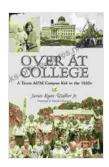
## A Campus Kid in the 1930s: Celebrating the Centennial of the Association of Former Students at the University of Texas at Austin



Over at College: A Texas A&M Campus Kid in the 1930s (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University Book 124) by T.D. van Basten

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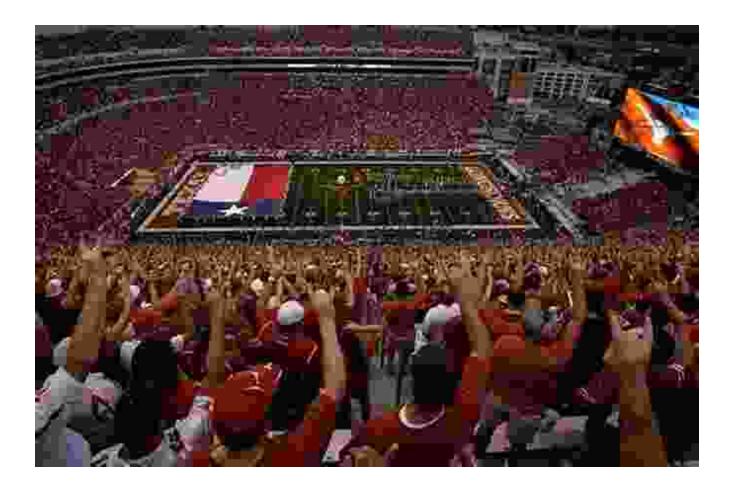
In the heart of the Lone Star State, amidst the rolling hills and vibrant city of Austin, stands the University of Texas at Austin. Founded in 1883, this esteemed institution has witnessed a century of transformative growth and academic excellence. As we commemorate the Centennial of the Association of Former Students, we delve into the captivating story of a campus kid who lived and breathed the Longhorn spirit during the extraordinary decade of the 1930s.

Imagine yourself transported back in time to the bustling campus of the University of Texas in the 1930s. The Great Depression cast its long shadow across the nation, but within the hallowed halls of UT Austin, a spirit of resilience and optimism prevailed. Among the thousands of students who flocked to this vibrant academic hub was a young man named Bill Cunningham, a wide-eyed freshman from a small town in West Texas.



Bill quickly embraced the vibrant campus culture that defined the Longhorn experience. He became an active member of the Texas Cowboys, a legendary student spirit organization that embodied the university's pride and traditions. Donning their signature white Stetson hats and cowboy boots, the Texas Cowboys were a ubiquitous presence at football games, pep rallies, and all manner of campus events.

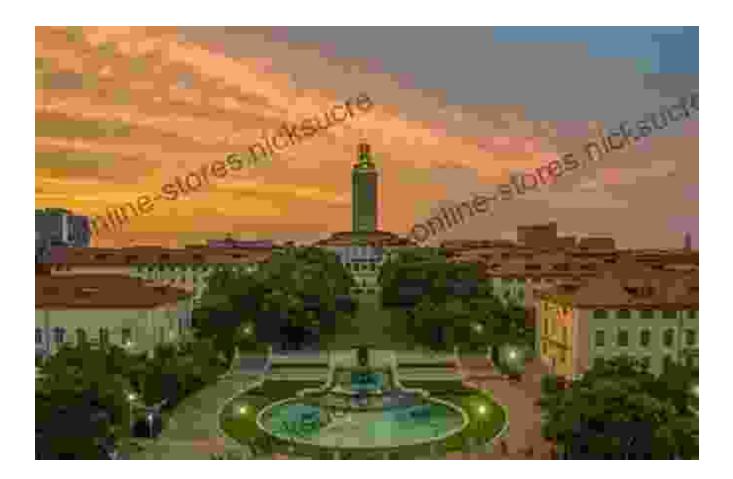
Football held a special place in the hearts of UT students during the 1930s. The Longhorns, led by legendary coach Dana X. Bible, were a formidable force on the gridiron. Bill Cunningham, along with thousands of his fellow students, would pack the cavernous Memorial Stadium, their voices reverberating with the iconic cheer, "Texas Fight!" The stadium became a symbol of unity and shared passion, a place where students from all walks of life came together to celebrate their beloved university.



Bill Cunningham and his fellow Texas Cowboys cheering on the Longhorns at Memorial Stadium in the 1930s

Beyond the football field, Bill Cunningham immersed himself in the rich tapestry of campus life. He attended lectures by renowned professors, participated in lively debates at the student union, and explored the burgeoning arts scene in Austin. The university library became his sanctuary, a place where he could lose himself in the written word and expand his intellectual horizons. Despite the economic hardships of the Great Depression, the campus community remained vibrant and supportive. Students organized food drives and fundraisers to help those in need. The spirit of camaraderie and mutual support extended beyond the university gates, as students reached out to the broader Austin community through volunteer work and service projects.

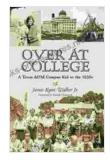
As Bill Cunningham progressed through his academic journey, he developed a deep appreciation for the transformative power of education. He excelled in his studies, earning a degree in journalism that would shape his future career. Throughout his time at UT Austin, he was mentored by inspiring professors who ignited his passion for learning and instilled in him a lifelong love of knowledge.



Upon graduating from UT Austin, Bill Cunningham embarked on a successful career as a journalist and public relations professional. He carried the Longhorn spirit with him wherever he went, proudly representing his alma mater and advocating for the importance of higher education. Throughout his life, he remained deeply connected to the university, serving as a mentor to countless students and supporting the university's mission of teaching, research, and service.

As we celebrate the Centennial of the Association of Former Students, we honor the legacy of Bill Cunningham and countless other campus kids who have left an enduring mark on the University of Texas at Austin. Their stories remind us of the transformative power of education, the importance of community engagement, and the indomitable spirit that has defined the Longhorn family for generations.

The Centennial of the Association of Former Students is a testament to the enduring bonds that unite Longhorns from all walks of life. It is a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and envision a bright future for the university we all cherish. As we look ahead, let us draw inspiration from the campus kids of the 1930s, who navigated challenges with resilience, embraced opportunities with enthusiasm, and left an unforgettable mark on the world.

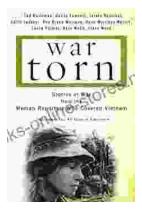


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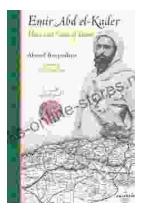
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