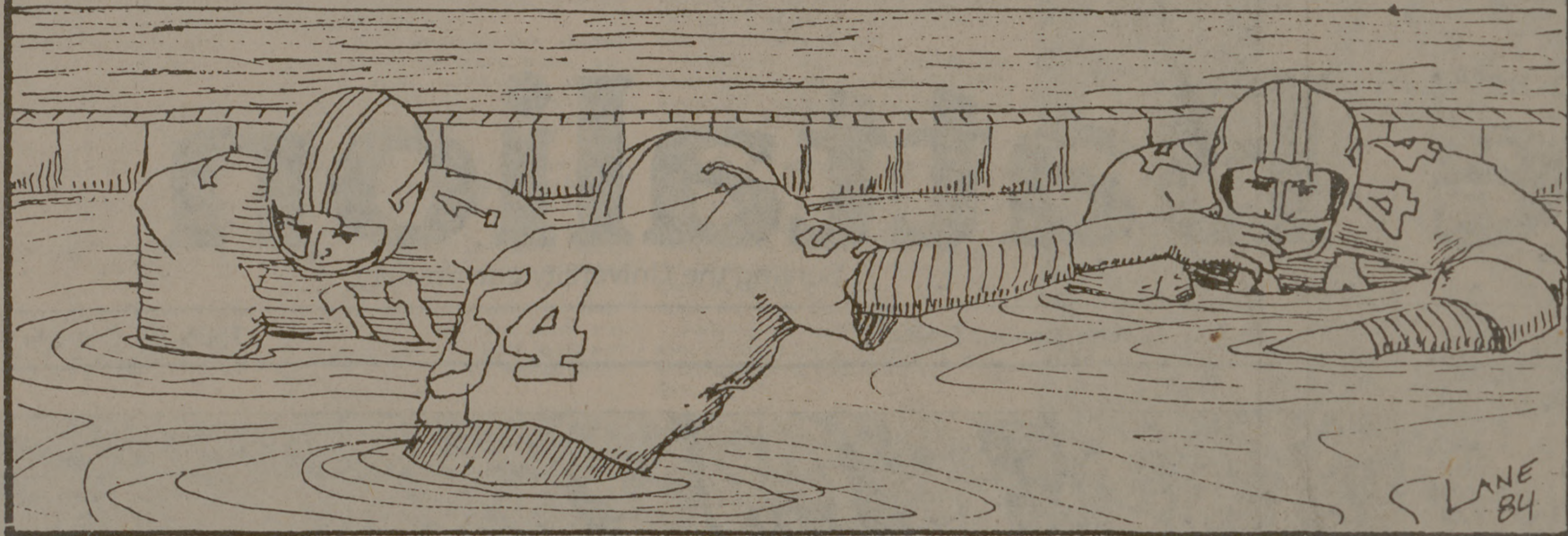


THE TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL TEAM BEGAN TRAINING IN THE CAIN POOL TODAY IN PREPARATION FOR SATURDAY'S GAME AGAINST THE RICE OWLS IN KYLE FIELD.



Reagan a hero stealer

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

Columnist for United Press International

WASHINGTON — Walter Mondale has been complaining lately about President Reagan's habit of raising the flag of popular Democrats in his campaign for re-election as a Republican.

Reagan repeatedly has quoted Democratic stalwarts from Alfred E. Smith to John F. Kennedy since taking office. He put on White House shows honoring not only Franklin but Eleanor Roosevelt, and the week before last went to the stopping in Ohio in the same road car Harry Truman used in his 1948 comeback campaign.

Too much, says Mondale. If you have to wave heroes around, find some Republicans and stop "grave-robbing" ours.

Reagan says it makes Mondale hear a Republican quoting Democrats because the party's current leaders have turned their back on their own heritage. Citing, for example, Kennedy's firm positions against the Soviet Union. And says he has every right to quote Democrats, because he used to be one of those people like Mondale took over the party.

It is true that you don't hear Mondale talking much about the most recent Democratic presidents, Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter, and it came something of a jolt to note that it wasn't so much as a single picture of traditional Democratic heroes Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Franklin Roosevelt or Kennedy on display at the party's national convention last summer.

But Mondale probably is wasting time and his voice trying to get Reagan to keep his hands off Democratic presidents. One reason may be that it has been the Democrats, at least in this century, with whom Reagan feels a kinship of show business.

