# 

#### Vote, don't bitch

Those of you who bitch about the housing situation, the bars' closing times, the lack of bike paths, the police, etcetera, now have the chance to change the way things

Texas A&M students can exert a strong influence in local politics, especially in a city the size of College Sta-

On April 3, College Station voters will elect five councilmen and a mayor. These are six of the seven positions on the law-making body of the city you live in.

If you think that your hometown is still your place of residence, think of how much money you spend here. Through sales taxes, utility rates and property taxes (through housing costs), you are providing much of the operating capital for local government. You should exercise your right to say how this money is spent.

Even those students registered elsewhere can change their registration to Brazos County simply by filling out a registration card.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday at 5 p.m. Student Government has made it even simpler by setting up a table on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center to register voters. The table is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration to vote in Brazos County. Why not try it once? You might be surprised at what can happen.

### Concession fund too high

Texas A&M University makes an exorbitant profit, \$80,000 a year, from campus vending machines. The money from every fifth candy bar (20 cents) and every fourth coke (25 cents) goes directly to the University concessions account.

Operation with such high commission is possible because the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Bryan is contracted as the exclusive supplier, acting as a monopoly.

The profit cleared is several times what the president and his handful of vice presidents and directors can reasonably use in one year. Their expenditures totaled \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually in recent years. The administration appeases the students with a \$1 per person per dorm allocation, \$8,600 this year, benefiting only on-campus students.

This situation is handled differently at UT Austin. Their \$156,000 each year provides scholarships, tutoring, special programs, supplement housing and food services

A similar system should be applied at A&M.

University officials need money for official matters and it may as well come from vending machines. But, the current method is unjust to the students and faculty who patronize the machines.

The students at this or any other university do not have the power to take the account away from the administration. Besides, most students would not exercise the responsibility to manage such a task.

Fair solutions to the problem are:

1) Lower vending Machine prices so profits will meet University executives expenses without penalizing stu-

2) Take the excess two-thirds of the profits and return it to programs for the students.

Ray Daniels





## user ve

# Firecracker raid lights readers' fuses

IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME.

WE'VE GOT THE BEER.

AGGIE CINEMA

presents

Jack Nicholson-Fave Dunaway

In the last year, I have been a witness to the abolishment of many of the old "unsatisfactory" and "obsolete" Corps traditions and their replacement with various new and innovative ideas and policies. Tuesday night, I once again witnessed new and innovative ideas put into action, as a majority of the rooms in the Corps were searched in an unorganized and haphazard method for who knows what - I wasn't told, and without authority and/or consent from room occupants — and in some cases without their presence.

I must say I am proud to be a member of an institution with an eye to the future — around 1984. Keep up the excellent police work gentlemen, and lets keep those innovative

Paul M. Sander '78 Semper ubi sub ubi. — Ed.

#### Commend

Editor: I would like to commend the decision to make a search for the illegal fireworks in the Corps dorm area.

Since the beginning of the semes ter, the use of firecrackers, bottle rockets, and other small explosives to make a loud noise and get a laugh seemed harmless. But it is not funny anymore. Homemade bombs have replaced these firecrackers, increasing the danger of a person being in-

I feel it is more important to consider the health of innocent persons than to try and protect the privacy rights of those in possession of the illegal explosives. The judgment of individuals to act now on this problem will save added trouble if there were no action at all and serious injury was done.

There might have been another solution instead of a search, which was certain to bring cries of "invasion of privacy" and "unfair treatment. The entire situation could have been ignored and the problem might have gone away. But, doesn't it make better sense to remove the origin of the problem now and enforce the rules as they should be? Joan Brumfield, '76

Errare humanum est. — Ed.

#### Isolation

As regards one of the Thursday, Feb. 18 editorials: I fail to see why the students at Texas A&M should be involved in city politics in College Station. It has been pointed out that students shop in College Station and subsequently pay sales taxes, and that the campus makes use of city police and fire facilities. For those students that live off-campus and in the city proper, and/or those who plan to make permanent homes here, I think city involvement is

But the campus itself is practically an independent community. It has

#### its own security, which seldom, if ever, makes use of city services. The campus is dependent on city fire-men, but I doubt that many students

The sales taxes paid by students hardly equal the various city taxes paid by permanent residents. And in the long run, I probably pay more taxes to Bryan or even Houston.

are qualified to advise them as to

I can understand the concern of permanent residents over the mass involvement of a transient student population. Students are here for an average of four years, as opposed to a lifetime spent here by the perma-nent residents. And at every school vacation, when the students go home", the vast majority go someplace other than College Station. Thus I can also understand, even in those much attached to the university, the lack of interest in the city.

Mary Hirsch '79

Italia non est insula. — Ed.

**BRAZOS BEVERAGES** 

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**Parking** 

Editor,

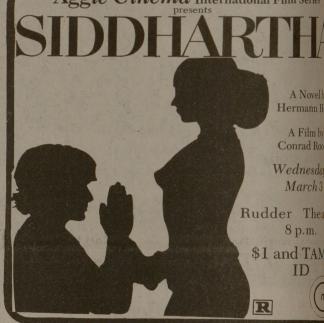
For years now off-campus students have had the problem of parkng near campus. Seeing as there is NO parking on campus the students turned to the local driveways, side streets and of course, the very large and close parking area the Circle Drive In. For years these spots have been free to parkers putting at least one bright spot in the students already over worked bank balance. Now for the mere price of \$5.00 a month one can park where was once free. To say this is outrageous would be one thing but you could add ridiculous, stupid, antagonistic and last but by far not the least — a costly annoyance. The "money hungry" eople of this University and combined cities are really disgusting. So in this writing I am asking if it would be possible for those students who once used the Circle Drive In to now boycott it's parking area. Maybe, just

maybe, if these maggots of the com-munity find that no one wants their service at "any price" they will wake

Marie Cowie '75 De Bello Gallico. — Ed.

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# Che Battalion

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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 guaran tee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verifica-

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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