

THE BATTALION Editorial Board

CHRIS WHITLEY, editor in chief

JULI PHILLIPS, managing editor
 DAVE THOMAS, night news editor
 BELINDA BLANCARTE, night news editor
 MACK HARRISON, opinion editor
 KYLE BURNETT, photo editor

MARK EVANS, city editor
 ANAS BEN-MUSA, Aggiefire editor
 MICHAEL PLUMER, sports editor
 WILLIAM HARRISON, sports editor



LEGISLATIVE POSTURING

BY GREG HARRISON

EDITORIAL

Holiday diversity

MSC shows various celebrations

Kudos to the MSC for making a concerted effort to represent more religions than just Christianity this holiday season.

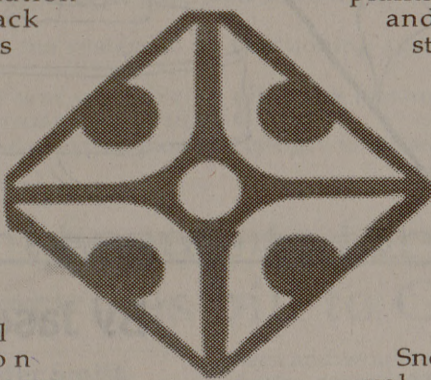
For the Snowflake Festival, MSC Hospitality Holidays and Culture Executive Beth Yohe contacted the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and the Black Awareness Committee about setting up displays in the Flag Room to accompany the traditional Christmas tree.

The Hillel Foundation erected a large menorah for Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights.

The BAC set up a cornucopia and posters depicting the seven principals for Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday celebrating the harvest.

Most past holiday performances in the MSC have been

Christmas-related. This year, however, the chairperson of the Black Awareness Committee explained Kwanzaa and Fade to Black, a minority dance group, performed. For an interesting change of pace, the Native American Student Association performed plains war dances and told winter stories.



Today's performance features a Hanukkah presentation and a step show by the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

The Snowflake Festival will last through Friday, with performances every day from noon to 2 p.m. and a craft fair Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Battalion applauds MSC Hospitality for recognizing diversity in winter holidays and opening its doors to the different cultures that comprise the student body.

A look back at an Aggie Thanksgiving Football, Bonfire make the holiday even more special

In the wake of this last week's Thanksgiving festivities, I kicked back to reflect upon what this particular holiday really means to us Aggies.

For most United States citizens of course, it is an important American holiday. It's a time for bringing family together to start off the seasonal pursuit of gout. It's also a time for students to engage in indoor horseplay with their little cousins. Plus, there's just nothing like being screamed at by a houseful of frantic females with the same genes.

Not all Thanksgivings are quite so traditional, however. Plenty of holiday dinners are spent by couples slurping up gravied gobblers on toast in a cafeteria somewhere. I would also imagine that a number of single Americans - too far away from family to travel - have to be content with a turkey pot pie, a couple of cranberry tacos and a pint of Hagen Daz with their cat. But for Aggies, Thanksgiving is much more. Much, much more.

Our day of thanks is not just autumn decorations, minced meat pie (meat?), and Aunt Bitsy's yam sandwiches; its Bonfire, muddy carpet, freezing rain, and beating the hell outta t.u. Across the state, and especially in Brazos county, numerous obligatory dinner prayers include the Aggie football team. I'd also be willing to bet that a

few actually mention winning the game.

First, let's decide for what we should really be thankful. Because every year deadly tragedies are a dime-a-dozen for families all across America, every one of us should be glad we aren't dead ourselves. Even though most people who habitually run late eventually make it home, too many loved ones actually do wind up "lying in a ditch somewhere."

As for the food, I was always happy that someone farmed it, sold it, bought it and that we have an economy where all that stuff happens. Our economy works (sort of) because the framers of our Constitution got their ideas based on the thoughts of the great English philosopher, John Locke. So basically, every Thanksgiving I'm always thankful for philosophers.

