

## Aggie paramedics giving quality care

The work of paramedics and emergency medical technicians is one of those things that is often taken for granted. If you are sick or injured, you expect the ambulance crew to do everything possible to help.

If you are not, usually you don't care. But the service has to be there, and be good, in spite of apathy. The epitome of emergency medicine, the state-of-the-art, is advanced life support: procedures like starting IV's and inserting advanced airway tubes.

Aggies are lucky. The Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services has had the capability to use these advanced techniques since its inception in 1979, although it has rarely been permitted to.

So it was something of a milestone Tuesday when Texas A&M EMS re-

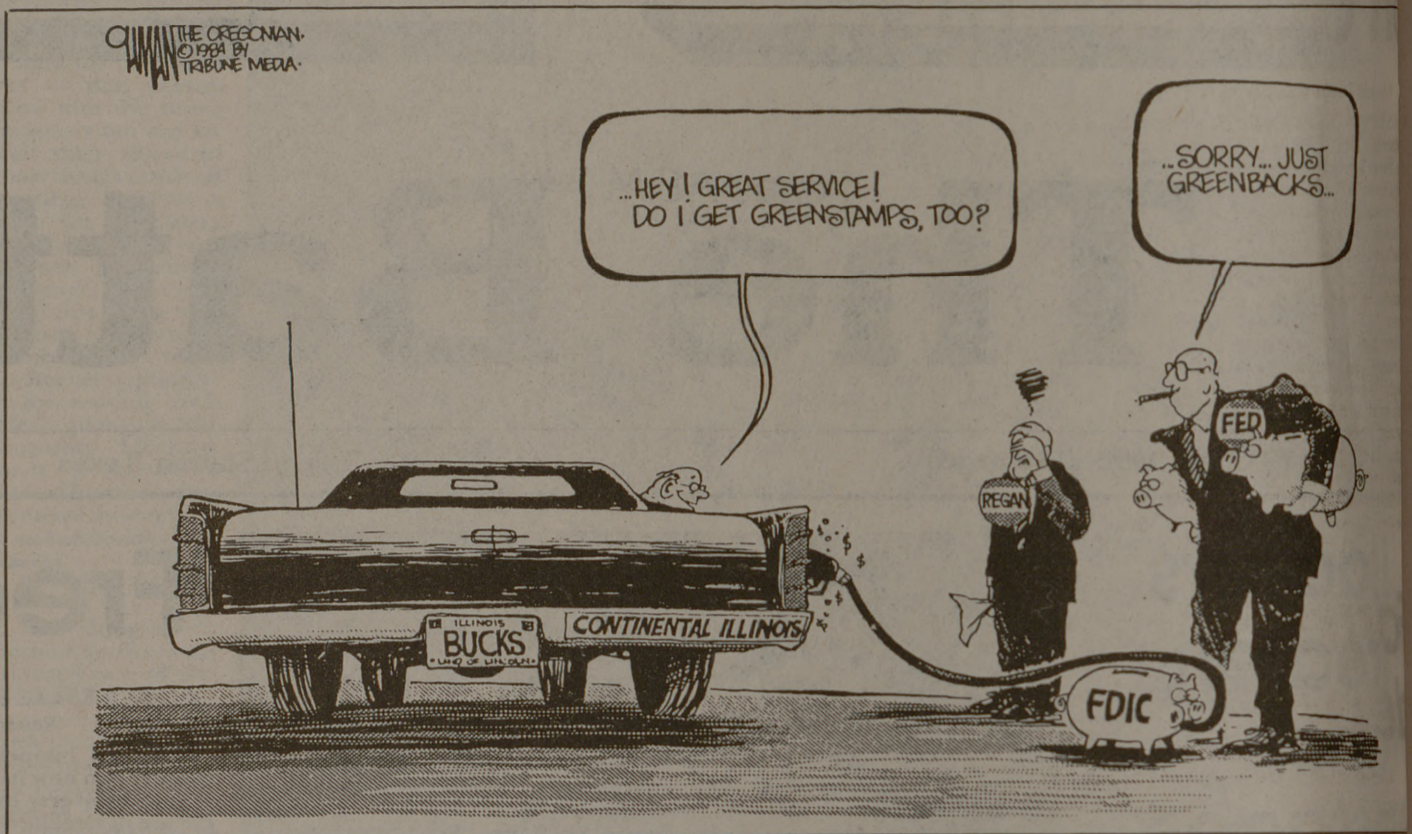
ceived permission from St. Joseph Hospital to make use of that training and start an IV on a fireman training school participant with heart problems who collapsed in the MSC.

