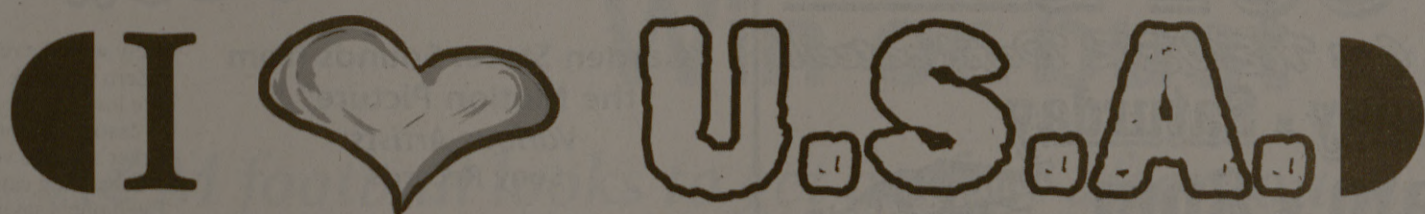


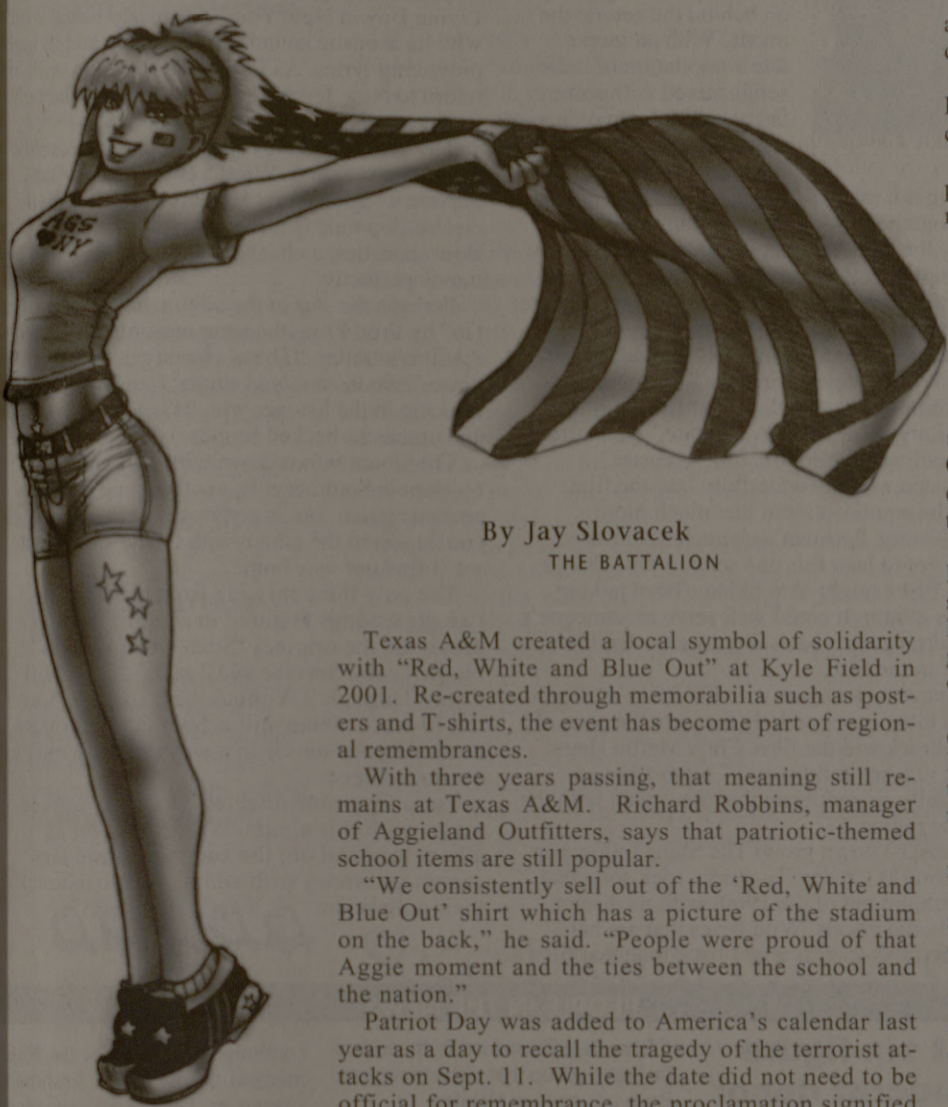
AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Three years after WTC attacks, patriotism continues in Aggieland community



IVAN FLORES • THE BATTALION

By Jay Slovacek
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M created a local symbol of solidarity with "Red, White and Blue Out" at Kyle Field in 2001. Re-created through memorabilia such as posters and T-shirts, the event has become part of regional remembrances.

With three years passing, that meaning still remains at Texas A&M. Richard Robbins, manager of Aggieland Outfitters, says that patriotic-themed school items are still popular.

"We consistently sell out of the 'Red, White and Blue Out' shirt which has a picture of the stadium on the back," he said. "People were proud of that Aggie moment and the ties between the school and the nation."

