

Endorsements questioned

by Beverly Hamilton
Battalion Staff

Many people who read endorsements on the editorial pages of newspapers during an election campaign are reading them for new views; others read them to confirm their own ideas. Glen Dromgoole, editor of Bryan-College Station Eagle, said some people question the effectiveness of newspaper endorsements, especially in local elections. "I think people pretty much make up their own minds on (national elections)," he said. "We might have a little more effect on local and state elections and lesser-known races like judgeships." Dromgoole said it is important for the paper to endorse a candidate whether the endorsement sways public opinion or not, he said. "We just add our voice to other voices," he said. The editorial board of the Eagle, consisting of the publisher, editor, managing editor and two associate editors — interviews candidates, discusses the merits and then votes to decide which candidates will be endorsed, he said. "We give our positions on the candidates and the best candidates to endorse," Dromgoole said. "Some people question whether it may harm our objectivity as a newspaper but it seems it would be a cop-out not to endorse." In an editorial for the county court-at-law race, the Eagle did not endorse a candidate, Dromgoole said, because there was "not much to be served by either candidate." The Brenham Banner Press does not endorse candidates in local elections, editor Charles Moser said. "We only endorse on the national level if we feel strongly for a candidate," he said. Moser said he decides who will be endorsed in the paper. "We have a lot who ask us to endorse them, but it's not a criteria for our endorsement," he said. "I feel we have an obligation to do it, but I don't think it changes people's minds." John Senderling, editorial page director for Dallas Times-Herald, said the paper endorses "everything on the ballot even down to constitutional amendments." The endorsements have an effect on local races but not on the national elections, Senderling said. "In local races, they may not be familiar with the candidates, so they may follow newspapers to make a decision," he said.

The editorial board of the Times-Herald decides which candidates will be endorsed, he said. The paper then compares the candidates in editorials and explains its reasons for endorsing them. Right before the election, the paper runs an endorsement summary on the editorial page. "Once we endorsed a person not greatly enamored by the newspaper because we didn't feel his opponent would be a good choice for the position," Senderling said. Endorsements may be important to candidates. "We rely quite heavily on endorsements by newspapers," said Trey Strake, son of George Strake, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. Strake said he serves as a surrogate for his father by traveling and campaigning throughout Texas. The small rural newspaper endorsements are important to the candidates because people in small towns tend to follow the papers, he said. The Houston Chronicle, which endorsed Lloyd Bentsen for the U.S. Senate and William Clements for Texas governor, relies on its editorial board to decide which candidates will be endorsed. "Candidates frequently call upon us," said Les Bennett, senior associate editor for the Chronicle. "We listen to what they have to say and then make a decision." The Chronicle endorses its candidates in editorial form and then lists a summary of the endorsements right before the election, Bennett said.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram interviews every candidate in every election before endorsements are made, said Mike Strickland, assistant managing editor. "We seek them out," he said. "We want to make sure we've got everybody." Once the candidates are interviewed, he said, recommendations are made to the executive editor of the paper, who makes the final decision on which candidates will be endorsed. "This also goes for amendments," Strickland said. "No matter what we say, it won't make any difference," he said. "But many seek out the opinions of the major institution in the community. We're offering a public service to them." The Houston Post has a policy, started years ago, of not endorsing candidates, a spokesman for the paper said. "We think it is wise to give comprehensive and detailed coverage of the candidates but not to recommend," the spokesman said. "Endorsement of candidates does not mean much. We print what they say and what they stand for. We let people try to make up their own minds."

effects of divorce on children, the words divorce, children, and adjustment could be used and only citations for material that pertains to all three subjects would be printed. Usually a citation telling where to look for the information and sometimes, depending on the space available in the file, a summary of the article will be printed. "The computer is not to answer questions but to tell you where to look to find the answer," Gilreath said. "Texas A&M began the service in 1974 on a small grant from the University Research Fund and has been successful from the beginning," he said. The library averages 100 to 130 people a month using the service. One of the limitations of the system is that it only goes back to the 1960s and information from earlier years can only be found in the printed files, Gilreath said. The library has access to seven computer systems with more than 300 files. Also available for research are the Monarch Notes. Monarch Notes, which are kept on microfilm, include book and play reviews. Sometimes the notes include a collection of an author's work or a broad subject such as Roman literature.

Library computer finds sources more efficiently

by Kelley Smith
Battalion Reporter

The Automated Information Retrieval Service is a computer system that combines information from many printed reference sources. AIRS enables students to search more than 150 indexes, abstracting services and directories quicker and more efficiently, AIRS director Charles Gilreath said. The user pays only for computer time and the cost of any mailed-in printouts. AIRS is more flexible than printed references because one subject or a combination of several can be searched for at one time, Gilreath said. If a user is researching the

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NEW YORK — Students who read newspapers in class are apt to become better citizens, according to two recent studies. The research was done with 100 city grade school students in Richmond, Va., and high school students in San Francisco. Both studies indicate frequent, year-round use of daily newspapers as a teaching device significantly increase student interest in and knowledge of current events, while improving their ability to use the paper effectively.

The research was done for the Newspaper Readership Project of the Newspaper Advertising Bureau, Inc.

