

Aggielife

Aggie Culture in Print

Author traces evolution of cherished A&M tradition

By Amy Collier
THE BATTALION

One of the most cherished Aggie traditions has been captured in 80 pages. John Adams, Class of '73, published a book last year titled "Softly Call the Muster — The Evolution of a Texas Aggie Tradition."

"I tried to just capture the essence of Muster," Adams said. "The most interesting thing to me is the number of people that come up and say they've read it."

Adams said he wrote the book with memories of every Muster since he attended his first in 1970.

"I've been working on it without knowing it for the last 25 years," Adams said. "No traditions are more universally observed and renowned as Aggie Muster. I think the book is giving back a little of what I got."

The unique thing about Aggie Muster is much of it has not changed since E.E. McQuillen put the first Muster packets together in 1920, Adams said.

"It has both evolved and remained consistent through the years," he said. "To me, it's an accumulation of all of the traditions of A&M and a remembrance of all of the students that have gone before us."

Adams is speaking at his 25th Muster since 1974 tonight in Collin County. One year, he spoke at three different ceremonies in three different states within a 24-hour period.

"It's a unique time of reflection," Adams said. "No matter how busy people are, they will go to Muster and take time out."

Adams was a member of the Corps of Cadets when he attended A&M. He is now a class agent for the Class of '73 and remains active in Aggie land.

The students have changed a lot since he attended A&M, Adams said.

"Their awareness and their drive and their perspective is completely different than ours," Adams said. "We were more naive. The caliber of the students is impressive."

Although the students are different, some things remain the same.

"The campus is still friendly," Adams said. "People actually still talk to each other. That's what makes A&M. The spirit is still there."

Adams said he thinks the amount of people who apply to Texas A&M each year show what a great University it is.

"Somebody must be doing something right in College Station to have so many people apply," Adams said.

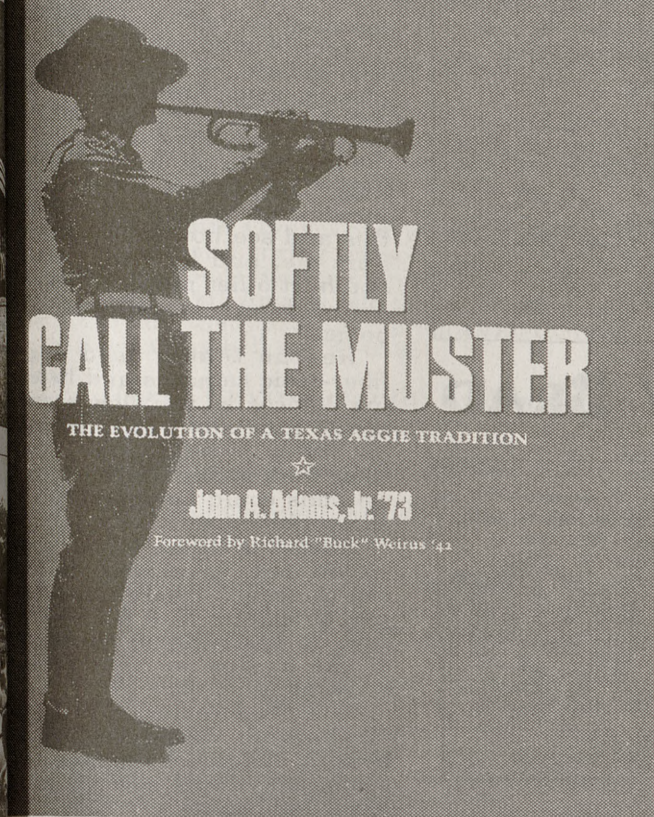
The love and dedication A&M students have is unusual to find at a college, Adams said.

"What makes Aggies different are things like Aggie Muster," Adams said. "Anybody can have buildings with classes in them, but what makes it different is the spirit."

"Aggies are the way they are because of what happens to them at Texas A&M. People are intimidated by us because we stand up and we're accounted for. They can't identify with it."

Adams said he has a goal for all students and he knows they will achieve it.

"I want to see the traditions preserved and a realization of how unique Texas A&M is," he said.



A&M enthusiast serves up 'Good Bull' books

By Amy Collier
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Dr. John Hoyle's enthusiasm and love for Texas A&M is contagious.

Hoyle, a professor of educational administration, has established a name for himself by collecting 50 years of humorous Aggie stories in two "Good Bull" books which his son illustrated.

Since the first book was published in 1990 and the second in 1992, Hoyle said the two combined have sold almost 9,000 copies. A percentage of the royalties have gone to the education department or students traveling to conferences.

Hoyle said the books have added a lot to the lighter side of A&M.

"My book was sort of the first to start telling the A&M story other than just the pure history," Hoyle said. "In some ways, I'm seen as a folk historian around here now. I tell the other side of the history — some of the fun side of A&M."

Hoyle said after the release of the first book, which contained mainly stories he had experienced himself, he had a big response from people wanting to tell their "Good Bull" stories.

