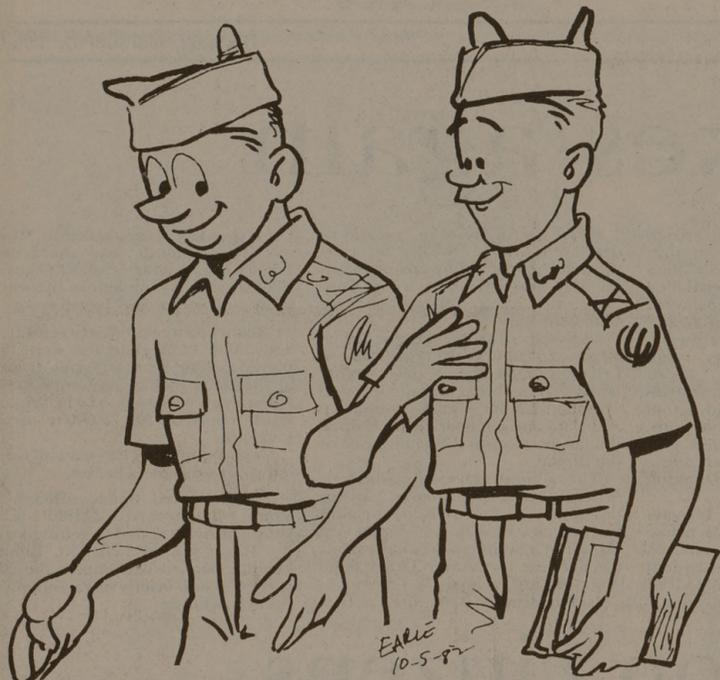


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Since the pro football strike, my eyesight has improved, I'm less frustrated, my weekends are longer, and I get to keep more of my money — but I hate it."

What's the debate about?

End it all. Those are definitely words of relief after seeing all the mud slinging that took the form of print on this page.

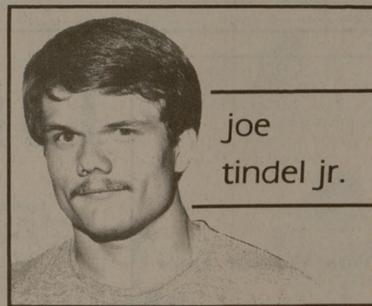
In one of the shortest letters ever on page 2, the authors perhaps made one of the greatest contributions to the Aggie cause. Amidst all the literary bickering about our traditions during the past few weeks, one question remained unanswered: What were we debating?

Now, let's see. There were three parties involved in the debate. There were the Aggies for Change, the Middle-of-the-Road Aggies and the Aggies for Status Quo.

The first group was supposedly a victim of the third group's intimidation, the second group was the referee and the third group seemed to possess the fear that Texas A&M might lose its uniqueness.

The referees were no match for such issues as "Down with Two Percenters" or "Up with Aggie Traditions," nor were they able to settle the "Standing Up at Football Games Is Stupid" or the "Up with Academia Instead" debates. They put forth a gallant effort, but anger often carries more weight than good common sense.

The earth-shaking roar emanating from Kyle Field Saturday during the fourth quarter of the Texas Tech game



joe tindel jr.

suggested majority support for the groups favoring present Aggie traditions. It also showed how unwarranted the fears of the Aggies for Status Quo were — unwarranted except that a few were attacking those who weren't participating in Aggie traditions.

Those few even attacked in print and in person those who are supporters of tradition but, for example, had to leave the game before yell practice for some good reason.

We may have created our own crisis, or, in other words, "we have met the enemy, and he is us." A little thought

might have told us that those who were willing to participate are not going to change their minds when we yell at them, and we're liable to run off those who do participate.

There will always be those who rather not participate in big group activities. Some simply can't comprehend the idea of school unity, and verbal arguments evoke only verbal attacks.

Words from a class of '58 Aggies help everyone rest easier. He said before Texas A&M became coeducational, there were those who were participants, and still Aggie traditions lived. He said today's student support of traditions is phenomenal, and change that has occurred has been positive.

We still have perhaps the most diverse student body in the world, and there are no indications we will ever be more diverse. We've survived non-participation in the past and we'll survive it in the future. Encouragement, not intimidation, fosters participation.

We're too diverse to hope for 100 percent participation, but it can be encouraged by showing the other Aggies how much fun we're having. So let's turn heads, close our mouths and let the pens in the drawer the next time someone leaving yell practice early.

Letters: Student says black students mocked

Editor:

I do not believe that students at this University should have to tolerate events which unnecessarily humiliate or disturb them. I am abhorred by at least three features of this University which degrade and show disrespect for an entire race of human beings.

