

"Now that I'm a senior, I have to agree with the old saying that your freshman year is the most fun."

## OPINION

### Bill Moore is gone — but the world goes on

Kent Caperton's victory in Saturday's Democratic primary calls for an examination of Bill Moore's importance to Texas A&M and the area.

Almost everybody who is anybody at Texas A&M endorsed Moore's reelection — from implicit recommendations by the regents and University administrators to ads signed by various student leaders.

Their support for Moore as a friend of Texas A&M is based not only on Moore's 31-year residence in the senate chamber, but also on their belief that Moore is the Great Defender of the Permanent University Fund. *Everyone* knows what the PUF means to Texas A&M, and *everyone* is concerned about maintaining the PUF's status.

Moore's white-knight image is appealing — he's admittedly done much for Texas A&M in his senate career — but isn't it also a little unrealistic?

The PUF's backers — friends of Texas A&M and the University of Texas — are almost as numerous in the Legislature as supporters of the oil industry. Moore's absence will hurt, but it's not going to be the downfall of the PUF.

Texas A&M's share of power on the state affairs and finance committees also will be diluted. But Aggies are everywhere in the Legislature, and it would be very easy for Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby to give those seats to other Aggies.

Bill Moore is gone. Instead of crying over that spilt milk, it's time to concentrate on constructing a firm base of new power in the senate.

After all, Caperton is an Aggie too.

The first step toward that construction could come with Caperton's election in November.

— Dillard Stone

### the small society by Brickman



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## THE BATTALION

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## Staff Notebook

### Outfit's loss could be start of Corps' gain

By DILLARD STONE  
Battalion Editor

The disbanding of an outfit in the Corps of Cadets is a traumatic experience for its members. It represents an example of where poor performance can lead; it also deprives the affected cadets of ranks and positions they would normally have held.

I view the disbanding of Company L-1 with mixed emotions. On the one hand it's my outfit — the group of people I called home during my first two years here.

On the other hand, there is some benefit to the Corps as a whole. Unlike Col. Woodall, I'd like to view the disbanding of the outfit not as a beneficial disciplinary action, but rather as a first step in the needed consolidation of 42 Corps outfits into a smaller number.

It's something I'd mentioned on several occasions this year. It got nowhere. Nonetheless, I think it is needed — and the first step lies in the consolidation of existing outfits.

The Corps faces severe problems. The current total strength — about 1,830 cadets — no longer justifies 42 separate outfits. Corps leaders agree that under the present structure, 45-50 cadets per outfit is about the right number. The current average is about 40, and many outfits have far fewer.

Decreasing the number within an outfit means there are fewer qualified leaders to choose from by the time one's junior year rolls around. When a first sergeant and one or two staff members are selected from within an outfit, the number of really good people in the secondary leadership slots decreases.

The inability of many first sergeants and company commanders to rely on competent subordinate classmates within their outfits hurts those outfits tremendously.

By increasing the number of outfits and simultaneously decreasing the number of staffs, two advantages will automatically be gained.

First, since staff personnel will be fewer,

there will be fewer people leaving the outfits for staff positions.

Second, increasing the number of people in outfits will give those cadets with meaningless jobs more responsibility, and they can make a positive contribution to the outfit instead of "dying." For example, under current structure, it's very hard for a platoon leader to take his job seriously when there are only 12 people in his platoon.

The disbanding of L-1 could be the first step in this Master Plan for Improving the

Corps. But I doubt it. Colonels don't think the way cadets do.

I still can't help but feel sad at the demise of L-1. Certainly there were wrongs that needed to be corrected. Under normal circumstances, a probationary period would have been warranted.

And, although L-1 was deficient in many areas, morale wasn't one. There are worse outfits in terms of grades, in terms of military proficiency, in terms of freshman retention.

Rules violations by cadets in other outfits haven't been viewed as symptomatic of vere problems within the outfit. L-1 appears to be the exception.

In fact, there are probably two or three other outfits overall worse than the L-1 Brigade alone. But maybe I'm biased.

But what's done is done; the cadets in the Lonestar Company are going to make it on their own. There's a future for them, but just where that will be each one.



## Letters

### Miller's 'abject rudeness' draws reader's fire

Editor:

An open letter to Miss Melanie Zentgraf: Dear Miss Zentgraf:

Please allow me to congratulate you upon your graduation Friday night and to apologize for my behavior. If I had had any idea that you would be treated with such abject rudeness by a man whose presence at your commencement exercises should have represented Texas A&M and the honorable state of Texas, I would have been on my feet, applauding you and your courage on behalf of future women.

Dr. Jarvis Miller:

Your conduct toward Miss Zentgraf at the commencement ceremonies was deplorable and beneath the dignity of your office.

When the final legal decisions have been made — in her favor, as I'm certain they will be, I should expect that you would demonstrate the same integrity which was behind your decision to attempt to demean her publicly and step down from the office of president.

— Margery Jones Tipton  
Apartad 4064  
Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela

there is up, and there is down. Do you think housing prices will ever go down?

History shows that every great speculative boom has ended with a crash. Soon there will be an historic crash in the housing market. Millions of home prices will fall far below their mortgage balances, plunging their once-proud owner deep into debt.

Millions of greedy homeowners are planning to cash in on your ignorance (even after they could have taught you better in school). So warn all your friends: Don't buy a house until after the prices crash, and even after a crash, there are always two directions that the price of anything can go: there is up, and there is down.

Contrary to popular belief, prosperity is caused by investments for income, and never by investments for capital gain.

Alan D. Phipps

### Bike destroyed

Editor:

I am an international student at A&M and have been in the states for about four months. Up till now I had formed an excellent impression of the Aggies in particular and Americans in general. But most unfortunately, something happened Thursday night that has made me change my outlook drastically.

