

Jr. and Sr. Yell

Yell leaders have to control Aggie

By CINDY GEE

Battalion Staff

The yell leaders — five men given the power to control the spirited shouts of thousands of Aggie fans.

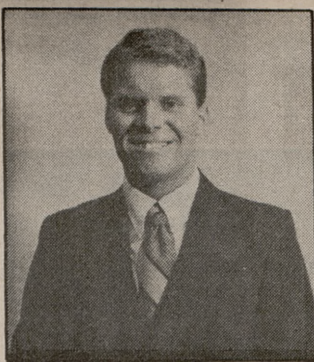
But that power hasn't always been bestowed upon yell leaders by a majority vote of the student body.

Mark Outlaw, head yell leader, said yell leaders originated before the turn of the century when cadets' dates for football games had to be imported from other schools. Upperclassmen met the girls at the train depot, and got dates before the freshmen did.

Thus, there usually weren't enough dates for all the freshmen. During halftime, trainers for the team would get the freshmen to sing songs, and do yells and skits to entertain the upperclassmen and their dates.

Outlaw said the trainers all wore white, and that's how the tradition of an all-white uniform started. However, another source had a different idea on how the uniform originated. He said the freshmen, who then wore gray uniforms, would take off their coats so their white undershirts would distinguish them from the crowd.

Except for three men, the yell leaders have always been from the Corps. Outlaw said that within the Corps, sophomores and juniors will nominate three or four juniors and four or five seniors that they want to run for yell leader. It's a way of narrowing it down and assuring the Corps



Senior Yell Leader
GIB SEARIGHT

Gib Searight, a junior agronomy major from Amarillo, is running for senior yell leader.

Searight says he wants to resolve the growing differences between students.

"As A&M grows it gets tougher to channel everyone's enthusiasm to a positive direction," he said. "It's important that both non-reg's and c.t.s realize that we're all pulling for the same team."

"We have a great women's program here and they deserve more attention than what they are getting," he said.

Searight says he would control crowds by becoming involved faster.

"I would start the yells faster," he said. "This way it would be giving the fans more outlets and let them express themselves through yells, i.e. 'The Horse Laugh' or 'Sit Down, Bus Driver.'"

"The best way to instill tradition is to be a fired-up example," he said, "and it will be my endeavor to be just that."



Senior Yell Leader
SARAH FINDLAY

Sarah Findlay, a junior journalism major from Lindale, says she is running for yell leader to express her support and spirit for Texas A&M.

She says her enthusiasm, outgoing personality and ability to work with people qualify her for the position.

Findlay says she will try to get off-campus Aggies more involved.

"I will serve as a representative for off-campus Aggies' school spirit," she said. "I will help to drum up off-campus Aggies' A&M spirit and involvement so all students could walk to the same beat."

She will encourage a personal relationship between students and yell leaders so the two groups would have more respect for each other, Findlay says.

As for traditions, she says, "If a large number of students are straying from Aggie traditions, then the traditions need to be adapted to fit the new mode of thinking — without pulling away from the true Aggie traditions," she said.



Senior Yell Leader
ARTIE ANDERSON

Artie Anderson, a junior recreation and parks major from Alta Loma, says he is running for yell leader because he feels civilian students need to be represented as well as members of the Corps of Cadets.

Anderson says he feels Corps and civilian students need more equal representation.

"We each have our own styles of doing things but we need to direct all of our energies to backing the Aggies as best as possible," he said.

Anderson cited the recent lack of crowd control as a lack of respect for the yell leaders by the predominantly civilian student body, since they did not elect them.

Of traditions, Anderson says the attitude has not changed, but students are forming an attitude favoring a different lifestyle not based on the Corps.

"These students will accept certain old traditions that they love and respect, but they will also start some of their own," he said.



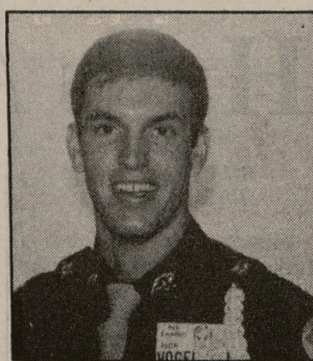
Senior Yell Leader
NORRIS HODGIN

Norris Hodgin, a junior animal science major from Tilden, is running for senior yell leader.

Hodgin says he would like to represent Texas A&M and its traditions. He cites leadership and his ability to communicate with people as qualifications for the position.

Hodgin says, "If the attitude of the student body was moving away from the traditions, I would use the available media and yell practices to bring about this realization and inform the students how vital traditions are at A&M."

"Hopefully if the students are informed of what being an Aggie is all about, then they will realize that a large part of the role is conducting oneself in a manner that upholds the meaning of the word 'Aggie,'" he said. "This would include being a sportsman regardless of the outcome of the event."



Senior Yell Leader
RICK VOGEL

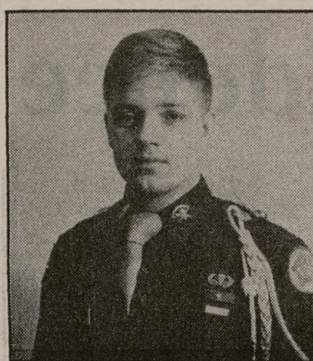
Rick Vogel, a junior chemical engineering major from College Station, says he loves Aggie spirit and is fulfilling a life-long dream by running for yell leader.

Vogel is a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Singing Cadets. He says he has represented Texas A&M in the past and has what it takes to be an Aggie and a yell leader.

Yell leaders are faced with the task of maintaining the Aggie's distinctive identity and spirit as the University grows, Vogel says.

He says he would do this by educating students in Aggie traditions.

"As a yell leader, I would attempt to instill in every student the pride that Aggies have for their school and its traditions," Vogel said.



Senior Yell Leader
MIKE THATCHER

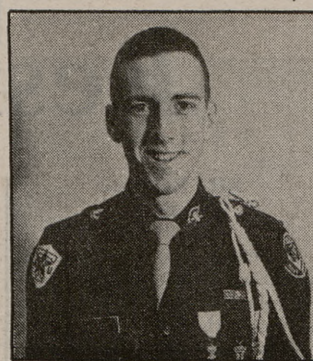
Mike Thatcher, a junior agricultural economics major from Spring, is running for senior yell leader. Thatcher was a junior yell leader for 1980-81.

Thatcher feels his position as a junior yell leader and status as a member of the Ross Volunteers are qualifications for the role of senior yell leader.

Thatcher says a more thorough understanding of traditions and a unified student body will allow these traditions to remain an important part of the University without interfering with the changing times.

Thatcher feels crowd control must involve cooperation between the crowd and the yell leader.

"I feel the answer to the problem of crowd control is to remind the student body that it should take it partially upon itself to maintain a controlled atmosphere," he said. "The yell leaders can only do what the crowd allows them to do."



Senior Yell Leader
JOHN NISBET

John Nisbet, a junior marketing major from Corpus Christi, is running for senior yell leader.

Nisbet says he would like to see greater exposure of Aggie traditions presented to incoming freshmen.

"The pride of being an Aggie can never be preached enough," he said.

Nisbet says he would also like to see the grade taken out of the role of yell leader and more spirit and excitement instilled in the Twelfth Man.

"Yell leaders should be leaders not only at sporting events, but in every facet of Texas A&M," he said.

Nisbet says yell leaders should "command the respect of the Twelfth Man and initiate the leadership needed to control the rowdiness of the crowd."

Nisbet is a first sergeant of Company F-2 in the Corps of Cadets and has worked with Young Life.



Senior Yell Leader
KENT TOPPERT

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