Aggie spirit: an intangible element

Aggie spirit is one of those undefinable somethings. You can't see it, touch it, taste it, or smell it, but even though it's hard to explain it to "outsiders", we all know it's here.

Nevertheless, the classic interview question for organizations on campus, from Fish Camp to Cotton Bowl Representative to Lambda Sigma, is "What does Aggie Spirit mean to you?"



Kathy Wiesepape

That question always stumped me. It was hard for me to describe something I'd taken for granted ever since the day I was born in St. Joseph Hospital, driven home to married student housing, and dressed in my first "I'm a Little Texas Aggie" T-shirt.

I'd stammer a few sentences about Silver Taps and Muster, and how Good Ags always stay for yell practice after the game and don't wear hats in Kyle Field. But when it came to describing the common element Aggies share, I trailed off into an incomprehensible mumble. I could never find the words.

But now I know what I would say.

A few weeks ago, I drove 55 miles north to Leona to talk to William Nash, a farmer who's been to nearly every A&M home game for 50 years.

He talked about memorable games and memorable coaches. We laughed about Aggie jokes, and some of the past "scandals" at the University.

"There's an old saying," he told me, "that the only happy Aggie is an unhappy Aggie. Every year you have to have something to create a little excitement on campus."

He talked about his Corps days, and of course, how things were much harder back then. He asked me if we still had Elephant Walk, and I assured him that we did.

Then we turned to the subject of hazing, and he said it was a problem when he was in school.

"I'm against it," he said. "I always have been. But there's a reason for making it physically tough."

"If you could endure some of the things you had to do during your freshman year, some of the whippings you took, then later on in life when you have hardships, then you can bear those, too."

He struggled for words; his eyes filled with tears. "It's hard to explain to a person that's not an A&M student," he said. "There's a loyalty that exists that no other school has."

"I don't know why I get so emotional. You're an Aggie. You understand, don't you?"

And I did.

One class ring had a '39 on it. The other, '85. Beyond the changes during those 46 years, beyond the explosive growth of the University and the numerous controversies, beyond even the traditions, there was a bond between the 66-year-old farmer and the 21-year-old student.

We love this school. No, it's not a utopia. A&M administrators have been faced with problems since the school was founded, and sometimes they've made mistakes. A&M students have also made mistakes that reflect on the University.

But Texas A&M University is still here, and faculty, students, and former students still take pride in their school and push for continued improvement.

And that is Aggie Spirit.

Kathy Wiesepape is a weekly columnist for The Battalion. Her column appears on Thursdays.

LETTERS:

Senators respond with 'glimmer of light'

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the letter by Edward Mallou, former Aston/Dunn Senator.

Mallou, please excuse us for not "bothering to ask" your opinion on the recent GSS resolution. We are sorry that you are upset that you were not one of the almost 300 Aston/Dunn residents polled. You know who "your" living area Senator is and if you felt so strongly about this issue why did you wait until after the resolution's passage to express your views. Your opinion after the fact is just that — opinion, and would have been much more valuable and useful before "your" Senate vote.

You, "a former Senator" of all people, should know that a resolution is simply a statement of opinion, not binding on the University, and it is not an open door allowing "that such an organization shall now exist."

Should it come as a glimmer of light on this "dark day at A&M," you should be pleased to know that we as "your" senators voted "no" on the resolution.

Clay Baker, '87
Senator, Aston/Dunn
Mingo Marguez, '87
Senator, Sophomore Engineering

Mallou ignorant of democratic process

EDITOR:

Will Rodgers said, "We are all ignorant about something." Edward Mallou has demonstrated just where his ignorance resides. One does not elect officials to vote the popular sentiment of their constituents, but instead votes for the candidate he feels is the most capable of making the best decisions, their own decisions. Indeed the issue of which candidate has the best credentials would be meaningless if they only voted along with opinion polls.

Mr. Mallou makes several other remarks such as blaming the Student Senate for creating an even more contemptible organization which shall "now exist." He also states that he would purchase an education (homosexual) for Tom Urban and goes on to call the GSS a "dating service." These remarks I find

pathetically humorous in their attempt to support an already unsupportable argument.

Although I abhor remarks of this kind which display typical prejudiced attitude, I appreciate the comments as a chance to show just how immaterial arguments such as these are.

The issue is not the GSS — good or bad, right or wrong. It is whether or not the GSS has a right to be recognized by the university, and whether or not the university as a public institution has the right to deny any organization recognition which does not harm the public.