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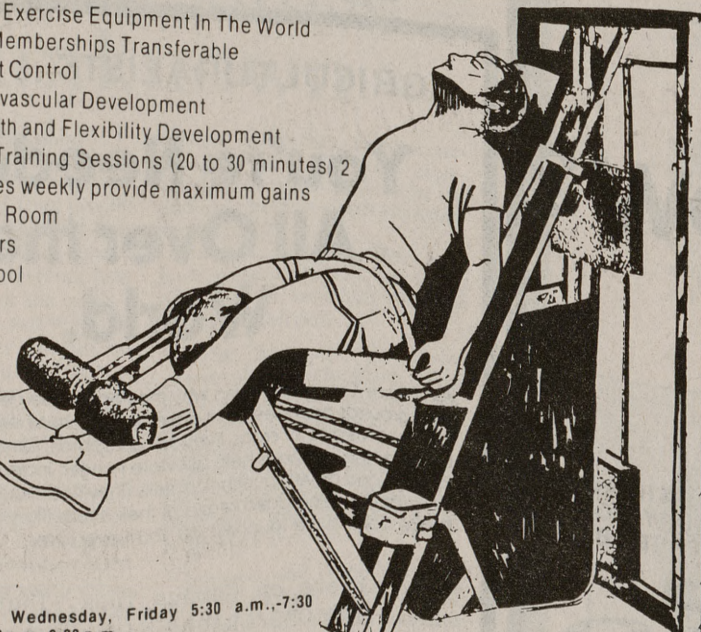
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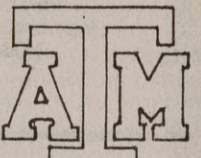
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apartment, and John could find a new place to live.

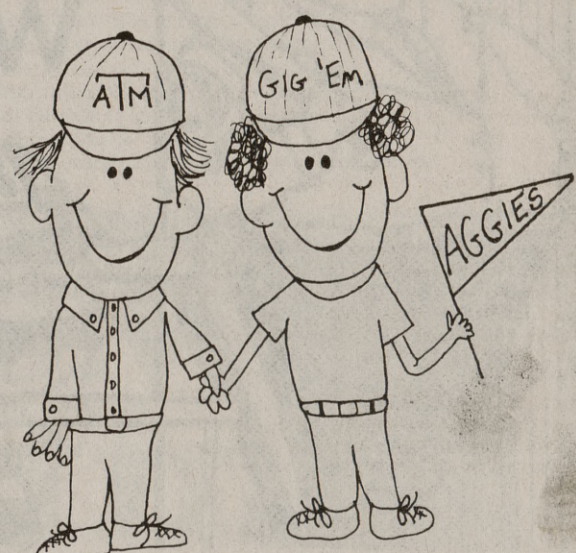
- 3) They could talk to the manager to see if it is possible for John to move into a smaller, less expensive apartment in the same complex.
- 4) The final option is not recommended. They could break the lease and move out. It is incorrect to think you forfeit only your security deposit if you break your lease.

Many apartment managers and property owners are now reporting residents who break leases to the local Credit Bureau. This can have an impact on your future ability to gain credit. You can also be sued for the remainder of the rent you owe. If you are sued and unable to pay, a judgment can be filed against you. A judgment on your record can prevent you from obtaining loans and credit. Also, certain personal property that you acquire can be used for payment of the judgment.

In the event that you or your roommate must move out, consider the available options. Also remember that the Students' Legal Advisors cannot advise one student against another. The Off-Campus Center has advisors and student staff who are trained to help students with roommate and landlord situations. Stop by the Off-Campus Center-Purveyer Hall, or give us a call at 845-1741. We will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

ADOPT-A-FISH

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) recently began the "Adopt-a-Fish" program. Through this program freshmen and first semester transfer students can participate in residence hall life. Those students taking part in the program will be required to pay the hall's activity fee and will then be assigned to a particular floor, wing, or ramp. The off campus students will attend social functions, educational programs, and fund raisers of the "adopted" residence hall. RHA hopes that through this program off campus students will become more active in campus events and learn more about what it means to be an Aggie. If you are interested, go by the RHA cubicle in Room 216 of the MSC and sign up. Acceptance in this program will be on a first-come, first-served basis.



Loupot's Off Campus Corner is sponsored each month by Loupot's Bookstore at Northgate as a service to Texas A&M students. Stories and artwork are provided by the staff of the Off Campus Center.

OFF CAMPUS CALENDAR

Off Campus Aggies: General Meetings will be held:

Wednesday, November 3 301 Rudder	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 17 301 Rudder	7:00 p.m.

Apartment Council/Officer's Meeting will be held:

Wednesday, November 10 601 Rudder	7:00 p.m.
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Satellites: The Off Campus Center will have resource tables providing information about off campus living. They will be located in the following areas throughout the remainder of the semester.

Tuesday, November 2 A&A Bldg.	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, November 8 MSC	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, November 15 Zachry	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, November 22 Library	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, November 29 A&A Bldg.	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Manager's Reception: On Thursday, November 11, the Off Campus Center and Off Campus Aggies will sponsor a reception for area property managers, University representatives, and off campus students. The reception will be held from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Off Campus Center in Purveyer Hall.