

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 1978

Letters to the editor

Apparently, there's been a difference of opinion

Editor:

After reading Paul Arnett's "sports scene was just that" commentary on revising the Texas A&M sports scene was just that — a commentary. The Battalion has received dozens of calls and even more letters concerning the story. Just as Arnett has the right to express his opinions, so our readers have the right to air their comments. And here are as many as can possibly fit on the opinion page. This will be the only forum for or against Arnett's commentary in The Battalion. So whoop it up.

Editor's note: Paul Arnett's Feb. 15 commentary on revising the Texas A&M sports scene was just that — a commentary. The Battalion has received dozens of calls and even more letters concerning the story. Just as Arnett has the right to express his opinions, so our readers have the right to air their comments. And here are as many as can possibly fit on the opinion page. This will be the only forum for or against Arnett's commentary in The Battalion. So whoop it up.

only university that has never tried to infiltrate the old "Harry High School" traditions with Aggie Traditions. THAT IS CLASS.

— Debbie Lackey, '81

A&M's got class

Editor:

In response to Paul Arnett's letter addressing a so-called "lack of class" at A&M, I would like to provide a different light on the subject. Certainly Mr. Arnett has a right to his opinion, but he is missing the very essence of the idea of tradition at Texas A&M. Tradition is not the force that prevents institutional modernization and change. It is a binder that provides an institution, and I mean A&M, a heritage and esprit de corps for its members — that means Aggies.

— Tom Wilkes, '82

A&M's got class

Editor:

In response to Paul Arnett's article, "A&M lacks class" we were in unanimous agreement that Arnett's article possessed a tremendous amount of class, all third! Mr. Arnett has attacked the very traditions that have made the University so unique. We feel that the band and yell leaders do an outstanding job at the basketball games. We also feel that a basketball game is not a circus or a concert and halftime is just that, a break between the halves.

It is true A&M lacks the atmosphere of pom-poms and pep squads, but we feel this adds to the class of A&M rather than detracts from it. We agree that new ideas were meant to replace old ones, but in reference to Arnett's suggestions that we should look to examples set by t.u. and cougar high, we say A&M sets examples rather than follows them. These are the very reasons we chose to come to this fine University. In case you haven't heard by now, Mr. Arnett, Highway 6 both ways.

— Robert Tedford, '78
Randal Shinn, '78
James Bearden, '77
Doug Skolaut, '80
Sam Craig, '78

A&M's got class

Editor:

In reference to Paul Arnett's column of Feb. 15, we feel that many of A&M's outstanding traditions have been unnecessarily butchered. A&M is the fine institution that it is as a direct result of many of our old and sacred traditions.

Since when does a change necessarily constitute an improvement? Some things, quite obviously Aggie traditions included, are better left alone. Did it ever occur to you, Mr. Arnett, that A&M is superior to other universities BECAUSE it's different, and that change in some instance could do only harm?

And by the way, who says that "new ideas were meant to replace old ones?" Also, Mr. Arnett, you mentioned that a stage band performing at basketball games would be more to your liking. Well, another tradition that many of us feel does not need changing is that "majority rules." We feel that the majority on this campus is proud of such traditions as the military faction, all male yell leaders, a full band in G. Rollie, and many others.

If you want to attend a university just like any other, Highway 6 runs both ways. This University would be a good deal better off without the several hundred students who are intent upon imposing their unwarranted opinions upon the rest of the unified, satisfied, and most of all, proud student body.

