

Reliving a controversial semester

A little tale about yells, representatives, and parties

Got a tale for ya' Ags. It's about a big school in a small world. It's about remembering and forgetting as quick as we can.

As finals loom inevitable on the horizon, we night dwellers at the Batt Cave (unofficial deadline is 2:00 am) will grind to a halt on Friday. The Battalion will lay to rest another semester filled with laughter, good cheer and the occasional scandal, which have come to be synonymous with Texas A&M. (Whoop!)

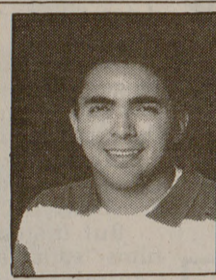
Not that that other school in Texas doesn't have its share of noteworthy news. Why, just last month the t.u. name was splashed across papers all over the state. Something about Varsity's horns being sawed off.

And shortly after that, their name was making headlines again after they were smeared across their own field in some competition they hosted on Thanksgiving Day.

Yes, good news travels fast in this little nation we call Texas. But some of the biggest stories this semester came from our very own backyard. While other schools contented themselves with such mundane topics as sports and education, our school has ascended to higher calls such as offending state representatives and Aggies smearing Aggies on their own football field.

The semester kicked off to a fast start when corps members, assigned to guard the integrity of Kyle Field, were attacked, simply for bludgeoning the occasional adventurer who stumbled a few yards onto the turf before learning what it means to be Jeff Granger. Tempers flared and letters flowed in as students argued both sides. The corps was only doing its job, some said. It was only upholding tradition. The students didn't deserve to be beaten, others said. The corps had gone too far.

Then an A&M fraternity came under fire after hosting a jungle-themed party labeled racist by a bystander. One of the band members playing at the party said current members chased around pledging members who carried spears and were painted black, reenacting an African slave hunt. Again, letters poured in to the Battalion as Aggies argued both sides. The fraternity must be banned from the University, some said. Their actions showed complete disrespect and ignorance of the sensitivities of another race. The fraternity party was not racist, still others said. And if they offended anyone, it was unintentional. The fraternity pleaded ignorance and was fined accordingly.



ROBERT VASQUEZ
Columnist

One state representative read about the party and wrote a letter to the University saying he would be sure the incident would not soon be forgotten. The Battalion made a little news of its own by running an editorial cartoon — on the Opinion Page — depicting State Rep. Wilson as a dog — a black dog — yapping at a rather large boot with our school's name emblazoned across the front.

Wilson called on his friends in Austin for support and President Mobley called the Battalion for a little meeting. While admitting that he could not force the Battalion to publish or omit anything, President Mobley suggested that the Batt staff exercise a little better judgment with the items chosen for publication.

Good judgment, meanwhile, evaded yet another fraternity. Instead of dancing dangerously close to racist themes, this clan chose to throw a clean, safe party complete with authentic decorations, garnered from various locations around the Bryan College Station area. Decorative ropes stolen from Pelican's Wharf and playground equipment from a local church made the party a wholesome event that couldn't offend the most ardent activist. The police, however, found the stealing part more than a minor offense and reported the fraternity's actions to the University. The University imposed swift and sure justice and fined the fraternity \$1,000. Not bad for all that loot.

Between all the major stories that broke right here in Aggieland, there were the minor stories that showed the lighter side of human interest.

There was the Vice President's visit, when the campus was littered with invitations to welcome the Veep and show him our Aggie spirit.

