

Friday, November 30, 1990

Dueling dancers



SONDRA N. ROBBINS/The Battalion

The Nutcracker Prince (Dmitry Tuboltsev) fights the Mouse King (Maxim Knish) in the Bolshoi Ballet-Grigorovich Company's version of the "The Nutcracker." All tickets for this weekend's remaining performances at Texas A&M have been sold. For more information call 845-1234.

Not-so-old traditions

Yearbook called 'Longhorn' not so long ago

Forty-one years ago, it was hard to tell Aggies from Longhorns — at least by judging a book by its cover.

That's how long it's been since Texas A&M's yearbook, once named the Longhorn, became the Aggie-land.

As A&M and the University of Texas at Austin prepare for their annual confrontation Saturday, one of the yearbook's editors who was instrumental in getting the name changed remembers the confusion caused by the Aggie yearbook carrying the name of its archrival's mascot.

"The name 'Longhorn' was originally chosen because it represented Texas and was associated with agriculture," says Abilene resident Earl Glenn Rose, Class of '49 and the yearbook's "civilian" editor that year.

Rose, who shared editorial duties with Corps of Cadets member Truman Martin, thought the annual needed a name more befitting the spirit and pride of Aggie-land — and to avoid confusion with the school's Austin rival.

A story printed in a 1949 edition of The Battalion underscored Rose's concern:

During the Christmas holidays, an Aggie freshman showed a borrowed copy of the 1940 Longhorn to his father saying, "Dad, this is the Longhorn. Look it over."

The father turned to the dedication page and read it. Looking up, he said, "Now isn't that nice?"

"Isn't what nice?" the cadet wanted to know.

"Why it says 'Dedicated to the Spirit of Aggie-land,'" his father replied. "I think it's awfully fine of t.u. to dedicate their annual to your school."

Although a vote failed to drop the reference to "Texas University" in A&M's fight song the "Aggie War Hymn," an emotionally charged election was held to change the yearbook's name.

The ballot asked whether to change the name, and contained 12 possible new names submitted by students.

Because traditions have a special meaning to all Aggies, and since the Longhorn's name had become tradition during the 45-year period, Rose had a long, hard fight on his hands. Just the thought of uprooting one of A&M's long-standing traditions set many students on edge, but others enthusiastically embraced the idea.

Students in favor of a name change agreed the Longhorn was not only insignificant to A&M in every way, but was much more fitting to the "sister branch over in Austin."

Opponents questioned what could be gained by the change, which would cut into an already thin field of old traditions that bind all Aggies.

A news story from another 1949 edition of The Battalion indicates the students were asked: "If the yearbook had never had a name until this year and an election was being held to name it, would you vote for the Longhorn? Think about it."

Rose said after the initial vote to change the name was approved by a 2-to-1 margin, proponents had a loyal backing and full support from the student body.

Now the task was to find the perfect replacement. Suggested names included "Reveille," "Twelfth Man," "Bonfire," "The Spirit of Aggie-land," "Final Review" and "Aggie-land 1949."

There was a run-off between "Final Review" and "Aggie-land 1949," with "Aggie-land" the eventual winner.

In the end, however, it was UT that broke the story.

Rose told Richard 'Dick' Elam, who worked for UT's student newspaper, the Daily Texan, and was one of Rose's good friends, about the name change.

A few days later the Daily Texan ran a headline that effectively read, "What's this about the Aggies changing their yearbook name because they don't like Longhorns?"

A fellow Aggie is said to have replied, "We don't do things to upset T-sips. We do things to please Aggies."

Abortion opponents garner support in legislature, hope to restrict access

AUSTIN (AP) — Abortion opponents say they once again will try to restrict access to the procedure when the Texas Legislature convenes in January.

For the fifth consecutive regular session, Rep. Billy Clemons has proposed legislation that would outlaw abortions in most instances.

Alternative proposals by Clemons, D-Pollock, would require spousal no-

tification or parental consent to get an abortion, with some exceptions.

Abortion opponents said they think Clemons' proposals have a chance of passing, even though Gov.-elect Ann Richards supports abortion rights.

"I'm no more pessimistic than we've ever been in the past," said Kathie Roberts, executive director of the Texas Right to Life Committee.

"We've never said 'quit.' We'll never say 'quit.'"

Phyllis Dunham, executive director of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, cautiously predicted Clemons' efforts would fail.

"I think pro-choice Texans are in better shape this session than we have been in a long time," she said. "But we can't take anything for granted."

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