

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

YELL LEADERS

PART 2 OF 4

Former Aggie yell leaders' contributions last well beyond graduation

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

When Frank Cox came to Texas A&M in the 1960s, he never thought that 30 years later he would be writing a book about the school's spirit and be an official campus Muster speaker. At the time, the first generation Aggie was afraid to speak in public, thinking he would make a fool out of himself.

"I realized later that it's not that traumatic," Cox said. He came to A&M when the university was all male and all military.

"I liked the comradeship, the togetherness and the family at A&M," Cox said.

Cox said being an Aggie yell leader was the farthest thing from his mind, and that as a fish he regarded the yell leaders as the embodiment of Aggies. Selection was based upon whether you were a good cadet and if you loved the spirit, Cox said. There was no campaigning involved.

"All you had to do was be passing and not have a prison record," Cox said.

He said that being head yell leader was one of the highlights of his life.

"It was an opportunity to share with others the Aggie tradition," Cox said.

Cox received a degree in personal management from A&M in 1965. During the Vietnam War he served as a captain, commander and instructor of a Strategic Air Command Combat Crew in the United States Air Force for four years. He then returned to his hometown of New Boston, Texas, and worked for 32 years as a civilian for the Department of Defense.

He and his wife, Cheryl, then returned to College Station, where he manages Source of

Success, a management consulting firm that specializes in building leadership and teamwork, and trains clients in a ropes course program.

Cox has stayed active in A&M by being the on-campus Muster speaker in 1992 and speaking at Aggie Clubs. He also wrote "I Bleed Maroon," a bestselling book about A&M.

"I didn't realize that I'd have so much future involvement with A&M," Cox said.

Cox credits his experience as a yell leader as instilling confidence in him and giving him the ability to speak in public.

Bill Youngkin, Class of 1969, jokes that he became cuter because he was head yell leader, as he noticed his social life taking off.

"It was a really tremendous responsibility, but one of the most rewarding things I've done in my life," Youngkin said.

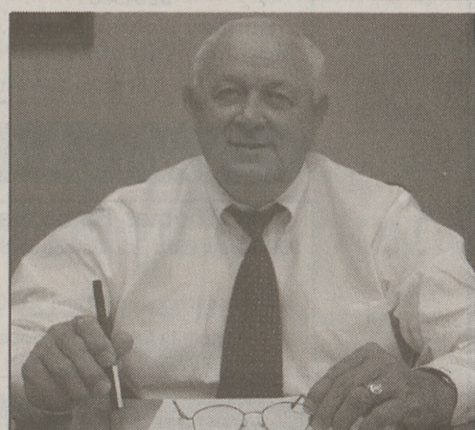
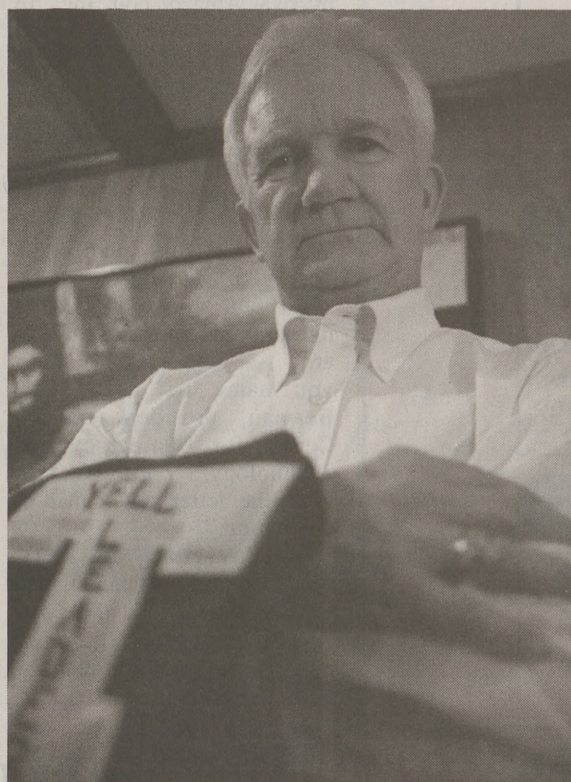
After graduating with an agricultural education degree, Youngkin went into the military and finished with a tour of Vietnam. After returning to the United States, he went to Baylor Law School from 1972-75. Since 1978, Youngkin has been practicing law in Bryan-College Station.

Youngkin served as president of the Association of Former Students in 1991, was on the executive committee of the 12th Man Foundation for four years and was president of the Yell Leaders Association. Youngkin said because of being an Aggie yell leader, he feels that he can successfully handle any task given to him.

"Once you've led the 12th Man at Texas A&M, you can lead anything," Youngkin said.

Youngkin and his wife were named Parents of the Year for the 2000-01 school year. His daughters, Libby and Katie, attend A&M.

"I have been truly blessed in my Aggie walk of



PHOTOS BY BRIAN WILLS (LEFT) AND EVAN O'CONNELL (RIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM) • THE BATTALION

Frank Cox '65 (left) published a bestselling book about A&M. Marty Holmes '87 (top right) currently works at the Association of Former Students, where Bill Youngkin '69 (bottom right) formerly served as president.

life," Youngkin said.

Youngkin said being yell leader is a lifetime position and he encourages current and future yell leaders to keep serving A&M.

When Marty Holmes attended A&M in the

mid-1980s, the sports teams were phenomenal and he was able to meet many football classics.

"We never lost a home game my two years as a

See Yell on page 5

OF THE BIG SCREEN



IMAGE COURTESY OF REVOLUTION STUDIOS

The Wayans brothers play FBI agents posing as debutantes in "White Chicks."

"White Chicks" Starring Shawn Wayans and Marlon Wayans Revolution Studios

Review by Jay Slovacek



Are the Wayans a drag?

The "Scary Movie" series taught viewers that the Wayans brothers are sometimes brilliant and frequently sophomoric. "White Chicks" follows that pattern, providing an uneven comedy that delivers scarce creativity while dragging on for 109 minutes.

But if your expectations are low enough, you can enjoy "White Chicks."

Not like the plot matters, but here goes: Rich hotel heiresses are the target of a kidnapping plot and special agents Kevin and Marcus Copeland (Shawn and Marlon Wayans) are assigned to escort the sisters to the Hamptons. Things go wrong, and the Copeland brothers must replace the ditzy heiresses in the social scene.

There are occasional high points in "White Chicks" — Hilton sisters mockery, a lovestruck athlete lusting after Marcus Copeland and a spate of worthwhile "your mama" jokes.

Newcomer Terry Crews surprises with a great comedy performance as the lovelorn and muscle-bound Latrell Spencer. He chooses the costumed Marcus Copeland as his love interest and provokes the best laughs of the movie (He also displays the largest human tongue, ever).

But the low points drag "Chicks" down. Aren't farting jokes dead yet? Sure, flatulence gets a grin, but gas loses all humor after extended scenes. Hell, I like farting jokes. But not fifteen minutes' worth.

The gender-bending makeup is visually difficult to accept. Several times they resembled a cadaver from HBO's "Six Feet Under" instead of spoiled princesses. Is this comedy or horror?

Just when you might accept the idea that these goofball brothers are FBI agents, you suddenly have to accept that no one suspects these freakishly large white women. Obviously, it's a gag, but couldn't they have made it a little more palatable? The Wayans

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