

## Responsibility is on the voters

One of the major pitfalls of democracy is that it delegates a great deal of responsibility to individual citizens by placing the right to vote in their hands.

In an ideal society, where every citizen was motivated to study the candidates and the issues, this would be an ideal situation. To those of us born and raised under the red, white and blue, it's logical that a nation choose its own ruler. The best man for the job is decided by a vote of an informed, educated citizenry.

But in this nation of 225 million people, many citizens don't even know the names of the candidates, much less what they stand for.

American citizens are not uninformed because of a lack of available information. The major news networks and newspapers have given the candidates extensive coverage along every step of the campaign trail.

Aggies in particular have no excuse. Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson paid a visit to Texas A&M last semester. Sen. Gary Hart will speak at 11 a.m. in Rudder Auditorium today. MSC Political Forum is working on getting former vice president Walter Mondale to work a stop at Texas A&M into his schedule.

All it takes to be an informed citizen is opening your eyes and ears. Read a newspaper once in awhile. Watch the evening news or the various debates between the candidates. Most of all, take advantage of the opportunity to go hear the candidates sell themselves, and then draw your own conclusions.

Apathy is democracy's biggest threat. When citizens abdicate their responsibilities, when don't take the trouble to know the candidates and the issues and choose the best ruler, they place the power in the hands of the few who do care.

They might as well be under the thumb of a dictator.

### The Battalion Editorial Board

- Bill Robinson.....Editor
- Stephanie Ross.....Managing Editor
- Kathy Wiesepape.....Editorial Page Editor
- Shelley Hoekstra.....City Editor
- Brigid Brockman.....News Editor
- Kelley Smith.....News Editor
- Ed Cassavoy.....Sports Editor

### Editorial Policy

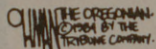
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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

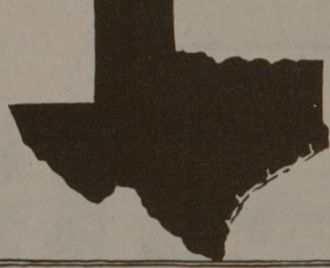



### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials also are welcome. Address all inquiries to the Editorial Page Editor.



## Critical Major Primaries...

 <p><b>TEXAS</b> May 5 Hart needs a big victory here.</p>	 <p><b>OHIO</b> May 8 Mondale looks like a winner.</p>
 <p><b>CALIFORNIA</b> June 5 Hart could pull off a stunning upset.</p>	 <p><b>CHINA</b> April 26 Beauty contest. Reagan is campaigning hard, will blow Democrats out of the water.</p>

## Letters:

### Northgate homogenized

#### Editor:

The opening of the new, boldly inspired Billy Jack's (in the space formerly occupied by Backstage) calls me to write the whole eclectic lot of managers, entrepreneurs, and creative-business-types who make their livings off students, on Northgate.

What a pleasure it has been for me to watch the face of Northgate steadily be homogenized, store-by-store, into the monument of safe, secure, monotonous business-thinking that it is now!

A few years ago it was my fear that Northgate might grow into a strip of colorful, innovative shops. I had nightmares of bookstores that stocked real books (not just required texts), quaint cafes with something more than a "college" atmosphere, a clean movie theater that offered classic film series (not just pulp porn), storefront windows that weren't exclusively decorated with the official seal of the Agriculture and Mechanical College of the state of Texas.

Finally, my fears have vanished. Now Backstage has even yielded to the kind of pine-paneled, beer-stinking hole that so typifies our beloved Northgate.

Thank you, thank you all for your inspiring efforts to provide the public with little more than the same ugly, filthy, stale thing over and over and over again.

Dave Spence  
Class of '84

### A&M history important

#### Editor:

I shall probably be criticized for being so trivial, but I enjoyed the article by Anne M. Hedgecoxe on campus landscaping history in your edition of April 24.

