

**HISTORY**

Continued from Page 1

According to *We Are the Aggies*, inspiration for a world-wide Muster program developed because of the Muster ceremony held by 26 Aggies during the siege of the island of Corregidor on April 21, 1942.

Universal Studios came to the campus in 1943 to film *We've Never Been Licked*, a story of Brad Craig, a man suspected of sympathizing with the Japanese. In the end, Craig reveals his identity as an American agent and directs American fighters in an attack on a Japanese fleet. Craig was killed in the attack and posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

After the war, many Aggies returned to A&M to finish school. Hobbs said many students did not want to participate in the Corps of Cadets and were allowed to attend school as civilians.

"Their main issue was getting on with their lives," he said. "They had already been in the military and were veterans. They wanted to graduate."

According to *A Centennial History of Texas A&M*, the Board of Directors of the college created the position of dean of men to supervise student life, and for the first time in its history, A&M had a recognized civilian student body.

Compulsory membership in the Corps was not eliminated until later, but students with more than 60 hours or veterans of the war were not required to be in the Corps.

Gen. James Earl Rudder came to A&M in 1958 and became president of A&M in 1959. It was during his presidency that women were allowed to enroll at A&M on a limited basis, the college changed its name to Texas A&M University and the first black student enrolled at A&M.

John Trott, class agent for the Class of '66, said today's University was shaped by Rudder and his contributions.

"He brought a combination of factors to A&M as an Aggie as well as a war hero," he said. "He had credibility as well as huge political power across the state and the nation."

According to *A Centennial History of Texas A&M*, in 1963, women were allowed to enroll at A&M on a limited basis. Rudder was authorized to use his "discretion" in the admission of women.

Daughters of professors, wives of students and women wanting to take courses specialized at A&M were admitted.

Trott said the admission of women was heavily opposed, but some thought realistically change was necessary.

"We needed a larger enrollment and could not maintain status quo," he said. "We could either move forward or fall behind, and General Rudder had a vision of where A&M needed to go and how to get there."

Hobbs said many former students thought coeducation was the end of A&M traditions, and it could not have happened under any other president.

"General Rudder was respected by all former students," he said. "If that was what he thought was best, then maybe it was."

Hobbs said time has proven Rudder correct. "Women do every bit as much to maintain Aggie spirit as members of the Corps do," he said.

On August 23, 1963, the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas changed its name to Texas A&M University under the 58th Texas Legislature.

Trott said the name was changed because many thought the original name did not carry the prestige of a university, and because of this, top high-school graduates and professors opted to go to other schools.

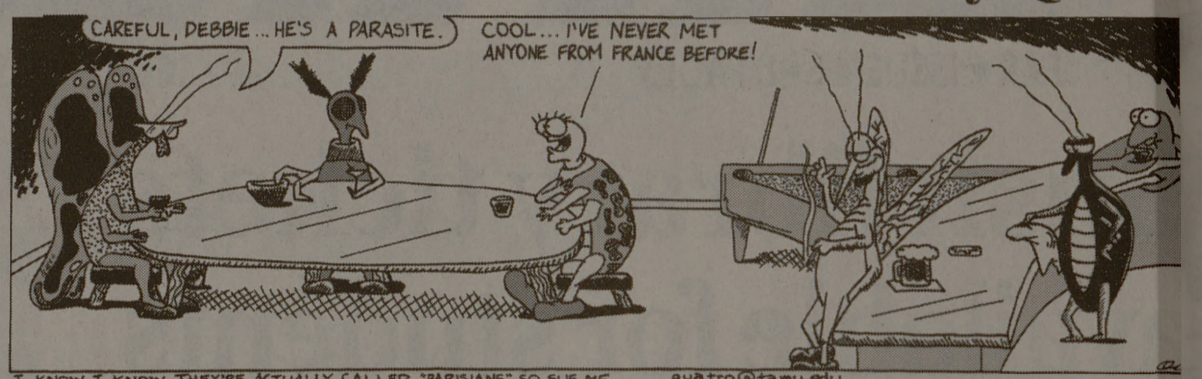
Rudder and the Board of Regents appeased former students by keeping A&M in the University's name, Trott said. Most land-grant schools were eventually named state universities.

"General Rudder saw A&M as a world-class University," he said. "We needed A&M to be seen as this world-class University, not just as the all-male, all-military image it had."

In Spring 1964, James L. Courtney, Class of '67, was the first black student to enroll at Texas A&M.

The changes A&M experienced were preparing the University for greatness. The first steps were taken in making Texas A&M the world-class University it is today.

**Sketch**



I KNOW I KNOW. THEY'RE ACTUALLY CALLED "PARISIANS" SO SUE ME.

quattro@tamu.edu

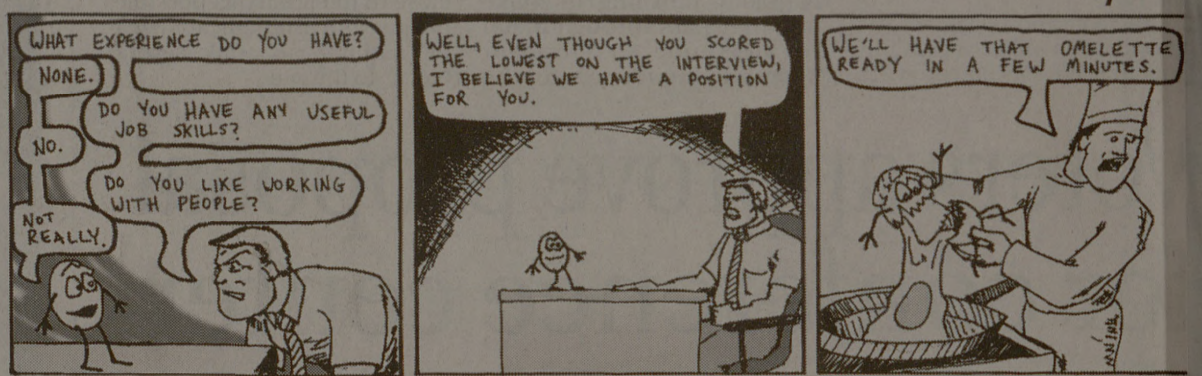
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