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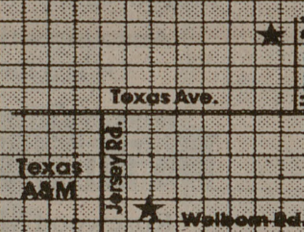
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Bubbles

Jeff Sanchez, from Phoenix, Ariz., takes a study break as he blows bubbles out of the window of his dormitory room on the third floor of Aston Hall which is part of the Commons.

Senior chooses to call A&M home after years of moving

By Carolyn Spruce
Reporter

She's always the new kid in town. She's called at least 20 percent of the states in the United States home, and never had a choice in the matter. Now the daughter of an Army brigadier general is the new kid at Texas A&M.

This time the decision to move was made by Amy Meehan, a senior sociology major, as she found herself choosing to do what she had always dreamed of avoiding.

In the summer of 1988, Meehan was once again adapting to a new environment, as she has done about every two years of her life.

Coming from a military family has also meant living in many different places.

Once she entered college, she thought she would finally be able to settle in once place.

But Meehan chose to transfer to A&M for her senior year from Southwest Texas State University.

She has never lived anywhere for longer than four years.

"Moving must be in my blood now," she said. "I guess I naturally get antsy out of habit if I've lived in one place for too long of a time. I just got tired of Southwest."

"Even though I knew it was part of his job, I hated my father for making us move. There was even a time when I wouldn't speak to him. But I finally realized I always found new friends that I would never give up."

Meehan said she has high hopes for A&M.

"I came to A&M with an optimistic outlook," she said, "and I

hope the Aggie spirit I've heard so much about can give me the feeling of belonging I think I've missed by lacking a true 'hometown'."

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida, Kansas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Ger-

"... I hope the Aggie spirit I've heard so much about can give me the feeling of belonging I think I've missed by lacking a true 'hometown'."

Amy Meehan, senior sociology major

many and back and forth between some of them are included in her list of homes.

Even though she is basically from the North, she likes Texas the best and plans to make it her permanent residence.

She has lived in Texas for four years but still must pay out-of-state tuition because her parents are living in Chicago.

"I went to an Aggie football game last year," she said. "I didn't understand the yells or why I had to stand up for three hours. I thought it was odd."

"But I had to admire the enthusiasm this school has. I'd never seen anything like it before."

It's been said that children from military families are very adaptable. Meehan is in complete agreement with that statement.

"I had to be adaptable or I might as well have lived in a closet," she said.

With adaptation comes change. "I never plan on becoming a different person, but my environment changes so much that apparently my personality does as well," she said.

"A friend from Illinois visited me in Texas one year after I had moved from there, and she was shocked and a bit disappointed to find that my ways had become different," Meehan said.

Meehan stresses the fact that her changes are the result of a different environment rather than that of time.

"If I wanted to, I could have given myself a different persona every time we moved, because I knew I wouldn't be in any one place for long," she said. "Instead, I let myself become very close with the friends I made, which involved a lot of honesty, openness and acceptance."

"Those are the most important factors. I still keep in touch with many of my friends that I haven't seen in years."

Meehan can instantly make people feel like her best friend through her ability to talk sincerely and seriously.

But more entertaining is her sense of humor. A touch of harmless sarcasm alerts of flaws, while a long-since heard saying triggers the laughter of those within earshot.

"Getting used to A&M hasn't been any more difficult than any other place I've lived, even though this is the largest school I've ever been in. Every place has its idiosyncrasies," she said. "On my first day here, I lost my car in the parking lot and thought it had been towed, but I found it an hour later."

Although moving and making new friends is hard every time, Meehan said she is glad she has had the opportunity to meet so many friends, and see so many different kinds of people.

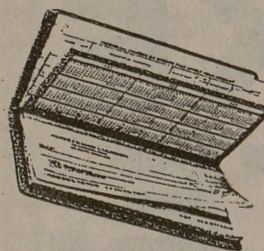
"I've never experienced it, but I just can't imagine living in one town my whole life," she said. "It seems like that would give a person a limited perspective of the world."

"I feel very lucky in that sense. But what I think I have missed out on is the security and the nostalgia of having a place to call home."



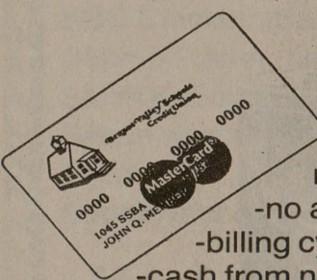
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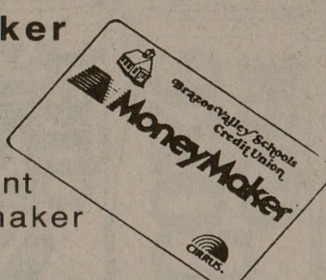


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Aggie Band starts practice during summer vacations

By Gina Rumore
Reporter

While everyone else was finishing their summer vacation, the band was practicing.

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band began practice for the year on Aug. 22 in preparation for the NCAA Kick-Off Classic in New Jersey on the 27.

Kevin Roberts, infantry band drum major, said the freshman reported for practice on Aug. 21, which is the beginning of Freshman

Orientation Week.

Texas A&M played Nebraska for their first game of the year.

The band will be traveling to all Texas A&M away games which include Nebraska, Louisiana State University, Oklahoma State, Houston, Texas and Arkansas.

Roberts said marching patterns will remain much the same and the last march of the year will probably end with a four way cross through which was the hardest march of last year.