

## Editorial

### Lighting the blight

University officials are throwing some light on a very controversial subject these days. Fluorescent bulbs are now spotlighting The Million-Dollar Wall.

Last year, students loudly objected to the structure, primarily because they hadn't been consulted about its construction.

The cost of installing the new floodlights was \$36,190, says Construction Manager Charles Brunt. That includes light poles, conduits, insulation and labor. It does not include day to day operating expenses.

It seems odd that after hearing such an outcry against building the wall the University is taking such costly pains to make it visible 24 hours a day.

Budgets have been cut for almost every department on campus. Student service fees weren't able to meet funding requests and the Board of Regents has raised room and board rates again.

With all this need for money on campus, the necessity of compounding a million-dollar mistake with \$36,000 worth of spotlighting is hard to rationalize.

— Roxie Hearn

### Class of 1984

Was George Orwell being fictitious or just ahead of his time when he wrote his famous novel 1984? Apparently, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets has not lost its copy.

Last week, members of various staff units in the Corps conducted searches of nearly every cadet room. A great deal of paraphernalia, mostly fireworks, was confiscated.

The fact that these searches were almost wholly without the permission of the occupants and without the assistance of search warrants or legal authorities, makes this "search and seizure" incident entirely illegal.

University Regulations say that no University official has the right to search and/or seize personal property without being accompanied by a law enforcement official with a search warrant.

Joe M. Chandler, Cadet Colonel of the Corps, said the searches were conducted to prevent injuries due to the increased use of fireworks in the Corps area this year. Indeed, this is a noble gesture but it does not make the searches any less illegal. If our government wanted to end murder, would their officials be justified in entering homes to confiscate all weapons?

Fireworks are banned by the University but their confiscation by unauthorized persons is still illegal just as the seizure of marijuana by a policeman would be if he entered a residence without a warrant.

All Chandler accomplished was to rattle the juveniles possessing the contraband into getting more and louder explosives. It may not be the result he had in mind but it is the one that is taking place.

You should have been there Mr. Orwell. You would have been proud.

— Paul McGrath

"MY, THERE ARE A LOT OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT"



# The 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 guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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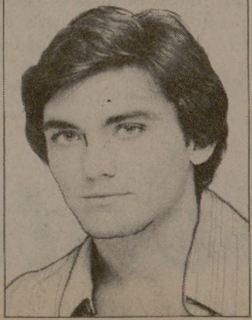
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# Look out McDonalds!

## Listen Up

years of watching Texas A&M basketball.

Thank you basketball team for giving us an exciting season and another championship. You're just another reason I'm proud to be a Texas Aggie.

Kelly Davidson, '78

## Constitution

Editor:

I would like to inform the student body of the possibilities which the Special Constitutional Convention of Student Government considered on February 7 & 8 concerning representation in the Student Senate. There were three: a strictly living-area based presentation; a dual college and living-area based representation; and a strictly college based representation; each with advantages and disadvantages.

First, the strictly living-area based representation offered to on-campus students the advantage of a readily available senator to whom one could express his ideas and viewpoints. The Senator also could take polls of his constituents and inform on the actions of the Student Senate. This advantage however, could not be available to off-campus students unless the number of senators was greatly increased.

Second, the dual system of college

and living-area representation offered the advantage of a better chance for a student to contact his senator through classes, in the dorm, or apartment housing area. This same advantage has its disadvantages in that a student could theoretically have his vote negated by his college senator voting for an issue and his living area senator voting against the issue. Also there are problems with the way the Senate reapportions itself each year. The present Constitution states "there shall be 40 college senators and 30 living-area senators". The college reapportionment is done on the percentage of students enrolled in each college during the fall semester. The major problem with living area apportionment is, again, the percentage of students that live on-campus versus off-campus. As enrollment increases and a greater proportion of students live off-campus, fewer senators will represent on-campus students. Thus negating the advantage of easy accessibility.

Finally, the strictly college-based representation offered the advantage of relatively equal division of the student body population. Under this provision the number of college senators would be increased from 40 to 50, to allow students easier access to their senators. The problem of ready availability of senators will still exist, but the student can contact his senator by phone, or in person as he must do under the current situation.

Duane Thompson '77

## Parking

Editor:

Yesterday when I walked to class I saw a College Station policeman moving through Skagg's parking lot directing cars to move off the lot. I understand that many cars have been towed away with fines stuck on them of about \$30 to get them out of the pound. If anyone has money to throw away it isn't us students!

There is and probably always will be for at least a few years a parking problem here at Texas A&M. The main reason that is apparent to me is our increasing enrollment that is expected to climb even more next year.

Before next year arrives I think we should cushion the problem by adding additional space for parking. What I'd suggest is buying or leasing the deserted drive-in behind Skagg's. The space is wasted in the daytime which could serve a useful purpose. It would also relieve customers that have to walk 100 yards or more to shop and of course it would help us students from writing home to get our cars out of the pound.

Bob Johnston, '78

## Congratulations

Editor:

I would like to congratulate Coach Shelby Metcalf and the Texas A&M basketball squad for a great season and a second straight conference championship.

The true champion wins even though everything seems to be against him. Although this basketball team was not predicted to be of championship caliber, they are true champions.

This is a team that, in the midst of controversy and court cases, played and won several crucial ballgames.

This is a team that showed great endurance by playing and winning three "high pressure" games in only five days, near the end of the season.

This is a team that has received a national ranking in both the A. P. and the U. P. I. basketball polls, something unusual for a Southwest Conference basketball team.

This is undoubtedly the best and most exciting team I have seen in six



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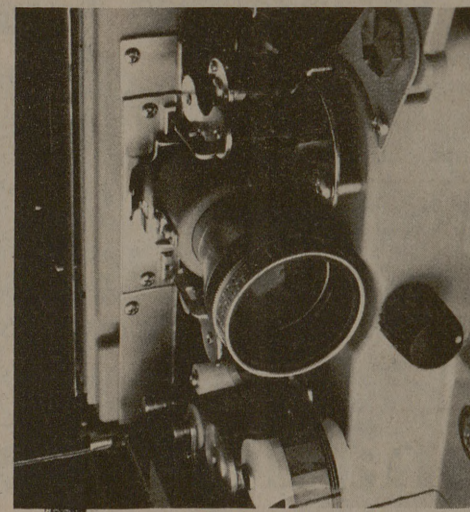
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