

Students find 'maroon and white' everywhere

Fightin' Texas Aggie speech writers can use 'Howdy!' to inspire crowd, whoops of praise

Howdy Ags! Before I introduce our guest lecturer for the day, I just want to say a few words. I love this school and I love our way of doing things. But we can laugh at ourselves, can't we Ags? Okay, then, without further delay our guest speaker Mr. Every Aggie Speech Writer.

MICHAEL LANDAUER
Columnist



After this, the crowd should be fired up. You will want to end quickly so they are left with a good feeling about your speech. The best way is to thank them for coming out and then say gig em. Do not stray from this formula or the crowd will be confused.

Members of the audience at Aggie speeches also have responsibilities. You should Whoop or wildcat after anything that is even slightly related to you.

Good. I see that you've heard an Aggie speech before. The first thing I want to teach you about Aggie speech writing is to always start with "Howdy!" If you don't, people will be confused. It is also a great organizational trick. If you haven't quite decided how you're going to start your speech, just tell the crowd that you know they can be louder, say howdy again and take the time to organize your thoughts. If you're still not ready to begin, tell them you want them to be heard all the way down in Austin. Don't worry - this never gets old.

First, you should introduce yourself. Be sure to mention what class you are in, especially if you're an upperclassman. And if you are from a small Texas town, be sure to refer to it as a thriving metropolis. Again, this never gets old.

Start your speech by telling the audience how much you love A&M, what a great decision they made by coming here and then throw in a joke or funny story. One joke is mandatory for all speeches. I believe it is included in the official A&M regulations, and if it isn't, it should be. Tell students that these are the best five or six or seven years of their lives. This joke never gets old, so use it as often as you like.

If you have a point to your speech, now is the time to bring it up. Be sure to mention some of the things at A&M of which we are most proud. Name as many organizations, dorms, sports teams, famous Aggies and classes as possible. The time spent by the audience wildcatting will make your speech appear longer and more entertaining.

Don't feel like you have to have a point. If you try to make a point at the wrong times, the crowd will lose interest. Often at these times Law and Puryear will start yelling at each other and the rest of the crowd will either snicker or start talking amongst themselves. Whenever this happens, quickly direct your speech to the nearest opponent in sports and mention how we're going to beat the hell out of them. Note: if there are no active sports, then just mention how we make a habit of beating the hell out of t.u. every year.

This can get complicated since it is more of an involved art form rather than an exact science. Be sure to start by saying we'll beat the "ever livin', ever lovin', compound, complex ..." Do not just say hell. Mention everything you can think

of about A&M and always precede it with the words "Fightin' Texas Aggie". For example: "Fightin' Texas Aggie Smart-Ass Columnist!" Be sure to leave enough time for every one to wildcat after each phrase - unless you use my example, in which case wildcatting will probably not occur.

As a member of the audience at an Aggie speech, you also have responsibilities. Not everyone is given the chance to speak to a bunch of Aggies. It is up to the rest of us to make sure they feel like they are doing well. To do this you

Roommate's 'shrine' of Aggieland decorations leads to contemplations on University culture

I have been in Aggieland for two years now, but I still can't quite understand the emphasis placed upon the "Good Ag vs. Bad Ag." I guess you could definitely call my roommate, Layla, a good Ag. In the course of our getting-things-together phone calls this summer, I asked her if she had a lot of Aggie paraphernalia. "Oh, no!" she said. "I really don't have much at all."

AJA HENDERSON
Columnist



warm fuzzies when I look at Sully? Am I a bad Ag if I think that Reveille, pretty as she is - Egads! - is a dog? Now, I will be brave enough to actually admit this: there are times when I have gone to a football game and left with my butt a tad dusty because I let it graze the bleachers of Kyle Field. There are times when I have hummed the Aggie War Hymn because I did not know all the words, or at least the correct ones. There are times when my nose has wrinkled slightly from the great odor of the cutters rafted my way. I think that it should be obvious that Sully does not give me warm fuzzies. Oh, yeah!

