

Fan urges sportsmanship

Editor:
Although I'm a Kansas University Alum, since coming to Texas 30 years ago I've been a dyed in the wool Aggie Supporter. I've suffered along with the Aggies, been happy with their victories, and have been very proud of the wonderful Corps.

However, I was not too proud of the actions of a few at the Rice-A&M game two years ago. Surely I admit that the Rice Band might have stepped on someone's toes a bit, but why should a wonderful band such as the one A&M has ever worry about what some small outfit of volunteers (such as Rice's MOB) do at half-time?

I do not know if many people realized it but the Rice Band did not go to College Station last year because they were afraid of what some Aggies might do. And I think that's quite an indictment of a school that has always been right at the top when it came to manners, deportment, sportsmanship, etc. I'd think all of you would want any visitor to feel welcome.

Now my reason for writing is that (I'll be there) and I'd like to see the Aggies take whatever comes like the fine bunch of people I know you to be. I'm not excusing nor criticizing you OR Rice; I'm just saying that if two fine student bodies such as these two cannot meet in a football

Listen Up

game without threats of mayhem then let's call off the whole deal. Right?

Orion W. Sprouse

Grab act

Editor:
At the last yell practice, one of our senior yell leaders said that he was concerned about Aggie spirit. I also am concerned, but from a different standpoint. I have slowly become more and more disgusted with the "great unifying tradition" of midnight yell. One yell leader proudly announced that he too enjoyed pinching female behinds; I disagree that it is funny at all. Most drunks in the mob pushing and shoving to Kyle Field are quite vulgar and personal in their manner of pinching, and this seems to be an accepted part of yell practice. I have put up with this all four years I have been here and resent very much the lack of respect shown to students and dates who expect yell practice to be an experience in spirit, rather than an occasion for vulgarity and drunkenness. My friend's mother even got the same treatment. The situation in the stands is just as bad, as the

same slob slobber and yell so that we can't even do the old army chant. And how many females can participate in good spirit while fuming over this vulgar practice? If Aggie spirit is to be carried on, more respect should be paid to fellow Aggies. This is just as disturbing as the cutting up that goes on at Silver Taps, but more of our "loyal Ags" participate in the "grab act." I think it is time to put a stop to it, before more Aggies, like myself, decide that midnight yell is no place for nice people.

Loralee Guldage

'Mock' spirit

Dear Editor:
With the University of Texas game almost upon us, I feel there is an uncomfortable situation here at Texas A&M. Aggies are supposed to have the most spirit of any other school in the country. This may be true, but have you ever noticed that part of the spirit is negative. What I mean to say is this: Several students at Texas A&M build up their spirit and ego by mocking other schools, especially the University of Texas. Instead of calling the Austin school UT, it is referred to here as t.u. Have you ever heard anyone call Texas A&M the University of m&a? Also, the Aggies seem able to "dish it out," but "can't take it"

when things don't go their way. An example of this was the Rice game two years ago. The Owl band, "The Mob," which makes fun of the team Rice plays during their halftime performance, were attacked by angry Aggie students. However, when the University of Texas band begins to play a tune for the Texas game, the Aggie band purposely starts to play in an attempt to drown them out. And what is this...? Texas jump up and bite my...? Where's your good sportsmanship, Aggies?

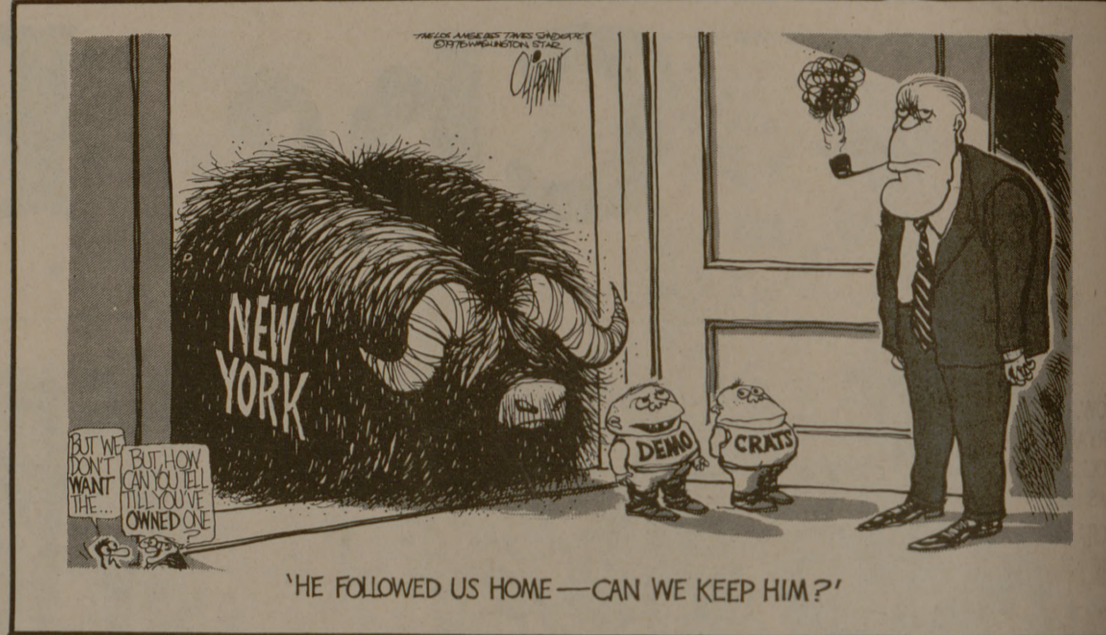
Another thorn in the Spirit of Aggicland is the buildup to the Texas game. I know this year that the Aggies are undefeated and highly ranked in the national polls. However, Texas is nationally ranked and appear as a strong contender for the SWC crown.

