

Listen up

# 'Traditions plague A&M'

**Editor:**  
A&M is plagued with traditions and rituals left over from archaic times. It is usually possible with a little effort to ignore these mindless, juvenile antics.

Eventually, though, one gets disgusted and irritated by all the childish goings-on. I fail to glimpse the sense in the all-importance that is put on how well a group of 11 men can butt heads and manipulate a small volume of air wrapped in the skin of a pig. It seems like a colossal waste of time and money.

Speaking of waste, I noticed in the Batt that \$1,000 made from students was incinerated by the Bonfire. I am also having a hard time grasping the idea that "our school is best." A large part of the animosity between schools is generated by competition between football teams and has nothing whatsoever to do with real things like academic standards, quality of teaching, etc.

I am aware that this letter will upset and anger someone but I hope they can extricate themselves from the quagmire and dead logs of tradition long enough to understand that I should say what I feel.

Douglas E. Garey '76

## The other side

**Editor:**  
This is addressed to A&M:  
I'm glad I'm graduating Dec. 14; I'm proud to be an Aggie. Traveling this past weekend really made me love you more.

I went back to Texas Tech to seek help in cleaning up transcript. They

didn't care—they didn't even catch my name. I was only asking for the help and consideration I would have received from you.

Maybe you don't realize it but I'm behind you now more than ever. I don't have a sticker on my car; I didn't buy a senior ring; I only went to two games. It's not lack of pride but lack of money and football fever.

I know you care if I live or die, succeed or fail. You'll help me make it anyway you can; you'll stand by me. I'm special to you; I'm an Aggie and a human being.

You're growing. Your face is changing; your traditions are changing but your feelings for your students have not. Please don't. It doesn't matter if you win a game but if you win the hearts of Aggies. You have mine.

With the Code of Honor you trust me—I need maturity to handle that—but you know I'm young and bound to trip. You'll help me correct my mistakes and give me a chance to start again.

There's not always a complete understanding between us. Sometimes you make me so mad I could scream. I know you have looked at me with reservation many a time. That's the way it is between two who love and care about each other.

What I really want to say is that I'm glad to be back home. Two years ago you accepted me when I hadn't met all the standards. Where would I be if you hadn't cared?

I'm proud to be an Aggie; I feel you're proud of me.

Michael Barleby-Treut Mauritz

## Spending orgy

**Editor:**  
Battalion Staff Writer Jim Peters deserves commendation for his excellent investigative reporting on the cost of decorating the MSC.

The Tuesday article, "Rudder Interior Costs Told," laid the incredible facts out for all to see. The interior designer's classic comments made me want to laugh, but I couldn't. This guy was paid a third of a million dollars to squander someone's money on overpriced frills.

In Thursday's piece we found out that a lot of that money is coming and will continue to come out of the pockets of the student body. The orgy of spending that began with the malls and walls goes on.

The Board of Directors had better pull their heads out of the shag carpet and get some fiscal responsibility!

Bill Thompson '75

## SG 'praised'

**Editor:**  
After reading the various and inane comments about the student government's proposal for silent prayers before the football games, we felt obligated to write this correspondence to commend our student government on concerning themselves with such important matters.

After all, at this time the administration has only taken away a traditional holiday and is going to build a half-a-million dollar wall

(with few, if any, redeeming values).

Obviously these issues are ludicrous as compared to a prayer before football games, even though the football season is over. Besides these silly issues there are a few other minor problems that take less precedence than a simple prayer, such as parking space and our outstanding campus police, the ticket problem as most people who spent the night in front of G. Rollie know, and the outstanding aesthetic value that the cowhide benches offer in the MSC.

Of course every student on campus can be content with the knowledge that whatever the student government decides on the prayer issue will be served to Jack K. Williams and the administration until they are forced to capitulate before the mandate of the student body.

William W. Jackson  
John R. Williams

## W-1 challenged

**Editor:**  
Once again we have heard the usual B.S. concerning W-1. This time it comes from their military adviser, Lt. Holzmann. Her speech was a great display of propaganda, outranked only by the Nazi Party in the 1930's.

As far as women "doing everything the men do," I couldn't agree more with John Vanore (Challenge issued to W-1; Listen Up, Nov. 19). The waggies do as little as possible. Where's their weekly spirit sign?

## The Aggie forum

# "Free Batt" requires more steps

By LARRY ARNOLD

From the economic reply in the Nov. 20 Battalion (Batt columnist spares no one), I understand that Mike Perrin wants a professional newspaper totally independent of student government and the administration. If so, he should take the following steps immediately.

