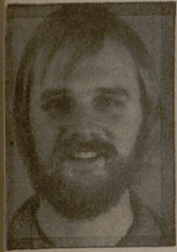


Paul Arnett

# Where are the true fans?



It'd been two wonderful years since I'd done it. Not since the 1975 Texas game had I ventured from the press box to watch Texas A&M play football. But last Saturday afternoon I was coaxed from my cozy press box seat in order to view the A&M-Cougar affair from the stands.

After three hours of "Bellard you are dull," "What kind of call is that?" "Come on defense, you guys haven't done a thing all year," and "It figures it would be Woodard up the middle," I knew Emory Bellard would never have to venture out of Kyle Field to find a coaching replacement.

And yet, this was all minor compared to what happened late in the second quarter.

The Aggies, under the direction of David Walker, had not been moving the ball well on offense. Walker had been playing hurt since the SMU game, and it appeared that his injuries were impairing his play. With four minutes remaining in the first half, Bellard replaced Walker with freshman Mike Mosley.

The roar that greeted Mosley as he trotted onto the field, would have made Mighty Casey jealous. Cries of "It's about time they got that bum out of there," and "I knew Bellard would get wise one day," filled the upper deck of Kyle Field.

It reminded me of a Monday night football game I saw in Dallas a few years ago. The quarterbacks of the Dallas Cowboys were not having a good night. In fact Dallas was los-

ing to St. Louis 38-0. Chants of "We want Meredith, we want Meredith," echoed throughout the Cotton Bowl.

Dandy Don, from the ABC booth, said no way. He knew the fickleness of the pro football fan. Those same fans had booed him throughout his career.

This was something that one expected in pro football. But somehow this madness has crept onto the college scene as well. It is despicable to cheer another player's demise. And yelling for Walker's exit was something this writer was amazed to hear from the 'spirits' of Aggieland.

"It's like people are blaming me for this entire season," Walker said in the shower of his last game at Kyle Field. "Like this is all my fault.

People did it to me two years ago and now they're doing it again. And they will do it to Mosley if he falters upon the path to glory. This is a sad fact that every player must face. The sports fan only cares what the final scoreboard says, and it

doesn't matter how that's accomplished. Walker now knows the meaning of the phrase a slave whispered into Alexander the Great's ear when he had conquered the world... "All glory is fleeting."

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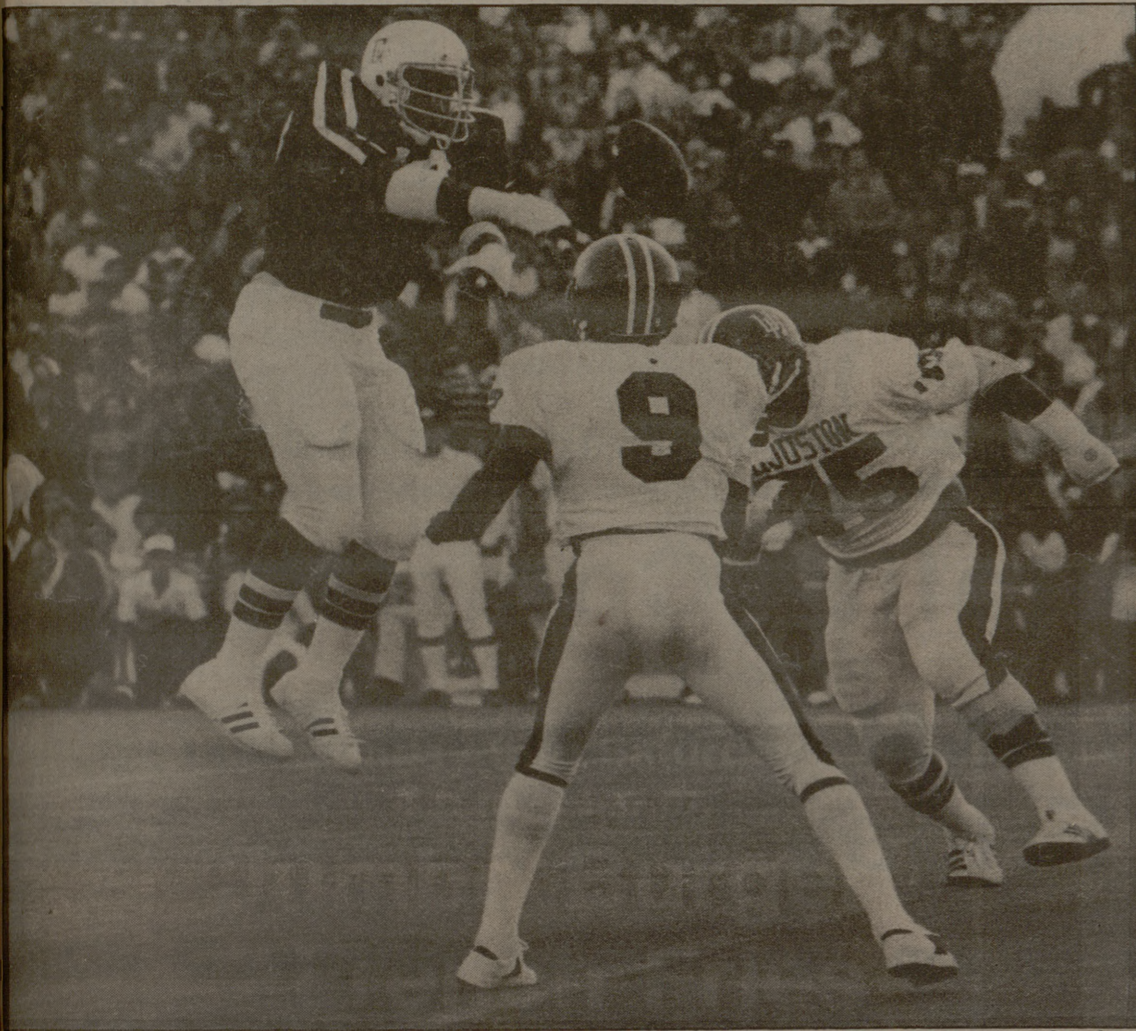
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Battalion photo

A&M lineman Jacob Green knocks down a rest of the Aggie defense, had a good pass thrown by Delrick Brown. Green, and game as Texas A&M defeated Houston 27-7.

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