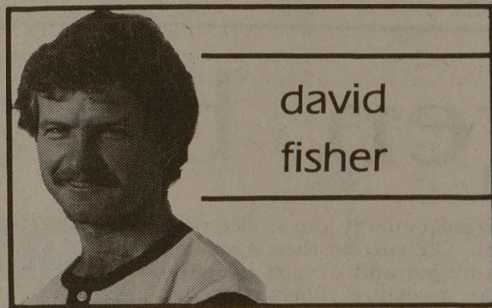


Texas A&M must evolve



david
fisher

In the early part of this century, a man named Henry Ford started an automobile company. He was enormously successful, of course, and soon was the largest producer of such vehicles in the world. This of course led to other people entering the business as well.

But old Henry was the biggest. People were satisfied with the solid, reliable product he made and bought more of his autos than any others. Of course, as time progressed, so did peoples' tastes and ideas. But not Henry.

He believed that what he had to offer was good enough. He had a basic model and color scheme: black, black and black.

So somebody else decided to give the people what they wanted, different colors. Of course, the rest is history. General Motors was born and took away a market share that Henry's company has never taken back.

Well, big deal you say. Damn right it's a big deal. Texas A&M has to change too. If it doesn't, it won't survive in a fashion that's worth mentioning.

In the late 1960's, it finally allowed students to enter as non-military students. From that point, the school took off to become one of the fastest-growing universities in the world. The only problem is that the size changed faster than the ideas.

We have been too resistant to change lately. Every time somebody mentions the idea of women in the Aggie Band or says that a particular tradition is wrong, people break out in hives. The newspaper gets a rash of letters from each side of the issue with the same basic messages. They hate each other.

I'm not arguing the merits of women in the band or certain traditions. I really don't have any gripes one way or the other. But the simple fact of the matter is that if we don't let Texas A&M change, it won't survive. If we don't start sitting down and logically looking at some of the changes being proposed, we're going to be in trouble.

You ask how the evolution of Texas

A&M can be related to an animal company? In more ways than you can count in a column. Down through the ones who have refused to be known as lost civilizations. Change is inherent to the survival of the fittest. We have to accept that as the fact of life.

If we accept it and sit down and take some serious looks at the proposals then we can help steer the change in the direction more desirable. But if we budge every time someone says anything, we're going to be in the years down the road.

Of course, some things can't change. Certain values and traditions have survived centuries. These won't change. As far as we're concerned, they will probably survive better than we.

So lets face it, we have to change. Our school is growing too big and too fast to change. We are taking on the world. That has to bring about new ideas and attitudes.

Certain traditions and customs will change along with it. But that doesn't mean they might not be for the better.

If we choose to ignore and deny these changes, we're signing our own death certificate.



Aggie mums cause joy and problems

by Denise R. Patton

If you are an Aggie and have been to a football game with a date, chances are very good you have either bought or received an Aggie mum.

If you are female and have been given an Aggie mum, then you have gone through the debate as to what to do with the mum after the football game. Sure, you can keep them in your refrigerator for a while, but this does not prevent the flower from turning brown. Besides, roommates prefer to open the refrigerator and see food and drinks, not a rotting flower and maroon and white ribbons occupying an entire shelf. It also tries the patience of even the best roommates to have to stuff the ribbons back onto the shelf every time the refrigerator door is opened.

During the game, there are several good uses for an Aggie mum. One of the best uses is to place the mum in a location so that it hides a stain on your dress. This can be awkward if the stain is on the back of your dress.

Mums also can be used to send your date a message, or even as self-protection, (if you think of your date in less than favorable terms). A girl can wear her mum on her waist, secured onto her belt — thus preventing her date from hugging her TOO much during the game. If you notice that the girl you have taken to the game wears her mum right up until the time you deliver her to her door, that could be an indication that she does not want to be hugged or kissed goodnight.

Okay. Mums do serve good purposes during that game, but what about after the game and after the flower turns brown in the refrigerator? Some girls have a "mum wall." To the dismay of some roommates, some girls hang the ENTIRE thing on the wall — dead flower and all! If you have been at this University for any length of time, chances are you have many, many dead flowers on your wall.

