

# A&M has 'off-the-record' epidemic

Take heart, Aggies. The entire Bright-Vandiver-Schembechler-Wilson-Sherrill affair has been explained. Unfortunately, once again, the explanation was made off the record.

We can again tell you who instigated the cloak-and-dagger hiring of Jackie Sherrill.

Unfortunately, we just aren't supposed to tell you who told us.

We can tell you that it's been confirmed again that the Board of Regents initiated the coup (i.e., the hiring of the new athletic director and the firing of Head Coach Tom Wilson).

Unfortunately, we still aren't supposed to tell you who confirmed it, when it was confirmed or why.

We told you on Jan. 19 that Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver had offered his resignation the night before.

Unfortunately, we couldn't tell you how we knew this.

We can now tell you that Vandiver decided Friday to clear the air with members of the Academic Council, who were upset with the University's new million-dollar coach, and called a meeting of the Council.

Unfortunately, the invitations to the meeting were stamped "confidential." Neither the press nor the public were



denise richter

supposed to know what went on.

But we can still tell you that Vandiver confirmed his first resignation attempt and offered his resignation again at this meeting.

Unfortunately, the meeting had been closed for discussion of "people and money;" therefore, these statements were made off the record.

We can tell you that during this closed meeting, Vandiver received a vote of confidence after his second resignation attempt in two weeks.

Unfortunately, we can't tell you who initiated the vote of confidence. We can't identify him. No one can identify him.

Once again, the press and the public are mired in a swamp of confidential

sources, secrecy and off-the-record explanations.

This epidemic of off-the-recorditis isn't anything new. In September, we told you that Athletic Director Marvin Tate had been forced to resign.

Unfortunately, we weren't supposed to tell you why he was forced to resign or who had done the forcing — the explanation was made off the record.

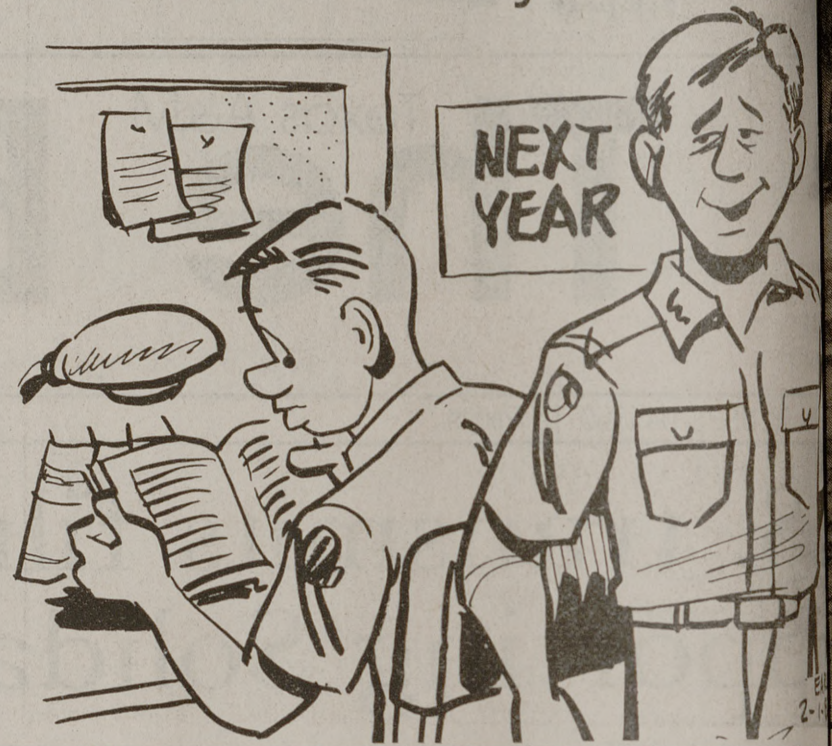
After five months of skulduggery and subterfuge, it's time for someone to develop a backbone. Someone, anyone, must stand up and say, on the record, exactly what has been going on at the University.

