

AggieLife

Let's get loud

Sports fans spend their weekends cheering on the Aggie baseball team

By Amanda Trimble
THE BATTALION

It is Tuesday night at a Texas A&M baseball game, and the Sam Houston State coach is approaching the pitcher's mound. Suddenly, a resounding yell is heard throughout Olsen Field. "Touch his butt!" The Aggie fans are taking part in one of the A&M traditions and at baseball games. The yell continues throughout the conversation on the pitcher's mound, and if the request is not followed, it is followed by a resounding "Tease!"

Melanie Styduhar, a junior psychology major, mentioned the "touch his butt" yell while recalling favorite baseball game traditions.

"It's probably my favorite because it's just so amusing," Styduhar said. "The fans are half as entertaining as watching the team."

Fans prepare for football games by going to yell practice, but baseball games offer a varied collection of traditions. For example, there is constant harassment of the first base coach and pitcher, sound effects for the movement of a foul ball across the net behind home plate and guesses of how many engines will be on a train.

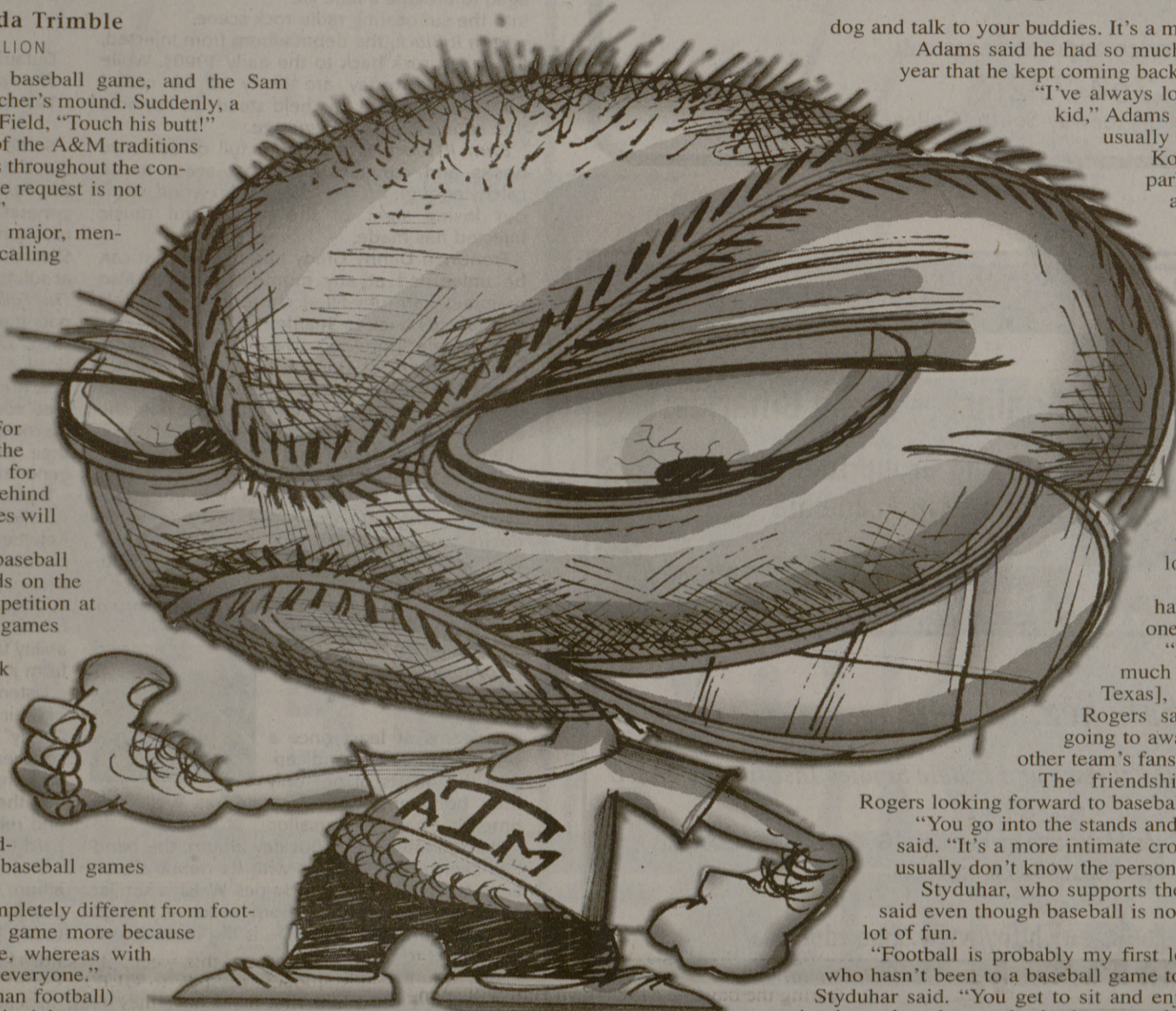
Styduhar said she started going to baseball games as a freshman to support her friends on the team. Although she loves any athletic competition at A&M, she said the atmosphere at baseball games keeps bringing her back.

"It's amusing to see everyone talk trash," Styduhar said. "When someone goes up to bat from the other team, they give him a hard time and throw off his concentration. It's funny to see other students shout stuff out of the blue. Sometimes what they say is even shocking."

James Callaway, a freshman general studies major, said he began attending Aggie baseball games after a friend suggested that he go.

"The atmosphere at baseball games is completely different from football," Callaway said. "You can get into the game more because each person has their own individual style, whereas with football, you're yelling the same thing with everyone."

"I like the baseball games a lot better (than football) because it's a lot more relaxing," said Chris Adams, a junior applied mathematics major. "You can sit down, eat a hot



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dog and talk to your buddies. It's a more laid-back atmosphere."

Adams said he had so much fun at a baseball game his freshman year that he kept coming back.

"I've always loved baseball, ever since I was a little kid," Adams said. "I try to go to every game, but I usually make it to about two-thirds of them."

Kourtney Rogers, a junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major, said attending A&M baseball games is a family affair.

"We're a big baseball family," Rogers said. "I used to go as a little kid. We would drive in every weekend, and it's a two and a half hour drive."

Rogers said she goes to every game she can, including away games. She said she misses about seven games a season.

"There's a small group of us that go to all the away games," Rogers said. "We all know each other. At the first game of the season, we're all hugging because we haven't seen each other in such a long time."

Rogers said that most schools do not have a loud crowd like A&M, except for one school.

"Nobody really does the heckling as much as we do, except at [the University of Texas], where they're much more vulgar," Rogers said. "Probably the worst part about going to away games is having to put up with the other team's fans."

The friendships and familiar atmosphere keep Rogers looking forward to baseball games every spring.

"You go into the stands and everyone knows each other," Rogers said. "It's a more intimate crowd than at football games where you usually don't know the person standing next to you."

Styduhar, who supports the football team as an Aggie Hostess, said even though baseball is not as fast paced as football, it is still a lot of fun.

"Football is probably my first love, but I would encourage anybody who hasn't been to a baseball game to go because it's just so entertaining," Styduhar said. "You get to sit and enjoy the atmosphere, especially in the springtime when the weather's always perfect. It's always worth my six dollars to go to a baseball game."

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