bend too low in apology, however, maybe it would be best to clear the record with a closer inspection. What happened and who was at fault? Well let's see.

THE TROUBLE began, as you may know, when the students and their friends and Texas A&M fans continued to stand in their section behind the Aggie bench as the game progressed. They claimed their rights, according to what they called a "95-year-old custom" which says that a "twelfth man" shall be standing and ready to be called onto the field should the need for him arise. The Cadet Corps is known as the "twelfth man" for all home games. (The Cadets obviously couldn't have been standing for all games for 95 years. They played their first game only in 1893. Rather the tradition goes back to 1922, when Dana X. Bible actually called a lowly sub out of the stands to be ready to play in emergency.)

Down in Front
FANS WHO had purchased seats behind the A & M section, which was down low and at the 40, naturally objected.

"DOWN in front," after all, is a permissible watchword in American sports.

SHOULD those fans have been denied the right to see the game because of a Texas custom they'd never heard of?

NO, of course. They were within their rights in fussing about the situation.

THUS the near-riot. The Cadet rosters were requested by the public address announcer to be seated. They refused, naturally, and became more militant, as did those fans behind them. So the police intervened, taking one of the more obstreperous A & M leaders to the exit gate. Finally, when it seemed there would have to be big trouble, there appeared Dr. M. T. Harrington, the A & M chancellor. He broke in with a broad smile and waved the Aggie rosters to follow him across the field and into an unoccupied section at the 15-yard line. They followed and the worst was over.

Who Placed Tickets?
THE QUESTION now seems to be who put the A&M students in their awkward (though flouted) position?

NOT the Stadium.
"IT NEVER occurred to me," said Allan Berry, the manager, "that the Cadets would want to stand."

BUT BERRY didn't seat them, anyway. The A&M section's tickets were allocated by the University of Arkansas, which handles all but the box office sale for all U of A games here.

A SPOKESMAN for the U of A said at Fayetteville yesterday that the A & M ticket manager made no special request for placement of tickets. And also that the A&M tickets were located in exactly the same spot as were and will be tickets for all visiting teams, near the 50. And the spokesman added that the U of A ticket office had not the slightest warning that any difficulty might arise over the placement of tickets.

Only 68 Tickets
ACTUALLY only 68 tickets were purchased by A&M students. The

remainder of the party of under 200 included Aggie boosters, many of them Arkansans, and dates of the Cadets, many of them students at Little Rock Central High.

THE FIRST he knew of the hassle, said Berry, was when he stepped out of a ramp after the gate rush had ended.

"AS SOON as I spotted the trouble," Berry said yesterday, "I hurried upstairs to catch Barlow Irvin, A&M's athletic director, who had been in the press box. But he had already left. Then I hurried back downstairs to give instructions to our police force. But they were already in action across the field. I can't criticize them for swinging immediately into action. Even though they may have incited some of the A&M folks, they certainly prevented a riot."

Chancellor Praised
BERRY praised the good-natured action of Dr. Harrington for saving the situation.

BEFORE he moved into action, Dr. Harrington had made this remark to a person seated near him: "THEY ought not to stand under these circumstances and so far from home, but what can you do? It's their custom and you can't tell them not to."

DR HARRINGTON told Berry that "it was understandable for the students to stand but we couldn't have let it go on in that section of the stands."

A STUDENT leader insisted that Berry allow him to explain his position over the public address system and request an apology, but Berry declined and said Dr. Harrington also asked that no announcement be made.

Roughed Up
THERE WAS some talk that the student who was removed from the game was roughed up. Berry said he talked with the student after he had re-entered the stadium, which he was allowed to do almost immediately, and that he didn't appear to be "roughed" any.

MARVIN Potts, chief of police, sent this message to The Battalion, the campus daily at Texas A&M:

"I SAW and talked to the student as he was led to stadium gate. He showed no signs of beating and made no complaints at the time. He was escorted to the gate by two officers who turned him over to the gate man for expulsion. Officers then returned to stands.

"ENTIRE incident regrettable. Someone here made mistake of scheduling standing unit at mid-field section. However, something had to be done. I sincerely appreciated help from Dr. M. T. Harrington. Without his assistance there would have been a riot. People in stands irritated because felt they hadn't paid \$3.60 per seat to stand."

Report Made
BERRY SAID he had written a full report of the affair as he knew it and turned it over to Howard Grubbs, secretary of the Conference. He said he had also written a warm thank-you letter to Chancellor Harrington.

AS FOR the Cadet Corps, it probably neither relished the game nor the incident, even if the hyper-spirited crew did carry the beaten Aggies off the field after the game. It could be that the experience will serve some good. Henceforth the A&M ticket office likely will pay more heed to the location of its seats. And in Arkansas, at least, the hosts will, too.

AS AN afterthought, perhaps fans who were at the game now can appreciate the din and disturbance the 6,000 Cadets make for A&M home game at College Station. They often take over other stadiums in Texas, too, and they have been involved in other incidents.

BUT LET'S close this one.

The Battalion
Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students four times a week, during the regular school year. During the summer terms, and examination and vacation periods, The Battalion is published twice a week. Days of publications are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, and Tuesday and Thursday during examination and vacation periods and the summer terms. Subscription rates \$9.00 per year or \$.75 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Letters to the Editors

Editors, The Battalion:

This letter is in reference to the sportsmanship displayed by a group of Aggie and former Aggie students at the A&M-Arkansas game at Little Rock the past Saturday.

To begin with, I would like to say that I have much admiration and respect for A&M.