The use of those advanced skills was a big step for the Texas A&M EMS program. David Phillips, the Texas A&M EMS chief, sees it as step toward full acceptance of the controversial area of advanced life support by both St. Joseph Hospital and the Bryan-College Station area.

It's nice to know that the program is being more fully accepted by the local medical community. And we can expect continued top-notch basic care for people injured on the Texas A&M campus.

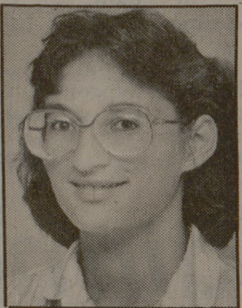
That's worth at least \$15 a semester, wouldn't you say.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



## Foreign TA's strive for student understanding

When I found out two summers ago that my husband would be sharing an office with a graduate student named Krishnamurthy Muralidhar, I had some reservations. Would we be able to understand him? Would he find anything in common with us? How well would he be able to teach?



Rebecca Dimeo

Both Kris and my husband started their doctoral programs in business analysis during the summer of 1982. Both were assigned to assist with a class that summer, and both, though graduate students, were soon given charge of a class. My husband began teaching in the fall of 1982 while Kris had to wait until spring to teach, both

with master's students assigned to them as TA's.

Watching Kris in the office with his students these past two years has erased my doubts about the effectiveness of foreign graduate teaching assistants. Last spring Kris was assigned to teach the same class my husband teaches. Now that I could compare students in the same course both taught by graduate students, one from the United States and one from India, I began to wonder how the problems of teaching as a graduate student are compounded for foreign students.

Jim Lane, assistant international student adviser, says language problems and culture shock are the biggest adjustments for all foreign students, not just those teaching classes.

Adapting to English is not a problem that Kris, nor any of his friends from India, has to face. Although India has many different native languages, classes are taught in English in most of the schools.

For this reason, Kris understandably gets angry when students say he can't speak English. We laughed at the end of the spring semester at a criticism one of his students wrote on an evaluation form.

"Basically, I would have enjoyed the class alot (sic) more if I had another prof who wasn't such a smart ass (underlined), sarcastic, pig-headed, and spoke English," a student said.

And I'm sure Kris would have enjoyed teaching more if he had more students who could write a decent English sentence.

I realize my view of foreign graduate teaching assistants is biased; after all one is my husband's best friend. I also sympathize with the foreign students who barely speak English, remembering the stories my father told me. As a child new to the United States he was thrust into a classroom and hardly spoke more than a few words in class for an entire year.

I can also sympathize with students

who actually have a problem understanding a foreign TA. When I arranged an interview with Ishwar Murthy, also a doctoral student in business analysis from India, I arrived at room 115 at the appointed time. When I got there, it was the wrong room. He had told me room 150, not 115, but I misunderstood.

It is more than just my opinion, however, that students don't always give foreign graduate teaching assistants a fair chance. Tina Watkins, international student adviser, says students from the United States don't realize the high standards the foreign students must meet before they are even admitted. A required 3.5 minimum grade point average, satisfactory results on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language, and departmental interviews and screenings for graduate students who want to teach bring only the best international students to Texas A&M.

"We put enough restrictions on for-

oreign students that they really want to come," she says.

