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What's up

Tuesday

PHI KAPPA PHI: will hold its annual initiation banquet in 226 MSC at 6:30 p.m.

VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at noon in front of Academic Building to hold silent protest in commemoration of the anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam. At 7 p.m. on April 30 they will hold torch parades at Rudder Fountain.

HISTORY CLUB: Professor Terry Anderson will present "Popular American Music, 1950-1970" Tuesday at 7 p.m. in 100 HECC.

PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY: tickets for Annual Initiation Banquet can be picked up in 205 Reed McDonald before Friday.

OFF-CAMPUS CENTER: will be holding roommate sessions for off-campus students looking for roommates and/or housing for fall or summer 1985. Sessions start today at 3 p.m. in 402 & 404 Rudder.

Wednesday

A&M CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: invites everyone to the monthly rally Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 101, Soil & Crops Sciences Bldg.

TAMU CHESS CLUB: will meet Wednesday in 305AB Rudder from 8:30-11 p.m. Players of all strengths welcome.

MSC DINNER THEATRE: will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Those interested in helping with this summer's feature plays, Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl" and Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians", are invited to the first meeting.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

News

(continued from page 1)

lost his credit to me as a reporter. He obviously did not take the time to research."

Amy Lister, also of Chi Omega, said, "(The column) was so off the wall that people thought it was funny."

Powe said, "(Students) laugh and make fun and criticize. If we're so below contempt, then why do they take us so seriously?"

But columnists at The Battalion said they don't intend to needle their readers — just make them think.

Kevin Inda, a columnist for the spring semester, said, "I don't think I've ever written anything to stir things up."

Inda said he prefers to write about local happenings.

"People like to read stuff they can really get a grasp on," he said.

But Loren Steffy, former columnist, got inspiration for his columns from a different source.

"Generally, I just pick up a paper and see what makes me mad," Steffy said. "I'm trying to get people to shift their attention to the national side (of events)."

The two columnists say that they made a good team this spring and that their message was clear.

"The point is usually to say things do go wrong at A&M," Steffy said.

But Dr. Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the problem with The Battalion's written opinions is not the opinions themselves, nor the research behind them.

"The tone of the editorial is more strident than it needs to be," Fallon said. "A sort of bow to the audience would be more helpful, as opposed to jumping in with all the trumpets blaring."

Some students also find problems with The Battalion's coverage of national news.

Eric Thode, former speaker pro tem of the Student Senate, said, "If you're reading it for national news, you shouldn't be. It's a school paper. It ought to be school news."

Denis Davis, Memorial Student Center Council president, said The Battalion's stories on the council are "well informed and correct," but that she does not completely trust the newspaper's national news coverage.

The Battalion uses The Associated Press wire service in addition to local stories.

Spring Editor Brigid Brockman said, "All too often we do end up using the wire service just to fill up the paper."

Dillard Stone, former reporter for The Brazosport Facts, said, "You won't be able to fill a local paper five

days a week with local news."

Fallon adds, "The Batt actually provides more national and international news than The Eagle."

What seems to rattle readers the most is when The Battalion reporters dive into unfamiliar realms, and some people and organizations are misrepresented.

Rollins said "I think (The Battalion's coverage) varied by who was doing the reporting. Some reported very well, some were clueless. (Some reporters) had no grip on the reality of what the Corps was doing."

Stone, who also is a teaching assistant in the communications department, said, "Being students, the people at The Batt cannot build a consistency (in reporting areas) that is available to professional journalists. That makes it difficult to develop and maintain sources."

C.J. Leabo, professor of journalism, said, "One of the weaknesses of The Battalion is that it does not have a well-structured city desk."

The newspaper needs a better system to keep tabs on local news and a more organized calendar system for future events, he said.

Brockman said that The Battalion's coverage of club activities could be more thorough if the club would send information about its activities to the newspaper.

But the hardest aspect of news-writing to explain is those blatant mistakes.

Leabo said, "We stand naked before the public everyday."

And unfortunately the facts and figures sometimes miss the mark.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of the Department of Student Activities, said, "There's been a lot of inaccuracy (in The Battalion)."

Jim Collins, Student Government election commissioner, said reporters often have shown up for an interview without note pads, and the result of a remembered quote was a misquote.

Donald Carter, associate registrar of admissions and records, said, "They have misquoted us and given erroneous information."

Registration and graduation dates incorrectly printed in The Battalion have prompted some students to make unnecessary trips to Carter's office, only to be told not to believe everything they read in the newspaper, Carter said.

Some misprints have even "caused the higher administration to get down on us," he adds.

To remedy those errors, Carter said he now asks Battalion reporters to double-check the facts with him before the newspaper carries the story.

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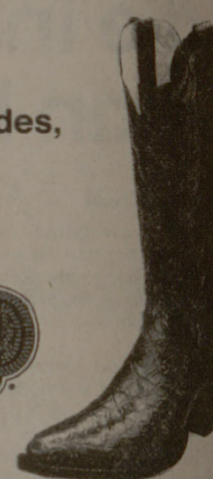
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