

STATE AND LOCAL

# Battalion is serious business: editor

By RICKY TELG  
Reporter

The Battalion is a newspaper written totally by college students for college students, the paper's editor said at Sally's Symposium Wednesday.

Brigid Brockman said one misconception about The Battalion is that the paper is controlled by faculty. Brockman said the paper is run by students.

"We have total control over its content," she said.

Writing for The Battalion is a learning experience for students, Brockman said.

"It's a credit for us because we get hands-on experience," Brockman said. "But some of our mistakes show up in the paper because of our ignorance or inexperience."

Brockman said The Battalion is a million-dollar-a-year business.

"It's a very serious business," she said. "We can be sued for libel just like any other paper."

More than 96 percent of The Battalion's income comes from advertising, Brockman said.

No money is received from state funds, but about \$1 from every student's fees is allocated for The Battalion's operations, she said.

"That totals about \$37,000," she said. "The rest of the money comes from advertising."

The Battalion's policy is to emphasize local stories each day, Brockman said.

"We try to put the emphasis on local topics, because we think that's what students want to read," she said.

The Battalion depends on the Associated Press for national and international news, but because of limited space, local news gets first priority, Brockman said.

She said The Battalion is divided into six independent departments, each with their own responsibilities.

City desk assigns stories to reporters; the photo desk handles photographs; and the At Ease department has control over the Battalion's weekly feature supplement.

The night news department puts the paper together and edits all material, and the sports desk is in charge of its own reporters and layouts. The page two editor handles all editorials.

Because staff positions are not permanent, Brockman said the beginning of each semester is difficult because everyone is getting used to his new job.

"It's hard, because you get a whole new staff each semester," she said. "You can never establish good (news) contacts like the Eagle does."

When asked if The Battalion publishes stories just to stir up controversy, Brockman said the paper considers all the issues before an article is published.

"We report what's going on," Brockman said.



Brigid Brockman

If there is something happening on campus that doesn't seem fair, then we'll have a story dealing with the issue; in that sense maybe we do stir up controversy, she said.

Another audience member asked if the editorials are written to stimulate student response.

Brockman said they are written to make students think about the issue.

"I'm glad if it makes them think," she said. "That's what it should be doing."

When mistakes are made in the paper, Brockman said they are not intentional.

"We try to be as professional as we can, but we are students," she said. "Everything we do and every paper we put out, we learn."

## Finding answers to problems

# Group listens to students

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

A group at Texas A&M is dedicated to hearing about students' problems — whatever they may be — and trying to come up with solutions.

Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver formed the Task Force on the Quality of Student Life last fall.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said the task force probably "was generated out of problems we've had," such as the Gay Student Services' fight for on-campus recognition.

"But when you begin thinking about the quality of student life," Koldus said, "you begin thinking about it for all students."

The 19-person task force is divided into four subcommittees representing different areas of campus life: academic, services, traditions, organizations programs and activities. Committee members are both students and faculty.

Koldus, who is chairman of the group, said the subcommittees are on a problem search.

"We're taking a two-pronged approach," Koldus said. "First, we're going to continue looking, then we're going to deal with specific problems. The Counseling Center alone gave us a list of 59 things students had problems with, such as admissions, parking and lack of class sections."

"We're going to try to address problems that aren't already being dealt with by other committees."

The immediate goal of the task force is talking to students and finding common problems.

"The subcommittees have the latitude to investigate as they want," Koldus said.

Dr. Malon Southerland, assistant vice president for student services and a subcommittee chairman, said, for example, that task force members may show up at meetings of

campus organizations, or conduct informal surveys.

Koldus said the task force may purchase ad space for a survey in The Battalion.

"You know that with that kind of thing you will get crank responses," he said, "but we want to give everyone a chance to respond."

Koldus said he has no idea how long the groups' research will take.

"We decided not to worry about time," he said. "We're talking about an on-going process, and we don't know how long it will take, but we hope to have ways of improving student life on campus."

Tentative meeting dates have been set for the subcommittees to discuss their findings and decide which problems to work on first.

"Once problems are assessed, we'll decide which have merit and assign them to the subcommittees they're most closely related to," Koldus said. "Then the subcommittees will look into resolutions of the problems."

# Former student to speak about entrepreneurship

By SHERRY TOFTE  
Reporter

The College of Business Administration Fellows Program will sponsor a lecture by John Sackett, a member of the Development Council for the business college, about how to succeed in your own business today at 6 p.m.

Sackett, a '59 graduate of Texas A&M and former president of Alamo Iron works, will focus his speech on the failures encountered in the business world.

The lecture will be in 156 Blocker. Sackett said he will approach business success from a different perspective, because it is important for students to see the roots of business failures in order to understand how to succeed.

"I'm assuming that many of the students will be future business persons," Sackett said, "and I want to make them aware of the pitfalls which may be encountered that normally would not be taught in an academic environment."

Dr. Schoenfeldt, head of the management department and director of the CBA Fellows Program, said Sackett will discuss two main topics.

First, he will explain how to buy a company or get involved in an entrepreneurship. Sackett also will discuss his experiences consulting with a company last fall.

"I'm going to approach the topic from the standpoint of the failures in a business and illustrate what not to do," Sackett said.

Schoenfeldt said a business, frequently banks, often will call in someone to help solve a company problem.

"I call them work-out artists or consultants," Schoenfeldt said.

Sackett began consulting with businesses after being president at Alamo Iron Works and is now looking into starting a business of his own, Schoenfeldt said.

"His experience (at Alamo Iron Works and as a consultant) will make for a very interesting speech," Schoenfeldt said. "It will give the students an idea of what it's like to own their own businesses and will give them some insight about the business world."

The CBA Fellows is a group of business students who are selected for their management and leadership skills.

"The CBA Fellows could be called the honors program within the business college," Schoenfeldt said.

# 10 Texas Death Row inmates want appeals dismissed, executions

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Ten Texas Death Row inmates are filing motions to have all their appeals dropped and are calling for quick executions so they can "stop lining the pockets of attorneys and judges," the leader of the effort said Wednesday.

"To continue to wait here year after year, with the psychological and physical stress, it's inhuman at least,"

said James E. Smith, convicted of a robbery-slaying last year in Houston. "We will no longer participate in this obscene exercise. We are demanding that the courts dismiss our appeals."

Smith accused lawyers and judges of making "thousands, if not millions" of dollars by prolonging the appeals that seek to block executions.

"We're simply asking that the court allow the appeals to be dis-

missed and the executions carried out," he said. "If you are going to sentence a man to death, then execute him. Don't torture him for years and years. Why do we have to sit here?"

Smith, 33, has been on Death Row for 11 months. He said he was a native of Louisville and had been involved in business in New Orleans. He refused to be specific.



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