Just for starters, they could explain why Texas A&M has suffered nationwide embarrassment in its search for a new athletic director, and what role Vandiver and the Board of Regents played in this search — on the record.

While they're at it, they also could explain why there seems to be a revolving door on the offices of some University officials — but say it on the record.

As we all know, Texas A&M is a school of traditions — traditions that die hard. But, for the sake of the University's credibility, this "off-the-record-no-comment-confidential-source" tradition has got to go.

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Sure, you can make good grades if you study, but where's the challenge? Think of the stimulation of having your back against the wall, the semester is running out, your grades are behind, all of your tests are scheduled for the same day and the odds are against you — then comes the thrill of seeing what you're made of!"



# Letter: Chancellor-Chairman Bum

**Editor:**  
I am a part-time free-lance reporter and would like to give you the latest scoop:

Texas A&M University Systems Board of Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright of Dallas has been selected as the new Texas A&M University System Chancellor. When asked to comment on his selection as Chancellor, Bright said he was glad to be the first person named "Chairman-Chancellor." Bright says he can now unify the System with greater ease. As chairman of the selection committee Bum Bright said, "We are pleased with the selection we made for Chancellor and feel I am the best person for the job." Texas A&M University President Frank Vandiver today submitted his resignation. Vandiver said, "I cannot effectively operate as president without a backbone." Chairman-Chancellor Bum Bright accepted Vandiver's resignation with deep regret. Bright said, "I am sorry to see Frank leave, but if he has a medical

problem I guess he can't help it; and I'll just have to name a selection committee to pick a new president. Named to the committee to pick a new president were Bum Bright, Board Chairman; and Bum Bright, Chancellor. Chairman-Chancellor Bright today decreed that all football coaches at A&M must give blood and have their first born named "Bum Jr." When asked to comment Texas A&M football coach Bum Phillips, whose \$2 million a year contract makes him the richest coach in the nation, said he thought it was a great idea and would do anything in his power to cooperate with Bum Bright. Chairman-Chancellor Bright said to call him "CC" Bum Bright instead of Chairman-Chancellor. It is expected that the selection committee will name CC Bum Bright as the new University President.

This completes my report on the Aggie Administration and I will send you further reports if anything else develops.

Chris Glaeser '80

## Cookies not the real problem

**Editor:**

I am finding it hard to accept the attitudes expressed by Mark Lynch in the Jan. 28 issue of The Battalion. I am referring to a letter in which he so brutally tore apart Angelique Copeland's editorial about Girl Scout cookie con artists.

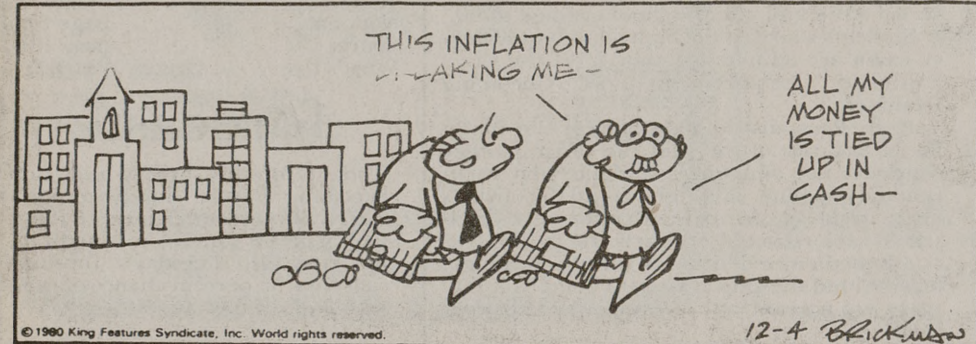
Just exactly what is it that Mark would like to find on the editorial page of The Battalion each day? Many times this space is given to articles which concern themselves with the small trials and tribulations of everyday life. Consider the article written by Dave Spence appearing on the editorial page Jan. 21, in which he described his dislike of standing in long lines. Why does Mark not find articles such as that an atrocious "use of limited space for a personal problem?"