First of all, the Slave Sale in front of SBISA is what I think to be in bad taste. I understand that the event was a fund-raising effort, but there must be a better way to make money without creating a mockery of an institution which has oppressed millions of people for several centuries. I consider that tasteless and very disrespectful.

Secondly, I am deeply astonished to find out that this University has not kept up with events as they relate to blacks. For instance, I visited the University library and discovered these words written on a subject index card entitled blacks: This Heading used February 1976 See Negroes for earlier materials.

Why weren't blacks regarded as such until so recent a year? Why, from a practical standpoint, isn't this material consolidated under one heading: Blacks? ...

Thirdly, I am disappointed that there are very few traditions here in which blacks can proudly participate. Yet, some students here still honor confederate flags, some honor the statue of a confederate, and the band plays Dixieland. Well, I guess - next, someone will wear a KKK outfit on Halloween as a joke or maybe not as a joke ...

Kevin Johnson '84

Women drivers

Editor:

Is it really true what they say about women drivers? "About the only time a woman driver pays any attention to curves is when she's getting dressed." I am beginning to believe that myth as well as countless others I have heard.

I am simply flabbergasted about the whole incident occurring on a Tuesday

after 6:30 p.m. While travelling southward on Jersey, I entered the curve exiting to westbound Wellborn. It was here where the two lady Aggies, driving a 1978 sky-blue Cutlass Supreme, rear-ended my car (license plate number withheld). The impact was minor; thus, immediately revealing that all parties were not physically injured. So, to avoid blocking traffic, I completed the turn and entered the tennis court parking lot (signalling my intentions) to check for damages. The Cutlass zoomed past me refusing to stop!

Need I say more? For the sake of argument, I shall. The damage to my car is insignificant: one back-up lamp was pushed half an inch further into the bumper than what the designers originally intended; the other back-up lamp casing suffered a few cracks. The car will live, though.

It is not the retribution I seek; but rather, it is the lack of responsibility and consideration I ponder. The damage can easily be repaired on my part. However, my faith in the responsibility of my fellow Aggies has been wounded.

Please, the next time anyone, male or female, insists upon hitting my car or anyone else's car, stop and check for possible injuries and/or damages.

James H. Kaster '85

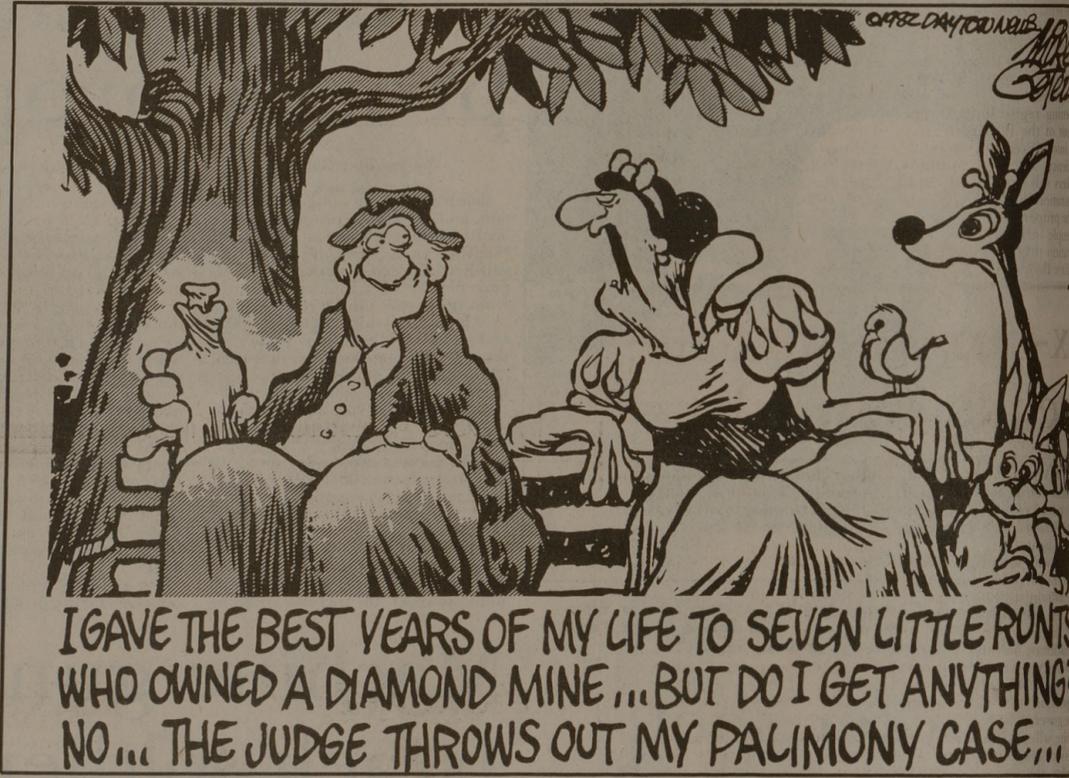
Lost calculator

Editor:

On the night of Sept. 14, I left a Hewlett Packard calculator in 207 Harrington Annex. It was marked with red cloth tape both on the calculator and the case. If anybody found this calculator, could they please contact me at 775-4008 or leave a message at the Department of Entomology (845-9733).