— Ruth Graves, '81
Brenda Brooks, '80
Kenna Baughman, '81

A&M's got class

Editor:

I, along with many other TRUE Aggies, was greatly insulted by the article in Wednesday's Battalion by Paul Arnett, the man who seems to know it all about A&M. Mister, your problem is that you seem to have a one track mind. Texas A&M prides itself in upholding its long established traditions — the one thing that makes A&M unique and set apart from every other school. THAT is class. I am sure that every Aggie at those basketball games enjoyed having the Bryan High and A&M Consolidated drill teams visit for a change of pace, but if you are so harped on girls, girls, girls, go to Tom Foolery's or the Sports Club. Someone with your ideas belongs at t.u., and that is no compliment. It is quite obvious what you have been up to. You do not seem to know a thing about how A&M got started, and how proud we are of our Aggie heritage. Open your eyes, and you would see that A&M would not be A&M without it. Next thing you will be wanting is pep rallies in the school gym at 2:30.

If the "Military look is out," then why is A&M one of the biggest universities in the nation? A&M is a military oriented school, always has been, and always will be. And if those "Old Army Tunes" went out with WWII, how is it that they bring such a loud "WOOP" (sic) from every Aggie, and put chill-bumps on every Aggie-Ex?

Texas A&M University does not and never has marched to the tune of the same drummer. We are a school set apart from all others, both in academics, but mostly in SPIRIT. So open your eyes and see the

A&M's got class

Editor:

Usually I let everyone else do the letter writing — critizing articles written in the Batt, but after reading Paul Arnett's "commentary," I decided my time has come.

First, let me state that since I've been

...or maybe he's got a point

Editor:

It's time to get off Paul Arnett's case. After all, everyone is entitled to an opinion! It seems many people at this University are just as radically conservative as others are radically liberal. The question is always asked, "Why should A&M be like all the other schools?" My question is, "Why not?" We must admit that all our unique characteristics set us apart from other schools, but I doubt a few similarities with t.u. will tear down over 100 years of Aggie tradition.

There is a possibility that some students would like the type of show Arnett proposes. However, I don't think he was totally serious about all those changes either. I think he mentioned them only to stir some thought into the thick conservative minds of his readers. Why is it that every time

someone suggests something outside the status quo, we want to tear him limb from limb, or go around wearing sackcloth proclaiming the death of another tradition? ... Grow up, people! We may be in the 20th century, but it appears we can't accept the prospect of change or its prophets.

— Gregg Parks, '78

Editor:

I think Paul Arnett is doing a fine job. I do not completely agree with all that he writes, but by presenting an alternative point of view he reminds all of us to keep an open mind to what is going on around us. I feel that A&M is a foremost and unique institution, but I, too, sometimes grow tired of the conservative, stereotyped opinions that prevail here.

— N. Stone, '79

Mr. Arnett, you can go and boost the rest. I assert that Texas A&M has an awful lot of class as is shown by the devotion of thousands of present and former students and I choose to remain with the best. Highway 21 runs both ways.

— Fred Bayler, '80

A&M's got class

Editor:

Mr. Arnett, The Battalion sports editor, has had his time to speak, many times over; now I'd like my fair share.

My question is this: where is Arnett's sense of tradition? As has been said many times, A&M is the most unique University in the world. What is wrong with wishing to remain so? The Aggie Band is the finest precision marching band in the world performing its own brand of music. I would hate to see it performing high school routines as Mr. Arnett suggests.

All-male yell leaders has been a matter of controversy in the past and I believe Arnett will find that the school wishes to keep only male yell leaders. We're not living in the past, only honoring it by a small representation of the fact that the school was once all male. It's no more of an insult to women than the lack of males in the Houston Honies, (or would Arnett like to see that, too?)

As for the yells, I like the representation just fine. The entire student body yells in unison; everybody humps it together. Was such the case in the Hum-Drum?

Mr. Arnett appears to be so paranoid of being different that I get the impression he'd just as soon see A&M slip into the bland average college rah-rah which ABC-TV drills into us game after game on Saturdays. As for tradition, I wonder how many Silver Taps and Aggie Musters he's been to? I wonder if he even realizes what the purpose of the trees around Kyle Field is? I wonder if he even cares, after all it only concerns the past.

— Jeff Nauss, '77

A&M's got class

Editor:

Usually I let everyone else do the letter writing — critizing articles written in the Batt, but after reading Paul Arnett's "commentary," I decided my time has come.

