

inside

Dear Readers:

As the year draws to a close, so do this semester's issues of *At Ease*. We decided to end things with a fun topic, or at least one that we hold near and dear to our hearts.

Being aware that most people do not realize what it takes to put out a day's paper, we thought it was high time to introduce everyone to the world of intrigue, the world of excitement, the world of pressure, the world of wonder . . . the world of *The Battalion*.

Our main story outlines a typical day at the paper. With students slaving about 17 of the 24 hours each day, the newsroom is seldom quiet. Each hour, some stage of the paper's production is taking place, and each minute, the next day's *Battalion* is getting closer to its final destination: the printing press. Come spend a day with us as we wrestle the beasts of the journalistic world.

Since there are more than 50 people working for *The Battalion*, it is obvious that not everyone performs the same job. Our second story looks at the people behind the *Battalion*. We talked to editors, staff writers and photographers and asked them what they do, when they do it and why they do it.

Next, we gave the *Battalion* editors a chance to talk to you. So in the fashion of the Dear Editor letters which appear daily in the opinion page's Mail Call, we have a collection of Dear Reader letters.

Our Aggienizing Answers column asks students what they like and don't like about *The Battalion*. Some folks seem to have definite complaints about the newspaper, and others are actually quite satisfied.

Finally, we've included a story on the history of the *Battalion*. You might be surprised to find out that this paper has been around for a long, long time.

Thanks to all of you for making our semester enjoyable, and thank you especially for providing us with so many wonderful attention!! contributions. Please continue to contribute, and to read *At Ease* next semester. And don't ever hesitate to let us know how we're doing. Good luck on finals!

At Ease Staff

Editor
Assistant editor
Senior staff writer
Staff writers

Karen Kroesche
Lydia Berzsenyi
Melisa Hohlt
Staci Finch
Leslie Guy
Tom Reinarts
Dean Saito

Reviewer
Photographer

Welcome to the Batt cave _____ 8

Although thousands of copies of *The Battalion* are read daily, many people never think to look at the story behind the stories. Who decides what will go into the paper each day? When does the day begin in newsroom and does it ever end? What are the steps leading to the completion of each day's paper? We're inviting you to experience A Day at the *Batt*.

Dear Readers _____ 6

Some *Battalion* editors have waited a long time to express their opinion to you, their sometimes faithful readers. In this somewhat unusual Mail Call, *Battalion* staff members take advantage of the situation to get a few things off their minds.

Batt-folks _____ 10

After spending a day at the *Batt*, you are probably wondering who all those people were who we talked about, and exactly what their jobs entail. We've taken the opportunity to introduce some members of the Fall 1987 staff, and let you meet the people behind the pages.

Aggienizing Answers _____ 11

Since our editors had a chance to tell you how they feel, we figured it would only be fair to give you a chance to express your opinions on *The Battalion*.

Remember when . . . _____ 12

The Battalion was born in 1878, only two years after Texas A&M was founded, but back then it was called the *Texas Collegian*. We've come a long way since the early days, but in this article we take a look back at the way things were.

Movie review _____ 4

Steve Martin's new film, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," isn't one of his best, Tom says. But the personality conflict between Martin and co-star John Candy does add humor to the movie.

Album review _____ 4

Progressive music listeners have a new band to listen to, Tom says. Shelleyan Orphan, with the album "Helleborine," follows in the footsteps of the Cocteau Twins and Prefab Sprout, but with more instrumentation than these other bands.