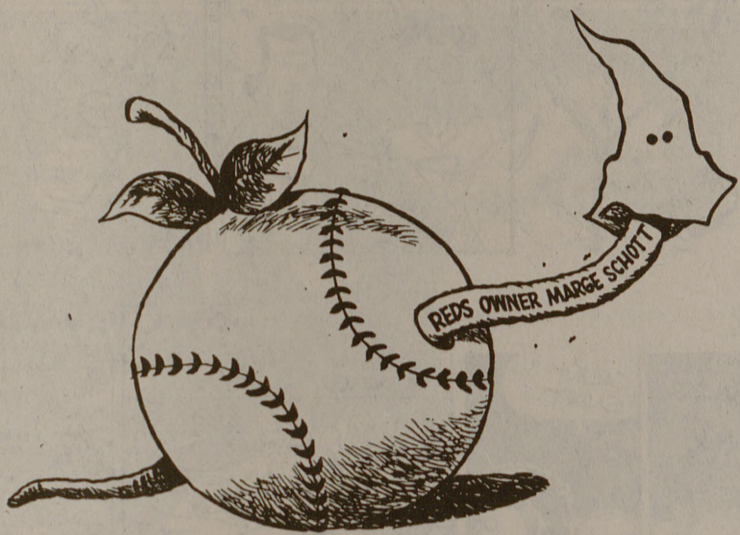
A few of those who accepted the invitation took a sign along with a few ideas of their own, and found themselves quickly uninvited. Again, the campus became a house divided as people with opposing viewpoints attacked each other, acting more like donkeys and elephants than humans. Or even Aggies.

Bad news, people say, is all you can find in the papers. Well, to an extent, that's true. When a plane crashes, the story is reported. When a plane lands safely, nobody seems to notice — except maybe the passengers. But as the plane pulls safely into the terminal, nobody's flashing pictures for the morning news.

Good news is hard to hear when headlines are screaming the latest rate at which the sky is falling. But the good news is still there. We just have to look a little harder.

And Aggieland survives another semester.

Vasquez is a senior journalism major



Closing of "Table of Doom" shows how A&M stifles initiative, ideas

To all of my friends in the Blocker Building...

The time has come to say goodbye and extend my deepest appreciation for your friendships, business and support, especially during the most recent crisis. 1,095 of you signed the petition to keep the "Table of Doom" open. In addition, many of you wrote letters on my behalf. I cannot thank you enough for your loyalty. Needless to say, our efforts fell on deaf ears. There are too many of you to thank individually here, but you know who you are and you know how I feel. Your support exemplifies the true Spirit of Aggieland which goes far beyond merely standing in the bleachers.

Thanks also to Dr. Sutherland and the members of the Concessions Committee; to Oran Jones, Blocker Building proctor and to Tammy Naizer, the previous proctor, all of whom recognized a good idea when it was presented to them. Very special thanks go to Dennis Busch of the committee who afforded me every courtesy, acted as my mentor, and treated me with respect and dignity. You have earned my highest regards. And finally, many thanks to Chris Cox, my faithful companion and trustworthy assistant, who has been with me from the beginning. You are truly a diamond in the rough and will be sorely missed, ol' man.

Everyone wants to know what happened. What happened is that I became too successful. Move over, Mr. Bill. The local Coca-Cola dealer wrote a letter of complaint to the University because they have an exclusive concessions contract on this campus and I was the fly in the ointment. Either I had to go or the University faced possible litigation.

Last year, the Concessions Committee erred in relaxing some of the policies governing my donut table on campus, but they did so in recognition of the function of such an enterprise, the need in Blocker, and the service it provided. The dilemma facing them this time was one where their decision to renew or reject my permit would be unpopular either way. It became obvious to me after the meeting of Dec. 1 that the committee got their marching orders from the Office of Administration

and Finance and/or the Business Services Office to tighten the noose around my neck just enough so that I'd be allowed to "hang" around while I choked on the new Velveeta regulations. (You know, real cheesy, yellow, and sticks to everything. Except to Coke, of course.) So, actually, they didn't shut me down, they just made it next to impossible to continue. The committee is not to be blamed, however.

Someone out there has been gunning for me since the very beginning. Food Services fired the first shot. Seems my fresh doughnuts and coffee were having an effect on their sales of cardboard they pass off as food. Then, last spring, the Brazos County Health Department received two complaints, but that backfired because it actually improved the operation. Now Coca-Cola comes whining. Ridiculous? You bet. It's the Mother of All Aggie jokes. What's next? Fire Coach Slocum because of his initials? Never did I expect to spend so much time outside of my studies trying to put out fires. Never did I expect such a small-time venture to attract so much attention from officials who have nothing better to do. Your tax dollars hard at work! Ironically, Chris and I provided \$80 in quarters daily to Coke's patrons whose dollar bills were rejected by the machines.

