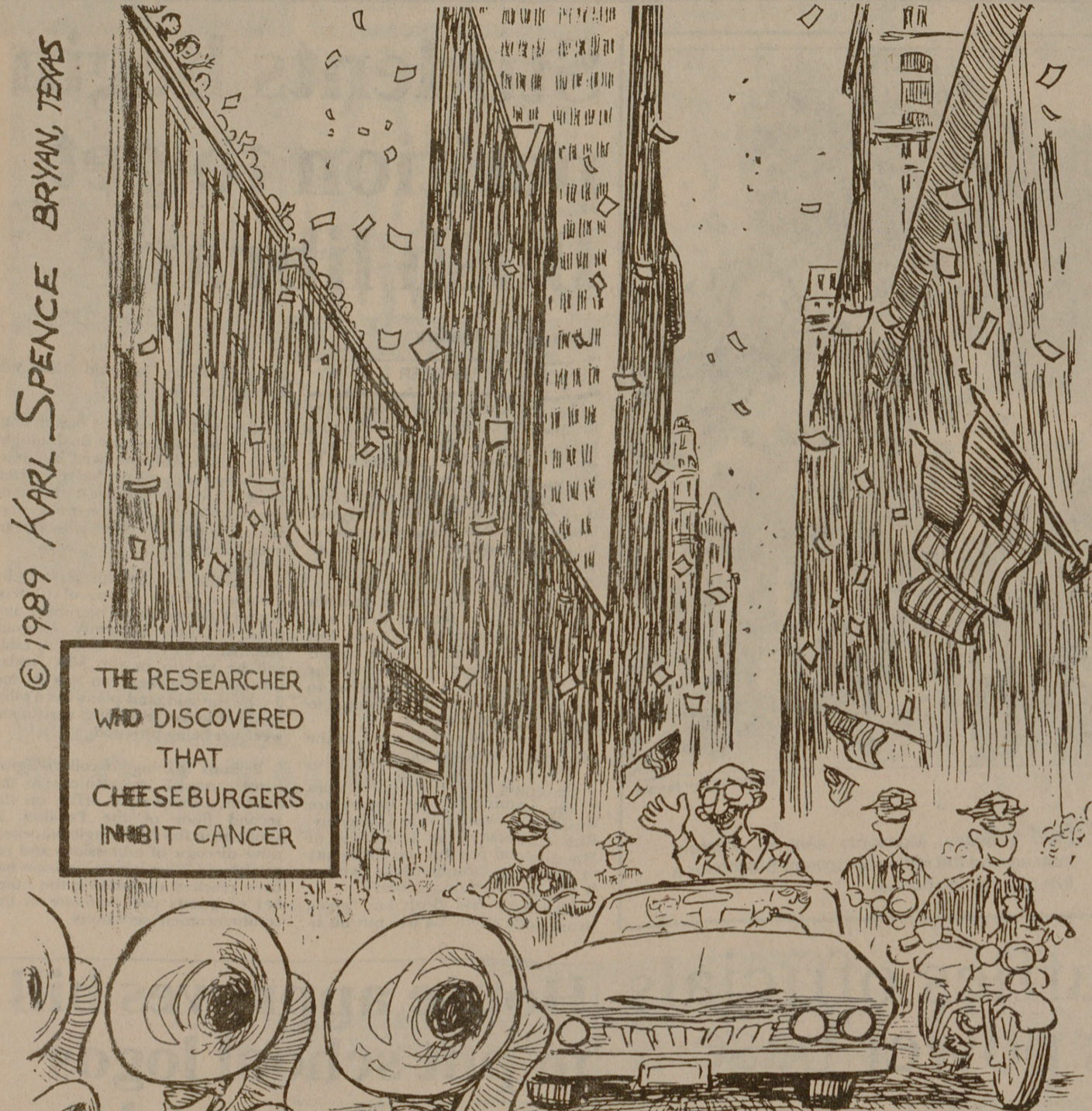


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## U.S. must change strategy to compete with Europe

The class of 1992 is coming to the end of its first academic year. The European Common Market of 1992 is just over the horizon, a scary three years away.

Twelve of the major European countries (the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, France, West Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy, and Greece) are taking steps to consolidate into a common economic market, which, if everything goes as planned, will culminate by 1992.

Europe will be a greater economic rival than any that exists today, and the United States presently can't meet the challenge Europe will provide. The European Market will surpass the United States as the largest single market in the world, with 325 million people, compared to the United States' projected 255 million.

Economically speaking, Europe will become one big country, with even the possibility of a common currency among the 12 nations. All tariffs, tax differences and trade restrictions will be dropped, making Europe an economic superpower. Some companies in the European countries may become "European companies" which would allow them to operate under one set of trade regulations instead of twelve.

Those regulations which are being codified by the commission that oversees the consolidation seem protectionist in nature. The regulations will favor internal (European) products much more than some of the individual countries' laws currently do.



**Timm Doolen**  
Columnist

With Japan and other emerging economic nations in the East and the new European Common Market to the West, the United States is going to have to work to remain economically viable, and struggle to regain any economic lead over Europe.

The United States' relative economy has suffered over the past twenty years — partly because we've fallen off the lead, and partly because the post-World War II nations had recovered by the 1970s and are thriving now in the 1980s.

The U.S. economy was revived by the Reagan administration in the early 1980s. But not even Reagan's revival is enough to prepare us for future economic battles.

At the beginning of this year, the European countries banned some imported American beef, sighting concerns over the use of growth hormones to accelerate the cows' development. In response to Europe's action, the United States announced a steep tariff on several European goods.

After a few weeks, the situation

cooled off, and both sides eased their restrictions. Yet this is just a small example of possible things to come. Europe's actions showed us that not only will Europe become more competitive in the future, it will become more protectionist, refusing more foreign goods.

