

Alumni game more than PR

When Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill initiated the Alumni football game in 1982, many people believed it to be a public relations move.

It probably was. But it's the kind of public relations move that most people don't mind.

It's not without hazards, though, as Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray discovered Saturday. Injuries will and do happen.

The Alumni game, featuring football players from days past versus members of the present team, is a nostalgic meeting of old and new.

The reunion of Class of '75 football players — members of the team that was undefeated until its last game — was particularly poignant. All-America linebacker Garth Ten Napel, who was never expected to play football — or

even walk — again after being severely injured in an automobile crash five years ago, played four downs. Fellow All-America linebacker Ed Simonini, hero-worshiped by many, played in the game and wide receiver Carl Roaches, now with the Houston Oilers, watched from the sidelines.

Scenes from each Alumni game will live in memories for some time: Ten Napel participating in Saturday's game; the late Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant hugging John David Crow in the first game; trainers surrounding Murray, a player considered crucial to Texas A&M's success in the fall, after his injury Saturday.

Those scenes are convincing: Public relations event or not, the Alumni game is one we can all enjoy.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Regents take over Mount Olympus

The Texas A&M Board of Regents has been developing nasty habits lately.

The regents sit atop Mount Olympus at their monthly meetings, throwing decisions around like lightning bolts. Should any ordinary mortal (that is, student) question their decisions, the regents merely ignore the protest.

Judging from the number of unpopular decisions announced this year, the regents aren't concerned with what students want or need. One example of their "concern" is the recent fee hikes.



Dainah Bullard

many years, the railroad and the station were the University's lifeline to the outside world.

Until the 1940s, the train was the principal means of transportation to and from the college. Hundreds of men traveled to school on the trains. College girls from Texas Woman's University took the train from Denton to visit the men at Texas A&M. Speaking of College Station, guess what inspired the city's name.

The old train station isn't used as a stopping point anymore. It's leased to private enterprise. When the lease expires, the University hopes to buy the station and demolish it. If that's progress, the University doesn't need it.

Demolishing the station will serve no purpose; restoring the station, perhaps creating a museum, would.

By ignoring the protests of students, the regents have proved they care little for the traditions or the students.

After all, students don't have any real power. All they do is pay tuition, clutter up the campus and question decisions handed down from the mountain. Even with the new rates, tuition is not where the big bucks come from to support the regents' activities.

The big money for the University comes from the former students — the people who care enough about their school to pour money into it. Some of those Old A&Ms drive past the old railroad station every fall when they come back to Texas A&M for football games. They point to the station, as they point to other landmarks, and tell their children or grandchildren how they once traveled to school.

These are the folks holding the pocketbook, the people the regents must answer to for their destruction of Aggie traditions and monuments. Hopefully, former students will take action soon.

The Board of Regents should have to answer to someone. After all, who died and made them gods?

Dainah Bullard is a junior agricultural journalism major and a staff writer for The Battalion.

And who can forget the granddaddy of unpopular decisions — the placement of the Albritton bell tower.

Usually, the regents don't have to deal with students' protests until it's too late for decisions to be reversed. They've learned to move stealthily, putting their plans into action when there is no one present to argue — like moving a war memorial without giving notice.

There's something wrong when a University famous for its traditions is run by a board which persistently usurps those traditions.

The removal of the World War I memorial might have been acceptable if it had been necessary. But it wasn't necessary. There are numerous sites on the Texas A&M campus where the bell tower could have been built without offending students. Instead, the regents choose to create controversy.

The worst part of the situation is that the placement of the bell tower won't be the last issue created by the regents. They are even now preparing to destroy another Aggie landmark: the old railroad station on west campus.