So, Ags, just remember that whenever you make a purchase from any vending machine on campus, whether it be soft drinks, snacks, or battery acid disguised as coffee, you are supporting a slimy monopoly whose tentacles envelop the campus. And the message this university is sending is this: WE DO NOT WELCOME INDIVIDUALITY, IMAGINATION, FAIR COMPETITION OR NEW IDEAS. Welcome to Screw U. It's user unfriendly. And sterile. Oh, yeah, don't want to forget that it's world class too! Get real.

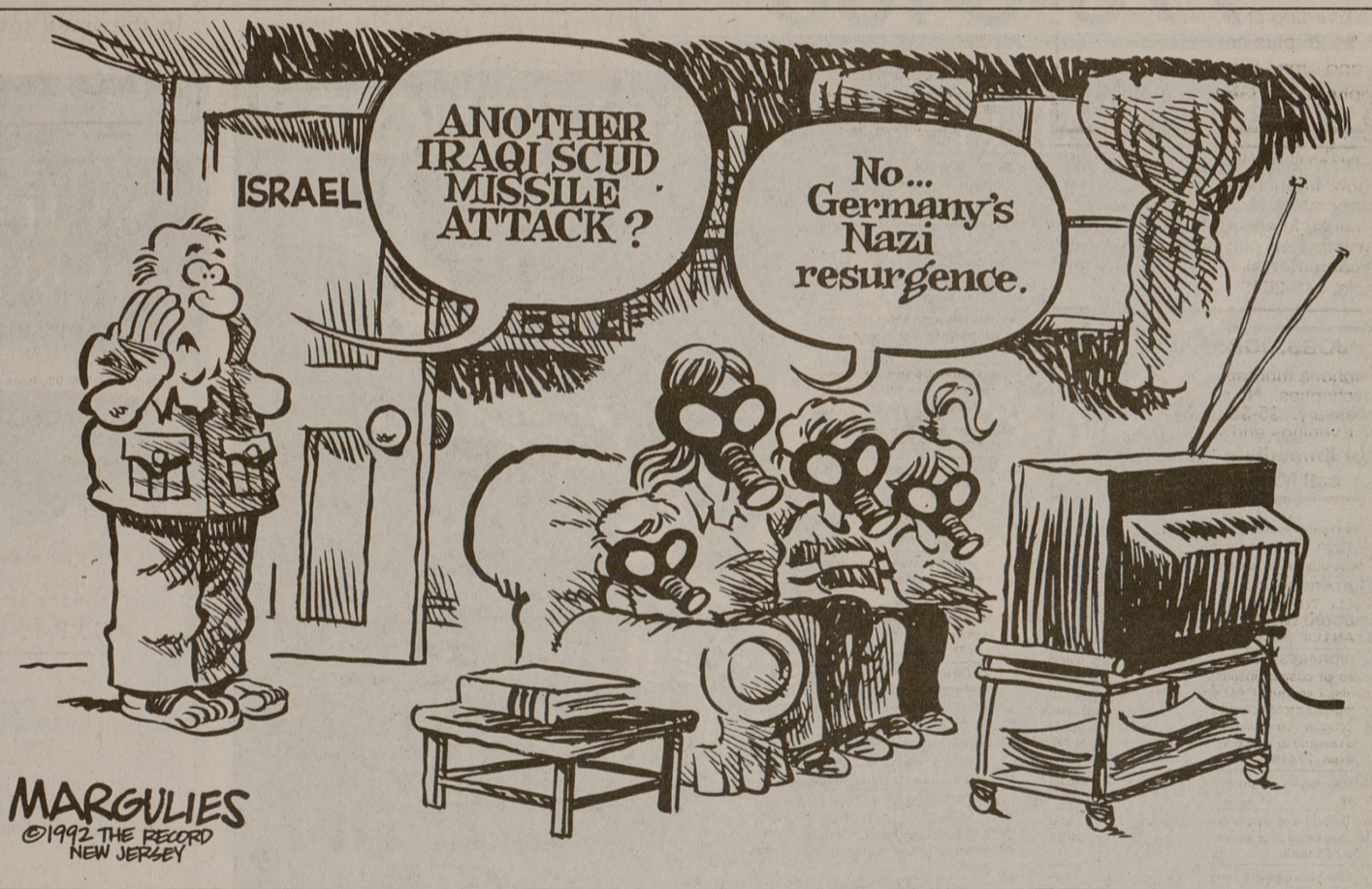
Well, it was loads of fun while it lasted. I leave you now with a quote I remember from my high school coach, and I hope you will remember it too: "It's nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice." Don't let position and power go to your heads, Ags. Just remember this entire stupid incident in the future when you all become successful in life, so that when Texas A&M comes a-callin' with hat in hand for a generous contribution, you know, maybe one of us will throw 'em a bone. Now, that would be nice.