Dr. Bill Perry, associate professor of mathematics and coordinator of orientation program for math TA's, says students having problems with foreign TA usually request a change of section during the first week of class. He says this isn't enough time for students to evaluate the foreign TA performance, so he advises them to stay with the TA another week. At that, most have adjusted to the arrangement, he says.

Although Kris has been speaking English all his life, he knows he has an Indian accent. He is also aware of his cultural differences but doesn't think they should interfere with teaching ability.

"I definitely think some students have reservations about me," he says. "By the time they get out, I hope I changed their opinions."

(Rebecca Dimeo is a senior journalism major.)

## Letters:

### Kansas State prof appreciates Aggies

Editor: While trying to get to the airport Thursday morning, July 19, I received much-appreciated assistance from two fine ladies at the desk of the guest house of the Memorial Student Center. An expected taxi did not arrive and the ladies made calls to the taxi company, to the airport to ask that my plane be held and, finally one of them rushed me to the airport in her own car (no doubt losing a good parking place.) We arrived only a minute before boarding time.

During the flurry of activity I failed to get the names of the women; I hope this letter conveys to them how much I appreciated their unselfish and courteous efforts in my behalf. Also, while I was waiting out front for the cab, and still expecting it, a student just coming off night duty at the Center offered to take me to the airport.

During the three days I spent on your campus I was impressed by the friendliness of the students, and others, the majority of whom would greet us with a smile and a "howdy" as they passed.

I'm beginning to understand why Texans brag about Texas.

Thanks, ladies!

Robert B. Mills  
Professor of Entomology  
Kansas State University

### New check policy not thought out

Editor: I agree 100 percent with Ms. Fluegal's editorial on the new check cashing policy of the fiscal department. Not all students bank in College Station, and not all student's banks offer automated teller services. The fiscal department may have eliminated the lines in the Coke Building but now the lines will be extremely long in the MSC. More thought should have been put into the effects of such a policy.

Shelli R. Shivers

## G.O.P. searches for convention protesters

By ART BUCHWALD  
Columnist for  
The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The stage managers in charge of the Republican National Convention in Dallas are in a tizzy. How do you keep the TV public's attention for four days when the nominations of the President and his Vice President are a sure thing?

I went over to Republican campaign headquarters to see what was going on.

One of the people producing the show was screaming at his assistant. "The only thing that will set this convention on fire are angry demonstrators on the outside of the hall."

"No one wants to demonstrate against Reagan in Dallas," the assistant said. "I've been talking to the gay community in San Francisco and they turned me down flat."

"Did you tell them we'd pay their way if they'd throw stones and block streets?"

"Of course I did. But they said they would rather go to the beach in August."

"How about the environmental groups? Surely they have reason to protest this administration."

"The Sierra Club is going to be in the Sierras, the Audobon Society told me they'd rather be birdwatching, and the Friends of the Earth are holding their own convention in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming. I couldn't even get a handful of anti-nuke demonstrators to come in from New Hampshire."

"The Sierra Club is going to be in the Sierras, the Audobon Society told me they'd rather be birdwatching, and the Friends of the Earth are holding their own convention in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming. I couldn't even get a handful of anti-nuke demonstrators to come in from New Hampshire."

"What about the peaceniks who want us to pull out of Central America?"

"They were afraid to come because of Texas' reputation for police brutality."

The stage manager was frustrated. "They all scream about the Reagan administration, but where are they when we need them? I told the party honchos Dallas was a lousy place to hold our show."

"Why do you need demonstrators?" I asked him.

"Because we have to show some contrast between what's going on inside the hall and what's going on outside. How can our speakers attack the people demonstrating outside when there is nobody there? Couldn't you find any hardcore secular humanists willing to demonstrate against prayers in school?" the manager asked.

"Most secular humanists are on vacation in August."

"What about the National Organization for Women? Can't we get them to come to Dallas?"

"They said they were thinking about demonstrating at our convention, but concluded it would be a waste of time."

