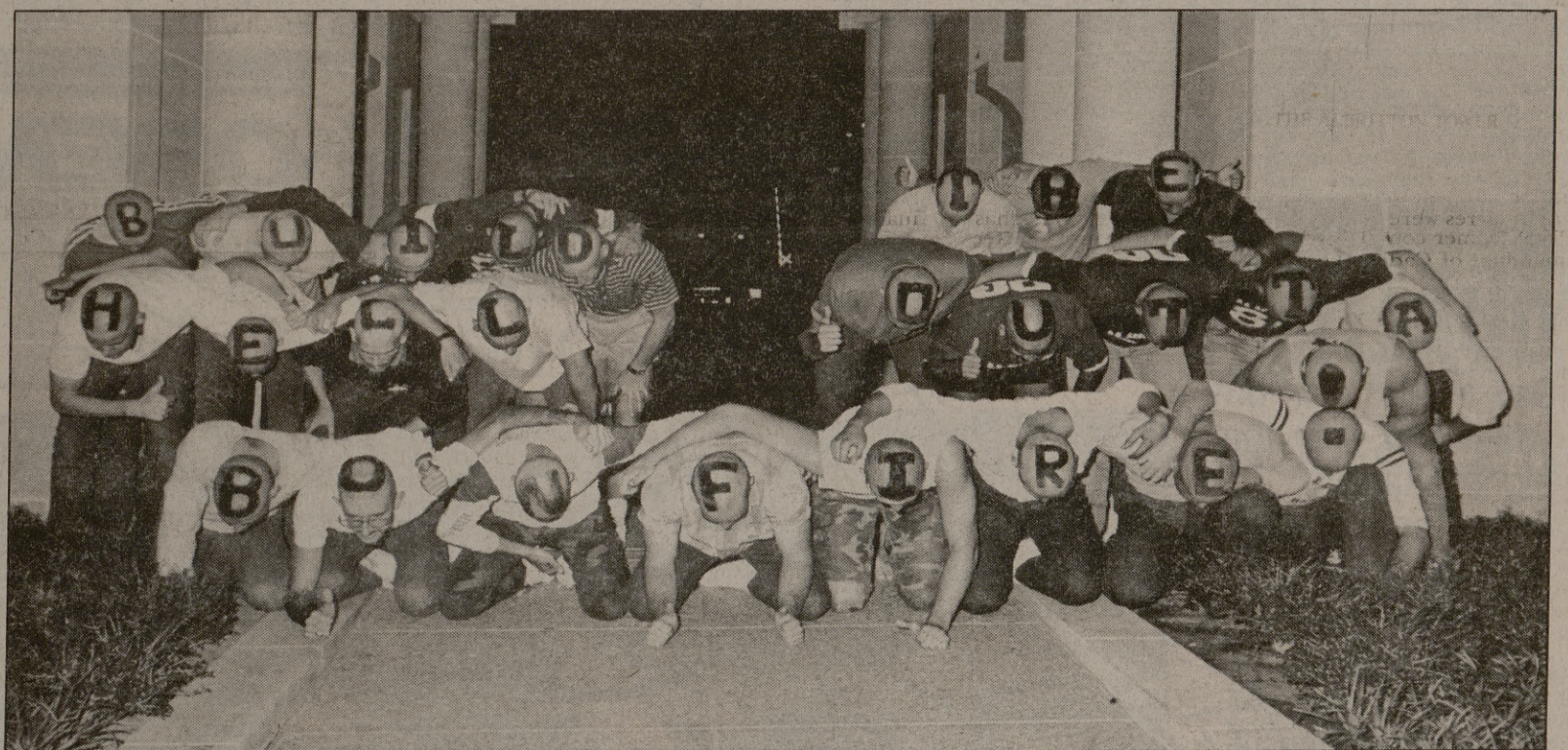


Battalion file photos



### Silver taps

Continued from Page 3E —  
 Cause I've experienced tonight what A&M is all about. Mother and Dad, we're one big family here and now I know what it means to be an Aggie. Tonight was Silver Taps.  
 "In case you don't know what that is, I'm going to tell you and you've got to listen. Any time a student here loses his life — no matter how — on an assigned date soon afterwards we have what is called Silver Taps. Everyone gathers in front of the Academic Building, in front of which is a flag pole on which Silver Taps notices are posted.  
 "No one says a word from the time we leave the dorms until the next morning. All is quiet and all the lights on campus are turned off. Even the lights on the Coke machines are covered.  
 "At 10:30, when everyone is in

place in front of the Academic Building, a firing team fires a 21-gun salute in honor of those who died. Then buglers play Silver Taps and then it's over.  
 "Tonight I experienced one of the most solemn feelings I've ever had and felt so good inside. Mom, Dad, it was just like God, Himself, was there with us. I guess you're wishing I would grow up and quit carrying on like this over Silver Taps — but it was so, I can't even tell you how it was, there's nothing else like it.  
 "Be careful and I love you both.  
 "D.C."  
 Don Coward and two of his Company C-1 friends were killed in a Denton County automobile accident three weeks after he wrote this letter to his parents. Once again, Silver Taps was held on the A&M campus to say goodbye.