

AggieLife

Potential transfer students find themselves

Weighing their options

By Matt Patin
THE BATTALION

Transfer students like Whitney Palmer, a junior nutritional science major, often find their first choice was sinks and gifts their first mistake.

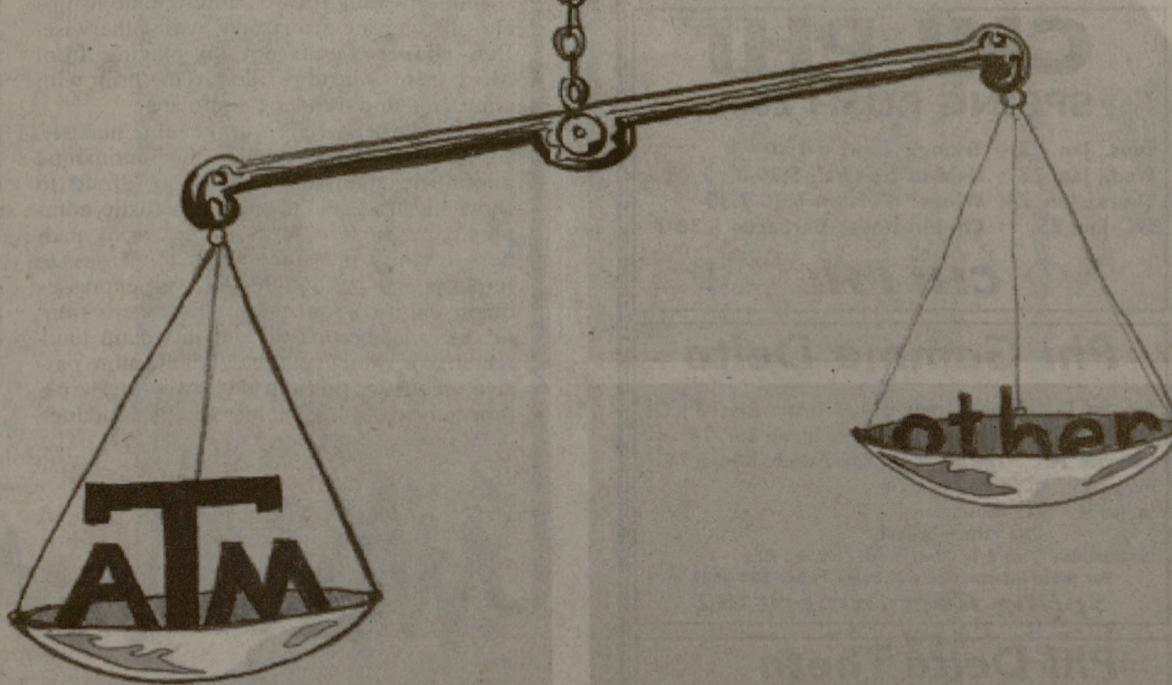
"I had my doubts the first week I went for the week [at Baylor]," Palmer said. "And I had the feeling grew during the first semester. When I attended Baylor, I would come down to College Station at least every other weekend to see my boyfriend and other friends. I really saw what I was missing out on at Baylor."

Being near the people she knew best was not the only thing Palmer said she was "missing out on." Not only did Palmer fall in love with the atmosphere of traditions at Texas A&M, which she said was almost nonexistent at Baylor, but she also considered academics before making her final decision.

"I think A&M has a much better nutrition program than Baylor did," Palmer said. "The program [at Baylor] was in the family and consumer sciences department and I had to take a lot of irrelevant classes."

Early in the spring of her freshman year at Baylor, Palmer said she decided that she had grown apart from the university that she thought was best suited for her. One day after class, she decided which path to take.

"I got back from class, got on the computer, filled out the A&M application, had my transcript sent, paid the application fee and waited," Palmer said.



Palmer said she found it was simple for her to adjust to Texas A&M and said she made more friends in her first month at A&M than she did her whole year at Baylor. She admitted com-

Station and Waco was that of night and day. "I feel like I have so much more freedom here. A&M has everything — tradition, academics, extracurricular activities and the nightlife," Palmer said. "The weekends [in Waco] were so boring, I don't think any Aggies who have visited Baylor will disagree with me."

According to the 2001 Princeton Review, the tuition at Baylor is about \$7,000 more than Texas A&M tuition. Finances played a role in Palmer's decision to transfer, as it did for sophomore political science major Lauren Higgs.

"I always knew there was a chance (that I would transfer), because Colorado State was such a financial burden," Higgs said. "I like it colder and I miss the opportunity to snowboard, but I have a long family history here."

Higgs' Aggie family tree is not a bonsai, but a redwood. Both of Higgs' parents, grandparents, an aunt and a cousin are former A&M students. Friends also played a role in her decision to transfer.

"We used to come to College Station during high school and the people here are really friendly," Higgs said. "And my friend Katie said it would be cool if we could hang out and live together."

Higgs said she liked the smaller campus of Colorado State, but that larger universities offer better opportunities to meet more people and get involved. She said the only people who would not like Texas A&M are those who would not get involved and who would not enjoy College Station's signature nightlife attractions.

"If you're not going to get involved, you're going to be missing out," Higgs said.

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