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# 'Aggie' means money, growth

**Associated Press**  
**COLLEGE STATION** — The young people crouch with hands on knees, and strain their chins forward. Tradition says this peculiar stance will make their voices lower, louder and more fearsome. They are the Texas Aggies. And they now assert that Texas A&M University is in the top 20 in the nation in nearly everything, not just the sport of football for which the cheer is designed.

**Research**  
"Texas A&M has gone from a position of being a fairly small school in terms of research 20 years ago to the research leader of the South and Southwest," said Dr. Richard E. Wainerdi, assistant vice-president for academic affairs. "This school does more research in dollar volume than any school in the South or Southwest."

Texas A&M performed more than \$39 million in research last year — \$2 million more than the year before when the National Science Foundation ranked A&M 18th in the nation in the value of research.

With expanded research and the admission of women, enrollment has nearly doubled in the past five years to its present 25,247 students.

"Our growth is stupendous," said Wainerdi, noting that enrollment this fall was up 3,748 students — or 17 per cent — from a year earlier.

**Growth**  
The turning point from cow college to sophisticated university was in 1963, says Edwin H. Cooper, who in 19 years has risen to dean of admissions.

In 1963, the Aggies changed their name from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas to Texas A&M University; began preparations to admit women for the

first time; and made plans to drop mandatory participation in military training — the Cadet Corps.

Aggie administrators say that while the university is growing, it's also attracting better students. Included in the student body this year are 148 national merit scholars, 19 more than last year when the school ranked 17th nationally in enrollment of the high-achievement students.

The university was established as a land grant college in 1876 to teach the agricultural and mechanical arts. Most of its students still enroll in these or related fields.

"I would think that in agriculture, Texas A&M would move from its present position, which is about third in most categories in America, to first in all of them," President Jack K. Williams said.

"In Texas, we have clearly the greatest opportunity for agribusiness of any state in the nation."

A growing number of students has been attracted to the new marine studies program. In 1971, Texas A&M became one of four Sea Grant colleges in the nation, and now has its "campus at sea" aboard a ship.

**Funds**  
The school ranks ninth nationally in gifts received from all sources, and fifth in support from business and corporate sources. Financial support from former students ranks fourth nationally.

One former student is Wofford Cain, an industrial giant from Dallas and a 1913 graduate who Williams estimates has contributed more than \$1 million in the past decade.

Aggie lore has it that after Cain, now 83, gave a block of stock worth \$166,716 in 1972 to help build the school's new athletic dormitory, a University of Texas regent offered to trade any 50 Texas ex-students for one Wofford Cain.

There are more Wofford Cains, said Williams.

Williams said the university will receive up to \$11 million a year in such gifts and grants.

"That's why it's humorous to me when people talk about how you shouldn't have this or don't you think that's a little much," said Williams. "Great Scott, this is an institution built by taxpayers, sure. But the cream on top of the bottle has been furnished by gifts, grants from all kinds of friends."

Criticism came from some quarters earlier this year when a new \$1.4 million facility used for meetings of the A&M board of directors first opened. Another \$700,000 worth of furniture, artwork, statuary and sterling silver and china service was added.

But State Rep. Bill Prenal of nearby Bryan, chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and an Aggie himself, said the facility was needed to help rid the university of its old image.

But some students — especially those living in barracks-type dor-

itories — said the money could have been spent more wisely.

**Corps**  
The Corps makes up less than 10 per cent of the student body as 2,200 participate. There are 41 coeds in the Corps.

Army Col. Tom Parsons, commandant of the Corps, said making the military training voluntary in 1965 may have made it better.

"I'd rather have somebody do something because they are self-motivated rather than because they are forced," said Parsons, who graduated from A&M in 1949.

Parsons says making the Corps voluntary hasn't hurt their ability to produce officers for the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Last year, 717 cadets were in Army ROTC and 185 received Army commissions.

"We see the institution moving towards 30,000 students," Williams said, "... and I would frankly not like to increase at more than 1,000 per year."

"Guessing on student enrollment is somewhat like guessing on football games," Williams said. "It doesn't always work out."

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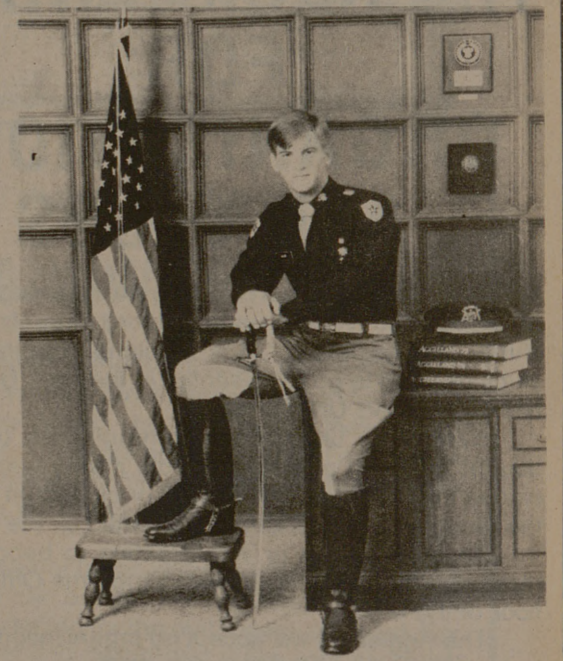
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