Yeah, right. I walked into a dorm room that resembled the MSC Bookstore or Loupot's. Not only was a huge wind sock hanging in the window, but there was also a complete Aggie shrine sitting there religiously. Every little gadget, every little knick-knack with the Aggie logo known to man was present. "Well, maybe I have a little more Aggie stuff than I thought," she said with a little grin.

Yeah, Layla, I think you do. So, you might wonder, what is the extent of Aja's Aggie spirit symbols? Well - I own a glorious, magnificent, exquisite Aggie 12th Man towel.

And I'll never forget that time when I walked up to Reveille, petted her, and cooed "Ooh, what a lovely dog!" Needless to say that I received a downright evil look from the Corps dude holding her leash.

Well, by now I can see all the fists shaking in the air. "Bad Ag on the loose! Escort her away immediately!" Hold up one minute, will you? I came to this school mainly because of its high level of academics and resources that I thought could help me prepare for the real world. Isn't that what we are all here for, anyway? Now, I truly feel that I have received a top-notch education at A&M thus far. As far as that "other stuff" is concerned ... well, I wave my 12th man towel as violently as any Joe Ag at the football games, and I feel the same swell in my heart that any Ross Volunteer could at Silver Taps.

I do feel a bit removed from this place when I am expected to sing praises to Sully or when people hack on and on and on about multiculturalism and the lack or need thereof. But I have a problem with ignorance, period - not Texas A&M as a whole.

Look at me, I am an Aggie with pride and respect for my school, my peers and myself. I firmly believe that the true measure of an Aggie should not be who can swing the ax the hardest at cut or who sings the Aggie War Hymn loudest.

Aggies come in many sizes, shapes, colors and forms. Please, don't be so hasty to stamp the "bad Ag" label on someone. Take time to get to know that person, and their intentions, before making a judgment call. Now, that is what I call good bull.

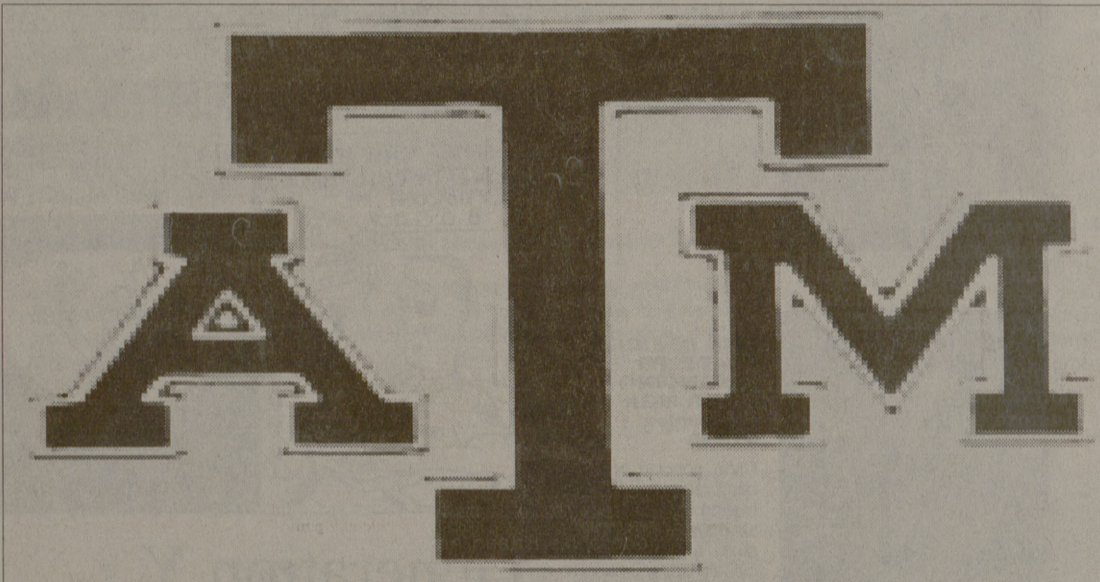
For one thing, am I a bad Ag if I don't know

I feel removed from this place when I am expected to praise Sully or when people hack about multiculturalism. But I have a problem with ignorance, not Texas A&M.

est. Aggies come in many sizes, shapes, colors and forms. Please, don't be so hasty to stamp the "bad Ag" label on someone. Take

time to get to know that person, and their intentions, before making a judgment call. Now, that is what I call good bull.

