

Battalion editors

Where are they now?

by Ann Ramsbottom

Battalion Staff

There's a certain glory synonymous with the title, "Battalion editor" — a power that few A&M students can appreciate. The hours are long, the work is hard and the pressures are sometimes tremendous.

Nevertheless, there's a unanimous feeling shared by most former Battalion editors... "It was well worth it and I'd do it again."

The following comments are



Thomas DeFrank

from former Battalion editors:

- Thomas DeFrank, editor 1967 — currently White House correspondent for Newsweek — "When I was editor for The Battalion, we worked like dogs. I neglected everything but the paper. I guess you had to be either crazy or committed. Long hours, hard work and relatively low pay ... I think I'm both crazy and committed because I love it."

"The work I do now is glamorous, but the hours are still long and hard, just like the good 'ol days in the YMCA basement. There's a great demand on my time and energy as a White House correspondent. Last year I spent 102 days on the road covering the president."

- Kim Tyson, editor 1978-79 — currently business reporter for



Kim Tyson

the Austin American Statesman — "While I was editor a lot of things happened; the chancellor resigned, the head football coach resigned under pressure and the University was involved in a court case involving discrimination of women in the Corps."

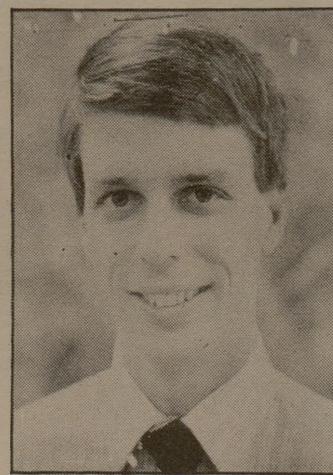
"I also received a lot of publicity for being the first female editor The Battalion had ever had. We worked 24 hours a day sometimes and would sleep with our feet propped up on the typewriter."

- Roy Bragg, editor, spring 1980 — currently Brazos Valley editor for the Eagle — "Working for The Battalion is not a very realistic experience, but it's a very good experience. You can never really find the kind of freedom in a real paper that you have at The Battalion. The state and University become your publishers and they can't restrain your First Amendment freedoms."

"The Battalion provides a good training ground and separates the people who care from the people who don't ... sometimes you might spend 80 to 100 hours a week in the newsroom. When I was editor, I was also carrying 16 hours, I was married and I had an additional 30-hour-a-week job."

"But I loved working for The Battalion. During my semester

as editor, there was a big controversy when we attacked Student Government for holding a closed meeting. Also, I had to fire the sports editor and he attempted to get me fired."



Dillard Stone

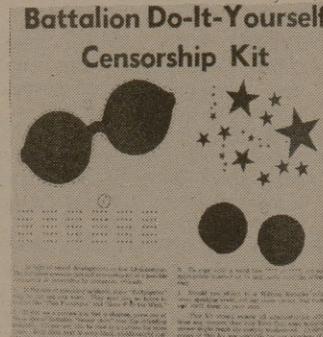
- Dillard Stone, editor 1980-81 — currently copy editor, wire editor and reporter for the Brazosport Facts — "During my year as editor, many exciting things happened; University president, Jarvis Miller was fired, for example. And then there was the pizza. I think I bought enough pizza to buy into Pizza Express."

"The benefits of working at The Battalion are sometimes countered by the adjustment when you get into the real world. You go from top dog to peon and just another \$200-a-week reporter. However, the 10-to 14-hour work days at The Battalion prepare you for the 8-hour work day in the real world."

- Angelique Copeland, editor 1981-82 — "The athletic director resigned during my year as editor. The University always seemed to be searching for something; a new chancellor, a new president or maybe a new athletic director."

"We worked long hours, but I enjoyed the job ... you don't really get into it unless you really enjoy it."

Streaker controversy stirs up campus



Prior restraint said used on newspaper

Board fires Battalion managing editor

Naked groups run across campuses

Streakers catch probation