

Let's hear it for the boys

Aggies should hail Ol' Army days of Texas A&M, celebrate past traditions



DONNY FERGUSON
columnist

one elementary school history class were taught ancient Africans had wings and could fly, until white men came and shot them down (despite the fact firearms were not invented until several centuries later). The teacher refused to totally reject the story and said even if he made it up, it was permissible because it makes the children "feel better about themselves."

In a time when leftist intellectuals (perhaps the ultimate oxymoron) infest colleges and universities with their thinking, or lack thereof, such revision of University history and culture should be expected. It should not, however, be tolerated.

Aggies should be proud of the University's unique history as an all-male military institution. For over a century, A&M has turned out some of the finest leaders America has known, both in military and in civilian cultures.

We should celebrate our military heritage and proudly cheer on our "boys," even if we are cheering our softball team, women's basketball team or nationally ranked soccer team (who will no doubt win next year's national championship).

A&M's finest tradition is not Bonfire, yell practice, the Thanksgiving game or getting a lovely yellow parking ticket. Aggies should take great pride in the University's devotion to history, tradition and faith in God. While socially backwards universities in Austin, Berkeley and Cambridge are adopting speech codes to silence conservatives, removing prayer from schools and God from texts and churning out left-thinking drones, A&M has proudly embraced its all-male military past and coed future.

Aggies should reject the "Love" Hymn thinking that has crept onto campus, and celebrate the University's unique history and revel in its politically incorrect traditions.

When disgruntled liberals begin rewriting and revising history and culture to fit into their narrow opinions, we lose a part of ourselves and our heritage. Instead of casting shame on the darker points of our history, we should honor our heritage and learn from it.

The first thing Aggies should do is reclaim their War Hymn and reject the backwards revisionist thought that has infested so many college campuses.

Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.

HULLABALOO, POLITICALLY CANECK



Aggie Spirit, that t-sip will be right.
Joe Forman
Class of '98

Israel should deal with Saddam Hussein

Saddam Hussein no doubt enjoyed his view of Aggie land two weeks ago. The current dictator got to watch the opening of the consolation prize we give to decidedly former presidents.

George Bush, the man who had promised to "kick Saddam's ass," stood a victim of the electoral process, and his war to end Iraqi aggression had clearly done little damage to Saddam's spirit of insolence.

So even as it begins to appear cooler heads will prevail, we should not assume we have seen the last of Saddam.

Recalcitrant strongmen such as Saddam usually do not lose power until it is pried from their cold, dead hands. During the Gulf War, Saddam was compared to both Hitler and Mussolini, both of whom shuffled off this mortal coil before their peoples were liberated.

More recently, Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu serves as an example of a dictator who had to be executed to be removed from office.

If Saddam truly is the scourge we say he is, and he is unlikely to be removed from power through non-violent methods, how come a well-placed assassin has yet to eliminate the problem?

One possible answer is deep down, the American intelligence community be-

lieves an Iraq without Saddam would be worse than one with him. The power vacuum created by Saddam's ouster could splinter Iraq into an unstable, brutal country with constantly warring Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions.

The other explanation often championed by conspiracy nuts is really not all that nutty: Saddam is good for business.

The existence of people such as him justifies a gargantuan military budget bloated with stealth aircraft, laser-guided smart bombs and cruise missiles.

The thought Iraq or any of the other terrorist states (include the most favored nation of China in the group) could harbor both anti-American sentiment and nuclear weapons has given what some see as just cause to resurrect some of Reagan's hyper-expensive Star Wars programs.

Of course, the official line is the United States government does not engage in political assassination to achieve foreign policy goals. George Bush continues to assert killing Saddam was never a priority in the Gulf War.

The overwhelming amount of surveillance equipment we employed trying to ascertain Saddam's exact whereabouts during the conflict speaks to the contrary. Why else would we want to pinpoint his location at all times? So we could make sure to bomb everywhere except where he was?

For our leaders' love of public image, we conceal the brutal honesty of our aggression. We deny we wish to assassinate one man in favor of going to war with thousands, because war seems more sporting.

It also is far bloodier. If our politicians can not stomach putting out a contract on Saddam, or more to the point, fear the voters' reaction to such a hit, we ought to encourage the Israelis to do it.

Not only do Israeli intelligence operatives have no moral qualms about killing their enemies, they are devastatingly effective at it.