The Aggie football team has had so much publicity this year that the majority of students feel that they are immortal. I have noted that various individuals who know little or nothing at all about the game of football are convinced that Texas A&M will undoubtedly defeat Texas on November 28. They are only trying to fool themselves. Why are they so biased? Shouldn't they look at the situation more realistically. If for some reason A&M should lose to the Longhorns, there will be many a broken heart in College Station.

Let me shed a few statistics of past Texas games. For the past seven years, the Longhorns have outscored the Ags each year by an average of 40-10. Texas A&M has won only three times in the last 25 years. In 1974, the Aggies had the title on the line and were demolished. Sure, you say that was last year. I agree, and if you compare the two teams you'll see that both teams have improved. The fact is, however, that Texas has improved immensely over last year while the Aggies have barely lived up to their poor offensive attack. The Aggie defense is definitely number one, but they can't play the entire game.

The point I'm trying to get across is this. Have spirit A&M, but cheer for the Aggies, not against other schools. Also, wait until after the Texas game to "pop off." If the Aggies win, be a gracious winner. If they lose, take it like true sportsmen and don't make excuses. Football is only a game. It's not a matter of life and death.

John Gilbert



'Pettrified Forest' review

Aggie Players come alive

By JOHN BARNES
Battalion Staff Writer

From the first energetic lines of Don Harris to the dynamic shoot out scene, "The Petrified Forest" has to be the finest performance by the Aggie Players this year.

It seems that, under the great direction of Dr. James Michael Thomas, the Aggie Players have finally gotten it all together. He has awakened much of the talent within some of the more familiar Players that seemed dormant in their other productions. For this, Dr. Thomas, your audiences are, and will be, grateful.

The melodrama is set in a lonely Arizona desert cafe-gas station where loves are found and dramatically lost. The atmosphere is set immediately upon entering the theatre with flashing slides of the difficult period the play is set in (1935), and the use of a lonely harmonica player who performs ex-

tremely well throughout the play.

Congratulations must be given to Steve King for his fine characterization of Alan Squier. (Even if you didn't like his acting one must give him credit for "eating" his soup. Ugh!) As with the rest of the cast, he kept up the play's vital tempo and relayed his lines well. I particularly enjoyed King's death scene and Gabby's (Kathi Cowgill) reaction.

Don't let this talk of death and lost loves scare you. The play has quite a few humorous moments, also. Neil Badders as Gramp Maple, Philip Hafer as Herb, and Bruce Kates as the gangster Jackie all put their two cents in to really liven up the action in a not so funny situation.

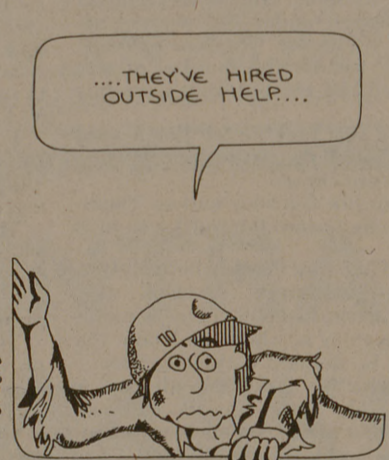
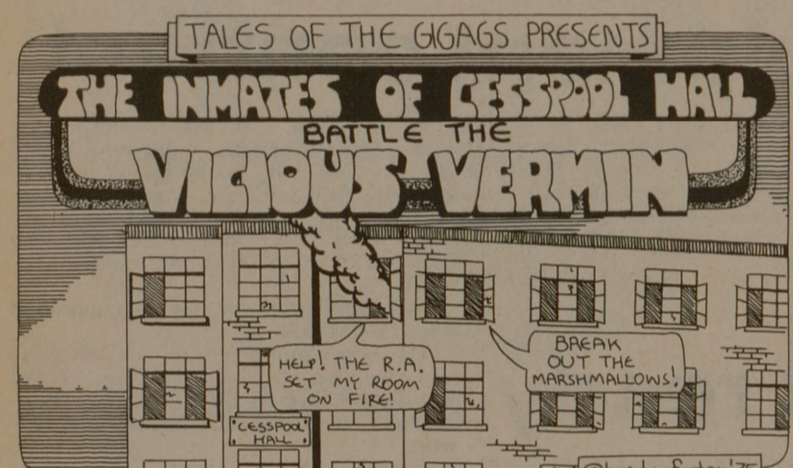
To criticize the play, one must be picky. Miss Cowgill and Gailan Woods (as Mrs. Christolm) must be careful not to break character by smiling, or even hinting to smile, during any of the more humorous lines. Also, Dana Herell (the Mexi-

can cook) needs to practice her accent a bit to become a more believable character.

Consistency was lacking in some of the gangster's characterizations of desperate murderers. Pyles (Gary Wood), for example, needed to have a much more menacing tone in certain situations.

My only criticism of the set would be that they may have been too clean (as with King's first appearance) for being in the middle of the dusty Arizona desert. Otherwise the sets and props were fantastically authentic in appearance.

Opening night, a small, but receptive audience showed for the fine performance of "The Petrified Forest," which, incidentally, is soon to be reviewed for the Press Ryan Acting Award by the American College Theatre Festival. As in future performances of the play, curtain time is 8 p.m. Nov. 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22.



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The Battalion

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