THE football game has nothing to do with this particular holiday, yet everything to do with it. Some years ago due to TV scheduling, the A&M/t.u. game had to be played a week after Thanksgiving Day, throwing a wrench in the gears of all die-hard Aggie fans.

No tailgate dinners, no long weekend following the game and, worst of all, after gorging ourselves with turkey and dressing, my family and I had to gather 'round the television and root for Ashley on "The Young and the Restless." She did get sacked a few times, but it just wasn't the same.

As for Longhorn fans, I think they must've gotten over that Bevo branding episode. Perhaps the older t.u. fans still consider the A&M showdown to be the most heated rivalry of the season, but all of my friends from Austin make the biggest production out of the Oklahoma Weekend. I suspect it has something to do with the vari-

ety of bars in Dallas. I just don't understand; I have always been satisfied with the diversity of B/CS nightlife. After all, we have country and western.

Lastly, although there are many holiday football games and even more enormously heated rivalries, there is clearly nothing even close to the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire. Unfortunately, the Bonfire's days are probably numbered. The site has already been moved twice due to construction, fire, traffic and environmental hazards. There is just no way a world class university can continue to condone incinerating hundreds of trees in the name of school spirit, certainly not on state property anyway. This bumper "no alcohol" policy is just the beginning.

Originally, Bonfire was a huge pile of trash and at least equally as fun. Though it might burn better sometimes, I'm not suggesting we start setting fire to the Bryan Landfill. But while not being anti-Bonfire, we should all be much more anti-waste.

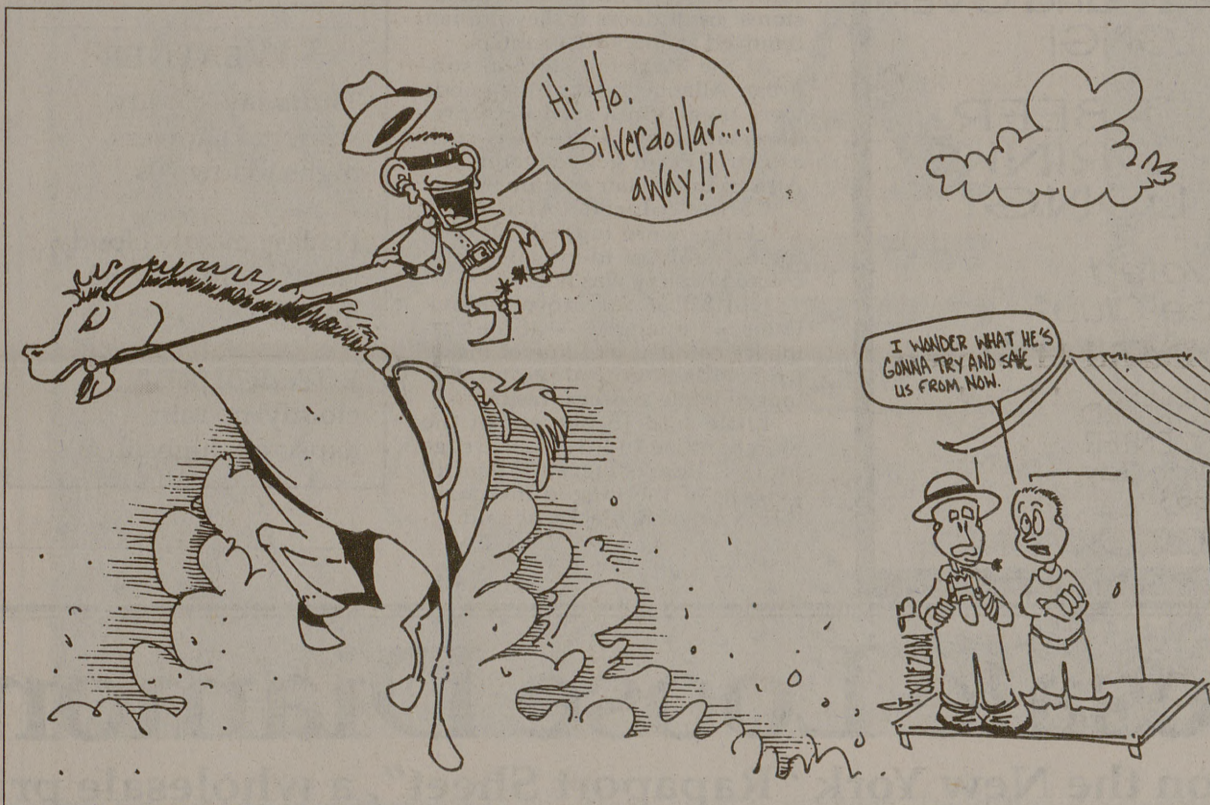
Because I was in the Corps, and essentially forced to work on its construction as a fish, I gained an appreciation for a pile of logs that many students don't have. There was actually enough appreciation left over to spend countless volunteer hours as a flunking senior building that thing. Nothing in this world (so far) is quite like hanging from a stretched rope all night long, wiring third stack logs together with a dip in your mouth and a calculus test in a few hours. It's just about as Aggie as one can get.