Aja Henderson is a sophomore finance major



should wildcat after anything that is even slightly related to you. For example, if I said that I ate breakfast this morning, and you also ate breakfast, you should Whoop or AAAAA or whatever it is you do.

Do not feel embarrassed for the speaker if you recognize some of the things I have mentioned today in their speech. Don't be surprised either. Even though their speech may seem predictable, you will be amazed how much it still motivates you if you let it.

Thanks for being able to laugh at yourselves, Ags. Thanks for coming out. And gig 'em.

Michael Landauer is a sophomore journalism major

I know, I know. Right now you must be thinking, just a 12th Man towel? Bad Ag! Bad Ag! But please, let me explain myself before bringing out the ruler to slap my hand. The more militant ones might even want to chop my hand clean off with a bonfire axe.

Don't get me wrong, I have much respect for this school, and the people in it who work so hard to keep the fire burning, figuratively and literally. It's just that there are some things I still just don't get.

For one thing, am I a bad Ag if I don't know



MAIL CALL

College Republicans err with attack-style politics

This letter is in response to the Sept. 1 letter of Chad Walter. I find it curious that Walter attacked the Aggie Democrats for the Aug. 31 letter of Matt Murphy, an Aggie expressing his own personal opinion. It is a travesty that the College Republicans ground themselves in the attack-style politics that they have so vigorously pursued against President Clinton, Matt Murphy, and now the Aggie Democrats.

The First Amendment does guarantee the freedom of expression and in that light I express my concern that the College Republicans should protect and defend that right and not merely attack both Murphy and the Aggie Democrats for Murphy's opinion. The student body could be better served if Walter would have addressed the issue Murphy was speaking of instead of expressing hostility toward both him and the Aggie Democrats. To imply that Murphy seeks to disregard the First Amendment and therefore dishonor those who have died for it is disheartening.

I hope that in the future the personal attacks on President Clinton may cease. Since his election, Clinton has passed such monumental legislation as NAFTA, the Crime Bill, the Brady Bill, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Service Act, the Motor Voter Bill and most importantly his 1993 Budget Package. During his term the United States is experiencing

one of the healthiest economic growth periods in the last 100 years. This president is good for America.

For the image of Texas A&M and both political parties, I ask that next time you respond to an issue at hand address the issue with concrete facts, because voter apathy can only be heightened when politics denigrates to innuendo instead of issues. We are all Aggies so let's show the world we can disagree and still be civil.

Eric Gruetzner
President, The Aggie Democrats
Class of '94

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 for length, style, and accuracy. Address letters to: The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

THE BATTALION
Editorial Board
Belinda Blancarte, Editor in chief
Mark Evans, Managing editor
Jay Robbins, Opinion editor
Jenny Magee, Assistant opinion editor

EDITORIAL

CONSERVATION CRISIS

Earth, humans should both come first

There seems to be a constant tug-of-war between conserving the environment and using up the world's resources. Both sides have legitimate arguments, but it's time to find a happy medium where everyone is satisfied.

There's no doubt that the environment has depleted over the last several decades. There are more dirty rivers, extinct animals and a disintegrating ozone layer that chews away at the earth's surface. But, in addition to the increase in environmental problems, there has come an increase in population and a correlated need to use up more natural resources. Animals and other wildlife may have been on the earth before humans, as some conservationists argue, but humans are entitled to their property rights. If people did not have access to natural resources, creating a society would be nearly impossible.

It is not right to destroy the environment to meet the needs of man,

but a better compliance with protective legislation would be found if regulations required limited, responsible use of natural resources, rather than allowing exploitation or banning use.

It is not feasible to save every single bird, plant and weed in existence. In a society that is money-based and economically driven, this absolute conservation cannot happen.

After all, humans have been and will always be more important than animals. Not to say that animals are of less importance, but human beings must use the Earth to run their civilization. Five billion people are the dependent on fossil fuels, mined ores, cut timber and a host of other harvests for mere survival. It is important to make efforts to save the depleting environment, but it is equally important to provide people with adequate natural resources. The issue should not go one way or the other - a balance can be forged to conserve both sides of the issue.

