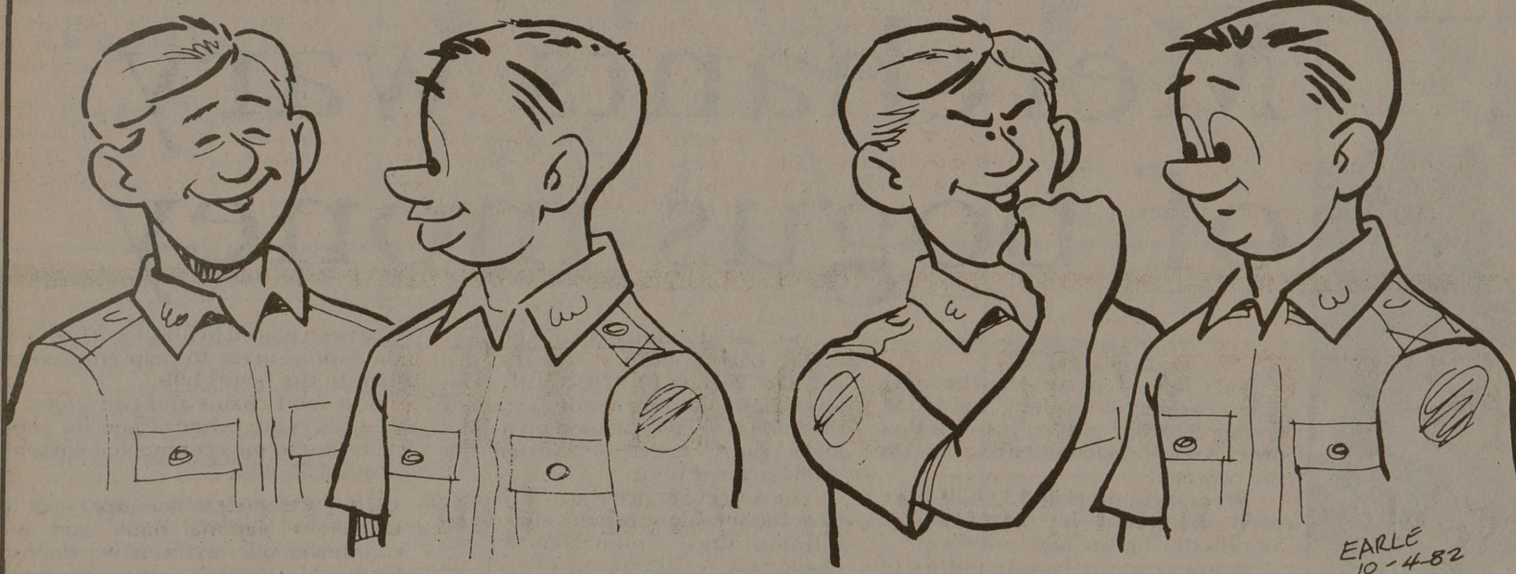


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"So I said, 'We may have differences about A&M, but you should have a chance to express your ideas,' and he told me how he felt ..."

"... and I listened to everything he had to say without interrupting a single time, and when he was through, POW! right in the mouth!"

Traditions
Unite toward a goal

Editor:

It started out so innocently. Somebody asked "why do I have to remove my hat during football games?" Then someone asked why he had to stand up. Then everyone became official University historian. Then the question-askers were declared two percenters. Then the "good Ags" were called closed-minded. Then it was argued whether A&M was nirvana or a "monotheistic prison of pseudo-idolatry." Then we discussed the pros and cons of traditions. Then we compared our library to other schools' libraries. Then it was pointed out that Highway 6 runs both North and South.

Let's stop the name-calling and sort this out. Texas A&M has a long military history that has been instrumental in shaping this University. It would be preposterous to attempt to ignore or erase this fact.

Aggie traditions (and that's traditions, not laws) have been embraced voluntarily and enthusiastically by generations of students. The sense of community created by these traditions is best reflected by the Association of Former Students. Can anyone honestly say that that organi-

zation or this institution could have pressed so far without the "Spirit of the land?"

I wonder how many of the Aggie traditions have given any thought to the alternatives. What would thus be like without "Howdy," which could use some revitalizing. A&M's football traditions sure leave half-empty stadiums and lethargy that one finds at many other schools. Having recently transferred from those schools, I find it exciting to be back and forth with 50,000 other and I don't feel my sense of self threatened. Have all of those traditions critics simply forgotten the meaning of fun?

A&M's traditions enhance this University's academic excellence, not detract from it. A winning football team in a stadium full of enthusiastic fans is much more likely to bring the excitement that this school needs than all of the "two percenters" and "Ags" would stop fighting with each other and put their energies into our goal of pre-eminence, that goal much closer than it seems.

Ken Mittel

Academics and tradition

Editor:

I promised myself I wasn't going to write yet another letter to The Battalion concerning all the hullabaloo over traditions vs. academia. However, after reading the various comments that address this issue, I just lost my self-control.

What is all this garbage implying we must have either academia or tradition? Yes, I came to Texas A&M for a top quality education, and yes, I feel I'm as good an Ag as I can be. Our traditions may not land us all \$40,000-a-year jobs, but I believe that because I feel such a loyalty to my fellow Ags and what they have consistently represented I will be a better person for it.

