

# Former Students Association benefits present undergrads

The following is the first part of a four part series of articles prepared by Jerry Cooper, who is in charge of production of The Texas Aggie.

As the 1,800 May graduates of the Class of 1972 receive their degrees, they automatically become a part of one of the greatest alumni associations in the world.

The Association of Former Students has more programs and activities in support of all areas of Texas A&M and a greater percentage of members contributing financial support to their university than alumni organizations of any other state supported college or university in the country.

The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University focuses the strength of more than 55,000 A&M alumni around the world to promote the interests and welfare of their alma mater.

Headed this year by President J. R. "Bob" Latimer '44 of Dallas, the Association supplements university programs not fully funded by state appropriations.

The Association is directed by Executive Director "Buck" Weirus '42.

The front door of the Association office, located in the lower west end of the Memorial Student Center, is always open to students. Seniors come there to pick up the current issue of the Texas Aggie, official publication of the Association, and many students stop by regularly to become better acquainted with As-

sociation activities.

Students enrolled at A&M benefit from Association programs in numerous ways.

Many students derive direct benefit from loans and scholarship programs sponsored by the Association including Opportunity Awards Scholarships and President's Endowed Scholarships. All scholarships are administered by the University Office of Student Financial Aid.

The Opportunity Award Scholarship program is one of the Association's oldest and most significant programs. More than 700 students are now enrolled on these scholarships which consist of \$300 annually with opportunity provided for student employment.

A&M Clubs, Mother's Clubs and individual former students add to the funds provided by the Association for these scholarships.

In 1967, Texas A&M University officials established the President's Scholarship Program to attract outstanding high school

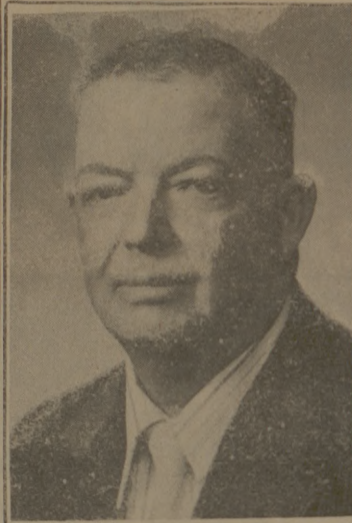
graduates to A&M. The following year the Association assisted by setting up the President's Endowed Scholarship Program.

Twenty-six high achieving students are presently enrolled under the endowed program. Ten additional scholarships are funded each year from the Association's Annual Fund. Each \$1,000 per year.

In addition, thousands of A&M students have been assisted in completing their education through the Student Loan Fund established by the Association in the early 1920's. More than \$500,000 has been contributed by former students for this fund which is administered through the Student Financial Aid Office in the YMCA.

These forms of direct support to the students of Texas A&M are but a few of the Association programs from which students benefit daily.

Numerous other programs which, at the very least, benefit students indirectly will be described later in this series.



Lester (Red) Parsons

A candidate for County Commissioner. After 30 years of service to Brazos County, I am seeking position of Commissioner of Precinct 1. Since I believe the position should be a full time job and I have no other business interests, I tend to devote my entire energy and experience to the service of the people of Precinct 1. I urge you to go to the polls and vote.

When you vote Lester (Red) Parsons you are voting for a man of integrity as well as a proven public servant.

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"There's nothing I dislike more or had rather be than a graduating senior!"

## Change

In past issues of the Battalion this year, the student body has been exposed to all the "changes" that have been occurring on campus, to the campus and the individual. Yet, there is one more "change" that has happened since yesterday afternoon—the selection of a new Batt editor.

This was not in itself a totally unexpected change, only the manner and reasons for which I was chosen to lead the Batt.

Many student leaders have been crying loudly for a change of policy at the editorial level while seemingly wasting their time. But, at last, their pleas will be listened to.

It may take a bit of getting used to, but your new editor does care for the student body, faculty and community. Future innovations added to the Batt next year should bear this out.

It is my belief that more campus and community events should be covered by the Batt without the biting overtones of factionalism. I believe the students here are ALL Aggies who didn't come to A&M solely for the purpose of trying to change the administration or become involved in student government.

The majority of students arrive at A&M with the intention of obtaining an education first, bringing changes second.

For the record, future policy will be:

- A. Any, and all students will be welcome to aid in Batt production. It is a student-oriented newspaper.
- B. Factionalism will not be practiced by the staff.
- C. More campus coverage of student organizations will be done than this past year, with the AP used sparingly.
- D. Women on campus will receive as much consideration as other Aggies through the help of next year's women's editor.

Without carrying this too far, let me say that I wish to thank those student leaders who spoke for me at the Student Publications Board meeting and for 'change' in the Battalion.

Secondly, I wish to thank those that came to the Batt office last night to lend me their help and encouragement. I don't think next year's Battalion staff will let you down.

Michael L. Rice  
Editor

## The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. W. E. Tedrick, College of Agriculture; and Layne Kruse, student.

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### COMMENT OF A McMAHON GRADUATE



George Barbato

In November, 1970 I graduated from McMahon College and immediately accepted a position as a Court Reporter. Last year I made \$18,000. For a fascinating career that really pays off, I suggest you look into Court Reporting by contacting McMahon College, 2601 Main, Houston, Texas 77002. Call collect 713/228-0028.

*George Barbato*

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By Charles M. Schulz

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