

'Fightin' Aggie Band' . . . a 13-man beginning

By DON MIDDLETON and JOHN ADAMS

"Now forming at the north end of Kyle Field—the nationally famous 'Fightin' Texas Aggie Band."

Little did anyone suspect that the 13 cadets who were organized into a musical organization in 1895 would one day be a military band of over 300 members.

In the early 1880's and well into the '90's, a gentleman named J. R. Fisk was employed by the college as a drummer, whose duty it was to beat the drum for reveille and other formations. Fisk was paid \$20 per month to perform these functions.

When Fisk gave up the job of drummer in 1895, J. F. Holick was hired as bugler. It was Holick, along with Bryan resi-

dent Arthur N. Jenkins, who organized the first college band. John K. Woods, a member of that first band, wrote to Professor D. B. Cofer, University archivist, that the band had as their sponsor little Anna Banks, five years of age.

As Anna Banks grew, so did the Aggie orchestra. The next school year, with G. W. Gross replacing Holick as bandmaster, the group numbered eight-

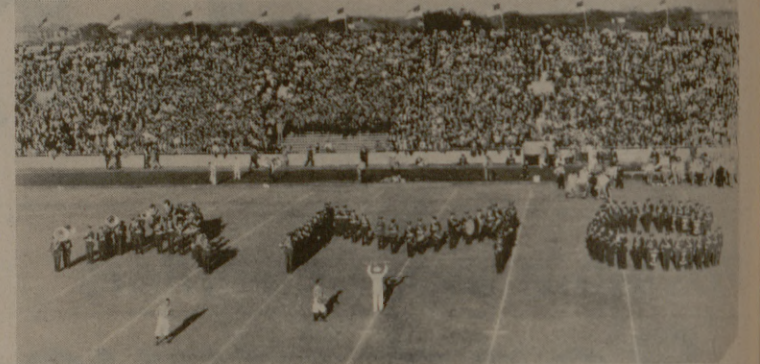
The first 100 years

teen. The band began wearing the familiar lyre somewhere around 1907. Since then a fierce feeling of autonomy and pride has characterized the Aggie Band.

From 1897 to 1924, five men led the band as bandmaster. They were F. H. Miller, George W. Tyrell, B. P. Day, Alois Slovacek and George Fairleigh.

Until 1940, the band existed as a single unit known as the "Regimental Band," "College Band," or simply "the A&M Band." It was in 1940 that the band, now numbering almost 200, was divided into the Infantry Band and the Field Artillery Band to correspond with the organization of the Corps.

Serving as band director at that time was Col. Richard C. Dunn, who was appointed to the position in 1924. Dunn



The Aggie Band forms up on Kyle Field in the "AMC" formation, circa 1933. Courtesy of University Archives.

guided the band until 1946 and was instrumental in arranging the score for "The Spirit of Aggieland."

When Col. E. V. Adams took the helm as director in '46, the organization of the band was again altered.

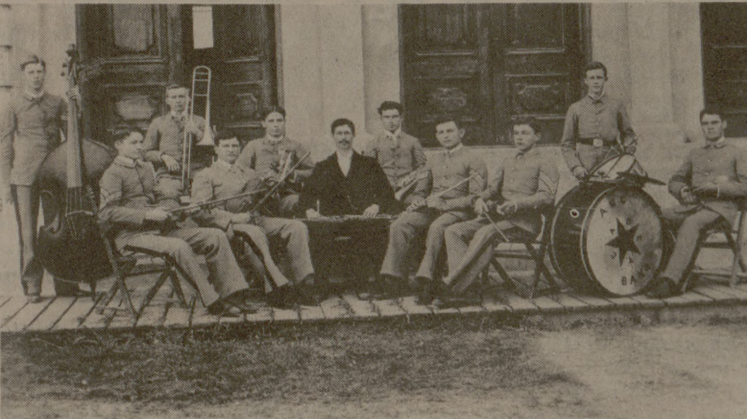
With its membership down to barely more than 100 the Aggie Band was restructured into the Maroon and White Bands that exist today.

Adams retired in 1973 after 25 years of dedication to the band, and was replaced by Maj. Joe T. Haney. Haney now directs over 300 musicians in the

intricate drills and spirited marches that have made the band a symbol of Texas A&M.