See y'all down the road.

Carabetta is a horticulture major and a graduate of the Class of '91

GUEST COLUMN

RICK CARABETTA



MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

MAIL CALL

Coach Barone thanks students for support

I hesitated writing this not in fear of sounding patronizing. After thinking about it, I felt compelled to do so. Our basketball program is really in a unique situation. We are trying to rebuild and at the same time, change perceptions and attitudes.

In our home game against Missouri, the student body showed up in tremendous numbers, and our coaches and players cannot tell you how much it meant to us. We have asked for your support and you have responded beyond our expectations.

In the rebuilding process we know that there will be some tough times. I cannot imagine another student body in

the country that would come out the way you did for the Missouri game.

Our players and staff need your continued support. We are going to make G. Rollie White a tough place to play because of your efforts. Patience is not one of my virtues. I really believe that together, with you, our program will be rebuilt doing it the right way.

Once again, thank you to all of you who are giving us a chance.

Tony Barone
Head Basketball Coach

Stop confusing opinion with bigotry

I am writing in response to the letter submitted by Drs. Mazullo, Andreadis, Stock and Hickman about Quanell X's "homophobic" remarks.

To begin with, I would like to say I agree with your argument over X not clarifying his position on this issue (or his political correctness), but feel that your remarks regarding Quanell X as "homophobic" and a bad model and leader were unfair.

X did nothing to discriminate against anyone.

He voiced his opinion over the issue of society's acceptance of homosexuality as normal. Also, how dare you say that racism and discrimination against gays and lesbians are the same?

Whether or not X agrees with homosexuality shouldn't affect whether you support the fight against racism. I have one word for Dr. Hickman — hypocrite.

I have many friends and some relatives that are gay, and although I do not support their choice and feel that homosexuality is unnatural and wrong under God's view, I do not treat them worse or any different because of my difference of opinion — nor do I fear them.

I guess under your logic, I am "homophobic," however.

That is way off base, and I am sick and tired of some people being so quick to shout discrimination when someone is merely voicing his or her opinion.

It is a shame that you have failed to be able to differentiate between the two; and as a graduating senior at this University, I feel that the only apologies to be made should be from you.

Michael Beres
Class of '92

Bush Library should get its proper place

Congratulations to good ol' A&M for being selected as the site for the George Bush Presidential Library. It will truly be a great honor for our esteemed university to "house" the library of such a great American and "Texan." If a site for the facility has not been selected, I suggest that one downwind from and near the swine unit be seriously considered. Please reserve a pair of dedication ceremony tickets for me.

Best of luck to the Aggies in the Cotton Bowl, and hoist a cold Shiner back at Dudley's for me!
Gig 'em Ags; gag 'em George.

Mark Greenig
Class of '85
Seattle, Washington

LoBaido's love column appreciated

If the "Fonz" were to read LoBaido's editorial on love he would put up both

thumbs (gig 'em) and say "ehhh." LoBaido has had strikes against him all year with ignorance criticizing his work but he shut them up with this piece. It's obvious he knows more about love than blondes.

If more men held LoBaido's views on love, Gilligan would find his way home, Isaac would mix better drinks, and Laverne wouldn't have to mix her won milk and Pepsi. Thanks, Anthony, for letting women know that there are men out there who care. Wanna get married? Love ya-mean it.

Marci Froh
Class of '94

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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

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