I write this letter in response to Mr. Teipel's lamentation of the demise of the "Old Army Aggie." My intent is not to attack what he has said so much as it is to present a view with a different and (I hope) more realistic perspective.

I suppose that it might be in order at this point for me to state my 'qualifications' as a non-reg to speak about Aggie Spirit. I have more than a passing familiarity with the spirit Mr. Teipel speaks of, having been a member of the outfit which justly claims to be the last of 'Old Army'-Spider D. My ring is inscribed "A&M College of Texas" and there's a '64' on top, and I point out that it has not been, nor will it ever be, defiled with the addition of a diamond. I'm an old Batt-man-was managing editor one summer. Actually, I could probably fill the Batt with "spirit qualifications"-for instance, I got two other Ags together in Saigon in April of '65 and we three held the first Aggie Muster in Vietnam-but that's not my purpose here. Suffice it to say that I think I know what this spirit business is all

Judging from his letter, Mr. Teipel is a member of this institution's perennial group (there's been one every year for the past 92 years) which bitterly bitches about Old Army going to hell, and steadfastly opposes any change as unthinkable deviation from tradition. He and his 'select' group smugly regard themselves as all that's left of the "True Aggie," and I imagine that the gouges made by their boot heels in dragging their feet as the leaders of this institution and student body try to bridge the Corps-Civlian gap are consid-

To take his letter pretty much in the order it was written, I'd like to say the following: The Batt has not changed "in a few years from the student newspaper to an administration rag." What it has done is evolve into a university and community newspaper, edited and operated by students practicing responsible journalism. Granted, it isn't quite as exciting as the L. A. Free Press, but neither is it as irresponsible.

His comment about 'academic excellence' leads me to believe that anything I could say about that would be so much straw in the wind to him.

About student body unity though-why not? Why do you think the idea is a farce, Teipel? If you've paid any attention at all in your military history classes, you'll recall that historically, it's the unified groups who came out ahead.

The second paragraph begins with what must be a list of things bugging Mr. Teipel, but the sentence structure as printed is ungrammatical and the intent is unclear. There are four points here I'd like to comment on,

"Civilians wearing part of the that should Mr. Teipel investigate, he'd find that persons wearing those buckles or shirts or whatever, are at least as qualified as he, or in most cases, a stamp graduates with rubber little more so, to wear them. Al- stamp minds into a world that though I don't wear my old belt doesn't need any more rubber & buckle to yell practice, there are a number of us who would find it most interesting to be to turn out good soldiers, and challenged by a man who's been they acted on that decision. So, here perhaps 31/2 years, should we have a new name, new cowe elect to do so.

"Standing on the wood"-now here's a legitimate bitch, finally. tives and a new vigor in moving Standing on the seats in Kyle toward these objectives. Things Field is a recognized senior privilege, and the word simply hasn't are and where we want to be gotten out to all the non-reg are going to be changed-either

## LISTEN UP

the batt forum

"The Senior Boot Line"-that Mr. Teipel would deny the civilian senior the right to participate in this demonstration of support for our team is utterly and absolutely indefensible.

"The plea for a 'Special Effort' "-well, J. R., here's where I agree with you-not in your choice of words, certainly, but in idea. The day that the Aggie Spirit actually needs a call for a 'special effort' by the powersthat-be is the day that you can say with validity that the Sprit of Aggieland has truly died and gone to hell. (May that day never come . . .) But since you're slinging mud on the civilians, let me fling a small clod back at you at this point by saying that I can't recall a single incident at A&M more cookie-pushing than the business of you guys ordering the underclassmen into the night to paper the campus with little note-paper "wreck Tech" signs.

The observation was made that an Aggie T-shirt, attending a convenient yell practice, and an occasional howdy don't make an Aggie. Okay, the civilian has no uniform to indentify him as an Ag. He wants to show that he's a part of that group—that he has pride in his school. What's wrong with the Aggie T-shirt you so disdain, Teipel? As for the "convenient" yell practice, do you profess the belief that all those troops would be there if they weren't afraid of being raped blind by the class above them if they weren't? Come on, Ag, who's putting on who? The occasional howdy is in the same vein-does that fish say howdy to the sergebutt out of a feeling of goodwill and overwhelming love of his fellowman? Be

I believe his remarks that he finds it inconceivable how anyone can be an Aggie without participating in the Corps of Cadets, and that "Aggie" means "Corps" come from a sincere belief-and that's unfortunate, because it's out of step with the world around him.