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A&M's got class

Editor:

After reading Paul Arnett's column on "A&M lacks class," I tried to figure out why Paul is here if he doesn't like Aggie traditions. This is what makes A&M unique.

Before I came to A&M I watched all the other school's halftimes. I would rather not have a halftime show than to listen to a band play a popular tune and destroy it by trying to play it their way.

In regard to the Corps and the "dead" military look, this is what made A&M great and will continue to uphold all A&M traditions. As for the yell leaders this too makes A&M different and not like a high school cheerleading squad.

This is what I cannot stand to listen to at a football or basketball game is high school cheerleaders. So Paul, I would advise you to either accept A&M as a very traditional university or leave and watch the high school-type shows at t.u.

— Pat Nowotny, '80

A&M's got class

Editor:

We would like to comment on the article written Wednesday titled "A&M lacks class" by Paul Arnett.

Aggies are not like everyone else and A&M was and is meant to be different. Just because others are doing something one way doesn't mean that everyone else must change too. Texas A&M is a leader not a follower. Having all-male yell leaders is unique and we consider that to be class. Nothing has to die with the past. The "Old Army" numbers played by The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band have not gone out of style. If they have, then why do people keep buying every record put out by The Aggie Band?

Mr. Arnett, did you ever stop to think that there's a lot more to be said about being an Aggie woman than just a halftime entertainer?

Obviously other Aggies, as well as ourselves, enjoy the beachbuns and frisbees or they would not continue to appear at every Texas Aggie basketball game.

If it is true that "many people are tired of this old conservative attitude that A&M holds so close to its heart," then why is Texas A&M University one of the fastest growing universities in the nation?

In reference to Paul Arnett's statement that [Texas] drummer "it is evident that Mr. Arnett is tone deaf."

— Brenda Jernigan, '80,
Vickie Hollander, '80

A&M's got class

Editor:

In regard to Paul Arnett's article "A&M lacks class," I have to give him a great big horse laugh.

For Paul's information, A&M has more class than any other University in the nation. You don't hear us standing up and booing the officials or throwing ice on the court after a bad call. You don't hear the Aggies stand up and yell in unison insulting statements about the opponent.

I was at the game at Austin. I was never so humiliated in my life as I was when the t.u. Jazz Band, one like you want us to have so much, sang two songs that made fun of everything A&M holds sacred. Do you call that class?

I was at Houston, when with 30 seconds remaining in the game, their cheerleaders led the crowd in "Poor Aggies." Mr. Arnett, is that your idea of class?

I was at T.C.U. where I was insulted and ridiculed, not to mention what they had to say about the school I love so much, and you call that class?

Being a journalist myself, I recognize your right to express your opinions as you wish, but maybe you should examine what you have said.

Calling the Aggie Band, which incidently is the best precision marching band in the world, "300 people blowing and going" is going too far.

The "military look" you have so many nice things to say about, is the look that lets you walk in a free country, and gives you the right to express your opinions in written form.

I have nothing against good-looking girls, but the floor of G. Rollie White is not the place for them, except for the womens basketball team.

If you have the desire to march to the beat of a teasip drum, go ahead. I'm sure the Daily Texan could find a place for you on their staff. However, don't expect me to follow. I ain't following a teasip anywhere.

These outdated traditions as you call them, are what makes Texas A&M what it is, a cut above everyone else. In this day of everyone trying to imitate everyone else, I'm proud to be an Aggie.

I say keep the traditions A&M stands for. Let's be different, let's be Aggies. Will Rogers once said he never met a man he didn't like... Will Rogers never met Paul Arnett.

— Nathan Hines, '80

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

College of Medicine open house

The Texas A&M College of Medicine will have an open house Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Room 215 in the Animal Industries Building. All prospective and interested students are invited. The program will include an introduction to the College of Medicine, a visit with faculty and medical students and a tour of the College of Medicine.