Too often we forget that we are not the first people to be at Texas A&M. I think it quite interesting, even intellectually stimulating, to read about our great University's past history and future possibilities.

I hope such articles on Texas A&M's history will not be overlooked by important (read controversial) pieces on current events.

Mike Cole  
Class of '87

### Chandler to be missed

#### Editor:

A great era in the history of Texas A&M sports will end at the conclusion of the current baseball season. Now that Tom Chandler has announced his retirement many people will speak of his outstanding record as a baseball coach. However, I would like to speak of him personally.

As a student interested in the team I

stopped by from time to time to talk to Chandler. On every occasion coach Chandler would put aside what he was doing and answer my questions in a most genial and informative fashion. Through these conversations with Chandler I came to know what a fine man he is. His integrity and friendliness are attributes not often found in the coaching profession today. In short, Tom Chandler is exactly the kind of man we need coaching here.

Thanks for 26 outstanding years coach and I hope you have the pleasurable and fulfilling retirement you so richly deserve.

Richard H. Fosberg  
Class of '78

### A&M needs two bands

#### Editor:

I have a solution to the problem with the Aggie Band.

Is it fair that a University of 37,000 students clings to an ancient tradition of drawing band members from a group of approximately 2,000 students, the Corps of Cadets? Does an all male, military band effectively represent the Texas A&M student body?

I don't believe it does. I know of well-qualified students who chose to attend other schools because of the band requirement.

We should create a co-ed non-military band to perform along with the Aggie Band. Isn't it ironic that as we prepare to enter the twenty-first century, in many areas, Texas A&M has failed to arrive in the twentieth?

Glenn S. Murtha  
Class of '86

### Memorial's home Old Main

#### Editor:

I beg to differ with Mr. Cargill. Unless 60 years worth of west gate photographs are lying, then the World War I Memorial has always been at the Old Main entrance.

For reference, just check editions of The Longhorn from 1930, page 37; 1933, page 5; and 1935, page 1. For a view of Guion Hall, page 30 of the 1929 edition — with no memorial. The hall was razed in 1971; did they move it that early? The proof is located on the fourth floor, LD 5309 A2 section, south side of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

I know of some classes that won't stand being sold short, a student body which will not be sold at all, and 55 souls who have given their lives, and only have their sacred honor left.

Matthew E. Raney  
Class of '80

## Service is key to growth

Bryan-College Station churches are booming, and expansion is underway to relieve the overflow. Many of these churches are meeting in local schools during expansion, worshipping in foreign languages, or forming religious sprouts of themselves.

When you only can see the pastor through head-to-head valleys, it's time to add pews. But, coping with this growth surge can be tricky.

It's wonderful that local churches are jumping right in and going for the gusto. Local churches are forking out big bucks — \$4.5 million — for expansion. But, these congregations know their ropes when it comes to good deals.

Heading for local schools for weekly worship is a new idea. Churches pay reasonable hourly rates — \$10 for a classroom, \$15 for a cafeteria, \$17 for a gym, and \$20 for an auditorium — for utilities.

It's a sure-fire idea. These church-school relationships are an excellent way to cope with church growth and the hectic times that come with the territory. Schools open their doors for Sunday worship and serve their neighbors; in return, the churches pay for renting their home away from homes. Rental buddies — not a breakdown of separation of church and state.

Local school districts should be congratulated for being exceptionally understanding and cooperative with these churches. Cooperation — the name of the game.

Local congregations are on a roll, providing essential support groups for the community. The local trend of reaching out to others is our rainbow of hope in these rainy times of spiraling inflation and huge deficits.

Renewed religious awareness will help local churches go to be even more perceptive to the religious, social and emotional needs of the community. This awareness also will stimulate the community to grow closer together.

People identify with people of similar backgrounds, so local worship — Hispanic, Korean and Chinese — will continue to blossom in the area.

It's a gift from heaven. Worship in foreign language adds a lemon-lime twist to local church growth. The growth should be welcomed and encouraged because we can learn from other religions and cultures.