Rather than hanging the ribbons on

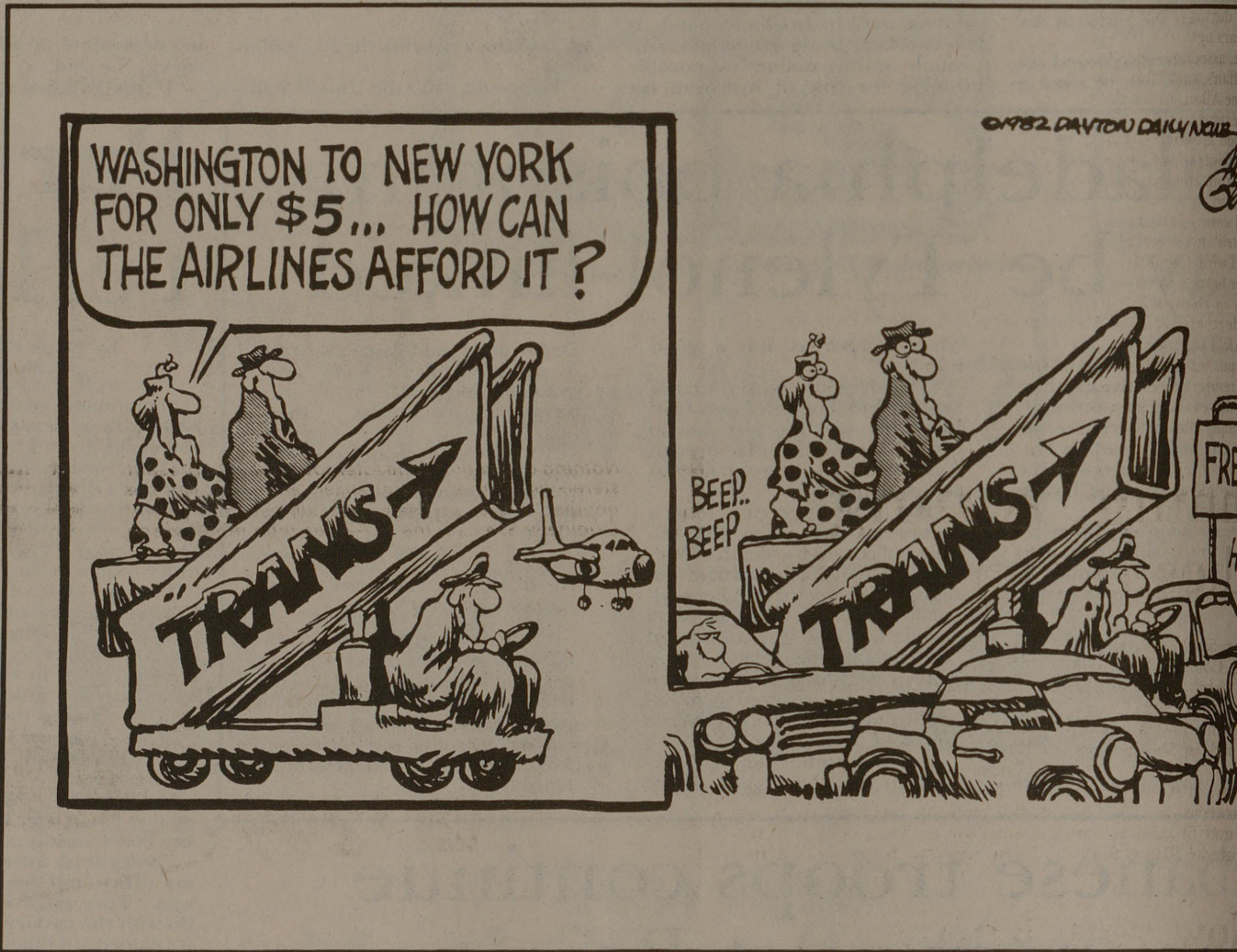
the wall, some girls find other uses for them — such as adorning packages. It is best to save the maroon ribbons for Christmas time, but white ribbons can be used for any occasion. So, the next time you receive a package from a female Aggie and it has a white or a maroon ribbon on it, inspect it closely to determine if it was once part of a mum.

I'll bet no one has ever thought of recycling the mums. Of course the flowers could never be saved but the ribbons could be used time and time again. Maybe the student body could authorize "mum boxes" and have them placed around campus — and every Monday, girls could put their mum ribbons in the boxes for use the following week. Not such a bad idea. Perhaps this would even reduce the cost of the mums.

Then, if mums were cheaper, girls might not feel compelled to tell their dates not to buy them a mum. Chances are that if a girl tells you not to get her a mum, she is practicing a formality and being nice. Your date might be very surprised if you take her seriously and show up at the door empty-handed. If you do take a date to the football game and do not buy her a mum and she is upset about it, just tell her that you think she is pretty enough that she doesn't NEED a mum.

