

## T-sippers or tortilla-throwers

Aggies should consider Tech another school rival

As the 2001 Aggie football season comes to a close, the redeeming hope for Texas A&M lies in the yearly matchup against the University of Texas-Austin next week.



KELLN ZIMMER

Aggies of all ages look forward to the game with UT, and some Old Army adherents

er since 1894, and the rivalry is one that drives the traditions of each campus.

Many Aggies will forever define the football season's success with a win over UT. But there is more to a successful football season than beating UT. Although UT has become one of the top teams in the country, A&M students, fans and the athletic establishment should never limit themselves to simply beating UT.

*The beauty of any sports rivalry is that no matter the record of either of the teams, there is a large amount of pride involved and the final score will matter more than either of the team's final records.*

with the Big 12 in its prime, is not to limit itself to one rival. While the rivalry between A&M and UT is one of the biggest in college sports and will remain so as long as the two universities exist, the Big 12 is competitive enough for each team to have more than one rival.

Each game has the potential to be a rivalry in its own right and one will be hard pressed to find a game that is not "big." Even Baylor, as it demonstrated at Kyle Field this fall, can give teams a run for their money.

Aggies, for the most part, do not hold the matchup with Tech to be anything more than just another important conference game. The most recent example of this growing rivalry between A&M and a school other than



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manlike manner, but the "un-rivalry" has apparently reached a head.

Instead of looking down on Tech and the fact that they see A&M as their No. 1 rival, Aggies should embrace the competition and realize Tech has beaten A&M five of the last seven times they have played and most recently thrown a goal post in their faces. If this is not asking for a rivalry, what is?

The histories of A&M and UT are intertwined to the point that it is difficult to tell the story of one without involving the other. From

the naming of mascots to Hex Rallies and the "Aggie War Hymn," the rivalry between the two state institutions is undeniable.

It should not be forgotten that the statue of Will Rogers and his horse Soapsuds on the Tech campus points away from visitors as they enter the campus, but the unwritten legend of the statue is that the horse's rear end is pointed in the general direction of College Station.

UT will always be the primary rival of A&M. It may be time to elevate Tech from its

status as pseudo-rival to something more.

As long as the Red Raiders put themselves in a position to be a rival to the Aggies, A&M should follow UT's lead, and as they regard OU as a rival, A&M should give Tech the respect of being on our level and maybe the Aggies can get a win next year.

*Kelln Zimmer is a junior English major.*

## The focus is today

Get the checkbooks ready because the administration is proposing yet another fee increase to dump on students. The sweet-sounding Excellence Fee is being tossed around in conversations, but in reality, it may be one of the most ridiculous fee increase plans in a long time. The first problem is that many students have no real idea about the fee.



MELISSA BEDSOLE

The second is that the administration seems not to mind that at all. Although there was an open forum to discuss the fee, students knew so little about the possibility of Bonfire on this campus, their attempts have failed.

*Although there was an open forum to discuss the fee, students knew so little about the possibility of this increase that it is not surprising the attendance was very low.*

While it is obvious that the administrators have attempted to phase out the interest and passion for Bonfire on this campus, their attempts have failed. The Classes of 2003, 2004 and 2005 have not seen a Bonfire burn, but their passion is still there. And as the class of 2006 tours this campus and is told about Bonfire, their passion begins to grow.

When tour guides show them around campus, they do not talk about how great the plans for the future of this University are, they talk about how great this University already is.

New students do not choose to come to Texas A&M because of how it will be years after they are gone. They choose this campus because of how it is today — rich in tradition and ready for each one of them to become a part of this family.

The Excellence Fee is not ridiculous in itself, but there are bigger problems on campus, and it is time that the administrators paid more attention to how the students feel. The Class of 2006 is not here to speak for itself, and the administration is most definitely taking advantage of that. Realistically, the Excellence Fee will pass for that very reason, but in the defense of the Class of 2006, maybe the spending of it should be focused a little more on the "visions" of those students — instead of the predictions of 20 years from now. Maybe the "excellence" of A&M entails something very different in their eyes.

*Melissa Bedsole is a senior psychology major.*

### MAIL CALL

#### Bonfire was lost by students' lack of pride

As a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1996, I am heartbroken that my fellow Ags have let the tradition of Bonfire slip through their fingers.

The studies showed no negligence, perhaps a few areas that need a little tighter supervision, but no good reason why Bonfire as I knew it should come to an end.

I had faith in my fellow Aggies that the lives lost would not quell the flames but rather fan them to build the next one bigger and better. No soul has offered a reasonable explanation of why Bonfire should cease to continue as it has for decades.

If the students don't stand up for their traditions in a place they think so grand, it is a sad day in Aggieland, and the landscape will change forever.

By all means have professional engineers design the Bonfire and oversee the construction. Sure the administration wants the tradition to continue, but by making every aspect of the Bonfire limited and have to out source everything to companies.

Can you not see that the sticker price becomes prohibitive? They sure do, and you're letting them do it. It's your University, not theirs, don't forget that they work for you. Your dollars employ them to run and administer your university.

Have some pride, and don't

let your traditions die on the vine. The parents of many of the fallen Ags said themselves that their sons and daughters wouldn't want to see this tradition die. They're watching you; don't let them down.

*Stephen Watson  
Class of 1996*

#### There is no Hotard rebel Bonfire

*In response to Brandie Liffick's  
Nov. 14 article:*

As a resident of Hotard Hall, I am curious about the article concerning a rebel bonfire that was published yesterday. I do not know what information the article was based on, but my inquiries lead me to

believe that the investigation mentioned was closed a month ago.

Further, though I am a very active member of my hall, I know of no other residents participating in any kind of "rebel bonfire," leading me to seriously question the very existence of the event described. Surely no dorm the size of Hotard could be undertaking such a feat without almost all residents knowing about it.

The most troubling thing about this article is its potential ramifications in terms of residence hall-administration relations. We are trying to support a proposal for a change in our visitation hours this year, and we certainly do not need any smudges on our record, especially untrue ones.

*Chris Carlin  
Class of 2003*

### CARTOON OF THE DAY



BONFIRE 2002

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