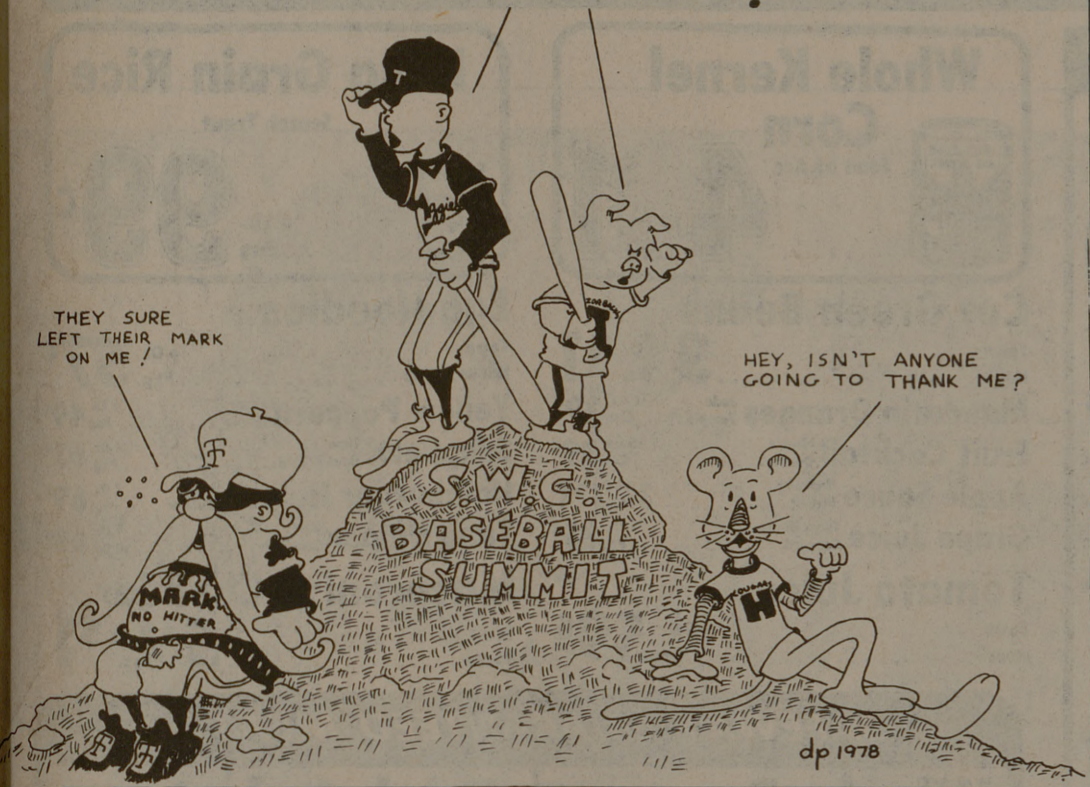


### O.K. TURKEY WHERE ARE YOU ?



By David Boggan

# An unusual season

Looking back over the past few months, I think this must be the most unusual season in recent Texas A&M baseball history, maybe even in recent Southwest Conference history.

One of the conference's perennial powers, the University of Texas has had a rough season. The Longhorns are still not sure that they will be included in the post-season tournament which is to be held at their own field.

At the same time, a team that very few mentioned as the possible SWC champion, the Arkansas Razorbacks, are tied for the lead with Texas A&M going into the final series of the season with the Aggies.

For Coach Tom Chandler's Aggies, it looked as though the 1978 season would be a long one. In the conference opener against Houston, the Cougars took two games from the Aggies.

But as it turned out, the only thing that seemed long and drawn out was the time it took to complete the Aggies' new home, Olsen Field.

The Aggies got on the winning track by defeating Texas twice in Austin and sweeping Rice in a three-game series at Olsen Field.

In the series against Baylor, the Aggies hit a record seven homerun balls over the fence and into the Brazos River in Waco.

Chandler's crew even took on a professional team this season. The Houston Astros were passing through town, on their way to a season opener with Cincinnati, and the Aggies defeated them 1-0.

The SMU series featured a bench-clearing brawl and saw Chandler and three other Aggies expelled from the game.

When Texas Tech came to College Station last weekend, the Raiders were the victims of a three-game sweep by the Aggies in which Mark Thurmond pitched a no-hitter, the first of his career.