1. Move the offices off campus and pay rent and utilities for the space the university now furnishes.
2. Divest the publication of its name and tremendous amount of goodwill that comes of being a publication of A&M.
3. Remind the advertisers that support the Battalion that the newspaper is not in any way connected with the administration or the student body.
4. Pay taxes like any other self supporting (profit) business.
5. Eliminate all volunteer (free) student help.

Of course these procedures may

trim the present profit margin a little, but they would at least free the newspaper of forced student contribution, with one exception. If Perrin is an economics major he should realize the ads he is so proud of are paid for by money students spend buying the advertised products.

Now let's talk about "professionalism" and the other three problems mentioned.

The student organizations are "hasseling" the Batt because it doesn't print enough campus news. Now it seems to me that local news is the main reason for local newspapers. If the Houston Chronicle didn't print Houston news the citizens of that city could just as easily read a paper from Austin, or even Washington, D.C. The only reason ever printed in the Batt for the shortage of campus news was lack of space due to expanded advertising. I for one did not pay student fees through student government to the

Battalion for expanded advertising and two day old political cartoons. (The Oliphant cartoon next to Mr. Perrin's column appeared in the Nov. 18 Eagle.)

The A&M administration exercises no more control over The Batt than the owners of any "professional" newspaper. Has Perrin any examples of "real" newspapers where the staff elects the editor? Any real newspaper large enough to have a staff, that is. It seems to me that if the student newspaper is of A&M and for A&M it should be by A&M. (Pardon me, Mr. Lincoln.)

The "sloppy technique" and "slow and inefficient news gathering methods" seem to indicate a job to be done by the paper's editor. If he can't handle it a stronger, not weaker, Student Publications Board is indicated.

I would also like to make two comments on statements made by Perrin. First, I think he is partially correct in stating that Steve Eberhard probably is not representative of the 21,000 A&M students. He does, however, represent a sixth of that number that bothered to vote in student elections, and since the other students evidently don't care, I see no reason to worry about their opinion.

Second, how can Perrin write an entire column based mainly on the proposition that the Student Government collects and disburses involuntary student fees and then state that Student Government is doomed to amateurism because it cannot tax.

Another "inadequacy" of Student Government Perrin cites is lack of the power of imprisonment, which of course it does and should lack. Student Government does have other negative sanctions available, however, and some of them as they apply to The Battalion, are be-moaned in Perrin's column.

Perrin's position seems to be that The Battalion should have all the

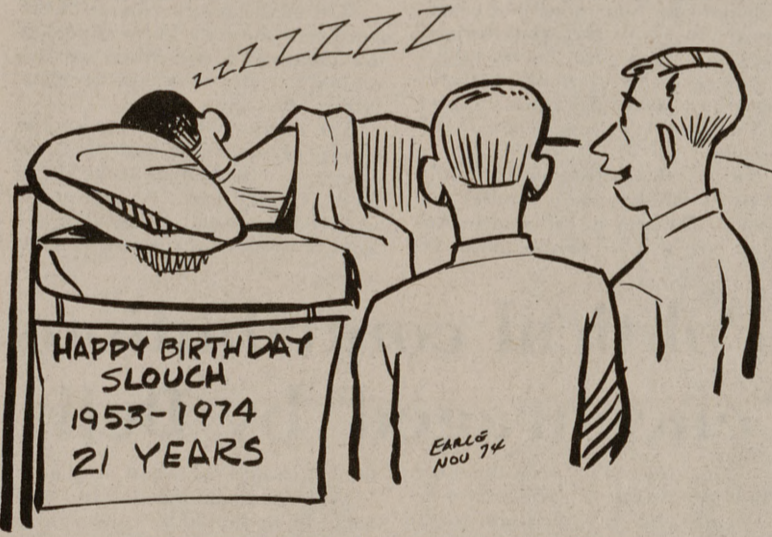
privileges and prestige of being the student newspaper at Texas A&M but should not be held responsible to the university. Perhaps he has forgotten that a better word for no responsibility is irresponsibility.

And students mulling over this issue should remember that with free newspapers, like everything else, you get what you pay for.

Arnold is a graduate student in Building Design.

## Slouch

## Jim Earle



"This is his idea of a big celebration!"