Now, some girls might try to tell you that they really, really don't want a mum, they might even tell you that they are allergic to them. Don't believe her — this probably means she would prefer roses (along the line of one dozen).

Maybe you received a mum with your name embossed on the ribbon in silver glitter. If enough girls wore this kind, then the reflection of the sun off the glitter would light up the entire stadium, thus making it unnecessary to turn on the lights in Kyle Field at all. But not enough girls wear the glitter version because the guys usually only give these mums to dates they either know and like very well, or to dates they have not taken out before and this is their way of impressing you.



Letters: Arguments called irrational

Editor:

This letter is in response to another written by Kevin Johnson which appeared in the October 5 issue of The Battalion.

Mr. Johnson: I am not writing this letter in order to inform you of my opinions on blacks or even of my opinions of your opinions. Rather, I am simply informing you of how irrelevant many of the examples used in your letter are toward your general argument.

First of all, the slave auction held in front of Sbis made not even an implied reference to the black race. If you will review your European History, the first case of slavery based solely on racial differences was when European expeditions were captured by African natives. Centuries earlier, slaves were determined as a social class with no regard to skin color.

As for as library files are concerned, later listings are filed under "blacks" because this is the contemporary reference used in identifying a member of the Negro race. It would be absurd to expect a library worker to waste his valuable time in rearranging existing files over a simple matter of colloquial diction.

And finally, and certainly most importantly, there is the reference to the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. This man is not revered today because he persecuted blacks; he is honored as a former president of this institution, as governor of our great state, and as a military hero (which side is quite irrelevant now). How have you, Mr. Johnson, the right to ex-

coriate the reputation of a man who is very much responsible for yours, mine and several blacks' chances of gaining an education at this fine institution.

Granted, Mr. Johnson, racial discrimination is a serious problem and one to which I am deeply opposed, but how can you expect anyone to accept your arguments in a rational, intelligent manner if you refuse to present them in such a manner.

Rob Drury '84

Compliments

Editor:

As the President of Clean Fuel Institute, I would like to compliment the officials of Texas A&M for the excellent reception for our group during our visit to your campus September 15 through 17.

Our team of three scientists were able to associate with your student body and faculty during the three day seminar on hydrogen vehicles. As some of you may have seen, we enjoyed demonstrating the hydrogen-driven Dodge D-50 pickup truck during our stay.

We were especially impressed with the high level of academic endeavors at your University. The hospitality and personal response was overwhelming.

For those of you who were not able to appreciate the demonstration, we are making tentative plans to return to your campus at a later date for a longer period to visit.

Major Perez, Colonel Allen and myself would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the faculty, administration and student body of Texas A&M

for making our stay a completely glorious social and academic success.

Robert M. Zweig

Stop bickering

Editor:

Recently we have observed the volume of mail, (aw heck, bickering) over two seemingly unrelated issues, one being traditions vs. academics the other being the role of women in the Corps.

Our question is "Whats it to you don't go to Silver Taps or take my mum at the game (even after being asked to do so), it's my choice. The same token if I chose to be a Female Corps and as a senior wear my mum proudly as other seniors in the past (& female) then it is also my choice."

Our point is that if it doesn't get your way of what you want to do or what you enjoy then ignore it.

If Texas A&M falls from its status and joins the ranks of universities such as t.u., Rice, and UH it won't be because traditionalists, women in the Corps, those who oppose them, it will be because of petty bickering like that which has been seen in The Battalion recently. Please let's argue about something that calls for intelligence, and let's stop ignoring each others values.

Dalene Perkins
Debbie Hood

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor..... Diana Sultenfuss
- Managing Editor..... Phyllis Henderson
- Associate Editor..... Denise Richter
- City Editor..... Bernie Fette
- Assistant City Editor..... Gary Barker
- Sports Editor..... Frank L. Christlieb
- Entertainment Editor..... Nancy Floeck
- Assistant Entertainment Editor..... Colette Hutchings
- News Editors..... Rachel Bostwick, Cathy Capps, Johna Jo Maurer, Daniel Puckett, Jan Werner, Todd Woodard
- Staff Writers..... Jennifer Carr, Susan Dittman, Beverly Hamilton, David Johnson, John Lopez, Robert McGlohon, Hope E. Paasch, Carol Smith, Dana Smelser, Joe Tindel, John Wagner, Rebecca Zimmermann
- Copy editors..... Elaine Engstrom, Bill Robinson
- Cartoonist..... Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist..... Pam Starasnick
- Photographers..... David Fisher, Octavio Garcia, Michael D. Johnson, Rob Johnston, Peggy Klinkies, Irene Mees, John Ryan,

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.