



Your man at Batt

Howdy . . .
The word goes as school grows

The Battalion has received many letters complaining about the disappearing friendliness on campus. The closeness of Aggie students originated when this school was all-Corps. Aggies were distinctly different from students at other schools and very similar to each other (except for boots, belts, brass and braid, all uniforms look pretty much alike). Aggies' concern for their fellow students was demonstrated by a simple, "Howdy," as they passed and by a reverent gathering on the Academic Building mall for Silver Taps. A friendly attitude towards strangers also marked the campus. The tradition of friendliness carried over with the appearance of civilians and later, girls, in large numbers on this campus. However, the attendance of Silver Taps has dropped off recently and howdies are becoming rare except between members of the Corps, which requires it of lowerclassmen. Many people still attempt to speak to everyone they can as they pass. I kept a mental tally as I went to classes today. Not counting Corps fish and sophomore, I received about 10 replies to my greeting, three people spoke to me first and every other Aggie blew me off. The fading friendliness is not due

to any one group. There are just too many Aggies in too short a time. The spring enrollment my freshman year was 15,118 and the spring before that it had been 13,816. This spring, there are 20,400 Aggies going to this school. TAMU will continue its growth but President Jack Williams hopes it will level off at 28,000 by 1980. This school will almost double in size in less than eight years. Traditions that were just accepted as they were will disappear, I'm afraid. Friendliness just doesn't happen and there is no way to encourage 20,400 people to be friendly (for instance, the failure of the "Howdy Days" that occur occasionally). The Corps is the only organization that has methods of encouraging friendliness (tell a fish that anything is traditional and he'll do it with pleasure). But an upperclassman only knows what he is taught by his upperclassmen before him and somewhere down the line the importance of friendliness was not stressed enough. So unless something happens to really shake this campus (and I don't know what that would be), the tradition of Aggie friendliness will just drift away. There will always be a small gathering at Silver Taps and a murmur of howdies on the sidewalks, but nothing like "the good old days." But that's the price you pay for growth; welcome to the 20th Century, Aggieland. Have a nice day.

Buchanan (see Listen up) offered no real solution either. I called Charles Brunt, manager of construction, and asked why the new water tower wasn't being painted maroon. He said it was being painted blue simply because that was the color that was selected. "I doubt it anyone gave any thought to it being the school colors of Rice or T. U. or anybody," Brunt said. Brunt said painting the thing blue instead of maroon possibly made it a little less obvious. Light colors reflect sunlight better but Brunt said he doubted that it would make much difference during the summer heat. I asked Brunt what students could do if they were bothered by having an "Owl Tower" on campus. "If they'll collect the money, we'll just paint it again," he said. The paint now being applied cost \$49,000 counting the inside and the final coat. "I'd be hard pressed to tell you how much another coat (of maroon paint) would cost," Brunt said. "Erecting scaffolding especially for this would cost; the price of paint has escalated since we drew up this contract. "I'd guess it could get as high as \$25,000." If the cost of repainting the water tower was something less than that, a donation of \$1 from every student at TAMU next year would just about cover it. The Battalion would be interested to know if anyone starts a drive with that purpose in mind.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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Editor's notes

Dear Sheikh,
Here's an offer you can't refuse

By GREG MOSES
The recent Alamo non-deal with Sheikh Masoud Al-Sharif Al-Hamdan was terribly mismanaged. Political savvy and foresight do not indicate that we Texans should disappoint our newfound brothers of wasteland. It's just not a good idea to upset the Arabs in these days of internal combustion. Not that Texas needs imported oil; but the Arabs are making money. And when all the Texas banks are closed in scandal, to whom will we turn?

So, in the interests of my adopted state, I make the following desperate proposal to Sheikh Masoud of Saudi Arabia:
First, allow me to explain, your highness, that Texas meant no harm or insult when it turned down your generous offer to relieve San Antonio of an old adobe fortress that is no longer valuable to our defense. You see, there is a slight difference between this mud-walled fortress and the antique metal machines you now buy from our national defense

Listen Up

New MSC service urged

Editor:
I cannot help but be alarmed by the growing chasm between those who are pleased with the decor of the MSC and those who are not. It is with hopes of pleasing all the students of TAMU, of enabling Jack Williams to maintain his great showplace, and of providing TAMU with the means for paying rebates on building-use fees that I humbly offer the following proposal.
I suggest that because the MSC already has the necessary trappings, (garrish furniture, gaudy objects d'arte, and a fine piano) and because the MSC now has sleeping quarters available for rent, on these considerations I propose that a brothel be established within the MSC.
Aggies are internationally renowned for their phenomenal devotion to their school. On the basis of this devotion I'm certain that there would be plenty of young ladies willing to devote their time and energies to this project. On the same basis young men could be recruited to function as panders, money handlers, protectors, etc. If these people would volunteer to serve their school in the above described manner, how could the project not succeed? Also, wouldn't their exemplification of dedication act as a living memorial to the Undying Aggie Spirit?