# The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, Steve Eberhard, Don Hegel, and John Nash, Jr.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

### MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished.

on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

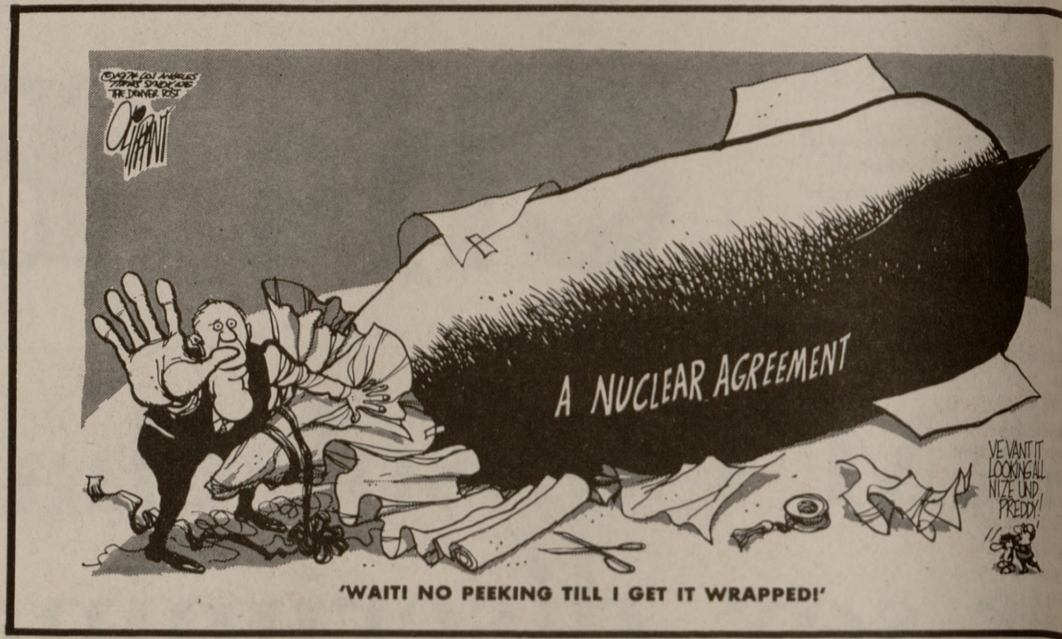
The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor ..... Greg Moses  
Assistant Editor ..... Will Anderson  
Managing Editor ..... LaTonya Perrin  
Sports Editor ..... Mark Weaver  
Photo Editor ..... Alan Killingsworth  
Copy Editors ..... Cynthia Maciel, Carson Campbell  
News Editor ..... Roxie Hearn, T. C. Gallucci

Campus editor ..... Steve Bales  
City Editor ..... Rod Speer  
Special Assignment Reporters ..... Teresa Coslett, Mary Russo, Jim Crowley, Paul McGrath, Tony Gallucci, Gerald Olivier, Steve Gray, Jack Hodges, Judy Baggett, Barbara West

General Assignment Reporters ..... Dave Johnson, Kanaya Mahendra, Jim Peters, David White, Cindy Taber, Roxie Hearn, Debi Holliday, Rose Mary Travieso, Ron Amsler, Robert Cessna, Richard Henderson, Daralyn Greene, Scott Reynolds, Sandra Chandler, Jim Sullivan, Leroy Dettling

Photographers ..... Douglas Winship, David Kimmel, Jack Holm, Glen Johnson, Chris Svatek, Gary Baldasari, Rodger Mallison, Steve Krauss



'WAIT! NO PEEKING TILL I GET IT WRAPPED!'

When was the last time you saw W-1 running as a unit around the quad or taking a "tour of the campus?" Never, nor will you see it for some time either.

The lieutenant said the men in the Corps were for W-1; who has she talked to? I have spoken to everyone from senior to fish and the reply I consistently get is, "It's not right. They shouldn't be allowed in." Even the fish who didn't know

the Corps before W-1 came along say that the waggies don't belong.

If the lieutenant will look back through copies of The Battalion, she will find approximately five letters opposing W-1 and none really for it. Surely her statement was made out of ignorance of the situation and not propagandizing.

Soon we will get the big news; W-1 will be taking over our home, Dorm 1, next year. If you as the

outfits of Dorm 1 how they about being moved to possible Dorm 10 or even squeezed into other dorms, like sardines, you will find that most are against it and an alternative solution; put the pig in with Corps staff!

Girls, if you want recognition, join the Corps. We'll be waiting. Incidentally, I also challenge you to quad me like Vanore. Come and meet me if you have the hair!

Keith Haird '74

# Come help celebrate our Grand Opening

# FIESTA



Experience the totally different decor, the unique atmosphere of the newest El Chico Restaurant. Come enjoy true Mexican food, plus the fun and excitement of a real Mexican Fiesta!

- Live Mexican Mariachis
- Free cigars and candy

Wednesday through Friday  
December 4-6

**El Chico**  
Mexican food with "Mama's Touch"

Manor East Shopping Center  
Highway 6 and Texas Avenue

