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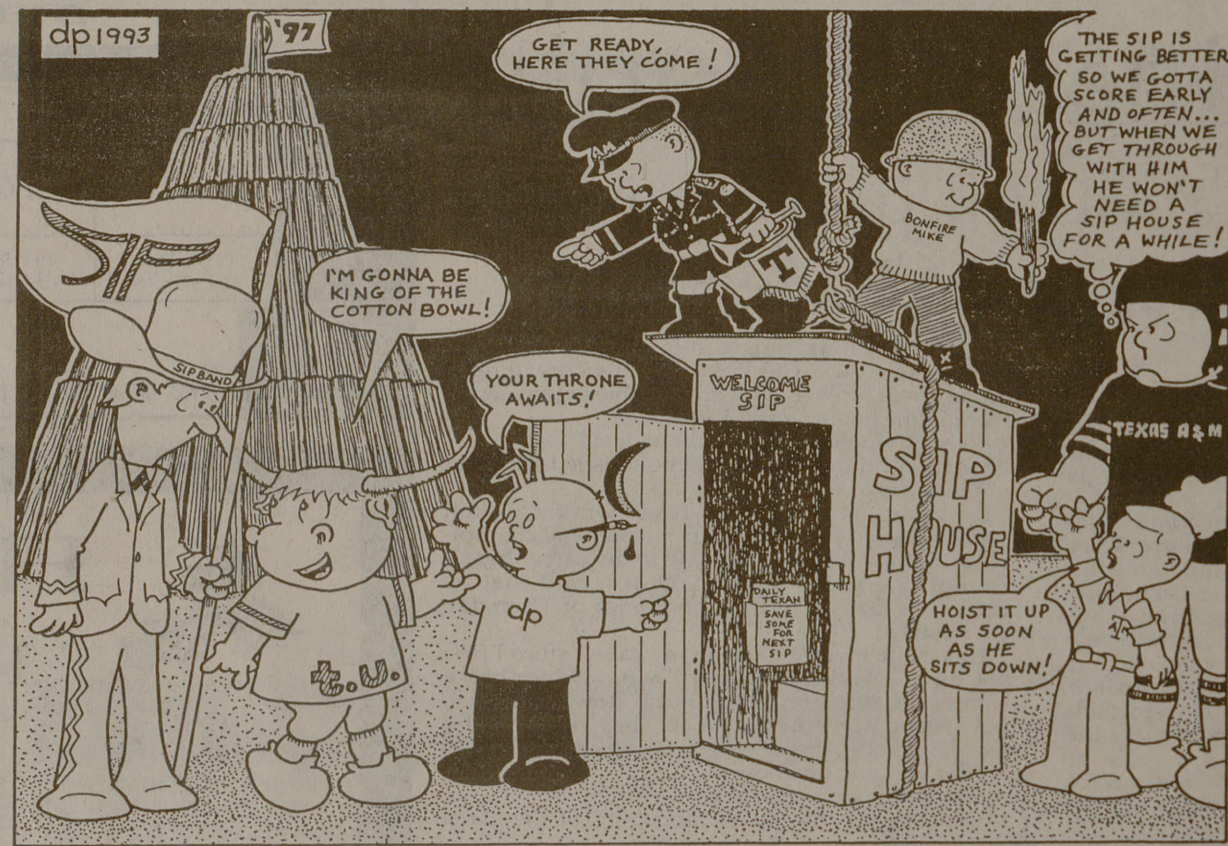
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## Rivalry

Continued from Page 7

came to coach at A&M for the next four years.

However, he only was able to record one victory over Texas during his time at A&M.

Beginning in 1957, the Longhorns defeated the Aggies 17 times in 20 years. Darrell Royal was the head coach of Texas during this time of Texas mastery.

As the 1980's rolled by, the tide of victory turned in A&M's favor. With Jackie Sherrill at the helm, the Aggies picked up five wins over the Longhorns in seven years. R.C. Slocum has continued the Aggies winning ways with three victories over the Longhorns in the last four years.

Although A&M has been in the winning column the last few years (winning eight out of the last nine), Texas still owns a 64-30-5 advantage in the series.