And it's even more fun than castrating calves.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy student



FRANK STANFORD
Columnist



Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff.

Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors. The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

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

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

Address letters to:
The Battalion - Mail Call
 013 Reed McDonald
 Mail stop 1111
 Texas A&M University
 College Station, TX 77843
 Fax: (409) 845-2647

Yell leaders show dedication, respect to A&M all year long

To the students, faculty, and former students of Texas A&M University: We are writing this letter to once and for all set the record straight as to the occurrences on the night of Nov. 24.

Bonfire and yell practice did not live up to many peoples' expectations. Yet, that surely does not give justification for the viscous, scathing letters in the Nov. 30 Mail Call.

GREG RIELS AND STEVE SCANLON

SENIOR YELL LEADERS

GUEST COLUMN

We can assure you that no one is more upset than the Yell leaders and the Redpots.

In the cute little Top Ten list, it was stated that, "Anyone could have lit Bonfire faster than the Redpots."

Those dedicated students spend countless hours sacrificing their personal and academic lives so that all Aggies can enjoy one of our most honored traditions.

In another letter, it was stated that Mark Rollins was a disgrace and the yell leaders showed disrespect. This is completely out of line. A disgrace? Disrespectful? Were we a disgrace at all five Fish Camps? How about at the Transfer Camps?

Certainly then, we were totally disrespectful towards A&M as we lead the Class of '97 in their first yells at the 18 summer conferences; we must have made a total mockery of our alma mater

across the state as we visited some 25 Mother's clubs and numerous organizations across the campus and community.

No doubt, we embarrassed the student

Let's put to rest a rumor we've heard. No, we were not drunk (none of us had anything to drink) nor have we ever been drunk at any yell practice or function.

body throughout the year at all the Volleyball and Basketball games, Midnight Yell Practices, and as we - along with the 12th Man - beat the hell outta t.u.

Another line of this letter mentions the

lack of sincerity with which the "Spirit of Aggieland" was done. How sincere and respectful was it for you to disregard the line of that sacred song, "We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we, true to each other as Aggies can be," when you wrote this letter to attack a fellow Aggie?

Yes, Mark, more than anyone, realized that the "Last Corps Trip" was anything but perfect, but to insinuate it was intentional or that he just put no effort into memorizing it is absurd. We can testify to this due to the six times he flawlessly recited it to us that night.

In addition, let's put to rest a rumor we've heard. No, we were not drunk (none of us had anything to drink) nor have we ever been drunk at any yell practice or function.

