



Name change upsets A&I alumni, students

On Friday at 3pm the Texas A&M System regents met in a specially called session to discuss the idea of changing the names of all the A&M system schools to Texas A&M at wherever. You would think that the system had become a fried chicken franchise like TU.

Why was such a decision in the offing? State Sen. Carlos Truan of Corpus Christi had threatened to slash the budget of the College Station campus if the regents did not succumb to his demand. I hoped that the regents would give Truan the Jackie Sherrill "motivation treatment" for trying to pull a hardball tactic such as this. The Aggies I knew wouldn't stand for such a cheap trick.

First of all, Truan didn't have the influence to make good on such a threat. Second, it was a violation of state law for a legislator to make such a threat. Third, the Aggies did not support the concept and neither did the alumni of the other schools in the system. I know for certain that the students and the alumni of Texas A&I in Kingsville did not support a name change. The alumni have traditionally opposed the measure. The A&I Student Senate was on record against it and over 850 student signatures were on the petition in opposition.

Sen. Truan has wanted to shove this idea down the throats of the A&M regents ever since the system merger occurred. The regents have resisted until now. Giving in to the demands of an inflated ego with an inferiority complex like Truan is like paying protection money to the Mafia. The regents would have done more good by offering to pay for psychiatric counseling for Truan rather than accommodating him.

Now Truan will definitely be back for future installments. Redistribution of the PUF money is a regular topic of conversation for him.

On Friday we found out whether the A&M regents had the mettle to deal

with a person like Truan and whether it was easier to abandon principle and tradition to the whims of politics and compromise.

Winston Churchill once said, "On matters of principle, great or small, large or petty, never, never, never, give in." Sounds to me like Churchill would have made a good Aggie.

Doug Vannoy
Class of '73 & '75
Texas A&I

Good Ag apologizes for bad bull heckling

This letter is in response to Xavier Cervantes and Chris Valladares who wrote letters to the editor on Friday.

I was at the baseball game you spoke of, and I want to apologize for myself and the other Aggies you spoke about.

I did yell "Speedy" at the other player whose name was Gonzalez. However, I did not do it with any intent of racism. I, like most of the other Aggies, wanted to break his concentration and get a strikeout.

By changing his name a cartoon character we can all relate to, and then yelling it, we hoped to make him nervous. The word "Speedy" came from the relationship between his last name and that of the cartoon character; it was not meant to be racist.

Nevertheless, you were offended, and I will be more careful in the future when heckling.

As for the person who said "go back to Mexico," I do not know who did it. I did not hear it either. I am offended also by this. He/She is definitely not a "good Ag" in my eyes either.

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. I hope you can see that my intentions were not meant to be racist. Please come to another game and try again.

Joshua Marquart
Class of '95

IHOP encourages good study habits

Because of professional commitments, four evenings each week, I eat supper with a friend around 11 o'clock in the evening. Therefore, we dropped by the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) on University Drive a couple of times last month.

We were unable to get a table because the restaurant was full. Everywhere, there were serious students hard at work; concentrating, calculating, cogitating, with an occasional pause for a sip of coffee or soda.

Nourishing snacks were evident here and there. At some of the larger booths two were sharing the table, though this appeared to limit each's available open reference space. We inquired, and were told by the night manager that this encouragement of academic zeal had been approved by the grand manager.

I commend IHOP and its managers for their generous support and promotion of educational diligence. Too often, quiet and selfless service of this type goes unrecognized, unacknowledged, unclaimed.

Aggies, next time you need a friendly place to spread out the books, think of your friendly neighbors at IHOP. The lighting is good, the benches comfortable, and the coffee service excellent.

Just don't forget to thank the nice manager and please leave your wait-person a tip.

W.D. Bailey, Jr., M.D.
A.P. Beutel Student Health Center

Evans elevates freight above all students

So! The Sterling C. Evans Library has decided to prevent usage of the third elevator. It's about time. I was getting tired of immediate service.

The crowds that now await herd around two elevators instead of three. This provides adequate time for Ags to converse and get close to one another.

Also, the two elevators challenge students to budget their time more carefully. A test of patience is another benefactor which comes into play as students watch the "freightavator" open and close on their floor.

The underlying point of this message is to make the library staff realize that a

freight-only elevator subtracts from the good of the students. I would be more than happy to share an elevator with freight or become freight myself.

