

AGGIE LEGACIES

For some students, traditions begin at home

BY KAREN JANES
THE BATTALION

"Future Aggie" T-shirts, stuffed Reveille dolls and pets named "Aggie" were common to many Texas A&M students' lives long before they arrived on campus.

The student body is full of Aggie legacies, students who have relatives who attended Texas A&M.

Aggie legacies have been raised on Aggie culture. Many found themselves eating, sleeping and breathing Texas A&M all their lives.

As a result of growing up in Aggie families, Texas A&M legacies were introduced to Aggie ways of life at an early age.

Jennifer Pence, a second-generation Aggie and a freshman elementary education major, said she has been an Aggie since birth.

"I was wearing an A&M T-shirt when my parents brought me home

from the hospital," Pence said.

Besides dressing their children in Aggie attire, Aggie parents and grandparents influence their children in numerous other ways.

Jill Ferguson, a sophomore biomedical science major whose father and grandfather are alumni, have attended every A&M home football game since she was 5 years old.

"Even during the years that we lived in Louisiana, we still came to College Station for every game," Ferguson said. "To this day, my family comes from Kingwood for the games and has tailgate parties before kickoff. They never miss a game."

Aggie football played a major role in many Aggie families.

It was a tradition in Pence's household to go to Aggie parades in her hometown of Fort Worth before A&M-Texas Christian University games.

Ferguson found herself immersed in Aggie traditions even be-

fore actually becoming an Aggie.

"When I went to Fish Camp, I had to push for whooping during the senior parts of the yells," Ferguson said. "I always learned them like that from my dad and grandfather. I just didn't know any better!"

Bonfire has always been a way of life for legacy Travis Normand, a sophomore general studies major.

"Growing up in College Station, I remember every fall watching the guys build Bonfire and thinking, 'Maybe I'll be up there someday,'" Normand said. "One of the neatest experiences of my life was when I finally got to help build Bonfire and not just watch it as an outsider."

After a lifetime of learning Aggie culture, it is not surprising that the legacies faced tough decisions when it came to deciding on a college. Some desired nothing more than to carry on the family tradition and become Aggies themselves.

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Living the traditions of A&M — family style

If someone had told me five years ago that one day I would be dunking my Aggie senior ring with my dad, I would have laughed in their face.

My dad and I have gone to A&M football games together, cheering on the Aggies to resounding victories. We have annoyed the rest of the family by constantly talking about Aggieland and performing "ring checks" at the dining room table.

But never in a million years would I have imagined I would

Columnist



Melissa Price
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try to drink my dad under the table.

My friends have always found it interesting that my dad and I go to school together. We may not wait at the corner bus stop together for the thrilling ride to campus. And no, my dad does not live with me, although I am sure my apartment would be a lot cleaner if he did.

When my dad did attend classes at A&M, from the summer of 1995 through the spring of 1996, I kept my apartment virtually spotless, just in case he decided to

drop in for a surprise inspection.

My dad, who commuted an hour and a half from Houston, got up at 5 a.m. just so one day he could have the honor of saying he graduated from A&M.

Right now, my dad is taking classes at a community college in Houston but plans to return to A&M next fall. By then I will have graduated, but there were certainly many laughs to be had when he did go to school here.

Since my dad was usually tired after a long commute and hours of classes, we did not see each other very often. Once in a blue moon, we'd grab a beer at Dudley's and play "My profes-

sor is worse than your professor" for awhile.

One day, as I was talking to my dad outside the Reed McDonald Building, a friend of mine stopped and said hello, gave me a wink and walked on. I dismissed her odd behavior until later that day, when she asked me what I was doing hitting on an older man. Gee, I hope I didn't make my mom jealous.

For me, my dad defines the true meaning of Aggie Spirit. I have never seen anyone so motivated and determined to get his degree from A&M. He kids that my mom should put a "My husband and my money go to Texas

A&M" bumper sticker on her car.

It has been said time and time again that there is a bond Aggies share. But the bond between me and my father is unique.

And on Oct. 19, 1996, as I stood in front of a cheering crowd of family and friends as ready as I would ever be to dunk my ring, I felt that bond. What ended up being one of the most stressful nights of my life was also one of my most proud — not to mention intoxicating.

After nudging my way through a drunken crowd, I unsuccessfully tried to get my friends and family to assemble in the same area. Not only was I supposed to dunk my ring

with my dad, but another friend said she needed me there for moral support. Apparently she didn't need my help, because I returned from buying my beer to learn that she had already dunked her ring — in 26 seconds.

Although my dad did not particularly want to dunk his ring that night because his friends were not able to come in town, I told him all my friends would be disappointed if he did not. They didn't come to see me; they came to see a 50-year-old guy down a pitcher. And so he did, even though he didn't really want to.

I think he dunked his ring for my benefit. At least I like to think so.

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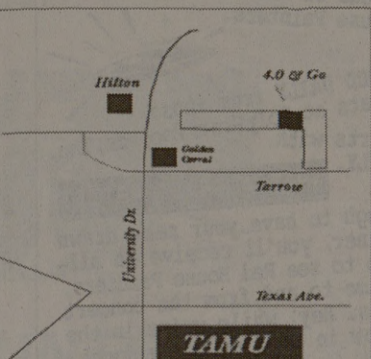
Acct 230	Prac Prob Thu Jan 23 6pm-9pm	Prac Prob Mon Jan 27 9pm-12am	
Acct 230	Test Rvw Pt I Tue Jan 28 7pm-10pm	Test Rvw Pt II Wed Jan 29 7pm-10pm	
Bana 303		Test Rvw Pt I Wed Jan 29 7pm-10pm	Test Rvw Pt II Thu Jan 30 7pm-10pm
Fine 341	Test Review Parts 1-4 Mon-Thu 7-9pm		

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		MON Jan 27	TUES Jan 28	WED Jan 29	THUR Jan 30
CHEM 102	3-5 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16	PRAC TEST
PHYS 201	5-7 PM	CH 1-3	CH 4	CH 5	PRAC TEST
CHEM 102	7-9 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16	PRAC TEST
PHYS 202	9-11 PM	CH 24, 25	CH 26	CH 27	PRAC TEST
PHYS 218	11 PM-1 AM	CH 1-3	CH 4	CH 5	PRAC TEST
PHYS 208	7-8 PM OR 11 PM-1 AM	CH 22, 23	Gauss' Law	EXAM	PROB
MATH 151	9-11 PM	VECTORS PART 1	VECTORS PART 2	PRAC TEST	

BUSINESS

		MON Jan 27	TUES Jan 28	WED Jan 29	THUR Jan 30
ACCT 230	7-9 PM	CASH FLOW PART 1	CASH FLOW PART 2	CH 1 & EXAM REV	
FINC 341	9-11 PM	CH 1, 2	CH 3	CH 4	PRAC TEST

ACCT 230

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SUNDAY, JAN 26, 2-5 PM

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