Hoyle welcomed the chance to continue brightening people's lives by putting them in a second book.

"It's a pretty sad, uptight world and A&M needs as much humor as it can get," he said. "Aggies need to laugh all they can laugh. If I make people laugh, I've been successful."

Hoyle's history at this University is long and impressive.

He got his bachelors degree at A&M in 1957 and his doctorate in 1967. Including his years here as an undergraduate student, graduate student and a faculty member, Hoyle has been at A&M for 28 years. During his teaching years, Hoyle has written about 90 books and journal articles.

In 1955, Hoyle was first baseman on the South-west Conference championship baseball team.

Hoyle now specializes in leadership training and future studies in his classes and focuses on the speeches he gives across the globe.

"If you don't have a vision, you really can't be successful," Hoyle said. "There's no higher calling than to prepare Aggies for the future."

Teaching is something that Hoyle said has always been a big part of his life and still continues to be his favorite thing to do.

"There are a lot of things you don't like some of the time, but students make it all worthwhile," Hoyle said. "I hope it shows in my classroom."

Although this Aggie spirit is still alive, Hoyle said there is one thing he wants to see changed.

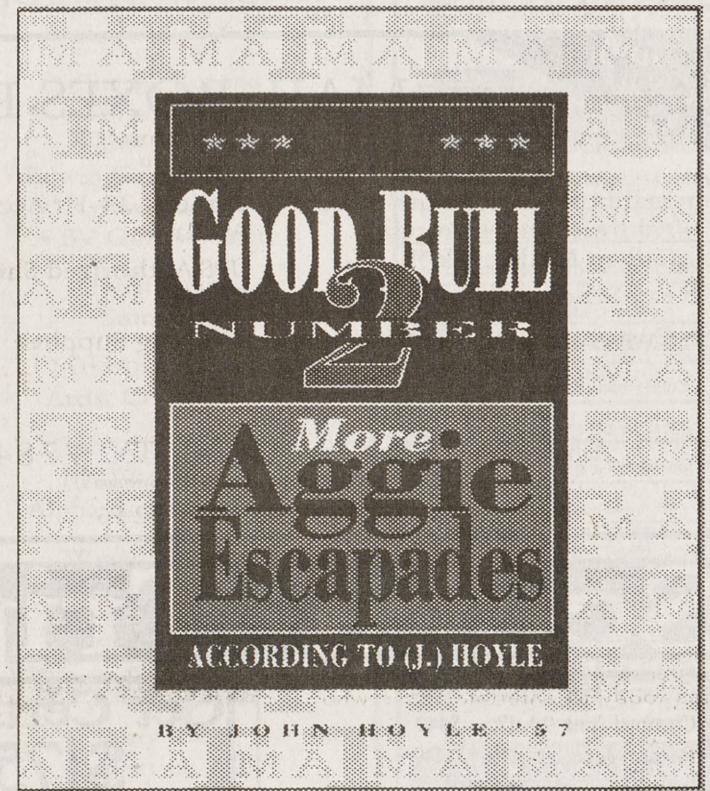
"I'd like to see the open family atmosphere improved," Hoyle said. "We've become so big that we're almost a machine. We're run by policies. We need to solve our problems together."

Hoyle will be speaking in front of 1,500 members of the Houston A&M Club Friday for Muster, which he said is the most important A&M tradition.