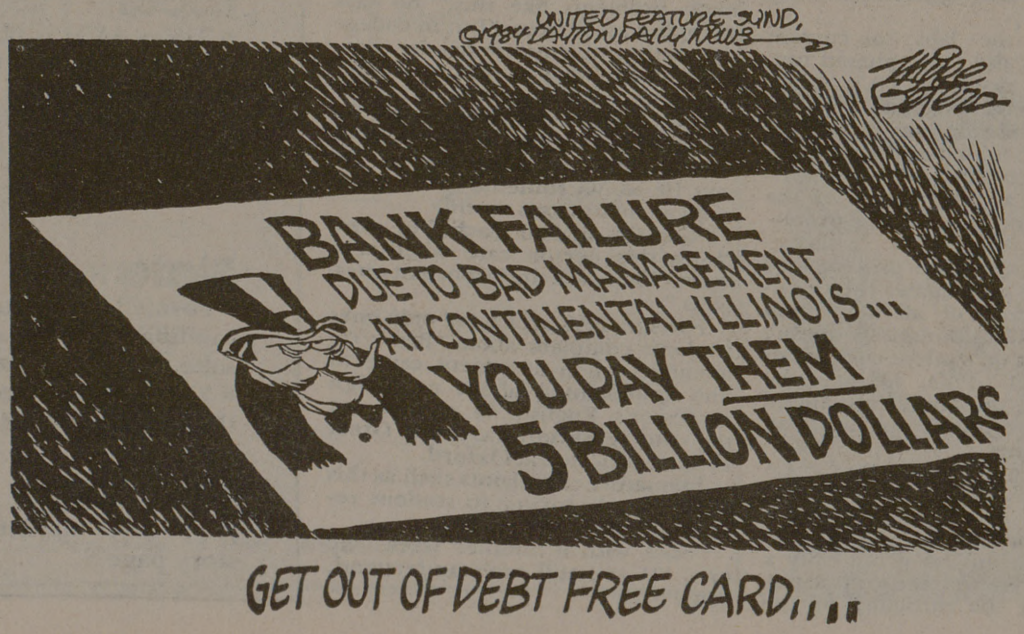
"I promised ABC, CBS and NBC there would be riots outside of the convention hall and the National Guard would be standing by. We

haven't even come up with one. He panicked to protest the Simpson-Mazzoli bill."

"If you want my opinion," the assistant said, "I think there is a conspiracy amongst all the organizations who are against Reagan to boycott our convention. They figure if there is no turnout everyone will watch an old movie on an independent channel, and no one will even see our candidates on the air."

"That very thought dawned on me," the stage manager said. "Well, if the don't want to play that game we'll play it ourselves. Get me the Dallas chief of police."

The assistant dialed and handed the phone to the manager. "Chief, this is the convention planner. Listen, there is going to be a bearded guy outside the convention hall with a big Mondrian button on his shirt holding a 'Get Out of El Salvador' sign. When the TV cameras show up he's going to set fire to an American flag. You can arrest him, but tell your people not to beat up on him too much, because he really my assistant and I'm going to need him to organize the show inside the hall."



The Battalion  
USPS 045 360

Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

### The Battalion Editorial Board

Rebecca Zimmermann, Editor  
Bill Robinson, Editorial Page Editor  
Shelley Hoekstra, City Editor  
Brigid Brockman, News Editor  
Kathleen Hart, News Editor  
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

### The Battalion Staff

Assistant City Editor ..... Robin Black  
Assistant News Editors ..... Dena Brown,  
Bonnie Langford  
Staff Writers ..... Ed Alanis,  
Kari Fluegel, Bob McGlohon,  
Sarah Oates  
Copy Writers ..... Karen Bloch,  
Cyndy Davis  
Copy Editor ..... Tracie Holub  
Photographers ..... Peter Rocha,  
Eric Evan Lee

### 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. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

### 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. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.