

"I'VE SOLVED THE BUSING-FOR-INTEGRATION PROBLEM—I'M BUSING ALL THE FEDERAL JUDGES TO PODUNK, IOWA."

Off-campus voice

Editor:

Since the majority of students at Texas A&M live off-campus, it is extremely important that we have a voice in student affairs and decisions. I was elected as an off-campus undergraduate senator for this school year. It is my goal, and I am

know their views. Twelve people were elected as off-campus undergraduate senators, so go to the Student Government office or ask around and find out who we are. If you have questions or want to voice your opinion contact one of us. That is why we are here.

Jimmy Arnold

Listen Up

The aggie war hymn song is obsolete. The goal of the other off-campus senators, to do the best to represent our constituency. This will take an effort on both of our parts. However, it is the students' responsibility to keep informed about issues on this campus, and to let the senators

Hymn obsolete

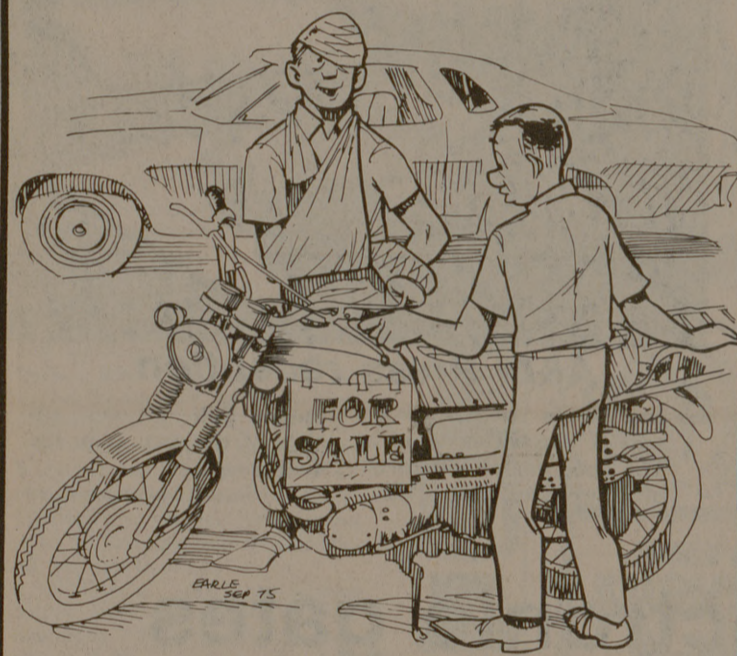
Editor:

The aggie war hymn song is obsolete. One of the best ways for mature and intelligent A&M adherents to celebrate the bicentennial would be prompt Aggie War Hymn abolishment.

Emerson Rutherford

SLOUCH

By JIM EARLE



"There's no real reason, I just decided that I'd like to sell it!"

Battalion Classified Call 845-2611

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.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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ATTENTION FRESHMEN

The Town Hall Committee is in desperate need of eight freshmen to serve as committee members this year. Membership will be decided from an application and a short interview. Applications and interview times are available in the student programs office in the MSC until Friday, October 3, 1975 at 5:00 p.m.

Here is a chance to get involved on campus and step into the MSC Circle. Join Town Hall today.

step into the msc circle



'Spirit of Aggieland'

Just a summer project...

By DON MIDDLETON

and JOHN ADAMS
Battalion Staff Writers

Throughout the history of Texas A&M University, music has been an integral part of Aggie traditions. The two best-known Aggie tunes, "The Spirit of Aggieland" and "The War Hymn," have been sung for over fifty years.

"The Spirit" began as a summer project of Marvin H. Mimms in 1925. Mimms, a junior at A&M, had planned to attend Army ROTC summer camp that year, but a heart murmur discovered by an Army surgeon postponed the trip.

In a handwritten article Mimms sent to the University Archives in 1967 he wrote that he was forced to spend the summer at his parents' home in Marlin, Texas. All the jobs in Marlin were filled by the time he arrived, and the prospects for an exciting summer seemed grim.