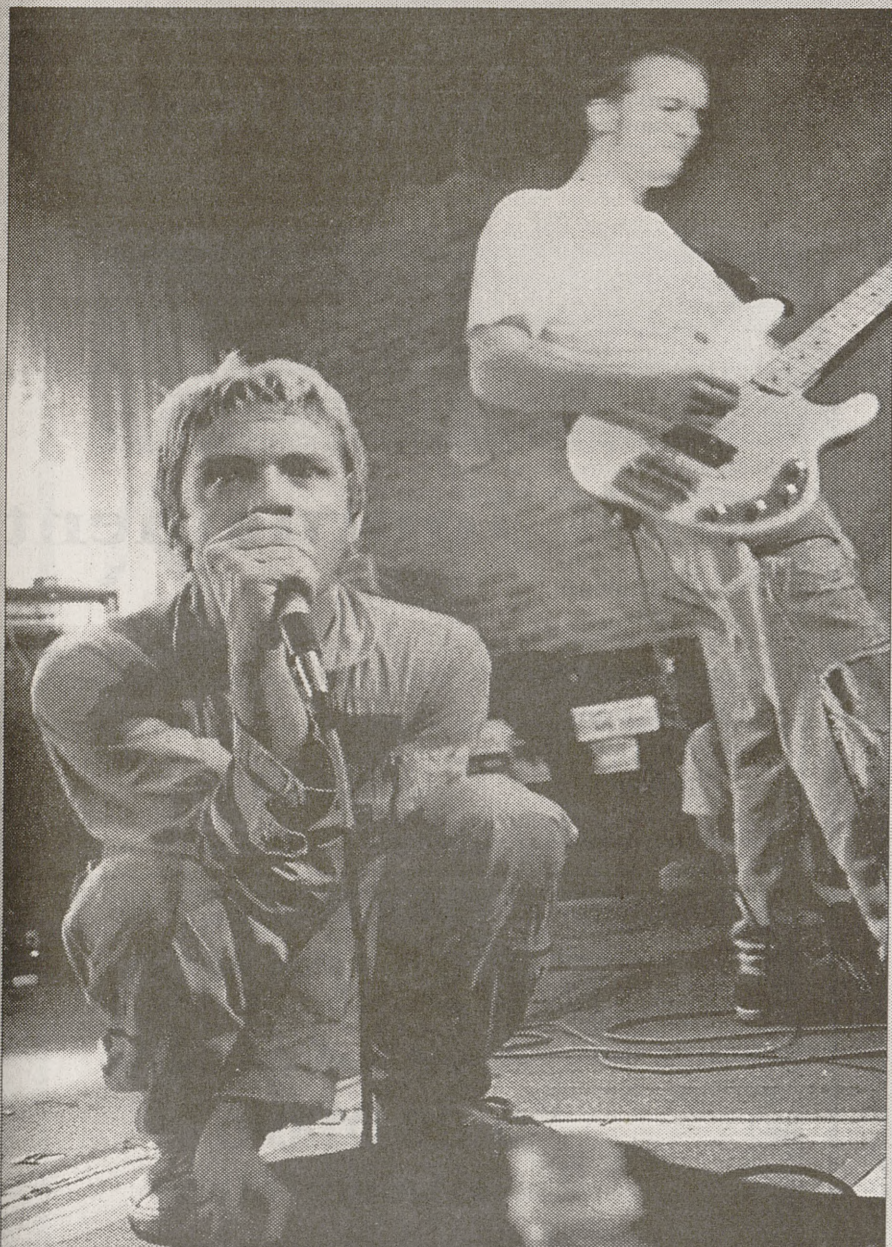
"Of all the traditions, Muster to me is the most meaningful because for the last 120 years, Aggies have been the ones to step forward, especially in war time, to fight for our freedoms and many lost their lives," he said.

"Aggies in all walks of life in peace time step forward and contribute to their communities, state and nation. When they leave this Earth, their spirit is still alive."

"They will live forever. That's why we answer, 'Here' at Roll Call."



Tripping at Stafford



Battalion File Photo

Tripping Daisy will play at Stafford Opera House Saturday night. The band, led by lead singer **Tim Delaughter**, released its first album, *Bill*, last year and was recently working on their second full-length album after the release of a five-song live EP.

Jazz Fest/Earth Day activities include free Dah-Veed performance

Dah-Veed will play a free concert at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater Saturday at 3 p.m. The performance is part of the Jazz Fest/Earth Day Celebration at the Amphitheater. A variety of jazz ensembles will perform throughout the day, and Karan Chavis & The Brew will close out the day with a performance at 6:45 p.m.

In addition, there will be a variety of booths and activities celebrating Earth Day.



Dah-Veed

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Friday

Chris Duarte, a Texas blues guitarist, will be playing at Stafford Opera House. Duarte will be touring with Bad Company, Ted Nugent, Big Head Todd and the Monsters and other big-name bands this summer.

Chris Wells and his band will be playing at the Texas Hall of Fame.

Deep Blue Something, an alternative rock band, will be playing at 3rd Floor Cantina.

Full Circle, a local rock band, will be playing at Northgate Cafe. **Soma** and **Mudshow**, two local bands will be playing upstairs.

Jim Talbot, a blues musician, will be playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Peeping Tom will be playing at The Tap.

Saturday

Bryan White and Pearl River will be playing at the Texas Hall of Fame.

Chilifest, a fund-raiser for the Brazos Valley United Way, will feature **The Bellamy Brothers**, a country duo, **Head West**, a local cover band, and **Jason Manning**, a folk/pop singer, will also perform.

The **25th Annual Earth Day Celebration** and the **Jazz Fest** will be going on all day at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. The **TAMU Jazz Band**, **Dah-Veed**, **Big Apple Trio** and **The Brew** with **Karan Chavis** will be performing. Proceeds will go to Brazos Beautiful to plant trees around Bryan-College Station.

3 Wisemen will be playing at The Tap.

3 Wisemen, **The Drench**, **Electric Kool-Aid**, and **Acid Bath**, all local bands, will be playing at Northgate Cafe to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity.

Miss Molly, a rhythm and blues singer and self-proclaimed "Queen of every damn thing," will be playing at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Mother's Monkey, a local alternative band, will be playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.

Tripping Daisy, an alternative hard rock band, will be playing at Stafford Opera House.

Sunday

Willie Nelson will wrap up the Earth Day Celebration with his concert at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. **Craig Dillingham** will be his special guest.