

# OPINION

## AgSpeak defined — finally

Here is a foreigner's guide to AggieSpeak, a sub-dialect of Texan spoken only on the Texas A&M University campus. Each word or phrase is accompanied by the definition fixed on it by constant obnoxious usage through the years:

**Aggie** — any student or former student of Texas A&M University, a large trade school in Brazos County, Texas.

**"Aggies neither lie, cheat, nor steal, nor do they tolerate those who do."** — the world's oldest Aggie joke.

**GoodAg** — anyone who agrees with a set of campus social laws established by no one in particular and practiced by a vocal minority. Apparently GoodAgs are blessed with amazing stamina, particularly at football games and in bed. Also, they are never, ever, ever, never wrong.

**Good Bull** — The tribal religion of Aggies. It sanctifies anything a GoodAg does or wants to do and includes threatening anyone who objects to Good Bull.

**"Highway 6 runs both ways."** — An astute observation by a brilliant A&M engineering student. What he failed to realize was that all highways run in two directions. This brilliant young man was struck down while sitting in the middle of Highway 6 trying to figure out how Aggies got to College Station since the road apparently only runs to Dallas and Houston. Amazingly, all GoodAgs seem unable to comprehend this as well.

**"Listen up, Army"** — An immediate cue that whatever follows will be worthless drivel.

**Not Good Bull** — Heresy. No precise definition is available. But it seems to include questioning anything the University has done, is doing, or will ever do.

**Quadding** — an Aggie tradition that combines felony assault with kidnapping and medieval forms of sadism.

**Tradition** — Anything a GoodAg doesn't want changed. In the past, this has included racism, sexual discrimination, and freshman hospitalization.

**Two-percenter** — Anyone who is not a GoodAg. This includes, by definition, two percent of the students on campus, as documented by the census of 1910. It also includes the rest of the human race.

**Yell Practice** — the solemn high mass of Good Bull. Rites include brain-numbing intoxication, explosive vomiting on other worshippers, and the most artless pseudo-pornographic ravings imaginable.

## Marriage: still a taxing affair

For a society which honors marriage, it seems strange that current federal tax law has changed the old adage to "two can live together cheaper than one, that is if they are unmarried rather than married."

The tax laws often require married people with two incomes to pay more taxes than they would if they were single. By simply living together, many couples can reap considerable tax savings.

(In) 1948 Congress tried to erase state-by-state inequities that gave some couples advantages over others. Singles wound up on the short end, however, with some paying almost twice as much as a married couple earning the same income. In 1969 lawmakers reversed the pendulum, but in so doing threw the onus back onto married couples.

Because only 40 percent of married women were in the work force then, the problem got little attention. But in recent years, with many more women taking jobs outside the home, spouses have learned how severe the penalty is. In some cases young couples duck the issue by remaining unmarried although living together.

Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R. N. Jand others have introduced legislation to do away with the "marriage tax." The measure has 215 cosponsors in the House and 23 in the Senate.

The catch? The Carter administration's budget-balancing drive. The Fenwick proposal would cost the government \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year and the administration is standing firm.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## THE BATTALION

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
APRIL 17, 1980

## Russian people paying a price for careless germ warfare projects

By JIM ANDERSON

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — It has the makings of a melodramatic spy novel, except that it lacks two things: a hero and an ending.

The Great Germ War, in which the United States and Russia traded bitter accusations on an emotional subject both have preferred to keep quiet, is a puzzling exercise in public diplomacy.

What is unexplained is whether it is just a blast in the New Cold War, another example of Washington taking every post-Afghanistan opportunity to be tough on the Russians, or whether there is something more chilling or puzzling behind it.

Perhaps a chronology will clarify things: — April 1979: In Sverdlosk, 1,000 miles east of Moscow, hundreds of Soviet citizens, perhaps as many as 1,000, come down with a deadly form of fast-acting pneumonia. Soviet doctors recognize it as anthrax, a disease carried by ruminating cattle. It also happens to be a favored biological warfare agent because it is deadly and

fast-acting — but friendly forces can easily be vaccinated against it.

— October 1979: Rumors have been leaking out of the sealed-off Sverdlosk area saying that hundreds of people died following an explosion or accident at "Military Installation No. 19" in the Ural Mountains. In a closed society, where many people mistrust the official press, such rumors travel quickly and they are soon picked up by Western intelligence.

The report is leaked to the West German tabloid, Bild, but the story is ignored, partly because of the newspaper's sensational tendencies.