Mallou's letter caught my attention because it reminded me of the attitude of another entity on campus, the Regents. Mallou and our Regents don't know exactly why they hate, but they do. They don't know precisely why they are fighting only that they will. AND THE REGENTS' FIGHTS ARE UNJUSTLY COSTING TAXPAYERS MONEY.

Jerry Stauffacher
Wayne Snyder

Cassavoy is the bad two percent

EDITOR:

CASSAVOY IS "THE TWO PERCENT"

It is a sad state of affairs when someone like Ed Cassavoy can become sports editor at the Texas A&M Battalion. I have yet to read anything positive about our Ags (not just "Sherrill's Ags," as Cassavoy likes to call them) in any of his columns. Ed Cassavoy is a lot like Walter Mondale. He can point out problems with the best of 'em, but when it comes to constructive solutions, he has nothing to offer.

Yes, I'm disappointed that our Aggies are 0-3. Everybody is. Far be it from me to say that the Aggies can do no wrong. They can do lots of things wrong. But despite being outscored by Baylor Saturday, our Aggies played probably their best all-around game of the season.

They deserved to win. Yet everything Cassavoy wrote on Monday was negative. I suppose he can deep snap better than Shawn Walker, kick better than Alan Smith, or throw better than Craig Stump in a downpour. It doesn't take much of a sports writer to point the guilty finger.

I'm sure Cassavoy would love to go to

t.u., where he could sit down during games and not feel guilty when he leaves immediately after a defeat. Don't let the door hit you in the butt, Ed.

I don't care what the Aggies' record is, I'm proud to support our football team. I wish someone on the Battalion sports staff felt the same way.

Adam Hartman
Class of '87

Spend time learning not being prejudiced

EDITOR:

I don't understand all of this fuss about women in the band and the GSS. So what if a woman is in the band as long as she can play. As for uniformity maybe she could wear trousers when she marches. Just because gays want to have a club of their own doesn't mean the rest of us have to join it.

I seriously doubt that letting women in the band and allowing the GSS to meet will change most of our lives all that much, A&M will still be a good university. I think everyone would be a little better off if people leave those who are different alone and concentrate on learning and having a good time.

Karen Stuntz
Class of '87

Aggie football team not doing so bad

EDITOR:

I am writing this letter because I'm really getting tired of hearing how "bad" our football team is doing. In my opinion, I really don't think we're doing that bad.

Yes, we're 3-3 and 0-3 in conference play, but turn one or two plays around in each of those losses and we could very well be 6-0. And besides, we only lost to Houston 9-7. What was the score in the Cougars and SMU game, wasn't it 29-20?

And according to anyone who saw the game, Houston totally dominated it. Does that say something to you? And what about the Baylor game? The only time they even scored was on our mistakes. (Their longest scoring drive was sixteen yards.) And besides that, just remember that we did lose a very valuable

player in Kevin Murray, so it takes time for a team to become adjusted to a new quarterback.

Now it's obvious that we're not going to the Cotton Bowl this year, but we can still play the role of spoiler with our remaining schedule. Also, there's still the game with t.u. (or doesn't anyone care about Bonfire). So come on Ags! Where's that Aggie pride and Twelfth Man Spirit that they teach you about at Fish Camp?

Is it possible that Fish Camp was all a farce and that we're just another university that supports our teams when they win? I certainly hope not! So stop complaining and start supporting!!

Sean O'Brien
Class of '88

GSS thanks SWAMP for freedom to speak

EDITOR:

The members of Gay Student Services would like to thank everyone who helped make Friday's forum at Rudder Fountain such a success.

Specifically, we would like to thank Dr. Larry Hickman, our faculty sponsor, and Lenny DePalma, president of Alternative for taking time out of their schedules to speak on our behalf. Also Ann Robbins, who, though straight, subjected herself to possible harassment by publicly taking a stand on our side.

We also are grateful to all the students who gathered to listen and participate. Even those who were opposed to our ideas were courteous and conducted themselves as true Aggies.

Finally, we are deeply indebted to SWAMP for sponsoring the forum. Surely not all SWAMP members approve of homosexuality or atheists or abortion, but their commitment to defending the First Amendment rights is admirable. That concern and dedication to these principles is what America is all about.

Those who were unable to attend the forum on Friday (or have questions about our organization that we did not cover) can call the Gayline at 775-1797. We will be happy to try to answer your questions about GSS or other aspects of gay life in Bryan-College Station.

Marco A. Roberts
Gay Student Services

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

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the author.

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