We must overcome our prejudices and take the time to soak up new religious beliefs and ideas. But, express your feelings too, so others can learn from you.

Each churches has its own pizzazz — another bonus since needs of communities also differ.

For example, churches in the Northgate area such as St. Mary's Catholic and A&M United Methodist cater to the religious needs of Texas A&M students, while churches farther from campus such as St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic and Cornerstone Baptist focus more on families.

It's like peanuts for elephants, bananas for monkeys. Congregations of the twin cities have their acts together, and the community will benefit from local people helping people. They come from all directions — religious rainbow of denominations.

With congregations outgrowing their pews, we should be thankful for the people who help spread love and encouragement throughout the area. These churches should be proud about giving of themselves and reaching out to others who are less fortunate than they.

We should use our special talents to make the world a better place. Sure, many people waste their talents by not using them, but we must be determined to make positive contributions to our community.

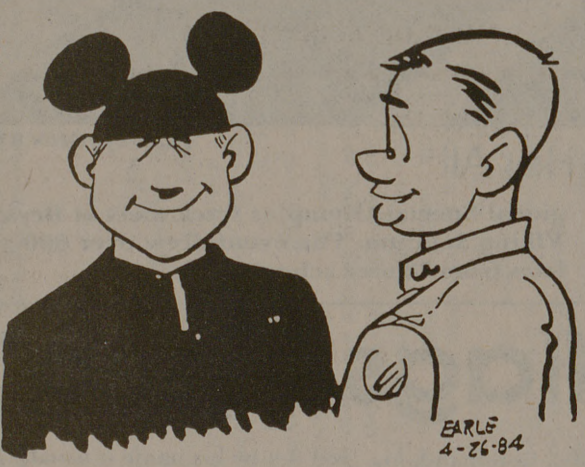
Service — the key to growth. From personal experience, I have found that you can multiply your rewards — friendship, self-esteem and personal satisfaction — serving others.

Try it. You'll like it.



wanda winkler

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"It does make a memorable cap and gown combination, but you'd better cool it until after you get that diploma."

## Argentina borrows from debtors

By ART BUCHWALD

As you may have read in the newspaper, Argentina was bailed out of a serious debt situation this month.

While this is not big news, the fact that Mexico and Brazil came to the rescue caused a few raised eyebrows because they owe more money than Argentina does. How can a country that is broke itself borrow money to bail out another country that is also bankrupt?

It's all done with mirrors.

The Finance Minister of Brazil goes to a consortium of American and European Banks and says, "We want to borrow \$50 million."

"But," protests the consortium, "you are into us for billions already. How can we loan you any more money?"

"This money isn't for us. It's to give to Argentina so it can pay interest on its debt."

"Why would you want to give money to Argentina when you can't pay back what you owe us?"

"Because Argentina is our friend."

"That isn't a very good excuse for giving you \$50 million."

"If you don't loan us the money to give to Argentina, she will be in default on all her loans and then America and European banks will be stuck for the money."

"We're prepared to take the loss," the consortium says.

"If Argentina goes into default, then Brazil won't feel obligated to repay her loans. Are you prepared for that?"

"You're blackmailing us for \$50 million."

"It is more than 50. The Finance Minister from Mexico is going to ask you for \$100 million to loan to Argentina."

"But Mexico's broke too."

"Who isn't? If you people want to stay in the international banking business, you're going to have to continue loaning money to countries who want to bail out the one whose interest is due at that moment. Look, the money doesn't even have to leave your banks. You take the \$50 million that you're loaning to Brazil, and you just credit it to Argentina's account."

"Does the United States government know what you're doing?"

"They put us up to it. They were afraid if they bailed out Argentina by themselves it would set a precedent."

"Suppose we give you the money? What happens when the interest payments on Brazil's loans are due?"

"Then it will be Argentina's turn to borrow the money from you to loan to us."