An economically stronger Europe will battle with the United States for the markets of many countries around the globe, and the means they use may be all-out economic warfare.

The United States is going to have to mature economically over the next few years if we are to compete with Europe and an ever-growing Japan. We are going to have to start reducing the deficit, and begin chipping away at the massive debt.

The United States also needs to even out the trade imbalance with Japan and other foreign countries. Most of all, we need to return to the ethic of the best quality for the lowest prices, which will include leaving the minimum wage alone.

Another possible way to counteract our economic future is to economically consolidate with Canada as the European countries are doing.

If Congress, Bush, and the people of America don't start facing up to the reality that we're shrinking as an economic power, we'll surely be economically "overtaken" by our foreign competitors.

**Timm Doolen is a sophomore computer science major and a columnist for The Battalion.**

## Mail Call

### KANM needs assistance

EDITOR:

I was heartened by my April 6 visit to the Texas A&M campus. I happened to see that day's issue of *The Battalion* and was impressed with its range of coverage. I think as the A&M community has grown more diverse, the newspaper has evolved to reflect a welcome variety of ideas.

I especially enjoyed meeting representatives from KANM radio, who were selling "alternative ear" T-shirts in the MSC. I was delighted to see the likes of The Smiths and That Petrol Emotion on the station's playlist.

Since I can remember when less than mainstream attitudes, musical or otherwise, were regularly derided in letters to the editor (usually concluded with the all-purpose rejoinder "Highway 6 runs both ways"), I find these bands' presence to be an encouraging omen.

Cable just won't cut it, though. Fans have to be able to pick up broadcasts on their Walkmans or car radios. I'm dismayed the Association of Former Students (or any Aggie organization which relentlessly solicits funds) has not contributed toward the cost of a low-power transmitter. If any organization or individual is in the process of doing so, I'm glad to be proved wrong and I apologize and congratulate them on their support for new music and an outlet for alternative expression.

The Bryan-College Station area could benefit from an expanded KANM, just as Houston benefits from KTRU, the radio station at Rice University. An eclectic mix of jazz, comedy, punk, public service, sports, interviews and ticket giveaways might invigorate the A&M community also.

KANM could become as stimulating as *The Battalion* is now. I only hope the transformation doesn't take another seven years.

Nan Nagle '82

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

## The cops are tough in Evergreen Park

**Mike Royko**  
Columnist

When Donald Ziff goes before a judge, he'll have to explain why he was accused by police of acting wild and disturbing the peace.

Not being a lawyer, I shouldn't give advice to Ziff, 28. But I'll do it anyway.

My advice is that he confess and tell the judge exactly what happened. He should say something like this:

"Your honor, it began one evening while I stood in front of my apartment near the University of Chicago campus.

"Two young men walked up to me and said it was a stickup. They had their hands under their coats as if they had guns.

"I only had \$20, so they asked if my wallet contained credit cards. I said it did, and they told me to come with them.

"They led me to a car on the other side of the street and shoved me into the back seat. A third guy was behind the wheel.

"They asked me if I had rings or jewelry, and I said no, so they opened the trunk of the car and put me in, and we drove off.

"Then they stopped and let me out of the trunk and put me in the back seat. They said they were going to need my help to buy things with my credit card. They had my card and my driver's license. They threatened me. They said: 'We know your name and where you live. You do anything, we'll come and get you.'

"We went to a shoe store. Two waited outside, and one went in with me. He bought two pairs of shoes and socks for \$240 and I signed for them.

"At that point, I started to figure that maybe they weren't armed. And I saw a security guard near the door. If I was going to escape, I thought this would be my best chance. I didn't know how much more shopping they planned on doing, and I dreaded going back in that trunk.

"So I just ran toward the screaming, 'Help, they're robbing me.' The guy with me tried to grab me, but I pushed him away and ran.

"The security guard and a store employee grabbed him. Then I ran toward the other two guys outside and yelled, 'Those are his friends and they have a car outside.' They ran and I tried to chase them, but I got winded.

"The Evergreen Park police came and I tried to tell them what happened.

The other guy — one of the kidnapers — kept saying it was a drug deal and I was paying for buying things for them on my credit card.

"Then, the police put handcuffs on me. One of them said, 'If you do something wrong, we're going to stick something so far up you a-- it will come out of your nose.' They talked tougher than the kidnapers.

"At the station, they fingerprinted me, took my photo like a criminal, and one of them said, 'One guy says it's an abduction, the other guy says it's a drug deal.' So they charged us both with disorderly conduct.

"I phoned my boss, and he came to bail me out. One of the Evergreen cops asked me if I was still sticking with my story. When I told him I was, he said, 'Are you retarded?' I tried to explain that if he looked for the car, they'd find my possessions in the trunk. I had a bag with sheet music in it. See, I had been going to a singing group that evening. But they wouldn't listen to me.

"So my boss drove me back to Hyde Park. We called the university police, and they brought in the Chicago police. We went back to the mall and the car was still there.

"The Chicago police believed me, and they went to the Evergreen Park police station. The one kidnapper, his name was Jonathan Washington, was still there. He couldn't make bond on his disorderly conduct charge.

"The Evergreen Park police released him so the Chicago police could arrest him.

"Now he's charged with aggravated kidnapping and possession of a stolen car, and his bond was set at \$375,000.

"So, your honor, I admit I was kind of disorderly and I disturbed the peace when I started screaming in that shoe store. But if you had been stuffed in the trunk of a car, you might do the same thing yourself.

"In closing, I would like to say that if anyone is ever abducted like I was, ask the abductors if they will do you one favor.

"Ask them not to take you shopping in Evergreen Park."  
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### The Battalion

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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 Journalism.

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