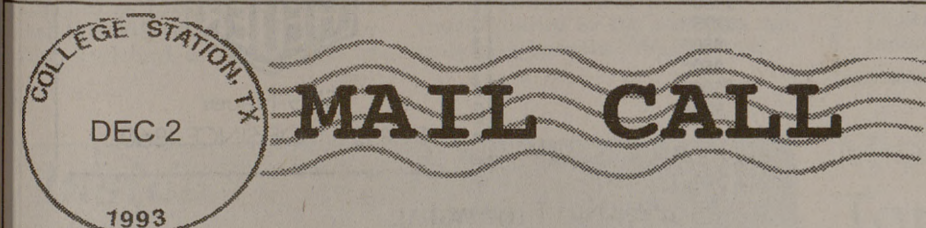
Finally, you claim the overall experience was "bad bull." Nowhere but at

Texas A&M could you find 50,000 students, former students, and friends gathered together to celebrate being an Aggie.

How can you both see all of these people and their love and Spirit for Texas A&M and classify Bonfire '93 as bad bull? We regret that your senior Bonfire was ruined; however, we feel that Texas Aggie Bonfire was and will always be a success.

All of us sincerely thank you, the true members of the 12th Man, for your support as we do our best to serve you. It has been and continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as Senior Yell Leaders. Gig 'em, and we'll see you at the Cotton Bowl!

Greg Riels is a senior management and finance major and Steve Scanlon is a senior political science major



Yell leaders display maturity at E-walk

When looking back at Elephant Walk '93, two things stick out in my mind. First is the successful efforts of the Class Councils and the Traditions Council to restore the tradition back to its original meaning. The second thing I remember is the character of the senior yell leaders, in particular Greg Riels.

Once the seniors rounded the Academic Building to do a few yells, several underclassmen were ready to attack the

seniors with the annual ketchup and mustard bombardment. One guy in particular was squeezing ketchup and mustard on a senior when Greg approached him to stop what he was doing and asked him to clean up the mess he had created.

The guy in return decided that Greg needed some ketchup and mustard decorations of his own. He squirted the ketchup and mustard in Greg's face and all over his clothes. If it were me that had the ax handle in my hand, I doubt I could have held myself back. What Greg Riels did was exhibit what I believe to be true Aggie Spirit. He did nothing at all.

For those of you who feel the yell leaders embarrassed you or ruined your Bonfire, you may want to look again. The yell leaders do so much to show the rest of the world what it means to be an Aggie. Maybe the next time you think about writing a letter condemning them, you ought to examine how much time and effort you put in to representing this school.

Michael Mason
Class of '94

Helpful Aggies aid stranded motorist

After attending the A&M vs. Baylor football game, we experienced a blowout as we were leaving Waco. Immediately, four freshman A&M band members stopped and changed our tire. Another car of Aggies stopped to see if

any more help was needed.

As a mother of a freshman at A&M, I was very impressed with the sincerity and helpfulness that was shown to us that day. These boys are a fine example of the Aggies Spirit I've heard so much about. Thanks again!

Jeanette Jones
Ft. Worth, Texas

Dorm residents' acts embarrass University

After much debating in our office, we decided to write a note concerning true (?) "Aggie Spirit."

We feel that this spirit was truly exemplified this past Wednesday (Bonfire Day), when some boys in Law Hall sat in their windows and yelled out to two individuals who had been involved in an auto accident in the parking lot adja-

cent to their dorm.

Their very appropriate behavior included yelling such things as "Beat the hell out of him"; "Beat the sh-- out of that t-sip"; and "You should kick his a--", as onlookers (obviously visitors to the campus) showed signs of amazement.

We staff members really appreciated being called b--- and w---, as well as other names, as we walked to our cars.

To these boys in Law Hall we say, "Keep up the good work in showing that true (?) Aggie Spirit!"

But seriously, there are many of us who are generally proud of Aggie behavior. However, we are ashamed and embarrassed by yours.

One suggestion to you, boys, the next time you feel cocky at least pretend to be mature college students, show your faces when you feel like making rude comments, and allow real women the chance to slap them for you.

B. Chapman
Department of Sociology