

## Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Perhaps I didn't make myself clear! I was merely pointing out that it was against University regulations to own a pet, but of course I'm sure that exceptions can be made!"

## Student describes 'A&M experience'

By Timothy James Coats

Texas A&M University is a superb place to receive an education. Here a person not only learns from books, but also from his relations with other people. Since the students and faculty are what actually make up the University, these relations, along with personal experiences, are what shape the "A&M Experience" for each individual. A large part of a student's experience is formed when he encounters the pleasures and frustrations of an incoming freshman.

To a new student, one of the most frightful things about Texas A&M is its immense size. Although people are what make the University what it is, the towering buildings and great expanses tend to make one feel like a little "fish" in a big pond. Texas A&M is a sprawling 5,142-acre complex of buildings, parking lots, and sidewalks. Even with all this construction, the campus remains much like a park. Its tree-lined walks and wide open spaces provide a lovely place for the University's 35,500 students to work and play. It has been said that Texas A&M is so large that the entire campus of the University of Texas at Austin would be able to fit on Texas A&M's polo field.

The Texas A&M campus and surrounding areas are known for the friendly people. Every day when walking between classes I am greeted by a cordial "Howdy" and a big grin. This spirit is not only carried out by students but by the faculty as well. Most instructors add a personal touch in their classes and really seem to care about their students as individuals.

The deep-rooted traditions at Texas A&M serve as the basis for all Aggie Spirit. They also help to bring students closer to their school. One such tradition is the Aggie "Twelfth Man." On New Year's Day, 1922, the Aggie team was playing Centre College, then the nation's top team. As the game wore on, the Aggies lost many of their players to injuries. These injuries caused the team to dig deeply into their limited reserves of players. When Coach D.X. Bible remembered a team member who was not suited up, King Gill was called from the stands, suited up, and stood ready throughout the rest of the game which Texas A&M finally won. Although Gill did not play in the game, he had readily accepted the call to help his team. He came to be thought of as the Twelfth Man because he stood ready for duty when the eleven men on the field needed help. That spirit of readiness for

service and desire to support have grown through the years. All feel loyal to their school; all stand ready for duty when called. Like that one student, all are the Twelfth Man.

Although Texas A&M's size is an advantage in some cases, having such a large number of students also creates some disadvantages. Many different activities and organizations are available for students to get involved with at Texas A&M. Large universities also tend to have more money for research and have better equipment than small colleges, but Texas A&M also has a few things that are not so pleasant. The large classes make it difficult for students to get the individual attention they need. Instructors and students do not get to know each other. The large number of students has caused a shortage of parking spaces and dorm rooms.

The University has had such tremendous growth in the last few years that it is now able to house less than one-third of its student body on campus. Being one of Texas A&M's off-campus students myself, I know that living off campus has its advantages and

disadvantages. Apartments afford students more privacy and room than dorm rooms do, but the apartment dwellers must also assume more responsibility than their on-campus counterparts. Getting involved in school activities is harder for off-campus students because there is no one around to remind them of all the activities taking place. Getting to and from campus is

another matter left entirely up to the student. If a student lives close to campus, he can ride a bike, but if he lives far away, he must drive a car or ride the shuttle bus. With such little parking available on campus, most students choose to ride the bus. In order to get to class on time, one has to leave his apartment at least thirty minutes early. On some of the early runs, the buses fill quickly and must pass by all of the last stops on their run. All the students that were waiting for the bus must then either walk or be late to class. All of these problems and inconveniences do detract slightly from the pleasure of being at school, but all and all, attending Texas A&M is an enjoyable experience.

Editor's note: Coats is a freshman computing science major at Texas A&M.

## It's your turn Don't forget to say 'howdy'

Editor:

Howdy! Has it been a long time since you've heard that greeting around campus? In the past few years, Texas A&M has been growing so rapidly that it has been losing some of what it is famous for — tradition. That "Aggie Spirit" is fading in the hustle and bustle of the large crowds on campus. So many people are in such a hurry to get to classes, meetings, study sessions, etc. that they forget to take time to say "howdy" to a fellow Ag.

Saying "howdy" is only a small part of the Aggie Spirit, but it is a very important part. The friendliness on the Texas A&M campus is what lures so many people to this school each year. This institution cannot let that friendliness just slip away.

So, in an attempt to try and bring back that tradition by bringing out a little Aggie Spirit in everyone, Lambda Sigma, sopho-

more honor society, encourages you to say "howdy." We'll be saying "howdy" (as always) and we expect everyone to respond to us. Look for our series of howdy posters hanging all over campus. Hopefully, our Howdy Campaign will instill back some of that Aggie Spirit and reinforce that Aggie Tradition that Texas A&M is so famous for. Gig 'em!

Lambda Sigma, Sophomore Honor Society

### Remark angers listener

Editor:

Friday morning I was listening to Houston's KIKK F.M. when Barry Warner, the station's sports broadcaster, began his ten o'clock sports brief. Among his stories was a

report on the resignation of former Director Marvin Tate. He gave his opinion about the reasons behind Mr. Tate's resignation and went on to end with a remark of criticism toward all Aggie sports, in connection with his opinion report was, and I quote, "The Aggie once again made a mockery of themselves."

I immediately telephoned KIKK several times and 90 minutes later I was talking with Warner about his comment. He told me he stood behind what he had said.

Well Ags, if that doesn't make you then I don't know what will. You're criticizing each and every one of us for that statement. It's people like Warner who attempt to degrade the great Aggie and all that it stands for. It's a shame somebody in the media could be so ignorant and misrepresent so many people.

Shawn Walters



## Media paints 'rosy' view of Israel

Editor:

It is incredible how the U.S. Government has entangled itself into a military alliance with Israel, a country that has been in almost constant conflict since its creation 32 years ago, while the overwhelming majority of the American people know little or nothing about the root causes of this conflict.

For 30 years now, the news media in this country has painted a rosy romanticized picture of Israel as the underdog; a small nation struggling to survive against much larger Arab adversaries. Israel has been portrayed as the only true democracy in the Middle East, essential and loyal ally of the United States and the Western answer to Communist expansion into the Middle East. On Capitol Hill, Congressmen and Senators, Democrats and Republicans, hungry for Zionist-Jewish money and support, debate for days on the importance of maintaining Israel's military superiority over its adversaries. Every day America is reminded by its legislatures that it has a moral obligation toward the security of Israel.

Yet not a word is said of the plight of two million Palestinian Arab's Moslems and Christians displaced by the arrival of two and a half million European Jews immedi-

## Reader's Forum

ately following World War II, and leading all the way up to the present. What is so moral about taking away the only means of livelihood for an Arab peasant, his land, then turning him out to spend the rest of his existence in a refugee camp living on U.N. and Red Cross handouts. All this, just so a Jew from Europe could have a place to set-

tle down. Couldn't the European Jews who have oppressed the Jews for centuries have found a place in Europe for themselves? Couldn't the Zionist-Jews who go to Palestine have shared the land with Arab inhabitants instead of trying to take it all for themselves.

Even before it was created in 1948, Israel was always intended, by militant Zionists, to be a purely Jewish state. The 2.3 million Arabs, Moslems and Christians who lived in Palestine prior to 1948 were an obstacle to be removed at the will and convenience of the Zionists. This is why we have fought Israel since its creation, and this is why Arabs view Zionism as a racist ideology.

Nabil Al-Khatib

## Warped



By Scott McCullar

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but not subject to the same length constraints as regular letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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