Several years back, there were a number of people in A&M's hierarchy who were concerned about the future of A&M. At that time, the handwriting was on the wall-cut out this "route step" business and move toward an objective if you want to survive. A group of 100 Aggie Exes was appointed to the "Century Committee," and their task was to evaluate where we've been, where we are, and where we want to go. And they fulfilled that task. They saw an unparallelled history as an outstanding land grant, all male, military, agricultural and mechanical college. They saw also that at that time the college was in fact, a univerity. A sort of slipshod, the-ends, going-nowhere-in-particular university, resting on the reputation of those who had gone before, and turning out rubber stamps. Well, they decided that education, new non-compulsory Corps, new facilities, new objecwhich stand between where we

underclassmen. It is being worked modified or discarded. This is the fate of "Old Army" and "Spirit" as Pinky knew it, as Earl Rudder knew it, as Ed Cooper knew it, as I knew it, as Teipel knows it and as the Fighting Texas Aggie Class of '72 will know it and their children after them. To survive and grow, you adapt, that's all. To maintain identity you retain the essence of what you are, but all else must be flexible, or you begin to stagnate.

Compare traditions to barnacles on a ship, if you will. A new ship has none, and moves pretty well. It lacks "character", though. An older ship has some, and can make headway, but is hindered somewhat. A ship laden with them is crippled though, so you chip some off and you go again. Chip them all off, and you may find that they were holding the ship together!

So, Mr. Teipel, why don't you and the others who think as you do begin to consider what you're concerned about from a more overall standpoint? Pull your head out from where it is and stand above the herd for awhilelook around and see where everybody's going. Try to find out why there are so many headed that way when you're headed this way. If you really want to get something done about it, there are far more effective ways than wailing in the Batt.

Tom Harrover

\* Editor.

The Battalion

From the tone of Mr. Teipel's letter in the Oct. 18 Batt, I must conclude that his "The Aggie Spirit is a state of mind" is synonymous with "The Seventh Degree of Concentration" employed by Captain Shotover in G. B. Shaw's Heartbreak Housenot to mention other similarities that possibly might be drawn.

I thank you for your space, and

Tim O'Hara 303 Montclair \*

Editor. The Battalion:

I am writing, as I am sure many other AGGIES are doing, to take issue with certain comments expressed by Mr. Teipel in the letter printed in Friday's issue of the Batt. I am a freshman and a civilian. I hope Mr. Teipel will not throw his paper away upon reading this.

First, I object to calling the Batt "an administration rag scarcely worthy of toilet tissue.' I live in Davis-Gary Dorm and I can testify that five minutes after the Batt is delivered, over half of the issues have already been taken. By 6:30 p.m., only a few papers are left. This is proof that many AGGIES depend on the Batt to furnish them with the latest campus news. The Batt does a much better job of this than most school newspapers I have read.

SECONDLY, AND this is the most important, I object to Mr. Teipel's obvious definition of Aggie Spirit as Corps Spirit. I be-

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lieve that although Aggie Spirit originated with the Corps, it is Page 2 not restricted to it. He defines Aggie Spirit as a state of mind, and I agree wholeheartedly. Lip service, whether by civilians or members of the Corps, is all too common. But among the non-regs as well as in the Corps there are those who swell with pride when they hear "The Spirit." There are those who experienced an indescribable feeling when they hear "The War Hymn." And there are those who believe that a degree from A&M means more than a degree from any other university. I acknowledge that these three examples do not in themselves constitute Aggie Spirit, but they are ample evidence of its existence among the civilian student

BECAUSE OF the efforts of such people as Hector Gutierrez and Bill Carter, who recognize the need for a united student body, the Aggie Spirit (suck it up, Mr. Teipel) is being rejuvenated.

I submit that although I have been here a short time and cannot possibly have experienced the full meaning of Aggie Spirit, I have had the seed planted in me. In four years when I receive my degree, I will be just as much, no more, of an Aggie as my friends in the Corps are.

In conclusion, I wonder just how fully Mr. Teipel understands what the Aggie Spirit is. He stated that "Aggie - means Corps!" I submit that Aggiemeans Aggie!

Roger Miller '72

THE BATTALION College Station, Texas

Thursday, October 24, 1968

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