While I agree that Copeland's editorial was not one of the most earth-shaking features, I found it very interesting and informative. If there are fraudulent salespeople practicing on this campus, then someone should certainly bring it to our attention.

I cannot believe that Mark was actually so upset over this simple article, nor can I understand the big ordeal he made of it. Why did he have to be so hard on her? I believe that there is something bothering him that extends far beyond an article about cookies. I, for one, would love to know just what is really is.

Jan Swaner '83

## the small society by Brickman



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12-4 Brickman

# All those times when you can't win for losing

"May I help you?"  
"Yes, ma'am. I'd like to sell these books," I answered.

"OK, let's see what you have here," and she took the box from my arms and began to rummage through its bound contents. "Complete Plays of Shakespeare, Basic Trig and Business Law. Oh I'm sorry. This anthology of Kierkegaard has been revised. We can't buy it."

"How can you revise Kierkegaard?" I asked.  
"They rearranged the individual works."

"In other words, all they did was scramble the pages to sell a new edition."

"Oh, no. They also redid the cover."

"There's more in there," I retorted, pointing at the other volumes.

"Yes, this ... and this ... can't take this ... let's see, that's five ... and three, is eight ... and two ... and this ... I can give you ... five dollars even."

"For sixteen books?"  
Do you ever feel that you are taken advantage of as a student?

"Just sign there ... yes ... that's fine."

"What is this I'm signing?" I asked.

The girl with the polyurethane face and the silicon hair sitting behind a wood-veneered monolith answered me completely, "It's nothing."

"I see. Well, who exactly is my landlord?"

"Well," and she sat concentrating for a moment, "I suppose it's Omny-Poe-Tent, the ownership firm of this complex."

"I thought they owned Winchester across the street."

"They own everything within a mile radius of this complex," she replied.

"Oh. Well, when can I move in? I'd like to be in town by the 28th so I can find a job before classes start."

Again, she answered me completely, "That'll be find. But we need a check by the first of the preceding month to establish credit for August's rent, which is prorated for the 28th back to the 14th, so your rent check will need to be for \$260, in addition to your deposit of \$200, plus to get utilities initiated, so that'll be ... \$485."

"But I'll only be in the apartment for two days ..."



dave spence

Sometimes this town seems to be stalled on campus. The road water reach the camp 2,000 live worth about was never i major ped thoroughfa Ray, dire mainten And th from vehic sive pedestr the Prairie pair, he sa some of the have adequ support the The first in 1974 by a loose grav crushed lin used. The compact e firm found stead, it to under p cracks in t Crews

lately to squeeze every dollar from vulnerable wallet. ...

"Please step out of the car, son."

"Sure, officer. What seems to be the problem? Was I sp-?"

"May I see your license, son?"

"Sure," and I dug nervously in my jacket, shaking and sweating like a man, still not knowing what offense I committed.

The patrolman scrutinized my face and handed it back to me. "Your license plate light is flickering. I'll have you for the violation."

"Geez, thanks, officer," I couldn't from mumbling.

"You been drinkin', boy?"

Apparently, he had not noticed my age, 19, which legally protects me from being called "boy." Still, I answered promptly, "No, sir."

"Smokin'?"

"No, sir."

"This your car, son?"

"Yes, sir."

"Got your insurance papers?"

"My what?"

There's a new law in the state. You must present proof (Xerox of etc.) of your liability insurance policy with a minimum of \$10,000 per person per year. Proof will be requested along with your drivers license when you are pulled over for any traffic offense — no matter how minute. A first offense carries a fine; second offense — \$200.

I'm not a suspicious person. Don't me wrong. But wouldn't a college student, many of whom don't know anything about their insurance, seem like ripe fruit begging to be picked? Get those papers!

## The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and the address and phone number of the writer. Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 251-2611.

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