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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# 'War Owl' conjures ideas of fresh mascot for A&M

My dreams have been filled with visions of "Fighting War Owls" lately, and so I think it's time to address a problem that has plagued me for minutes at a time — Texas A&M's mascot.

After having been to Houston for the A&M-Rice football game, I started to make mascot comparisons. My eyes couldn't help but wander to that smelly (if you get close enough), blue, arrogant, fake Owl that insists on the classification "War Owl."

That bird is just plain pushy, but I have to admit it has some style. Now it's not nice to wave flags with slogans like "Reveille is fixed," but I've never met a War Owl yet with a discerning sense of humor.

And so the terrible scrutiny of this column swings to that grand ol' guard dog — Reveille.

You know, the "new Reveille," the one that isn't fixed — forget what that mangy bird says. That hairball of Aggie spirit.

My worry, and it should be the worry of any "Super Aggie," is that we're losing the battle of the mascot — the battle to control the hearts and minds of football feverish freshman and bored couch potatoes watching the game on the tube.

Who wants to watch a flea-bitten pup, when you can watch a giant blue Owl, elephants, eagles, lions, horned frogs, and black bears rampage along the sidelines of other football fields?

Sure it's fun to see ol' Rev nip at a yell leader or maul an innocent fan — but it's... it's passe.

## ED CASSAVOY Sports Viewpoint

With my fingers on the pulse of Aggieland, I've noticed, no I feel the growing fear that A&M may become just another state university — emphasizing stuff like academics. I'm with you Ags when I say, "enough is enough."

But the first step is awareness of the problem. That's solved. The second step is to see how we can turn the corner.

A&M thinks big and, the more mindless and irrelevant the statement, the greater the statement.

So why not let our mascot do the talking?

Dump the dog and go Hollywood.

Raise the banners, uncrate the guns and march in cadence to Kyle Field (oops, stay off the Astroturf) and scream to the gods above, or to the press box, "Dump the dog and make us free!"

And free you will be my sons when you discover the wonders of velcro, green fake fur, paper mache or real wild animals.

Who, for example, has a giraffe for a mascot? I can't think of one. What a glorious sight to see a stately giraffe whipped into a Fightin' Texas Aggie fury, galloping around the track at Kyle Field.

But why not something bigger? Why not a whale? The Texas A&M Blue Whales. Then the fans

could be the Whalers. Yeah, I like that. Just imagine a live whale, swimming feverishly in a special pool encircling the football field. The yell leaders could ride on their backs, whipping up the crowd, throwing scraps of horned toads in to the gaping mouths of their slippery steeds.

Or the Texas A&M Fightin' Fruit Bats. The yell leaders and the members of the Aggie Band could be strapped to the bellies of giant fruit bats to conduct stunning aerial maneuvers. The fans would eat it up.

For the sentimental, a giant Zeppelin could be filled with 10,000 starry-eyed Aggie coeds, babbling the Aggie War Hymn — clad only in maroon and white silk jump suits — who would parachute on to a giant mum in the middle of Kyle Field after every A&M penetration to the opponent's 20-yard-line.

Wow! But folks, why not look closer to home? Why not change the Reveille we have?

There must be some sort of twisted scientist on campus who is experimenting on some poor monkey. A growth formula might do the trick.

Imagine one freshman cadet trying to control a 90-foot-tall dawg.

Or why not graft another head on ol' Reveille? Then the barking would be twice as loud when the Aggies scored a touchdown. Of course, no t.u. head please.

Nah. On second thought, that's too flashy.

# Hickey's Lady Aggies 'rebuilding' in '85-86

By DOUG HALL  
Sports Writer

With six freshmen and four junior college transfers on her 1985-86 women's basketball team, Texas A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said that "rebuilding" describes her program well.

"This is a new beginning for Lady Aggie basketball," said Hickey, who also serves as A&M's assistant athletic director for women's sports. "We have a whole new team — 11 new players."

Prior to Hickey's arrival at A&M in the '84-85 season, the Lady Aggies had finished below .500 five years in a row. However, in only her first season, Hickey led A&M to a 14-14 record.

Unfortunately, graduation claimed all but four players off last year's squad. Hickey then used her ten available scholarships to recruit top prospects from around the country.

With the help of A&M assistant coaches Eileen Feeney and Shelley Hughes, Hickey signed six freshmen recruits: center Nette Garrett, a 6-foot-3 all-state player out of Center High School; Veronda Roundtree, a 5-11 forward from Huntsville High; and Donna Roper, an All-Greater Houston guard from Yates High.

In addition to Hickey's other three freshmen, the Aggies signed Debbie Lorenzen from Gridley, Calif., Mary Leahy from Ramsey, N.J., and Lisa Jordan from Talmage, Calif. A&M also picked up junior college transfers Evelyn Sanders, Paula Crutcher, Rosalind Brown and Tamara Jackson.

With this unusual amount of new talent, Hickey said her coaching will be put to the test.

"I don't think we realized how much work we'd have to spend on just teaching the fundamentals," Hickey said. "Generally you have six or seven kids return so that you have a little bit of continuity, but we have so many things to go over."

"We are so young and so new that it's going to take us a while. But the talent is there. We've got some really good athletes. I think we'll put a team on the floor that will be much better than any team we've had before."

But, like most young teams,



Photo by FRANK HADA

Texas A&M Women's Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey (above) — "Generally you have six or seven (players) return so that you have a little bit of continuity, but we have so many things to go over. We are so young and so new that it's going to take us a while (to mature)."

Hickey said the Lady Ags have their shortcomings.

"Our biggest weakness is just basic fundamentals..." she said. "That is going to be our biggest struggle until January and February when we can get our (the coaches') philosophy across and execute very well."

"Another thing we may be lacking right now is a pure outside shooter. It looks like we have some good natural ability, but I don't know if some of our ball handling and shooting skills are where we need them. But those are things you can teach them. I can't teach them how to run and jump."

Almost lost amongst this youth movement are two important upperclassmen — senior forward Lisa

Langston and junior point guard Beth Young.

Hickey said Langston, A&M's second all-time scoring leader, and Young, last year's team leader in assists, will play a critical leadership role for the Aggies by letting ability do their talking.

"Neither Beth nor Lisa are what you might call verbal leaders," Hickey said. "Right now they are very much leading by example. I think we're still struggling to find someone who can be a leader. And until we get roles defined on playing time and positions it's going to take us some time to develop someone that can step out and take charge."

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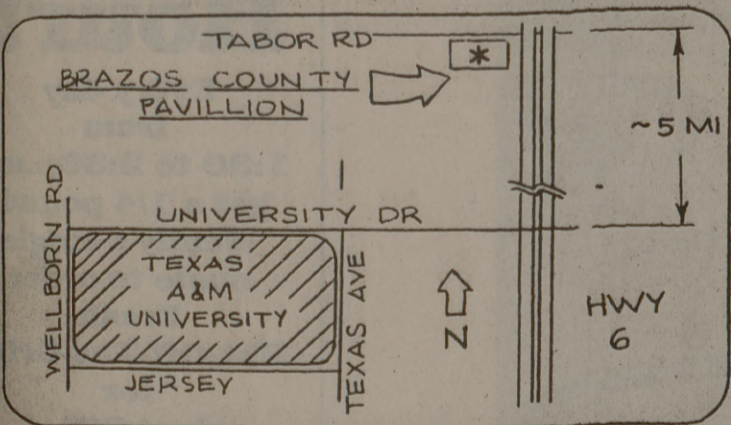
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