Patriot Day was added to America's calendar last year as a day to recall the tragedy of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. While the date did not need to be official for remembrance, the proclamation signified

a need to "affirm the vows made in the earliest hours of our grief and anger."

Doug Menarchik, director of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, ties the patriotic colors to the Sept. 11 tragedy.

"We saw firsthand a foreign entity direct a very personal attack at the people of our nation, and it enraged Americans," he said.

Menarchik points to this anger as "the cause for Americans to rally around the flag."

In 2002 the Bush Library displayed an American flag that survived the World Trade Center. This year the Library is housing a section of a steel structural beam from the World Trade Center, which will become part of an exhibit named "Commemorating September 11th."

The girder was donated by the Texas Engineering Extension Service's urban search and rescue team, Texas Task Force 1. With a backdrop of photographs from Sept. 11, the girder will go on display Saturday.

The exhibits in the library are a constant local reminder of Sept. 11. Brian Blake of the Bush Library said the Bush Library Center tends to be a center of patriotism celebration.

"The displays of the flag and girder make the events more powerful and invoke more meaning," he said.

Jessica Lock, a senior journalism major, said that as time has passed, this feeling of patriotism has become part of most students' lives.

"For me, patriotism isn't always about wearing flags or putting a bumper stickers on your car, it is something inside you," she said. "Most people take our freedoms for granted until something like (Sept. 11) threatens them."

Courtney Flatt, a junior journalism major, agreed

with Lock.

"Around this time, you see a lot more patriotism because of Patriot Day," she said. "Because of the presidential elections, patriotism will be more of a focal point this year."

Part of the proclamation for Patriot Day remains an issue today. The bill reads: "As liberty's home and defender, America will not tire, will not falter, and will not fail in fighting for the safety and security of the American people and a world free from terrorism. We will continue to bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to them."

Nolan Flowers, a former 82nd Airborne infantryman, said that current military actions may be affecting American patriotism.

"To a lot of Americans, patriotism would be greater today if the events of Iraq were behind us, but this should not be the case. Patriotism should be present at all times."

Flowers, an A&M network analyst, said he is concerned about the influences of the war in Iraq.

"The media keeps a tally of the failures in Iraq, and this takes away from the accomplishments of the mission," he said.

Flowers said he worries that "patriotism doesn't have the same durability that it used to have." He said that with an increased need for immediate results, the public's expectations of the war interfere with Americans' sense of patriotism.

"As the anniversary of Sept. 11 comes, we should remain vigilant in our patriotism," Flowers said. "And (we should) not lose sight of what it means to love, honor and defend our country."

"People were proud of (the 'Red, White and Blue Out') and the ties between the school and the nation."

— Richard Robbins
Manager,
Aggieland Outfitters

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Fish Camp 50th Reunion

Weekend Events
Friday, September 10, 2004

5 p.m. - 12 midnight Fish Camp History Display in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room

Visit a display celebrating 50 years of history with Fish Camp. Sign the official 50th Anniversary Guest Book and leave thoughts for future Fightin' Texas Aggie Freshmen Classes.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Welcome Reception at The Association of Former Students
Kick-off the reunion weekend with refreshments, fellowship, and Fish Camp history sharing.

8 p.m. First Yell featuring Bill Cosby at Reed Arena
Tickets through the MSC Box Office at (979) 845-1234

12 midnight Midnight Yell Practice at Kyle Field
Attend Yell Practice with current and former Fish Camp members; don't forget to wear your favorite Fish Camp shirt. Meet in Cain Park at the Eagle Statue at 11:30 p.m.

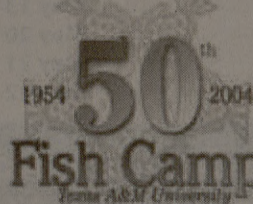
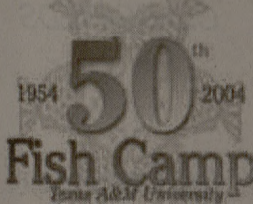
Saturday, September 11, 2004

8 a.m. - 12 midnight Fish Camp History Display in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room

Visit a display celebrating 50 years of history with Fish Camp. Sign the official 50th Anniversary Guest Book and leave thoughts for future Fightin' Texas Aggie Freshmen Classes.

2 hours before Game Fish Camp Reunion Tailgate Party at Simpson Drill Field
Plan to attend a fun filled Fish Camp Reunion tailgate party. There will be a designated area for Fish Camp Reunion participants. Meal tickets will be sold individually at the tailgate party.

2:30 p.m. Texas A&M Aggies vs. Wyoming Cowboys Football Game
Tickets are sold through the Athletic Ticket Office at (979) 845-2311



VICTOR'S

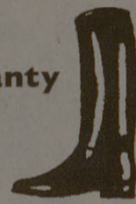
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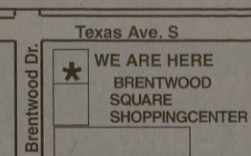
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