

# Like their coach, Aggies holding onto the past

It's that time of year again, when thoughts turn to the holidays and the ones we love. It's also time for the Longhorns to remind our surly backward cousins who dominates Texas football. Despite leading the all-time series 68-34-5, the Aggies have made the mistake of declaring the Longhorns their rival.

The game always has been circled on the respective teams' schedules, but this rivalry really heated up some 80 years ago. After being edged by Dana X. Bible's Aggies in 1919, a team that allowed no points all season, the Longhorns were out for blood. 20,000 people, the most ever to watch a game in the state of Texas at the time, showed up to watch the Horns knock off the Aggies. Since then, there is no doubt that the University of Texas-Texas A&M grudge match is among the best college football rivalries.

Perhaps one of the more memorable games in the series occurred in 1999 when the Aggies beat the Horns in front of an emotional crowd in a game dedicated to 12 Aggies who lost their lives in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. The Horns could not escape the number 12 that day as the Aggie 12th Man literally willed its team to a victory. In the wake of the tragedy, our schools put down their differences long enough to appreciate our similarities and strengths. The tragedy reminded us all that the bonds of human emotion and suffering are stronger than any rivalry can break.

That was then, this is now. As A&M is steadily out-recruited by TCU, perhaps Texas fans should just start focusing on Oklahoma as their main rival. With your affinity for mixing it up with Red Raiders, coupled with your inability to actually beat them, the Red Raiders seem like a perfect match for you. Just make sure not to loiter around too long in Jones Stadium after your next defeat in Lubbock.

After whining about Tech fans for a week, it shouldn't be a surprise that the main thugs in Lubbock were Aggies. You all have an affinity for scofflaws and general law-breakers. The pride and joy of A&M, Gov. Rick Perry, recently danced with snakes and praised Jesus with some east Texas schoolchildren — filled with so much good ol' boy spirit, he decided to shirk the U.S. Constitution and some key Supreme Court case law. Then there's the legendary Jackie "Moneybags" Sherril — who made sure the only streak of A&M victories against UT came while your team was on the school payroll.

To counter the tumbleweeds and large bovine population in College Station, A&M officials wisely have crafted numerous traditions to trick students into attending every year.

Part of your exhaustive collection of cute traditions includes the rather macabre ritual known as the Elephant Walk, or, since only seniors can say the word "elephant," the "E-Walk." The Elephant Walk involves seniors taking a last walk around campus to symbolize their dying usefulness to the student body, like an elephant wandering off to die. Perhaps the Aggie coaching staff could join in the next Elephant Walk to sym-

*Besides, if we wanted to watch a bunch of yokels cruise a one-light town, we would watch the "Dukes of Hazzard."*

bolize their dying usefulness to Texas football so that sometime in the post-R.C. era, you Aggies will behold the wonder that is the forward pass. In the meantime, you can watch Chris Simms use it on your secondary, much like last year — just don't strain your neck.

For those not in to football, take heart. A&M recently was voted the seventh most "male-friendly" college in the nation according to Playgirl ...er, Men's Health magazine.

So call all your Aggie friends in Austin — there are probably more Aggies here than there — and tell them to get fired up, or to Gig 'Em or whatever it is you all do. Because it's not every day you can have the honor of getting romped by a team as exciting as Texas.

And if you miss the game, don't worry. You can always catch a replay on that collection of Super 8 videos ESPN calls "Sidelines." Although, it's so bad, I'm not sure anyone in College Station is even watching it. Besides, if we wanted to watch a bunch of yokels cruise a one-light rural town, we would watch the "Dukes of Hazzard."

Marshall Maher is editor of The Daily Texan and a senior journalism major.



Post-game Aggie Wisdom



Brady Creel is editor of The Battalion and a junior journalism and management major.

God bless Texas Aggies, and beat the hell outta 'em. (hope). Let the games begin. But we're a package deal, A&M and UT, and although UT you know. The Corps of Cadets doesn't carry those sabers for nothing. I don't even think of getting close to the Kyle Field goal posts. I dare someone to try to "borrow" Miss Reveille again, and "hump it" while doing so (no reference to Campbell's quote). Give us hell, and we'll give it back. At least we get to progress since then. women and the women like men." Hopefully, we've made when he said, "I'm glad to go to school where the men like Texas. A&M football player Dan Campbell was not kidding football field: the other full of farm boys and non-sophisticateds and a Longhorn steer that relieves himself on the. Otherwise, we would be just two schools, one full of hippy the best." according to each other, vying for the right to call themselves say about that). Aggies and Longhorns must continue but a good butt-kicking at Kyle Field (20-16 is all I have to to continue. Nothing is healthier for our collective egos, The rivalry between A&M and UT must be cultivated if it both should take the other seriously. Texas — one wears maroon and the other wears orange, and in the picture. There are only two world-class universities in Texas — one wears maroon and the other wears orange, and both should take the other seriously.

There are only two world-class universities in Texas — one wears maroon and the other wears orange, and both should take the other seriously. consider the Red Raiders an adversary, but Tech is not even Oklahoma. Likewise, Texas Tech would love for A&M to care about nothing more than defeating the University of with UT is not reciprocated as much as we would like; UT spirit must end. Everyone knows A&M's perceived rivalry But our moment of kinship does not mean our competitive related "thank-you." dignity Longhorns showed during our moment of need. To proud of each other. And we are grateful for the maturity and of our heritage, tradition and legacy. But Aggies are more Sure, Aggies will take that and run with it. We are proud this for one simple reason: it is a family." by better equipped than us at dealing with a tragedy such as AggieLand is a special place with special people. It is infinite- vice president in 1999, wrote, "We need to realize one thing: between A&M and UT. Eric Opelka, UT student government kindness, a mark to the underlying relationship of respect Longhorns responded to our crisis with graciousness and Bonfire collapsed. That rivalry was suspended Nov. 18, 1999 — the day countless pranks and jokes and a tie we call Aggie Bonfire. Friday's game is about more than competitive athletics. It represents a deep rivalry that spans several generations. For all the talk of hippy liberals and sheep-loving hicks, And win we will. for the Aggies, the UT game is all that matters. So how to fit "GalleryFurniture.com Bowl" on its jerseys. So bowl game, A&M is stuck with the dilemma South victory and land a spot in a reputable Tech. While UT hopes to clinch the Big 12 gone when A&M shamelessly lost to Texas bragging rights and claims to fame were for- Aggies have nothing to lose here. All of Texas. the Aggies to another defeat of the University will pound Simms into the ground as it leads As it did in 1999, the Texas A&M defense field. Daddy won't be there to hold his hand, either. awakened during his first start of college football: Kyle on Friday. Longhorn quarterback Chris Simms will

Longhorns wish they could hump it like the Aggies

# Rivals to the Corps ... always

# Opinion

For years, the editors of The Battalion and The Daily Texan have exchanged columns before the A&M-UT football game as part of the tradition of rivalry. This year, political cartoons were added to the roster.