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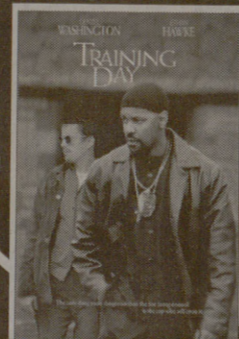
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### Void

Continued from page 1

Any Aggie who buys an automobile from Huffines is guided upstairs to see the mahogany case, and the Aggie wonderland that is Huffines' office. It is filled with paraphernalia. His favorite piece is a picture of himself at the 1967 Cotton Bowl when the Aggies beat Alabama. In the picture, Huffines, who sat on the Cotton Bowl selection committee for 20 years, stands next to Aggie college football legends Gene Stallings and Bear Bryant.

Huffines still attributes many of his values to the Corps of Cadets, even his survival through the Battle of the Bulge and his overseas commission as one of Patton's "ghost troops" in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

"I give my training at A&M and the Corps credit for saving my life in War World II," he said. "It taught you how to survive, how to exist, how to get along with and respect your fellow man. I learned how to make judgments, dictate responsibility and accept responsibility, which is just as important. It was all a real lifesaver."

So in the legend of Patton's famous words, "Give me an army of West Point Grads and I'll win a battle, give me a handful of Texas Aggies and I'll win a war," he may have had Huffines in mind.

Huffines gained a heart for education at A&M. He has donated several scholarships to the University and a large chair endowment to the College of Education.

"More than anything, he just wants to see A&M successful," Mohr said.

A former president of the 12th Man Foundation, Huffines said for years he attended every home and away football game. Now, he only makes it to the home games, but his contribution as a member of the Twelfth Man still remains.

"Muster to me is one of the most outstanding traditions. It's a good opportunity to renew friendships," Huffines said. "We live such a fast life, and we don't often get to see those friends as much as we like. The good thing about A&M is that, no matter what, those friendships last for a lifetime."

Muster began when the March 1923 issue of the Texas Aggie alumni magazine advised, "If there is an A&M man in one-hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas."

Today, there are 400 Musters held worldwide every year on April 21. The most famous took place at Corrigador Island during World War II, and the biggest is held on the A&M campus, which honors lost Aggies from Brazos County.

A candle will be lit as the name of each Aggie who died in the past year is called. Families and friends will answer "here."

Hometown Aggie clubs will honor their fallen at smaller Musters this Sunday.

"The beauty of Muster is that it is not bound to any geographical location," said Noelle Eason, Muster committee roll-call coordinator. "Muster is just an amazing opportunity for Aggies to come together as a family in a time when family is needed most. It doesn't matter that we knew them. It matters that we are all Aggies."

### DeLay

Continued from page 2

position and stature take a public pot shot at these universities," Benen said.

"DeLay was criticizing these universities for not being godly enough. In his perfect world, he would like to see his religion pushed on these universities."

Benen said such public statements raise "alarming issues" in the matters of religion and state in public universities.

"It's so inappropriate, not only to criticize them on religious issues, but given his position in the public, to criticize them at all," Benen said.

DeLay's office said the comments, made before a church to address a specific question, were taken out of context and reemphasized that DeLay did not know he was being recorded.

DeLay issued a statement Thursday saying he did not want his statements to be misunderstood.

"I was giving advice for the specific type of education they were seeking for their child," he said. "Let me make it clear to Texas: I've been a longtime supporter of Baylor and Texas A&M. My daughter went to A&M, and in Congress I've worked hard to help fund these two prestigious universities. I apologize for any misunderstandings my comments may have caused."

### Campus Muster hosts Rick Perry

This year's campus speaker is no stranger to Aggie Muster. For Governor Rick Perry, Class of '68, blood still runs maroon despite his Aggie allegiance, and his passion for Aggie Muster has been proven through his Muster speeches the last 12 years.

"I spoke to Houston, Dallas, El Paso and are all great places to speak, but something the campus Muster transcends all that," he said. "It's like going to preach at the Mecca."

Perry attended on-campus Muster in 1975 with Margaret Rudder to honor the victims of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

Muster will be particularly meaningful to Perry this year as he will call "here" for his comrade and longtime friend, George Schriever was Perry's squadron commander in the Corps and his Aircraft Commander in the United States Air Force. Perry remembers being in Muster 1975 in an airplane with Schriever the way to Ft. Campbell, Kent.

"It truly lived up to the Muster tradition wherever two or more are gathered, they are Muster," Perry said.

Perry has countless stories of spotting Aggies with an Aggie ring overseas or in Austin.

"You are instantly bound because you know a lot about this person just because they were through four years at A&M and were impressed with the same values and traditions," he said.

Perry said he started thinking about his speech the day he received the invitation to speak.

"To me, being allowed the privilege of giving the campus Muster speech is the highest honor anyone can receive, particularly an Aggie," he said.

When asked to address rumors that he would lead a yell practice at Saturday's Muster, Perry said, joking, "The matter is still in negotiation. There are a lot of things we are able to do in our youth that we are not so able to do in our maturity."

### Campus events kick off Saturday

This year Muster will honor the Class of 1952, and 283 Aggies from that class will reunite on campus for the weekend. Muster members from the class will be honored in a campus roll call.

Muster events will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the Academic Plaza with a flag-raising to honor Aggies who have died.

The Muster Barbecue will be held in the Academic Building Plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with entertainment from the Aggie Wranglers, Kappa Pickers, yell leaders and others. Plates are \$6.95, and Aggie Bucks, cash and meal tickets will be accepted.

Sunday night's formal ceremony will be held at Reed Arena at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and organizers suggest arriving early. Parking at Reed Arena and Olsen Field parking lots will be free. The ceremony will be televised live on KAMU.

Muster committee chair Lisa Corey said, "Muster is an experience unlike any other."

"You truly feel the spirit of the Aggie family come together," Corey said. "It's a time to remember those who have left us, and hold true to the fact that they will always be Aggies."

### Senate

Continued from page 1

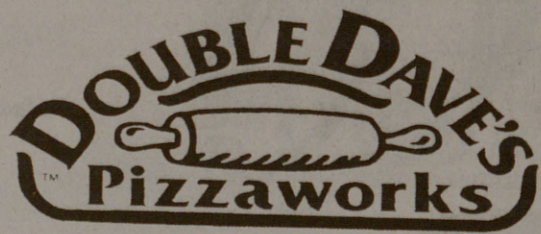
The bill was argued against by members of internal affairs who said the bill would create too much work and not effectively address absence problems.

"I really don't think the incentives are there," said senator Kevin Capps, a sophomore history major. "We are going to get into a mountain of paperwork."

Lara Pringle, a junior finance major, said the system worked in previous sessions. Pringle said her scholarship, and not a bill, was the one thing that could foster a change.

"A bill does not promote a change of attitude," she said. "The legislation failed with 19 votes for and 19 against."

In other business, senators passed a bill that grants graduate students two seats on the Senate starting next Fall.



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