Matter of taste
Editor:
I would like to make a few comments in reply to Ben E. Dial (Listen up, Jan. 29).
First of all, I agree with Dial's belief that the Rudder Center is an example of good taste and that a southwestern theme is very appropriate for the new student lounge. I would, however, like to ask one question of Dial and William Pahlmann (the designer):
Where does a rhinoceros fit into a "southwestern" motif?
I would like to add also that good taste is a matter of individual opinion and I don't believe that any person should force acceptance of his opinions on another.
Lois Hill

department. The difference has something to do with heritage and tradition — qualities which Texans cherish; traits which Texans try to protect against the irreverent disruptions of youth. So don't take it personally, Aboud.
And do consider the alternate offer of the movie replica. Although it doesn't hold those sentimental qualities so dear to Texans, it does manage to fool quite a few people when it is reproduced on celluloid with the proper lights, lenses and f-stops. But if you find the replica lacking, may I suggest another idea which will give you a touch of heritage and tradition.
For my alternate desperate proposal involves a building which stands in a legendary stronghold of tradition among youth — a stronghold with qualities as rare as a locked within those adobe San Antonio walls. Granted, my proposal does not offer a historically glamorous structure. No one has died defending it. But its history is not lacking.
If I can believe what I read in the papers, your son has spent some time in Texas. Perhaps he has told you about the American student. Like the student class around the world, American students live on borderline poverty. They are happy with modest accommodations at low prices. No one thinks it cruel that students have to live this way. And the students are willing to live on meager means until they earn a Degree and a Chance to Get Ahead. I mention these things because the building I describe is located in a community of students.
The tradition-loving students of this community do not think this building reflects a true picture of their heritage. Not that tradition is lacking in this building (don't get me wrong, Al). It's loaded with relics of days gone by.
But the building is just too, well, extravagant for the students' tastes or pocket books. But with all your money, Sheikh, it would be near perfect. What would you do with this building? You must have one hell of a harem and there's a huge room full of soft couches . . . or with a few exhibits, you could open a museum of world culture with an "Age of Aquarius" theme . . . it would even make a nice convention center for the oil moguls you will no doubt be hosting . . . or you could just keep it around for status.
Think of it, Aboud! The Saudi Arabian Sheikh with a \$25 million piece of Americana which was designed on Fifth Avenue for the state which cherishes crumbling adobe forts . . . what a coup.

Satisfied fish

Editor:
We are sick and tired of hearing the endless dissention over student affairs here at A&M. If they're not complaining about the new student lounge, they are complaining about something else with equal fervor. People who can find nothing better to do than discredit this great uni-

Owl Tower

Editor:
Doesn't it seem a shame that the new water tower is being painted with the colors of Rice University, rather than our own maroon and white?
Katherine Buchanan

The Aggie forum

TAMU viewed as selfish step-mother

The Aggie forum is open to all members of the TAMU community who wish to express ideas which cannot be developed in the Listen up letters column.
Choice of columns to be published and editing of those columns are at the discretion of the editor.
By DALE HANCOCK
In a recent article printed in *The Battalion* it was reported that Gov. Briscoe had made three appointments to "the TAMU Board of Directors." This was an inaccuracy. In actuality, the Governor made three appointments to the Texas A&M University SYSTEM Board of Directors. The mistake, to some, may appear minor but the omission disregards almost thirty percent of the student body of the entire system. The Batt should not be chastised too severely for its oversight. The mistake is a common one. Indeed, it

Stepchild University. The article referred to earlier offers some proof supporting this opinion as it paraphrases Alfred I. Davies, one of the appointees, as saying that "he will try to become oriented to the problems of A&M." The article mentioned no concern of Mr. Davies toward the problems of the other two schools in the System.
Regardless of what was printed in a newspaper article, ample evidence exists to support the proposition that Tarleton State University is a victim of stepchildism. A small part of that evidence will be presented here.
Of twenty Texas State senior colleges ranked according to average faculty salary level for 1973-74 in an article appearing in the TAMU FORTNIGHTLY, TAMU ranked first with a figure of \$15,600. Tarleton State ranked twentieth with a figure of \$11,400. There will be those who argue that A&M employs a larger percentage of Ph.D.'s and tenured professors and that justifies the difference. I challenge those readers to support their views with facts. They will be hard pressed to do so. How is a school going to

offer quality education if it cannot afford to pay its faculty a decent living wage?
I have known numerous professors at Tarleton who have Ph.D.'s that were forced to take jobs as painters or service station attendants during holidays just to make meager ends meet. These people do not live extravagantly; they are impoverished by TAMU faculty standards. Yet, to my knowledge, the Board of Directors has shown no concern.
While the Board has directed a frenzy of building at TAMU in which little if any expense was spared, Tarleton has been thrown only a few bare bones. It is interesting that the new University Center alone cost more to build than the value of all buildings in existence at Tarleton. Even the fraction of the center paid for by State monies cost more than the total evaluation of all Tarleton buildings. It should also be noted that no imported cowhide benches, no gold plated light fixtures, no etched glass and no antique coffee tables are to be found at Tarleton. Furthermore, the only landscape wall in existence at Tarle-