"I could look forward to just a lot of puttering around the place," Mimms wrote. But "during my first vacation day at home, an old thought possessed me, as it had off

and on during my three years at college. Why hadn't someone come out with a real alma mater song for Aggieland?"

Bothered by the thought that A&M had been without a school song for almost fifty years, Mimms began mentally to form guidelines for the lyric to an A&M song.

Mimms' first criterion was that "the lyric must be correctly written so as not to bring down the adverse criticism of the College English Department."

The rest of the criteria demanded that the words express a definite purpose, and lend themselves to a military cadence. Mimms' top priority was that composition be "absolutely original."

With these in mind the young A&M student began writing the song, starting with the eight-line chorus then backing up to compose the two verses. The second verse is seldom sung.

With the lyrics on paper and a tune in his head, Mimms hitched a

ride to College Station to present his idea to band director Col. Richard C. Dunn.

Mimms found Dunn in the lobby of the Y.M.C.A. and explained to him why he had come. Dunn immediately expressed interest in the song and invited Mimms to sing it for him.

While Dunn picked out the melody on a piano, Mimms sang his song for the first time in Aggieland. The band director was so excited with the tune that he immediately phoned Col. Ike Ashburn, Commandant of Cadets, asking him to come hear the song.

After hearing the song, Ashburn "came over, put his arm around my shoulder," Mimms wrote, "saying 'That's wonderful! There will be no contest. This is it!'"

Mimms was told that a contest was being planned to choose a school song, but there would be no need of one since Mimms had written a song to fill the bill.

Dunn and Mimms continued throughout the summer putting the finishing touches on the score and making preparations for the mass printing of the song.

Dunn composed individual scores for each instrument in the band, and when the musicians re-

turned in the fall the first number they learned was "The Spirit of Aggieland," which, according to Mimms, Dunn labeled "March No. something or other."

At the first yell practice of the year "The Spirit of Aggieland" was played and sung for the first time by the student body.

The Aggie War Hymn was a product of the imagination of Marine private, spurred by the loss for his school. J. V. "Finky" Wilson had left A&M in 1917 to serve with the American forces in Europe.

While sitting in a trench in the Champagne-Argonne Forest, Wilson composed the words and melody to the song, which was sung by Wilson and his comrades as they marched into Germany.

When Wilson returned to the United States and Texas A&M, he formed a quartet that performed the song during intermission at the Queen Theater in Bryan, in exchange for free admission.

Eventually, the song came to the students and was adopted as the school fight song. The song first sang the "The War Hymn" before a football game with Howard Payne College in 1921.

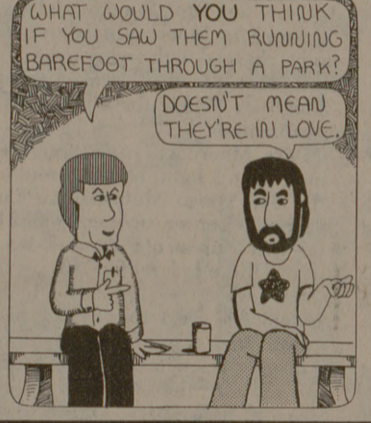
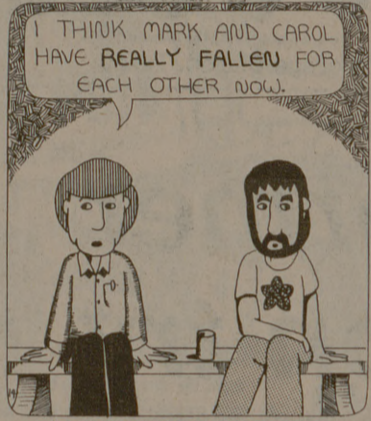
Formed in the now-famous Aggie "T," they started a tradition that lasts that of beginning every home football game with "The Aggie War Hymn."

The first 100 years

Aggiatoons

—Brad Foster

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