Free blood pressure exams

Free blood pressure examinations will be available Wednesday and Thursday to anyone interested in the Memorial Student Center. Sponsored by the Texas A&M Circle K Club, the Texas A&M Emergency Care team and the American Heart Association, the examinations will be held between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. both days.

Last day for grad announcement

Today is the last day for graduating seniors to order their invitations. Orders are being taken at the Student Finance Center, Room 217 in the Memorial Student Center, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The senior invitations range in price from 40 cents to \$1 each.

STATE

Wiretapping decision reversed

The 11th Court of Civil Appeals in Eastland Thursday reversed a \$1 million invasion of privacy award made by a San Antonio jury to a fired executive of Southwestern Bell who sued the telephone company, alleging it had wiretapped his phone.

The unanimous decision denies James and Bonnie Ashley the \$1 million they were awarded after a three-week trial last December. "We do not wiretap and we never have wiretapped," said Doyle Rodgers, Southwestern Bell vice president for Texas. "We are pleased that the appellate court supports our position that no evidence was presented to show that any wiretapping had taken place," he added.

Schools not liable in accidents

A school district is immune from liability in damage suits except in cases involving vehicle mishaps, the Texas Supreme Court has ruled. In a 7-2 decision in Austin on Wednesday the courts ruled that a 16-year-old, who was paralyzed when the roof of a building used for vocational agriculture projects collapsed on him, cannot collect from the Kerrville School District or the officials involved. The family of Mark Bernhard sued for \$750,000 after his back was broken July 13, 1974, by a collapsing roof of an old Army barracks used as a barn at the Tivy High School Ag Farm. In making the decision the court also ruled that public school teachers and administrators are not liable for injuries to students unless they use excessive force in discipline.

NATION

Crackdown on student loans

The government Thursday announced a crackdown on fraud and mismanagement in three federal aid programs to college students. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare will intensify efforts to get money from student loan defaulter, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano said in Washington. More than 100 proprietary schools are under investigation for fraud and abuse related to the guaranteed student loan program, he added. Califano also warned that beginning this spring, all institutions entering the loan program will be reviewed for the adequacy of administrative and federal standards before they are allowed to participate.

New red dye linked to cancer

A nearly completed study of the last widely used red food dye still allowed on the market shows it is a potential cancer causer, according to one high-ranking Food and Drug Administration scientist. The fate of Red 40 is still unknown, however, since other FDA researchers disagree whether the animal tests indict the chemical. The only other red dye in significant use is Red 4, used for marachino cherries. The FDA from Washington has proposed a ban on Red 4's use and manufacturers are already switching to Red 40. The manufacturers of some foods, especially soda pop, support the use of Red 40 claiming that it is the only dye left that will color food the way consumers are used to seeing it.

Midwest feeling coal strike

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall Thursday gave miners and soft coal operators a two-day deadline for settling the nation's 73-day-old coal strike and ordered them to negotiate the settlement around the clock. Marshall said he was seeking no less than a full-fledged settlement to be presented to the United Mine Workers' bargaining council. The council rejected the coal companies' first offer last weekend. Energy problems across the country are getting more serious with each passing day. The Midwest is suffering the worst, and President Carter declared an energy emergency for Indiana. Carter lifted air pollution regulations to allow the use of lower quality coal in Indiana while Ohio was placed in that status last Saturday. The Justice Department decided the situation was serious enough to order U.S. attorneys, U.S. marshals and the FBI "to be alert to any complaints about violence or attempts to impede movement of coal into critical areas."

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today with a chance of rain and thunderstorms. High today in the low 50's, low tonight in the low 30's. High tomorrow in the low 50's. Winds from the North-North East at 15-20 mph. 50% chance of rain today, 50% tonight, and 20% Saturday. Fair and cold on Sunday. Continued below normal temperatures.

THE BATTALION

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for certification.

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