"We've had a pretty long run over a period of time," Slocum said. "The series will balance back up."

"Over the long haul, it will balance up."

The A&M-Texas game has directly decided the conference championship eight times since the formation of the SWC, and it has played a large role in the championship many other times.

However, when it comes down to the A&M-Texas game, records are often thrown out the window A&M running back coach Gary Kubiak said. Kubiak, who played professionally for the Denver Broncos, quarterbacked the Aggies from 1979-82.

During his time at A&M, the Aggies won two games in Austin and lost two games to the Longhorns in College Station.

"This game is special because of the rivalry between the two institutions," Kubiak said.

He said the coaches try to prepare the players for the A&M-Texas game just like they would for any other game.

"So much comes naturally this week," Kubiak said. "We just get them prepared and let them play."

Slocum said he does not participate in the pregame fanfare that accompanies the match up.

"I don't have to do much in the way of coaching this week," Slocum said. "The media does a lot to hype the game."

"All the intertwining of the history of the schools makes it special."

## A&M-Texas judgment day is here

The day of reckoning is almost here. The talk has been talked, the preparations have been made, and the battle lines have been drawn. The victor gets 365 days of bragging rights while the loser gets a year's worth of grief.



**WILLIE CORRINGTON**  
Sportswriter

This year, the winner also gets a trip to Dallas to play in the Cotton Bowl. All of this can only mean one thing: Texas A&M vs. Texas.

Thursday's game will be one for the history books, no matter what the outcome. An A&M win would give the Aggies not only a third straight Southwest Conference crown, but also a 22-game conference winning streak, which would be a new SWC record. Also, A&M would register a third straight 10 win season, which would be the first time in school history.

On the other hand, a win by the Longhorns would probably qualify as one of the largest upsets in this rivalry's history. Absolutely nothing points to Texas having much of a chance to win this game, other than the obscure fact that A&M has never beaten

Texas in a year ending in three.

A team that is not expected to win in this sort of game, however. The best team does not always win in a game as fraught with emotion as this one.

Just for argument's sake, let's say that A&M wins by a fairly sizable margin. At this point, some evaluation must be done. This will have been the third straight year that the Aggies have run the conference table. In the last 21 SWC games, A&M's average margin of victory has been a whopping 23 points a game.

Does this speak highly of Texas A&M or poorly of the rest of the conference? All of the evidence points to the latter. The fact that the conference may not be able to fill its three allotted bowl slots because most of the teams can't win six Division I-A games is a testament to just how average the SWC is.

As a consequence of this rampant mediocrity, the Aggies have had a difficult time gaining any serious national respect. The prevailing opinion seems to be that, "Yeah, they're a pretty good team, but who have they played?" This line of criticism may not be justified, but it's not entirely off the mark, either.

The problem is that A&M is forced to play all of these so-so teams because they happen to be in the same conference. As long as Texas A&M is in the Southwest Conference, all it can do is upgrade its non conference schedule and hope that the other teams in the SWC improve in the near future.

All of this postulating brings up the following question: Do the Aggies need to leave the Southwest Conference? This has been a hot topic in the last year or two and it's an interesting concept to kick around, but it's not a very feasible option at this time.

In order for a team to move from one conference to another, there needs to be a place for that team to go. In Texas A&M's case, moving to the Southeastern Conference has been rumored as a possibility.

One major problem with this is that the SEC just added South Carolina and Arkansas in 1991 and is not likely to expand in the near future. The upside would be that A&M would get a better indication of how good they are by playing teams like Florida, Tennessee, Auburn and Alabama.

What gets lost in the shuffle in all of this talk is that this sort of domination by one team is cyclical in nature. It's hard to fathom right now, but the day will come when the long conference win streak ends. It may be later than sooner, but it will happen. That's one of the many reasons why this game is important. A loss makes all of the above hypothesizing a moot point. It would also send a 6-4-1 team to the Cotton Bowl. Yikes.

This A&M-Texas game will be the first that I have attended, and the one thing that keeps coming to mind is that it's hard to gauge the importance of this game until you've seen one in person.

Have a great Thanksgiving and let's watch the Aggies make history tomorrow night.

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