The old station doesn't play a big part in the lives of Aggies today, but for

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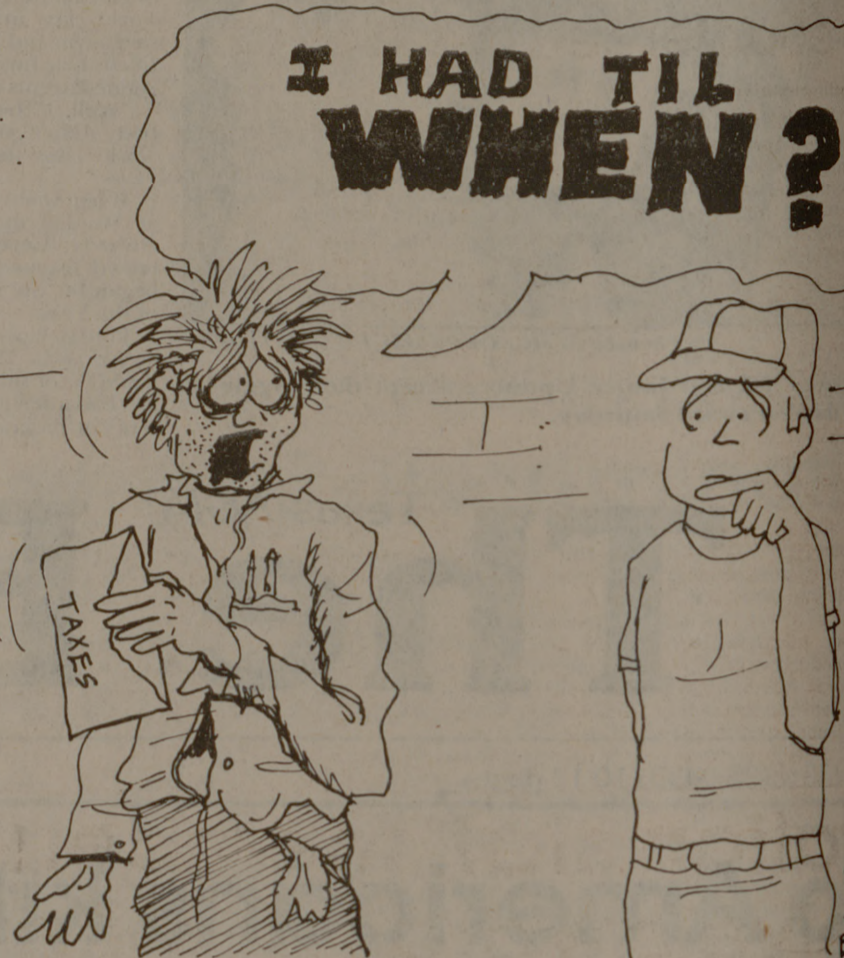
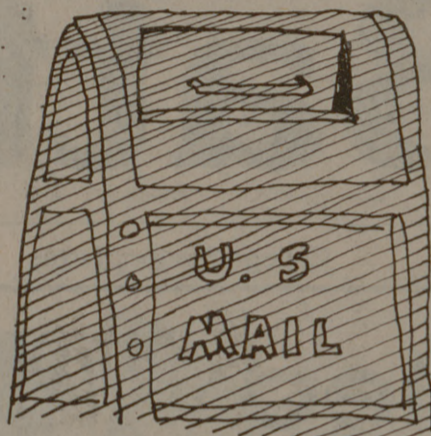
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POST-OFFICE



Big mergers hinge on small issues

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

When it comes to mergers of giant corporations, it's the little things, and not the big ones, that can make a deal fall through.

A few weeks ago the Simon Steel Company decided to merge with Garfunkel Oil and Gas. The lawyers for both sides, plus their investment bankers, as well as Simon and Garfunkel were seated at the long conference table going over the last-minute details.

The lawyer for Garfunkel said, "Then it is agreed, that Simon will pay \$1 billion in cash for Garfunkel Industries with Simon as chairman of the board and Garfunkel as chief executive officer. Each will receive \$1 million a year in salary, have his own company plane, the use of the Simon Company's 150-foot yacht, and equal shares in the 17-room Garfunkel company duck hunting retreat in Canada.

"Further, Simon and Garfunkel will each have a corner penthouse office in the Garfunkel Tower building in Greenwich, Conn., which will be renamed the Simon and Garfunkel Plaza. Both parties will have options on 500,000 shares of new stock, at a price no higher than \$20, although we expect it to come out at \$45. Are there any questions?"

Simon said, "As chairman of the board I'm entitled to the No. 1 parking place."

Garfunkel said, "I can't give you my parking spot. I have 3,000 employees, and if you park in my place they'll think I'm second man in the new company. I built this building and I've parked in the same place for ten years. We'll put your name and title in front of your parking place."

Simon said, "That's not good enough. I get the No. 1 spot or the deal is off."

One of the investment bankers who

saw his \$50 million commission going down the drain sent out for a plan of the parking lot. He spread it out on the conference table. "I'm sure something can be worked out. Mr. Garfunkel, this is your parking space, 10 feet from the main entrance of the building. Why couldn't we give Mr. Simon this parking spot on the other side, 10 feet from the entrance?"

Garfunkel said, "That spot is reserved for my wife. She's never parked anywhere else."

"So where is my wife going to park?" Simon said angrily.

"Right over here," Garfunkel said. "My wife would never stand for it. She's always parked next to me. I get your parking space and my wife gets the space next to me, or the deal is off."

Garfunkel turned to one of his lawyers. "You told me this was going to be a friendly takeover."

"They didn't say anything about parking," the lawyer protested.

Simon said, "I'll tell you what. The Simon Steel Company will sweeten the deal if I get your parking space."

Garfunkel got red in the face. "The parking spot is not for sale. Simon worked too hard to build up this company to give up my No. 1 slot in the parking lot."

