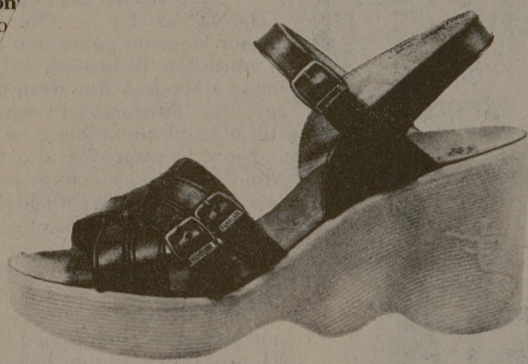


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'Die-hards' sweat five hours but catch best of Tech game

By BEVERLY MANJEOT
The Texas A&M spirit of "old Army" was demonstrated last Saturday by a group of determined students who managed to see the final minutes of the Texas Tech game — despite being stranded for more than five hours on a broken-down bus 30 miles east of Abilene.

THE BUS trip to Lubbock was chartered by the Aggie Club, through a program that provides students interested in supporting A&M athletics with transportation to away games.

About 1:30, the bus broke down and coasted to the side of the road like we had run out of gas," said Warren Neeley, a senior management major. "The bus driver thought the radiator was overheating."

Everyone was upset, but we kept our sense of humor by coming up with ideas about what we could do to the bus," said Clark Whiteside, a senior Moses Hill student.

FOR TWO HOURS the driver, Bob Overand, tried to fix the radiator by pouring water from the students' ice chest.

ABOUT 3:30 the bus driver decided there was nothing he could do but thumb a ride into Abilene to find a mechanic. Sam Stone, a Tech supporter, picked up the driver and drove him into town.

"The worst thing that happened to us while we were waiting was when we ran out of beer and Abilene was dry," said David Mocio, a senior agricultural economics major.

WHILE THE BUS driver and mechanic were trying to fix the radiator and four others asked to drive them into Abilene, Neeley called the information director at Tech and contacted the hotel where some Aggie Club members were staying. Neeley then called South Park and talked to Wally Groff, athletic director for business. Groff suggested the stranded students rent cars to get them to the game and charge them to his expense card number.

THE GROUP DROVE the bus with a rented van, a station wagon, and three cars.

"Before leaving for Lubbock, we agreed not to drive faster than 40 mph, but we were listening to the game on the radio and every time A&M scored, we sped up," Neeley said.

"We were going to make it to Lubbock. That's the reason we slept out for tickets," Whiteside said. "We were humping, squeezing it, and flashing our lights," said Neeley.

"I'LL TELL YOU what was the maddest. I had four of the beautiful women supposed to be next to me at the game. I was team was scoring and I was Whiteside said.

Three carloads made it in the last two minutes, another made it the last 26 seconds and another made it the last 22 seconds.

"We saw the best part of the whole game, when everybody was going crazy. We were proud to have made it there," said Wallingford.

"The team knows there are die-hards," Mocio said.

"Coach Bellard hugged me and I for being so dedicated about it," said Mike Maas, a senior philosophy education major.

MONDAY MORNING a group of students involved in the incident lodged their complaints against Central Texas Busline.

Donald L. Brister, executive vice-president of the Aggie Club, spoke with a Central representative about refunding the group's expenses. Results of that conversation are pending.

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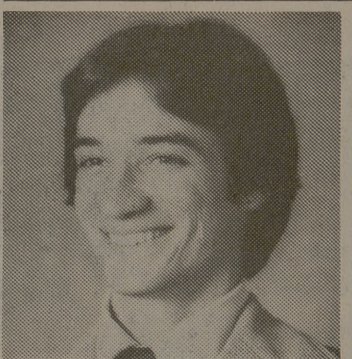
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