I woke up on Friday morning to find that my bike had been utterly smashed and twisted out of shape by someone who obviously knew what he was doing. Recovering from my initial shock and surprise, I took a closer look and found that somebody had used a heavy cement block to vengefully and most carefully destroy each and every part of the bike. Since no other bike in the vicinity had been touched and the job was simply too systematic and thorough for any drunkard to have done it, I concluded that

the person or people who did it must have directed it towards me.

The only logical conclusion that I can arrive at is that evidently some patriotic American mistook me for an Iranian and proceeded to revenge the hostages on me. Or maybe it was a terrorist who decided that he didn't like my bike. Whatever the cause and whoever the doer, it says very little for the character of the Americans who are currently trying to get the world to condemn the Iranian act of terrorism. I just hope that there are very few Americans that are this irrational.

— Ednan R. Lodhi

### Texans are friendly

Editor:

I am writing this in response to Marc Roger's letter in Friday's Battalion.

I refuse to believe that what Mr. Rogers says is entirely true. He claims that because he is a "Yankee," he has not been accepted by the student body here at A&M, and has been the butt of many jokes concerning his accent.

Mr. Rogers, I would like to know how you deal with the people who belittle you for being a Northerner. Do you immediately become defensive? Does your "brash" style come across as obnoxious? Do you naturally assume that everyone who makes fun of your accent is acting in a malicious way? Maybe if you'd stop to consider how you are coming across to other people, you'd find the answer to your problem.

I, myself, am a Yankee, coming from New Jersey. Next week, I will have completed two years at A&M and will return home for the summer. I will be leaving behind many friends — people I have come to know and care about deeply and who like me for who I am and yes, even for where I'm from, because that's a part of me. Sure

I've been teased about my accent, but never has anyone held that against me.

I have found, on the whole, that I am one of the warmest and friendliest people (much more so than Northerners and that goes triple for Aggies. I have been as many friendships down here in two years as in all my years up North. I'll look forward to coming back in August.

Marc, I hope that you'll take a look at yourself. Maybe you'll find the problem is you won't accept Texans — the other way around. Aggies are some of the most terrific people I know and I hope you don't waste anymore time thinking that out.

— Kathleen M. Smith

### Thanks, CAMAC

Editor:

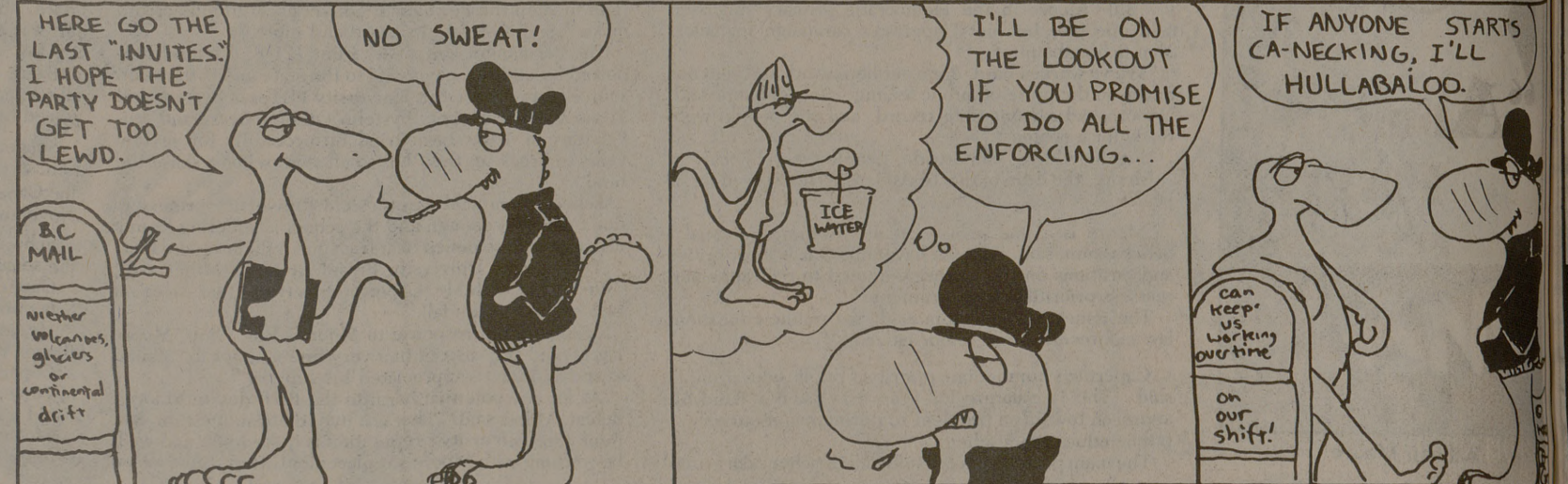
A big "thanks!" to TAMU, the Committee and especially to CAMAC for the fine family entertainment tonight (8:30) at Rudder Theater — and it was FREE!

For one hour, five children, ranging in age from three to eleven years, were entertained by the "Estudiantes Taller de Danza del Instituto Mexicano San Antonio." The children, as well as their parents, were dazzled by the costumes, precise footwork and hand appearances of the dancers. The music, the regional folk dances commencing the exuberant spirit of our next neighbor — Mexico. And the hands of the dancers extended to members of the audience to join them for an exhilarating to a "fast two-step" reaffirmed the warmth and friendliness we feel for our neighbors to the south.

Thank you again for a fun, festive, perfectly marvelous evening.

— Kathleen M. Smith

## THOTZ



By Doug Graham