Charles Reed
Class of '94

Thatcher visit not related to Spike Lee

With regards to Kelvin Yip's letter from March 1, Margaret Thatcher's visit to Texas A&M on March 26 is sponsored by the MSC Wiley Lecture Series. Aggie Cinema, sponsoring Spike Lee's visit, is not associated with the Lady Thatcher program.

David Goldberg
Director-Public Relations
MSC Wiley Lecture Series

International Week is cultural, not political

How sad to see that, once again, the Palestinians just don't get it. The cultural displays of International Week were supposed to be just that, cultural, not political.

I personally set up the Israeli booth, and I carefully screened all of the material that we handed out and displayed to be sure that there was no political content. What we did have was information on nature preservation in Israel, and on daily life, on agriculture, education and technology, on tourism and on mosques, churches, temples and synagogues in Israel. We had Jewish ritual objects, Bedoin Arab embroidery, Israeli music, a tourism video, a Hebrew Bible, and a chance for people to plant trees in Israel or have their name written in Hebrew.

I think it is ironic that people "hoping for peace and freedom through justice" have run amok stabbing Israeli civilians as every phase of the peace talks has begun, but that is neither here nor there. The point is that the International Students Association (ISA) established rules concerning proper displays; the Israeli students followed those rules, and the Palestinians broke them. Perhaps if they had attended a single one of the cultural display meet-

ings in the month preceding International Week, they could have better followed our example.

It is to the ISA administration's credit that they took the difficult and regrettable step of removing the Palestinians when it became known that they were distributing anti-Israel propaganda among other infractions. Certainly, there are political differences among nations, but we hope that next year we will see only displays that adhere to the rules -- displays that are full of music, native dress, handicrafts, and other examples of a country's culture -- because we'd much rather spend our time meeting new friends than defending ourselves from people who have no respect for the great experience that International Week at Texas A&M is supposed to be.

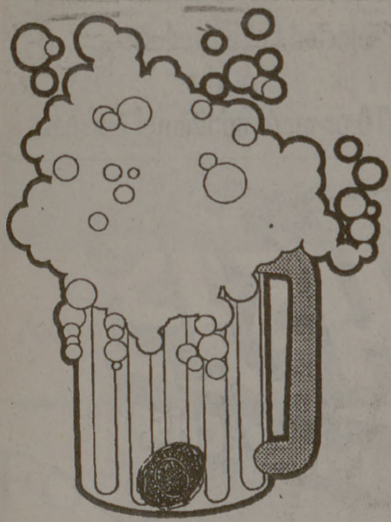
Sharon Sernik
Graduate Student

Cultural displays miss a few groups

In observing the tables that were set up in the MSC for "International Week," I noticed a few were missing. My ancestors were French Huguenots and English. I did not see either of these cultures represented. I also did not see representation for Ireland, Germany, Scotland, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway or Finland. Is some kind of reverse discrimination at work here?

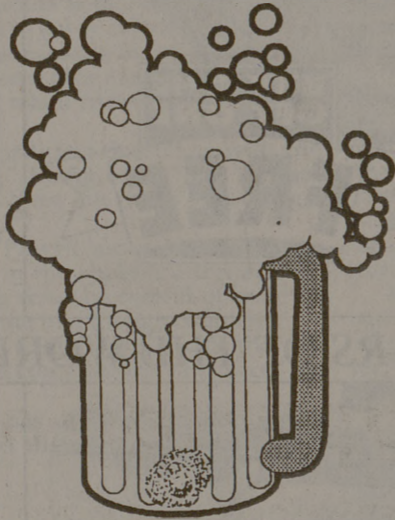
Tracy Sartwell
Class of '90

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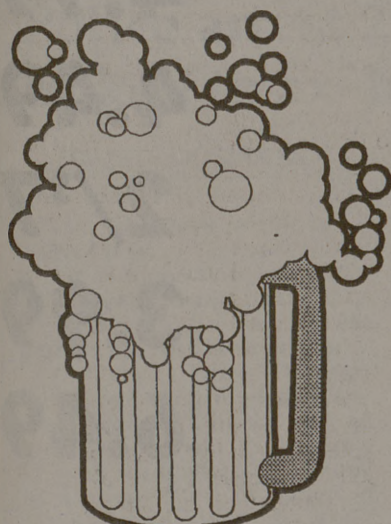


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