Also, I lost a black "bear-clip" Texas Aggies covered clipboard in the ACC computing center. It has some draft notes which I need.

Karl Anderson Bryan



I GAVE THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TO SEVEN LITTLE RUNTS WHO OWNED A DIAMOND MINE ... BUT DO I GET ANYTHING? NO ... THE JUDGE THROWS OUT MY PALIMONY CASE ...

Letters: Women belong in the Corps

Editor:

I'm writing in response to the letter by Debbie Robertson that appeared in the Battalion on Sept. 30. It is more than obvious that Miss Robertson is unaware of what A&M is all about. This college was established and is run by many great traditions. As a freshman and a woman in the Corps I am proud of all of these traditions and am willing to struggle to uphold them.

The battle on whether or not women should be in the Corps or any of the Corps organizations is irrelevant. This decision was made by the university in 1974. The time has come for more acceptance. Women in the Corps work just as hard as the men. The female fish push as hard as other fish, and my seniors wear their boots with just as much pride as any other senior.

I came to this school for just one reason, to be in the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets, and to be an Aggie. It should not matter whether I am male or female just that I care about this school and am willing to work to uphold the Corps motto "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman." This motto should not be taken literally but as a code for all to follow. If a person strives to give to a cause their body, mind and inner soul then they are true Aggies, and can be proud of not only what they believe in, but in themselves. This is what the Corps is about and these traditions should be passed on to all future Aggies whether they be male or female.

Jane F. Bergin '86

Squadron 14

Why not?

Editor:

In response to Miss Robertson's letter of Sept. 30: Through my three-plus years at Texas

A&M, I have encountered many ignorant, bigoted opinions such as yours. Yet, until now I have kept quiet about my views. Why is it disgraceful to have women in the Ross Volunteers? Why shouldn't any woman want to belong to such a proud moral organization which adheres to the concept "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman" and is the Honor Guard to the Governor of the state of Texas. If a woman feels she can uphold the high standards and meet the qualifications mentally, scholastically, and physically, then I think she should strive to achieve such a goal.

I am very patriotic towards my country and I feel that the best way for me to show this is through service in the United States Armed Forces as women have done since the Revolutionary War. Texas A&M commissions more qualified officers every year than any other ROTC detachment in the country. This University gives me the opportunity for an excellent education and excellent military training; I cherish the traditions and the spirit. That better way for a person such as myself to gain the full impact of this University but through the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets? I am proud to be an Aggie, I am proud to be a member of the Corps of Cadets, and I am proud to be a woman.

Sandra Phillips Squadron 14 Zip '83

Squadron 14

Editor:

This is in reference to Miss Robertson's letter of Sept. 30. Dear Miss Robertson, We were very distressed and surprised when reading your letter. We were hurt that a fellow Aggie could say such a thoughtless thing, and we were surprised that a senior at A&M could be so misin-

formed as to the intentions and attitudes of women in the Corps.

Who are you to say that women do not belong in the Corps? What right have you to judge women in the Corps unless you can speak from personal experience?

Over 90 percent of our outfit is taking a military contract. We are proud of A&M and everything it stands for. The only difference between us and you is that we are pursuing military careers and you are not. Is that any reason to condemn us? We are here to continue our military careers and not to pull down or create dissension within the student body.

We are proud of our outfit's achievements (First in Battalion, First in Brigade, and First in Battalion Scholarship) and we believe that we have made a name for ourselves in the Corps. We feel that we have earned the respect of our classmates and not the condescension and unwarranted prejudice of uninformed students.

Company co-signed: Squadron 14

This letter was accompanied by 62 signatures.

Women in Aggie band

Editor:

This letter is in response to Debbie Robertson's letter of Sept. 30.

I have never seen any evidence of men can march or play an instrument any better than a woman. I have never heard it said that women are less spirited or believe in being an Aggie any less than men.

So, why can't a woman show her spirit for A&M and the Corps by being in the Band or Ross Volunteers?

I've got an open mind. Explain it to me!

Anjalie Adams College Station

The Battalion
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Editorial Policy

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

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

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