

# Civilian, Coed Recognition Asked

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

Editor

Preceding the Wichita State Game I had the pleasure of sitting next to a very sweet and lovely young lady at the Century Club dinner. Her father is a graduate of A&M, as were her uncles. The University itself stands on land once owned by her family. All her life she had loyally defended A&M—this I can relate to. I was such an Aggie booster that I went to a state university half-way across the country rather than go to tu.—When women were admitted to the campus, she was delighted. And she enrolled.

Having completed three years at A&M, she is now a Senior. She was eagerly looking forward to the first football game, and to the traditional privilege of being in the Boot Line. Her date, a graduate student, gently teased her with mock alarm, "What? Girls in the Boot Line?" But you could tell that he was, as were my husband and I, impressed by her love of A&M and her spirit.

After the game we saw this same young lady. But instead of the bubbling enthusiastic girl she had been, she was completely "down,"—sharp contrast to the victorious crowd leaving the stadium.—It seems that when she joined the Boot Line, not only had

she met with a negative attitude, but she had actually been kicked by some Corps members in boots. I checked with her later, and she was quite bruised. So these were not accidental bumps by a foot, inflicted when someone was crowding her out. They were deliberate.

Two generations of my family, my husband and three generations of his family are Aggies. Having had sons in the Corps, having trailed to the campus from Galveston to football games and dances in the "big band days," having attended all the home games (a 500 mile round trip) since the mid-60's—except as prevented by illness from using our tickets—having served the Federation of A&M mothers on both local and state level, I do know a bit about A&M. I know that in the Corps you are being trained to be officers and gentlemen. This incident—an isolated one I hope—does you seniors no credit. It does the Corps no credit. It does A&M no credit.

More and more as the years pass, you young men will realize that A&M is "something else!" On no other campus can you find spirit like the Aggie spirit. Dr. Williams can tell you what it means to have a stranger come onto the campus, "feel" it, and arrange to give a huge sum of money to a school so different from those he'd seen. He could tell you about speakers who've come here, been treated with respect even by those with opposing views, and gone away praising A&M in speeches across the country.

I challenge you, men of the Corps. Civilian students are a fact of life. Women students are a fact of life. Realize, please, that they, too are entitled to privileges that are traditional. Together with them, and with the Former Students and the Aggie Moms, let's KEEP that spe-

cial spirit here at the campus we all love.

"MOM"

★ ★ ★

Editor:

At the recent Boston College game we encountered an experience which seems to reflect the apparent close-mindedness of a few "old Army" Aggies. Since both of us are seniors, we were exercising our privileges by standing in the Senior victory line at halftime, awaiting the arrival of the football team for the 2nd half. We had the opportunity to stand first in line, in which respect we felt very lucky. However, certain people didn't think we deserved this right. These certain people happened to be dressed in the Corps of Cadets uniform, were wearing senior boots, and commenced to yell, "Get those Maggies out of here!" After this outburst, one of them spit his tobacco juice out on the track, while the rest gave us the once over more than once, seemingly appreciating our presence more than they cared to admit.

First of all, we are not Maggies, but Aggies. We have never heard of the Texas Cows, the Arkansas Sows, or the Rice Owlettes. We have just as much right to be called an Aggie as anyone at this school. We are active in our student body, we support athletic events, we respect our fellow students and faculty members, we pay tuition and other university expenses, and we feel that we are as much the 12th man as any Aggie in Senior boots.

Secondly, since A&M dropped the mandatory Corps of Cadets enlistment quite a few years ago, any senior at Texas A&M, whether he or she be civilian or cadet, has the right to stand in the victory line and cheer for the Fightin' Texas Aggies. We have accumulated 95 hours, we have ordered our senior rings, we pick up our football tickets on Mondays with the rest of the seniors, and we will graduate in May with

our fellow Aggies, receiving our diplomas from the same hands as they.

Finally, if it means anything to these "old Army" Aggies, we are both proud to say that one of us is the daughter of a co-captain of the 1939 National Championship Aggie football team, while the other is engaged to a senior co-captain of the 1973 Texas Aggie football team. They both feel proud to know that we care enough to support our team in the victory line.