— February 1980: The report is picked up by two British news magazines, The Economist and Now. However, the reports are taken seriously by Washington for the first time when Tass, the Soviet news agency, publicly denies them as fabrications.

On the theory that if Tass denies it, there must be something to it, some reporters begin asking the State Department about the germ war reports.

— March 1980: The State Department's Politico-Military Bureau, which deals with disarmament questions, among other things, puts together a statement about what it calls "disturbing evidence" of the accidental exposure of some Soviet citizens to a "biological warfare agent."

As in every project involving dozens of people, rumors begin to travel through the State Department. I hear the rumors and ask about the reports, on the unlikely chance there might be an answer.

To everybody's surprise, including mine, the spokesman, David Passage, reads a public statement confirming that the United States believes something sinister involving biological warfare happened near Sverdlosk in 1979.

(Some suspicious reporters ask me if my question was planted by some State Department official who wanted the news to get out. It was not. In fact, I was kicking myself for asking the question publicly. Had I known the State Department would produce some real information, I would

have gotten the information rather than share the story with the State Department reporters.)

— March 1980: The Soviets admit it was an incident but they say it was "bad food handling." The State Department politely declines to accept the claimer for reasons available in a medical manual: The anthrax outbreak Sverdlosk was pulmonary, spread through the air, and not by eating or handling infected meat, which would have been detected by cooking.

That is the outline of the evidence. Soviets did, in fact, secretly violate the 1975 agreement to ban germ war agents, it would cast doubt on their integrity in adhering to other arms agreements including SALT II.

And if that is so, the obvious unasked question remains: Why did the State Department, which is about to renew SALT II treaty in the Senate, bring up germ warfare information and to guarantee the death of the SALT II



## LETTERS

### Carter: worthless and incompetent?

Editor:

As the May 3 primary approaches, I urge all Aggies to vote because this is the right given to American citizens. If we vote, we are engaging in an act which is vital to our nation's interests.

Never has there been a time when we needed strong, competent leaders like in 1980. At the present time the liberal Democrats control Congress; they overtax us, overregulate Americans, and are turning this country into a welfare state. The inflation and energy woes of the past year are caused by the liberals' desire to their giveaway programs. In addition, their budget deficits are one cause of inflation, because of their desire to print up money which is worthless.

In addition, the bureaucracy has become overblotted because Congress does not keep a lid on these useless agencies. Finally, Congress needs to keep their nose out of the oil companies and let the companies discover oil.

So fellow Aggies, vote for a change; vote Republican (especially Reagan). Remember, a vote for Carter is a vote for an incompetent, worthless president.

Richard Leonardon

### The Frats are Okay

Editor:

The MSC Basement Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Inter-Fraternity Council for helping make the "Greeks or Geeks?" Talent Night our most successful amateur show to date. We were certainly impressed with your willingness and cooperation with us in the planning and production of the show. We have not received this from any other group we have worked with this year. Corps Night, predicted to be our most successful show, was a major disappointment due to the numerous hassles and frustrations encountered in working with the Corps of Cadets. We were pleasantly surprised, to

say the least, at your attitude and support in making the show a success. Your help before, during, and after the show was greatly appreciated, as it considerably reduced the Basement members' workload. Once again, we thank you, and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Steve Schulte  
Chairman-elect, MSC Basement

### Rain, rain, go away

Editor:

This past weekend MSC Aggie Cinema was proud to present the Academy Award-winning film, "The Deer Hunter." On Saturday night, however, several hundred people were turned away from seeing the film because 701 Rudder was full. Let me explain the problems we are faced with when programming at the Grove. At the beginning of this semester, for example, Aggie Cinema knew that both the Auditor-

ium and the Theater were not available to show our film on Saturday, April 12. The committee decided to show the movie at the Grove, which seats approximately 300. Because of inclement weather we were forced to move the film to 701, which seats approximately 300. The movie quickly sold out and we unfortunately had to turn several hundred people away from seeing the film. To prevent this problem from affecting you in the future, I suggest you buy your tickets in advance. We will not, however, sell more than the seating capacity of our room (the backup room for Grove) in advance. This will guarantee you a seat regardless of where the film is shown. Another good suggestion is to see the semester movie calendar for the last week the film will be shown. I hope the aforementioned problem does not happen again. Let's also hope for better weather the next several weeks, especially on 2.

Henry H. ...  
Chairman, MSC Aggie Cinema

## THOTZ