Injuries have also been a part of Texas A&M's 1978 season. Mike Hurdle, Shelton McMath and Mark Warriner have all served time on the Aggies' injury list.

Now, this season of sweeps and records, controversy and injuries has come down to three games.

The team may sit in the dugout before daily practice and talk about horseback riding or Ryan's Hope, but the Arkansas Razorbacks weigh heavy on their minds.

"Being in classes doesn't even mean anything to us this week," said Kyle Hawthorne. "Arkansas has been in the back of everybody's mind for the last few series."

"We're ready to leave today," said Randy Woodruff. "Let's get this thing started."

And, like his players, Chandler said he is ready to go to Fayetteville.

"We're looking forward to bringing home the bacon," Chandler said. "But this Arkansas team is no surprise to me. They are damn good. They made it to the play-offs last year and this year they're a year older."

The key to the Aggies' success this season, Chandler said, has been the ability of players to step in and do the job required of them.

"When Mark Warriner was injured, we had a man who came in and played exceptional — Robert Verde," the Aggie coach said. "And Randy Woodruff stepped in at sec-

ond base and gave us something else we needed — the double play.

"We started practice on Jan. 20 and now it all boils down to three

ball games." Indeed, after such an unusual season, the Aggies find that the season is still ahead.

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## Gervin leads Spurs

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — George Gervin scored 27 points to lead San Antonio to a 116-105 victory over Washington Tuesday night to keep the Spurs alive in the NBA East Division semifinals.

Mike Green, a reserve center who became a starter two games ago, backed up Gervin with 18 points, including two dunks and two threes in the final three minutes of the game.

The win left Washington still dead 3-2 in the seven game series. The next game is Friday night in Landover, Md., where the Spurs have never won in their two NBA seasons. A possible seventh game will be played Sunday in San Antonio.

The Spurs took an early lead, 27 after the first quarter, but the Bullets cut the margin to 57-55 at halftime behind a 10-point scoring surge by Mitch Kupceak in the second quarter.

Washington took its only lead early in the third period with 9:23 left on Bob Dandridge's jumper but when the Spurs reassumed command behind the Bullets cut the margin

to two points with 1:50 left in that quarter by Larry Wright.

The Spurs had their most balanced scoring attack of the series with five men in double figures. Larry Kenon had 15 points, Billy Paultz added 14 and Mike Gale hit for 12.

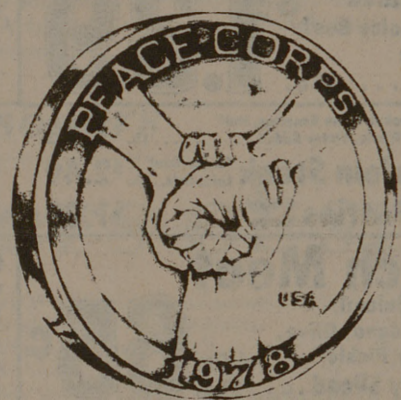
Guard Charles Johnson led the Bullets with 23 points while Dandridge and Elvin Hayes, who had led the Washington scoring the previous games, were held to 16 and 17 points, respectively.

The Spurs were the NBA's highest scoring team during the regular season but had not been able to con-

trol the pace of the previous games against the Bullets. In last Sunday's loss at Landover, Coach Doug Moe changed the team's run-and-gun offense to a deliberate passing game.

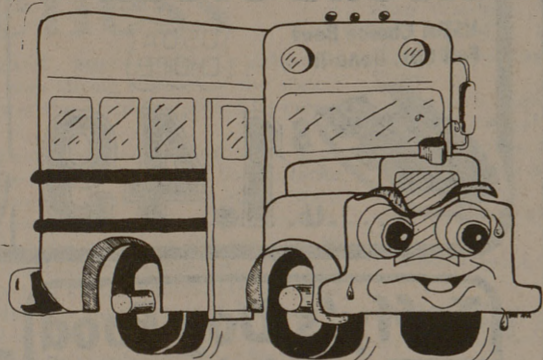
Tuesday night the Spurs used both strategies, using the slower style throughout the first half and turning on their running game in the second half as they scored six straight points.

Washington could get no closer than nine points with 2:33 in the game, but San Antonio turned back the Bullets as Green hit three straight and Gervin hit a 2-foot jumper.



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