

sports



By Paul Arnett

Highway 6 does run both ways

It was April 15, 1976. America was preparing to celebrate her 200th birthday, people were laughing at an unknown peanut farmer who was running for president and the Golden State Warriors, not the Washington Bullets, were winning the NBA Championship. But these events were minor compared to what was happening in College Station. Paul Arnett, a mild-mannered reporter from Dallas, had just assumed the awesome responsibility of sports editor of The Battalion.

Who? Paul Arnett. A guy who loved sports, but didn't know how to write it. A guy who thought coach Emory Ballard and his hoard of mighty men were just one step away from God

himself. A guy, who, for an entire year wrote great things about lousy things. But this past September mild-mannered Paul Arnett decided he was cheating all those people who bothered reading what he had to write. He decided that writing great things about lousy things made the lousy things look lousier. No more "A&M gave it the good old college try and the only reason they lost 60-0 was because the other team was lucky." If the Aggs were beaten because the defense was pitiful, then that would be the topic of discussion in the next issue. But did that make all those cheated people happy? Nope. Aggies, who pride themselves on their honesty, didn't want to hear

the bad side of the 60-0 score, only the good. Many a good Ag visited Mr. Arnett's office and told him about the times when A&M was 2-9 and 1-10. Back in those days old Army was happy if the Ags managed to score a touchdown, much less win a game. And if he didn't like it here, why did he stay? He must have known that Highway 6 runs both ways. There were plenty of his kind over in Austin. If he wanted to report the facts, then he ought to pack his bags, head to the land of the Longhorns and write for The Daily Texan. For some reason this didn't discourage the dummy from Big 'D'. Mr. Arnett thought the ones who disliked him numbered in the minority. And to prove this fact he decided to attack Mom, apple pie and Aggie traditions. The article that attacked the sac-

red cow of Aggieland appeared in the paper prior to the last home basketball game. That night Mr. Arnett found out how many friends he didn't have. One young lady told him that none of the traditions that make A&M unique should ever change. Lucky for her the oldest tradition at A&M had been altered or she wouldn't have had the opportunity to tell Mr. Arnett just how crazy he was. Many Ags took it upon themselves to tell Mr. Arnett that he was crazy. Answering letters and phone calls were a daily routine for the sports editor for weeks on end. And yet, all things must pass. Mr. Arnett is leaving Aggieland to embark upon a career of journalism. In his two-year tenure as The Battalion's sports editor he has learned that Aggies believe in individuality

as long as you conform to it. He has learned that holding on to his own integrity through honest reporting is more important than a coach's feelings. He has learned that it is difficult telling it like it is. And one other thing. He has learned that it truly does run both ways.

Aggie notes and quotes

Texas A&M visits SMU Friday and Saturday with a chance to catch league-leading Arkansas in the Southwest Conference pennant race. The Aggies are 12-3 in league play while the Razorbacks are 15-3 and idle this weekend. A&M will play its first night game of the season on Friday night in Reverchon Park. The starting time will be 7:30 p.m. The teams will meet in a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday. The Aggies, 25-10 for the season, extended their winning streak to nine straight by sweeping a three-game series from TCU last weekend. Mark Ross won his fifth straight game in the opener, but ace reliever John Pockrus had to get the final out in the ninth in a 4-3 game. Mark Thurmond pitched a two-hitter in the first game Saturday for a 3-1 win. It was Thurmond's 19th straight regular season win without a loss. The Aggie bats exploded in the third game for 19 hits in a 14-3 win. David Pieczynski (4-3) was the winning pitcher. First baseman Kyle Hawthorne took over the team batting lead with four hits in the third game. Hawthorne is now hitting .342. He hit his 13th homerun of the season to lead the nation in that department and drove in seven runs to give him 37 for the season. Shortstop Robert

Bonner is batting .341. The team broke the A&M home-run record with a total of 45 and tied the doubleplay record with 41. Texas A&M golf coach Bob Ellis will take five players to Houston Wednesday for the prestigious All-American Intercollegiate Invitational to be played at Atascocita Golf Course. The tournament runs through Saturday. Playing for A&M will be Dave Ogrin, Tim Carlton, Biff Alexander, Doug Ward and Jay Kent. The same five finished third in the April Sound Salute to Collegiate Golf last weekend. Ogrin had 69-74, Carlton 71-76, Alexander 73-72, Ward 74-77 and Kent 79-74. The Texas A&M women's softball team plays in the Texas Wesleyan Tournament Friday and Saturday in Fort Worth. Last weekend A&M beat Southwest Missouri, Kansas State and Oklahoma, but lost to Illinois Southwest and did not make it to the semifinals. A&M is now 11-5 for the season. Curtis Dickey, changing from football gear to track togs in a phone booth, proved this past weekend that he is Texas A&M's answer to Superman. All the Aggie sophomore did was run for 161 yards in 12 carries, in-

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cluding a 65-yard touchdown Friday's afternoon's scrimmage; win the 100-mile invitational of the Texas Relays 10.22 Saturday morning anchor A&M's winning 400-meter relay team in 39.95.

He was named the outstanding individual of the Texas Relays although it was his first track two weeks.

A&M posted season's best in the 400-meter relay with 5000-meter run (Manfred 14:06.33); 400-meter hurdle (Busch 52.24) and 1600-meter (3:07.3).

Chuck Butler, Ray Brock Kerr and Dickey comprise 400-meter relay unit. Brock Kerr made up the 1600-meter unit. They ran their 3:07.3 prelims but scratched from finals when both Williams came up with tight legs during on the 800-meter relay.

This week the Aggies on Baylor and LSU in a triangular Saturday at Kyle Field. Field start at 1 p.m. A&M's women begin at 3 p.m. A&M's women hosts Baylor's women to meet at the same time.

The Texas A&M's men's team takes this week off after a pair of Southwest Conference matches last week.

The Aggies lost to TCU, nationally fourth-ranked SMU and now 9-12 in dual and 28-44 in SWC play. The action will be at home against April 17.

The Texas A&M women's team hosts Houston Wednesday p.m. on the A&M courts. The Aggies earned a berth in the tournament by finishing third zone tourney last week. Beaumont, Houston was 15.4 points, Lamar second and A&M third with 13.4.

Elise Richardson and Alley lost a close match, 7-6. Houston in the doubles final. Susan Schell and Helen Richardson and Helene semifinals. Richardson lost semifinals in singles and losing it to the quarterfinal.

"This was our best showing year," coach Ellen Buchanan said. "We'll be ready for the state tournament in Denton April 19-21."

Two Texas A&M graduates have made important contributions to the A&M athletic program. H.C. Heldenfels, Class of 1912, was inducted into the Texas A&M Hall of Honor at halftime of the Maroon-White game April 22.

H.C. Heldenfels, Class of 1912, and L.F. Peterson, Class of 1913, will be the third and fourth inductees into the Hall of Honor. Heldenfels was established in 1977 for outstanding contributions to the Aggie program.

The support that Heldenfels and Peterson have given to the program over many years is just a part of their wide service to Texas A&M. Heldenfels, of Corpus Christi, served on the A&M Board of Regents for 12 years and was chairman in 1965-66. He is president of The Aggie Club, an original 12th Man scholarship donor. Peterson, of Worth, served on the A&M Board of Regents from 1963-75 and board chairman in 1967-68. Peterson is past president of the Association of Former Students and an original 12th Man Scholarship donor. Heldenfels and Peterson were inducted into the Hall of Honor in 1977. Heldenfels, Class of 1912, and Bert Pfaff, Class of 1913, were inducted into the Hall of Honor in 1977.