So, to those cadets who displayed their rudeness to two fellow Aggies on Saturday night, and any others who may share the same views, we hope that you will come to the realization that women at Texas A&M are here to stay, not just for weekend dates, but as equal participants in the everyday life of Texas A&M.

Margaret Ann Price '74  
Nancy Wehmer '74

★ ★ ★

Editor:

It seems there should be some provision made for transfer students who live off campus to receive a package containing a bare minimum of songs and yells for yell practices and games. I've had a terrible time trying to get this traditional material. I came to Texas A&M because it is a university I can be proud of as a student and later as a graduate. I am proud of it. I have talked with other people in the same situation who have had a similar experience. Student services has provided a lot of tradition-oriented material, and I think they do an admirable job. Transfer students are a valuable part of A&M. They deserve to be allowed access to its traditions.

Phillip Christie '75

The Student "Y" provides material on traditions and definitions of campus terms in a booklet, Inroll, and a roster of varsity football members statistics to transfer and freshman stu-

dents. This information is available at the Student Program office of the MSC.—Ed.

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Editor:

As the father of six children I was saddened to read the September 19, 1973 issue of the Battalion. It included the interview by Kathy Morgan relating the story of the girl who, after "coming by the 'Austin Clergy' and a representative of the Parenthood, had an abortion.

What a pity the abortion was not given the chance interviewed by Kathy. This tragic episode seems congruous to appear in a school newspaper, which sends that school so unique credo of fair play.

John R. Harris

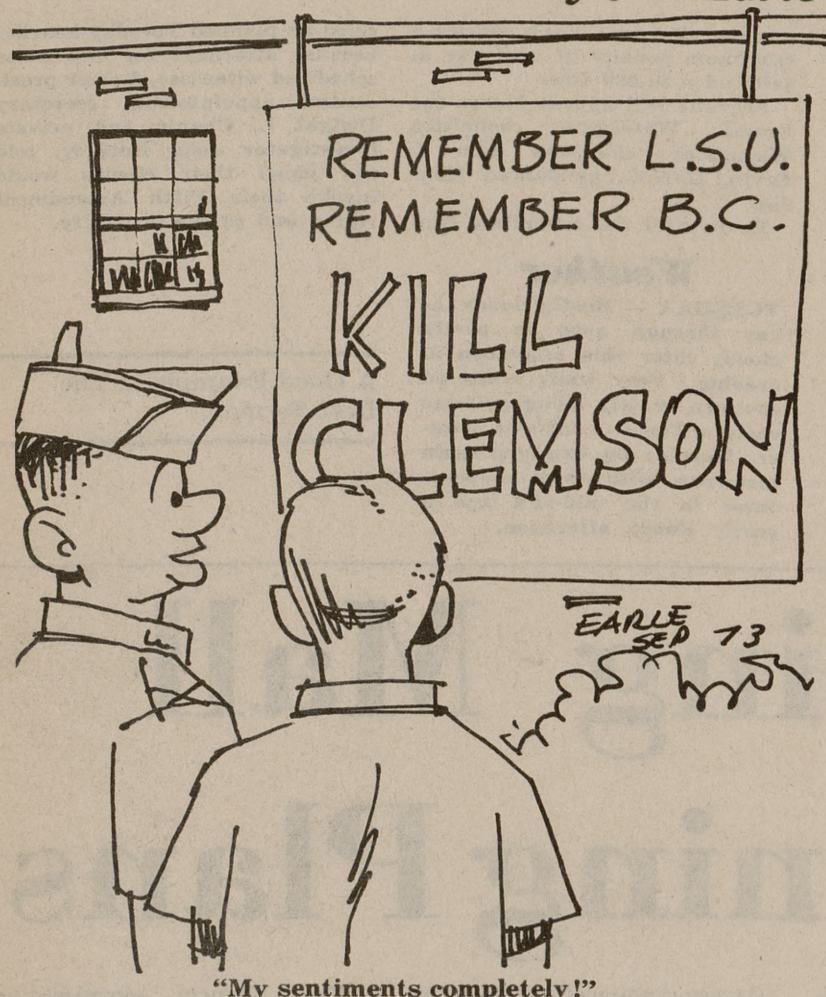
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Editor:

I'm sorry to hear about J's traumatic experience through an abortion. I'm also glad to know that you friend to lend you the support you needed for the abortion cause there is one sure life that was taken didn't friend.