While in the service I came in contact with many former Aggie students of the graduating class of '51 among them John Barron, Tyler, Texas; Don Kahn, Eugene 'Nick' Morrison, Percy J. Bennett of Houston, Texas; and Mike Montos of Brownsville, Texas.

From the former Aggie students I learned something of the spirit and tradition of your school, the most striking of which is the Aggie Twelfth Man.

Now the Twelfth Man was very prominent at the Little Rock game and therein lies this gripe. This group of approximately 300 rooters were seated between the 40 and 50 yard and what amounted to some of the best seats in the stadium.

Better than what our own students had and very much better than we've received at any out of town game.

Seated directly behind the Aggie students were some 5,000 - 6,000 Razorback fans from over the state of Arkansas. Now none were Arkansas students however and I doubt if they familiar with the 12th Man tradition.

Consequently they didn't take too well to the idea of standing thru the two and one half hours of time that the game consumed.

On four different occasions it was announced over the P. A. system for these Aggie students to please take their seats for the benefit of those sitting behind them.

The results were negative except for the obscene gestures from the fingers of some of the students.

Finally after much discussion the group still refused to be seated and moved or were moved to another section of the stadium.

The stopper though came at the end of the game when some students proceeded to stampee through the Razorback band in their half hearted attempt to carry the ill-fated Aggie football team from the field.

This resulted in the knocking to the ground of many of these bandmen including some of the girl members.

If this was a show of Aggie spirit and tradition then I can see nothing in it to be proud of.

Perhaps they were a little irritated at the outcome of the game, none the less it was one of the poorest displays of sportsmanship that has ever been exhibited at either Fayetteville or Little Rock.

A few years back Arkansas was censured by the Southwest Conference for alleged rough tactics in a game with TCU.

Though exploitation by the press The University was smeared with a black mark for unsportsmanlike conduct.

A couple of years later through the renewed spirit and sportsmanship on the part of the student body and athletic teams, this black mark was partially erased with the winning of the SWC sportsmanship trophy.

Sheep Raisers Hear Shepardson
Dr. Charles N. Shepardson, dean of agriculture, spoke Tuesday to the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers association meeting in San Antonio.

Dr. T. R. Timm, head of the agricultural economics and sociology department, also spoke.

Dr. David H. Morgan, president, attended the annual convention.

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If I remember correctly the deciding vote was cast for Arkansas by the committee from Texas A&M College. Perhaps some day the committee from the University of Arkansas will be in the same position to so honor your own school.

I feel sure that the Aggie students will have their own story to tell upon returning to College Station so this letter is to more or less present the Arkansas side of the incident.

Charlie Piles,
Fayetteville, Ark.

Editors, The Battalion:

If we've been asleep for the past ten days as S. J. Smith Junior, chairman of the Student Senate Seating Committee, infers, then we can only say that Smith must have been asleep since he was bestowed the honor of chairman of that illustrious body, the seating committee.

Granted we know of the election before hand, but we do not feel that it should have been our obligation to tour the campus in quest of ballots and polls, as we would have had to done in order to vote in this past election.

It was our idea that the ballots were to have been brought around to each room, but speaking for Adams and Robards, no ballots were ever seen.

As for those lucky enough to receive ballots, according to many non-regs we've talked to, the ballots were never picked up off of their doors as they were supposed to have been.

We can only say that, had Mr. Smith performed his duties in the proper manner, the election, in-

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Police School Opens Monday
Policemen representing 12 Texas towns started training Monday at the opening here of the Texas Municipal Police Training School sponsored by the Engineering Extension service.
Purpose of the school is to train municipal policemen in Texas law and the basic fundamentals of police work.
Each policeman must maintain an average of 70 to stay in school. Instructors include Bryan, A&M college employes, Bryan and College Station officials and out-of-town law officers and legal officials.

New Steam Tunnel Nears Completion
The steam tunnel supplying heating lines for DeWare field house and the new P E building will be completed within 30 days, said C. K. Leighton of the physical plants department.
The \$67,000 tunnel, furnishing hot water for heating and domestic uses, joins the Memorial Student Center tunnel at Houston and Lamar streets.
Cement work on the 600-foot tunnel is 95 per cent complete and pipe work is 65 per cent complete, Leighton said.

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MIKE HAIKIN, '42, Publicity Director

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AH STOLE TH' RULE ABOUT TH' AGE LIMITS!!
ONCE YO' HAS NABBED A BABY BACHELOR O' YORE OWN, HIS FOLKSLL HAF TA TAKE CARE O' YO'—
AT THAT INSTANT—A BABY BACHELOR WAKES UP SCREAMING!!
HONEST ABE IS ACTIN' WORRIED!! WHAT'S HE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT?

POGO
MIZ MYRTLE SNAPPED MY LEGS BACK AN' SO I QUICK WROTE A SONG FOR OUR ALMOND MATER...
OUR FIRST PLAY WILL HAVE UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTIONS AN' WELL CONFUSE THE ENEMY.
THEY CAN'T COUNT, SO WE'LL PLAY A TWELVE-MAN LINE AN'...
IT GOES TO THE TUNE OF 'LOVE'S RITORNELLA.'
O-KEE-FEN-O-KEE HM DUMTY HM... O-KEE-FEN-O-KEE MUMMM-HM--DE-HM--
I'M NOT SINGIN' CAUSE I CAN'T MEMBER THE WORDS NOR THE TUNE.
DOES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
I ISN'T GOT IT QUITE DOWN YET, SIR.
I COULDN'T GIT IT DOWN NEITHER.
AW, HE GOT NO SCHOOL SPIRIT.
GOOD YOU IS BRING LUNCH.
NO... THESE IS FISH WORMS SO LET'S PLAY A LITTLE HOOKY.