A&M is my home, the place I love best for many reasons, and I really can't understand the notion that we can't be a first class academic institution and retain

our rich history through tradition. To say A&M will never change is a full narrow-minded statement because we have seen so many changes through its history, but hopefully we will hold on to some sense of how and what got this far as we progress into the future.

If you are not fond of a particular tradition, either go someplace where you are not imposed upon, or grin and bear it.

Sure, it takes a little stamina to sit for three hours at a football game, but you don't have it, you just sit right there, but don't you dare holler at me for sitting in front of you. Now, if you will excuse me, I have to read a few more letters so I can take time out for my yell practice.

Kelli J. Clem

Carry spirit always

Editor:

Things are really getting out of hand. It amazes me to read The Battalion every day and see so many petty statements about fellow Aggies. After all, we are all Aggies, and we should have some respect for the ideas and beliefs of others. Even if we do not agree with other people's ideas, we should recognize that every individual is guaranteed the right to express his opinions. Is that not what this section of the paper is for? Clearly, it is.

I have a few opinions of my own I wish to express. First, I agree that Texas A&M is a great school, but it is by no means perfect. There are other schools that have, in the past, and currently surpass A&M in several areas. Hopefully, though, we can make a change in these areas, which brings me to my second point.

I further agree that A&M is filled with many rich traditions. These traditions have enhanced A&M, and they are a part of what puts A&M "a cut above" other schools. But some change is needed. Change is a necessary part that we must accept. We may lose some traditions, but we may also gain some in the process. So change is not all bad.

Finally, I want to encourage, challenge, all Aggies to show that true Spirit. Be Good Ags, and quit trying to cut others down simply because you have a different opinion. Let's do a song says, be "True to each other Aggies can be."

Incidentally, since we are supposed to be so unique, let's come up with a original idea to debate about.

Keith Cartwright

Freedom to choose

Editor:

The following lines are not original, but I feel that they may be appropriate.

To the pro-spirit faction: You have no reason to condemn or criticize those wishing not to participate in traditions unless they harm or inconvenience you by not taking part.

To the pro-academics faction: Do not condemn or criticize traditions or those who willingly take part in them unless by doing so they cause harm or inconvenience to you.

It is certainly not my intention to categorize everyone as either spirit-crazed partiers or anti-social bookworms, but proponents of the two positions seem to be locking horns as of late. Obviously, I think that people should be free to do as they choose, provided their actions do

not infringe on the rights or freedoms of others. Walking the fence and trying to see both sides (perhaps from fear of retaliation? No, certainly not in America, I am ...

Greg Hills

End it all

Editor:

A word concerning all this controversy over traditions here at Texas A&M University:
REST!

Saskia Ekelman
Carol Hart
Marcy Basile
Barbara Schrott

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HULME
N.E.A.



"Here's a notice about the pickup schedule — our service is unchanged: there will be no pickup on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. However, we are being given priority for delivery of garbage on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday."

The Battalion

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Corrections

An article in Thursday's Battalion incorrectly reported that a graduate course in English aids students in getting their thesis papers published.

The course — Technical Writing for Publication — aids students in getting articles published which are based on thesis papers.

Another article published in Thursday's Battalion incorrectly reported an amount for the annual University Press budget. The \$600,000 amount is the annual sales income — not the budget — for the University Press.

The Battalion regrets the errors.

Letter: Women's role in the Corps

Editor:

This letter is in response to one written by Debbie Robertson in regard to the role of women in the Corps.

Ms. Robertson, while I respect your views concerning women in the Corps, it saddens me to see that you don't understand why women are in the Corps. Let me try to help you understand. I am a fifth-year senior here at A&M. I finished my term in the Corps of Cadets last May at Final Review where I stood with the rest of the class of '82 and bid a tearful farewell to the Corps of 1983.

I am very proud of the years I spent as a woman in Company W-1 and so are many other women who have gone before me and will come after. The number of women in the Corps grows each year as the Corps becomes more and more "equality" responsible and more career-minded women become aware of the vast opportunities available to them by pursuing a military career.

I can't believe you are one of those unfortunate people who believe a "women's place is in the home" or else you yourself would not be here at Texas A&M in your senior year of achieving a degree from a University which is going to entitle you to something better than a frying pan. The women of Texas A&M have available to them probably the finest officer training program anywhere. If you have any desire to know the truth of the matter take a walk over to the Military Science Building and ask anyone in the Army, Air Force, or Naval/Marine De-

partments about the many fine women officers A&M has produced who are taking their responsible place in the military in the fine tradition of their Aggie officer brothers.

If that is not too much of a revelation for you it would be a simple matter to arrange for you a visit to the women's outfits. In fact, I would be more than happy to pay for your dining in Duncan with Company W-1, Ms. Robertson, so that you could learn something about the group of women you found it so convenient to malign. You would meet a group of women who are disciplined and cooperative, academically minded, willing to share possessions, hard-times and hardwork, but most of all determined and yet patient to make their time in the Corps meaningful to themselves, their school, their military service, and the rest of the Corps by putting in that little extra sacrifice of convenience.

While the Corps is certainly not for everyone, most of the Corps women are quite proud and would happily tell you so if only you had bothered to ask them. In 1969, this University made a giant leap forward in admitting women who are today an intricate part of this University. It was a liberal, equalitarian view which allowed you and I, Ms. Robertson, to attend this fine institution. I only hope you may, through learning the facts, come to share in this same belief of equality of opportunity.

Dawn M. Daniels, '82