Simon stared icily at Garfunkel. "You refuse to give up your space? Go to the market and get control of the company, and then your car will get inside the gates."

"Okay, Simon, if you want to hardball, we can play the same game too. We'll buy control of your company and dump your car into the river."

Simon got up and said to his lawyer, "Let's go boys. It looks like we've got a takeover war on our hands. I've parked second to anyone in my life."

Slouch

by Jim E...

Letters: A&M looks at race

Editor:

The other night I was watching the news and heard one of the silliest proposals for this University in years.

Not since the proposal to make Texas A&M a mental institute was introduced in the state Legislature has such an outlandish proposal been made.

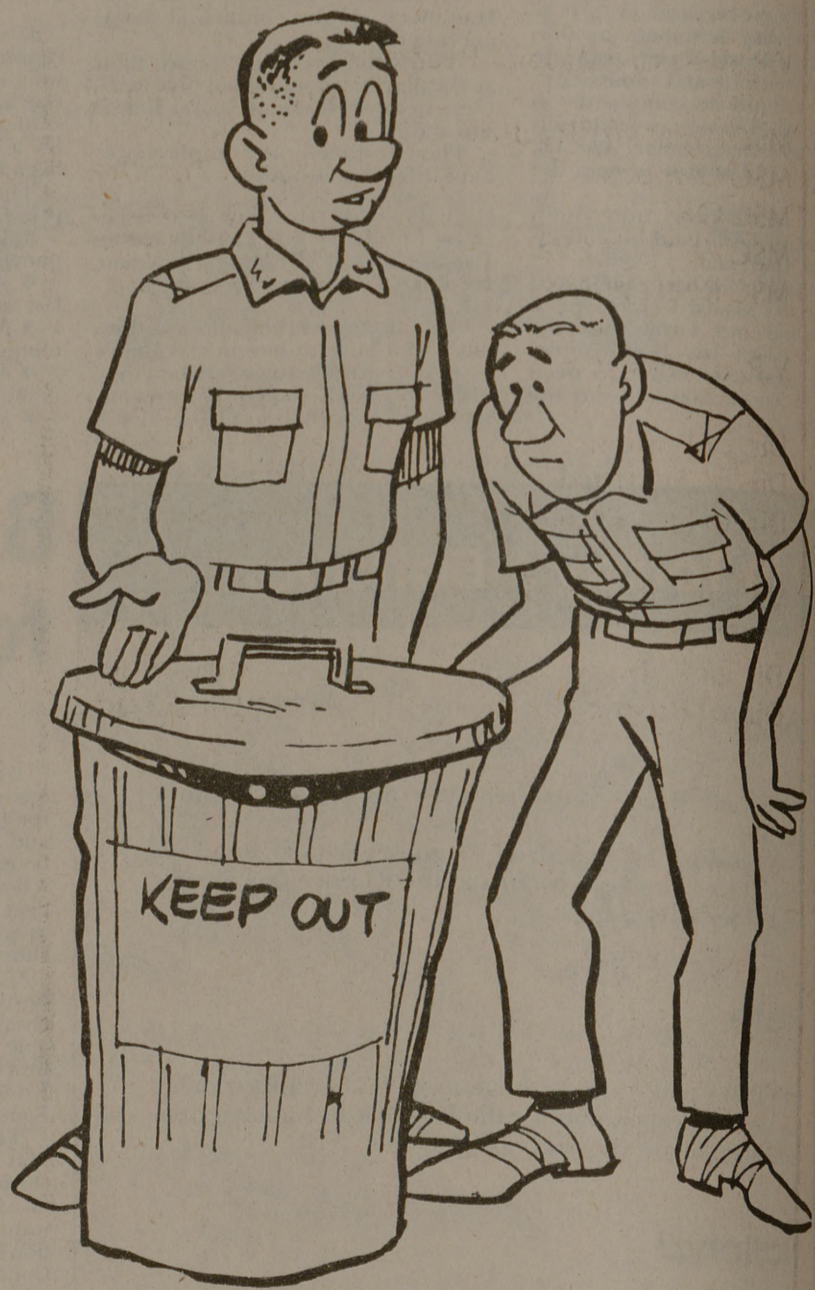
Our "color blind" University has proven that it is indeed "color conscious." I was shocked to hear that a policy requiring a quota of Hispanic students and other minorities is soon to be enacted.

I have always believed in recruiting the most eligible and studious young people. I held the erroneous belief that the University felt that way, too.

Like a politician seeking votes, this University seems to be playing for brownie points rather than searching for the most competent students — though those students may be one and the same.

I am not in any way advocating discrimination. I am only pleading for equality for all. By requiring an exact number of minority students we are showing that we are indeed color conscious and not color blind.

Anthony O'Hanlon
Class of '86



"We all react differently to April 15th."