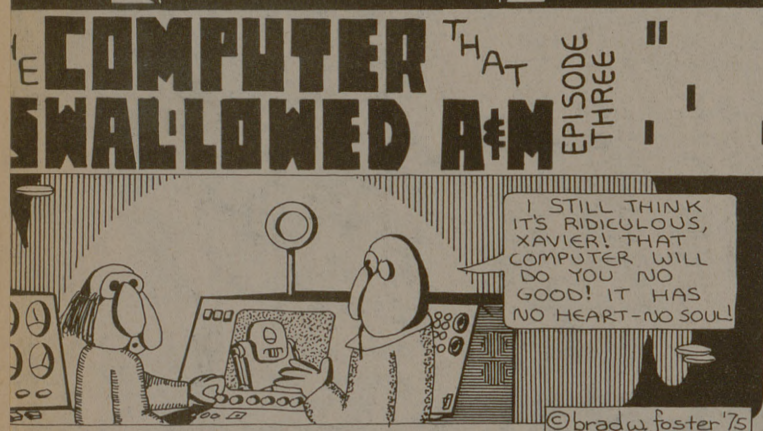
The Aggie Band has long been known as "The Heartbeat of Aggieland." Whether it be a Corps review with full military ceremony or a midnight yell practice for a ragged crowd of football fans, the band has always been in the forefront playing the strains of "The War Hymn."

The "Men of Kyle," as band members have come to be called, are one of the oldest institutions on the A&M campus, and proud of it.



The college orchestra poses for a picture on the steps of the Assembly Hall, 1895. Courtesy of University Archives.

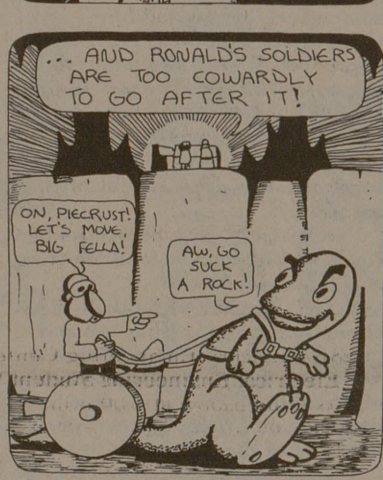
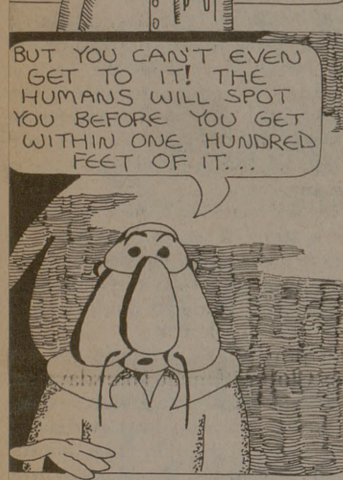
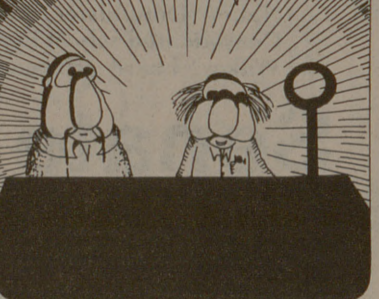
TALES OF THE GIGAGS



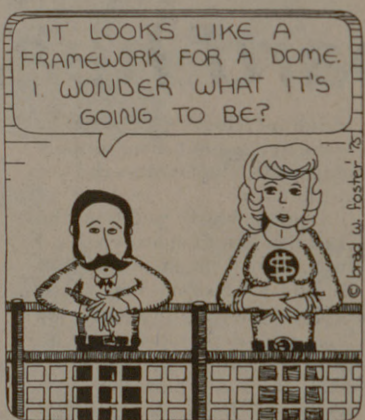
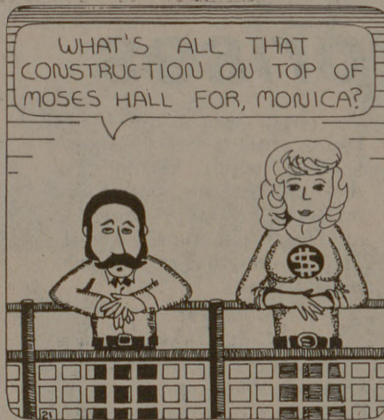
JAY, IF WE HAD THAT INFORMATION WE WOULD BE INVINCIBLE! WE'D KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HUMID BEAMS, RIGHT FROM THEIR OWN C.I.A.!

YOU HOCKEY PUCK! YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THAT MERT RONALD TOO MUCH! HIS RADICAL IDEAS HAVE GONE TO YOUR HEAD!

YOU'RE OVER-REACTING, PHIL! THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL RADICAL ABOUT MY PLAN!



Aggiatoons



GREAT! MY BINOCULARS AREN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH!

The Battalion

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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RECREATION LEAGUE WILL PLAY JUNGLE BALL. CO-REC AND WOMEN MAY PLAY JUNGLE BALL OR POWER VOLLEYBALL.

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