Last year saw the death of Yehiya Ayyash, who had been the most reclusive bomb designer for the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. Ayyash's head exploded when he turned on a cellular phone packed with plastic explosives, a gift from Israeli intelligence.

Benjamin Netanyahu, four months before he was named Prime Minister, said the bomb served as a warning to would-be terrorists that "Israel's long arm would reach them."

We give Israel \$1 billion in foreign aid to support it in its conflict against the Palestinians. Increasingly, Israel's "long arm" kills more civilian protesters than true terrorists.

As Israel tightens its grip on disputed territories, the stones hurled by Palestinian youth are frequently met with bullets from Israeli rifles. Last week a nine-year-old Palestinian boy was killed when an Israeli soldier opened fire on a group of teens.

We ought to demand the Israelis start saving some of those rounds for use on the targets that might actually warrant them, targets such as Saddam Hussein.

Jeremy Valdez is a senior chemical engineering and journalism major.



JEREMY VALDEZ
columnist



MAIL CALL

Aggie spirit varies among student body

In response to Len Callaway's Nov. 19 "Follow the Leader" column:

I completely agree with Callaway's column, and I have a lot of very positive feelings for what the Corps has done in making Texas A&M what it is today. No one can say and honestly believe A&M would be the great university it is today had it not been for the Corps of Cadets.

Yet, just as we should respect the Corps and the many leaders it has formed, I believe it is time the Corps shows the same respect for students who do not wear a uniform every day to classes. My freshman year I was out at stack, helping to carry on the great tradition of Bonfire.

I began to have a conversation with a fish in the Corps, and after a few minutes of discussion he uttered, "Man, I could never stand to be a non-reg piece of s---t." I wish this had been the only anti-non-reg incident I have seen, but throughout my four years at A&M, I have seen this same resentment members of the Corps have toward non-regs several times; a feeling of superiority simply because they belong to an organization I chose not to join.

Walking away from the UT game last year, a t-sip started talking about how he did not understand Texas A&M. "Everybody here hates each other," he said. "The Corps hates the band. The non-regs hate the Corps. The Corps hates the Greek," etc.

As much as I wanted to turn around and deny this and talk about how A&M really is the friendliest campus in the world and we are all one family, I couldn't because in a way he was right.

It is time for all Aggies to have respect for each other and the Aggie experience each person chose. It is time the Corps, Northside, Southside, Greek, Aggie Band and off-campus students realize we are all Aggies, and we are all "Keepers of the Spirit" in a very real way.

This campus would not be what it is today had civilian students and female students never been allowed to enroll. This campus would not be like it is today unless the Greek system had evolved. Unless we can put aside our differences and respect all other students for believing in the

Column reminds Aggies what is important in life

In response to Len Callaway's Nov. 14 "Holiday season marks a time for contemplation" column:

I just wanted to say thank you to Len Callaway for writing the article about being thankful for what we have. It is so true that we have so much to be thankful for, especially at Texas A&M.

We go to an awesome university with great talents and traditions. We have family and friends and teachers to turn to. I too agree that "the real point is for people to reflect and be thankful for whatever positives they may have in their lives."

(We will have even more to be thankful for when we beat Texas!) Thank you so much for reminding us all of this important point.

Amy Skidmore
Class of '00

Aggie War Hymn verse embarrasses A&M

The Bush Library Complex is a wonderful addition to our campus and to the larger community. The dedication ceremony was a memorable event for everyone. I expect it was especially so for student participants, all of whom seemed to handle their responsibilities exceedingly well.

There was only one thing I wish I could have changed. We should have used the other verse of the War Hymn. With a University of Texas graduate as Master of Ceremonies and graduates of UT in the audience who had contributed liberally toward the construction of the Bush Library on our campus, the occasion seemed an inappropriate time to ridicule their fight song and express our desire to sever their horns.

The other verse of the War Hymn would have fit the occasion much better, as it would when we are vying in a sport with teams other than those from the University of Texas. Surely among our students are those who could adapt the sawing action we like so much to removing paws from Bears, spurs from Cowboys, tails from Cyclones, etc.

Many of the students in my class agree with me that we devote too much attention to "beating" the University of Texas when playing teams from other universities, and on such momentous occasions as the dedication of the Bush Library, which was made possible by the cooperative efforts of graduates from both of Texas' flagship universities.

Murray H. Milford
Class of '55
Professor of Soil Science