I'm wondering, after you back your friend, how and your student friend pay back that life.

Bill Coe



## Seat-Belt Law Challenged

There is a movement afoot to enact laws which will require every motorist to "buckle-up" his seat-belt or face a fine. Meanwhile, mandatory regulations by the Dept. of Trans. will require that every automobile, beginning with the 1974 models, will have to be equipped with a system which will prevent the starting of the car engine unless the restraint system is fastened.

A few years ago, it was proposed that an air-bag passive restraint system be mandatory in all automobiles starting in 1976. Before that, a crash-proof auto design was claimed to be the answer to saving lives and reducing injuries when motorists become involved in accidents.

In between times, energy absorbing steering columns were touted as something called a safety device that would prevent axial movement of such columns in crashes and save lives.

Advocates of such "hang-on" modifications in vehicles became involved in "playing the numbers game" quoting the number of lives that each of these systems would save annually on the highways.

Safety door-locks and reinforced door panels were hailed as a further step forward in preventing car owners from killing themselves.

The highway trauma record is clear showing that these devices were incapable of halting the fatalities. The one "positive in this world factor" that was known to all car buyers was that vehicle prices were climbing at an alarming rate each year. Safety bumpers and devices claimed to "sweeten the exhausts" came into prominence and car buyers were forced to pay for them whether or not they wanted them, if they were necessary or if they performed.

Advocates of all these innovations were careful to suggest that each of these devices would cost very little in production. Cost estimates ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime and were calculated by guessing.

The track record for all this type activity is less than palatable to the man in the street and it is time that he refuses to continue as a guinea pig for "hair-brained" schemes. The time to protest is before conditioned reflex public relations campaigns get under way and mandatory laws are enacted.

—National Motor Vehicle Research Safety Foundation

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**How Levi's Were Invented**  
... 20-Year-Old Immigrant Converted an Unwanted Roll of Canvas Into World's Most Popular Pants  
By The Rev. WEBB GARRISON  
Pastor, Central Methodist Church, Evansville, Ind., and Former President, McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill.

Levi's — the world's most famous brand of pants worn by millions from Tacoma to Tokyo — were invented by a 20-year-old immigrant lad, almost an accident.

Levi Strauss, from Bavaria, was among the hordes who set out for California in the gold rush, arriving in 1849. He took with him bolts of cloth, which he sold — but one wanted any of the roll of canvas he carried.

"In San Francisco, a weather-beaten miner wanted know what I had brought with me," Strauss later recalled. "I pointed to my roll of canvas. 'Should have brought pants,' the miner grumbled. 'Pants are hard to get here. They don't wear worth a hoot. Can't get any that strong enough to last.'"

Strauss looked down at his roll of tough, durable canvas cloth and an idea was born. What could be stronger than canvas pants? The garments, to which he gave first name, became standard wear by prospectors, boys, loggers and others who helped open the West.

When imitations sprang up, Strauss ordered all cloth dyed indigo blue — and "blue jeans" came into being. Then a Virginia City, Nev., tailor named Davis, satisfy a miner-customer who was always ripping out pockets by stuffing them with rocks, took a pair of Levi's to a harness maker and had him reinforce the pockets with copper rivets. Strauss heard of it, hired Davis as production manager, and in 1873 took out a patent on rivets in pants. They have been a feature of Levi's since.

Will Rogers made frequent references to Levi's, often wore them. In later years, Elvis Presley and Andy Warhol, the artist-film maker, helped popularize them on college campuses and wherever youth — both male and female — congregate.

Today, Levi Strauss & Co. is the world's largest manufacturer of branded pants. The company sold over \$1 billion worth of the garments in 1971 and employs more than 15,000 people — all busily turning out the pants invented to meet a miner's complaint.

**TOM'S PANTS** 800 Villa Maria  
Across From Manor East Mall

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