

THIS MAN IS A VICTIM OF:  
**"BAT-MANIA"**,  
 A CONDITION THAT OCCURS IN  
 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO ALL OF THE  
 MERCHANDISING SURROUNDING  
 THE NEW "BATMAN" MOVIE.  
**DON'T LET THIS  
 HAPPEN TO YOU!!!**  
 GO SEE THE MOVIE RIGHT NOW  
 AND GET IT OVER WITH!  
 REMEMBER, MONEY IS A  
 TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE  
 (ON OTHER MOVIES).  
 - A MESSAGE FROM  
 THE PRODUCERS  
 OF "BATMAN".

## Uprooting of historic Live Oak trees leaves a lot to be desired

They're going to take away our trees.

The Texas A&M administration's plans for an expansion of the Memorial Student Center call for the removal of 26 trees, among them the 165-year-old Rudder Oak.

Thirteen of the trees to be removed will be demolished, while the remaining trees will be transplanted to other locations on campus. Whether or not the trees survive the moving process is questionable.

Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction, told reporters that the chances of the trees being saved are "Maybe 50-50, maybe 60-40. I can't tell you what the odds are."

On the other hand, others say the trees just won't make it — especially the more mature trees like the Rudder Oak.

Robert Rucker, a landscape architect and retired A&M professor, said, "Trees of this vintage have just reached their maximum value as environmental statements and cannot be transplanted with any degree of success. Trees more than 10 inches in trunk diameter and planted in the type of soil on the A&M campus cannot be transplanted without killing them."

What both of these guys seem to be saying is that the chances of these trees living aren't that great.

These trees have been around for a long time — longer than any of us have — and there is no reason to destroy part of the history and beauty of A&M to expand the MSC.

The administration has a good point. The student body and faculty have outgrown the available space on campus. To solve this problem, extra meeting and office space needs to be developed. But, it is not necessary to kill the greenery around the MSC to do it.

The planned expansion calls for an addition of 58,790 square feet to the northeastern part of the MSC. The plans also call for the construction of two, two-story buildings by the parking garage that would house offices, meeting rooms, classrooms, the athletic department and the placement center.

An additional floor added to each of these buildings could tack on around 57,000 square feet of meeting and office space to be used by the ever-growing student body.



Ellen Hobbs  
 Editor

But why do we need to save the trees anyway? They're getting old — their life cycles might end any day now. And, good grief, we can't let a bunch of animate objects like trees get in the way of progress!

There are many very good reasons not to remove the trees. Let's ignore a couple of the obvious ones, like it's just another example of man hacking away at his environment or that the Rudder Oak is a great tradition at A&M.

This campus is beginning to look rather ugly. Yep, all those new-fangled tan brick buildings being constructed aren't as beautiful as we'd all like to imagine.

It's no surprise that the pictures in A&M recruiting brochures, posters and postcards are so often of the Academic Building and the Quad. Nobody wants to go out of their way to look at the Blocker Building, the parking garage or any of the modular residence halls. The 'progress' we've made has pushed us back in the area of aesthetics.

Supporters of the MSC expansion plans say we don't need to worry about what the loss of the trees will do to the general appearance of the MSC, because new trees will be planted. Unfortunately, it will take 50-60 years for the new trees to mature. We will have graduated by then, our children will have graduated by then. . . . It's going to be a long time before the new trees compare to the ones already there.

Gen. Peel told *The Battalion* that people protesting the tree removal didn't care about A&M or its students. He's wrong. Protesters aren't just protesting the potential deaths of trees. They're protesting the potential death of the beauty of our campus.

Aggies have always gone out of their way to protect the grass outside the MSC. Now it's time for us to protect the trees.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major and editor of *The Battalion*.

## EPA rules to start tracking waste

The upper Atlantic Coast is a long way from the Gulf of Mexico, but Texas and Louisiana beachgoers should take note: Medical waste is beginning to wash ashore for the third year in a row.

This summer, however, a new procedure for tracking those wastes will be in effect. The Environmental Protection Agency is enforcing a two-year program to track and manage the disposal of such waste.

Seven jurisdictions, including Loui-

siana, will be involved in a program in which the EPA will require doctors, dentists, veterinarians, hospitals, medical laboratories and clinics to keep detailed records that track a waste product from origin to disposal; others involved with handling the product also must sign documents used in the tracking.

The new procedure likely won't make much of a dent in the medical waste problem, according to the EPA, which estimates that only 10 percent of the waste that floated ashore this past sum-

mer came from sources covered by the new regulations. Much of the rest came from illegal drugs and from outpatients who take drugs at home, says the EPA.

To their credit, states covered by the new regulations have chosen to participate rather than opt out, which they could have done under an escape clause written into the law.

Settling these problems a little at a time is far better than letting them fester.

— Beaumont Enterprise

## Ladies refuse to become sex objects

Some days you open the paper and it's kind of like finding Castro in the refrigerator smokin' a cigar. It's hard to know what to think. That's the way I felt the other day when I learned the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders were upset with the team's new owner because they think he's fixin' to make 'em into sex objects. Says I to myself, "No doo-doo?" (That's the George Bush influence.)

That it had not previously occurred to the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders that they might already be sex objects is one of those revelations that will take a good feminist by surprise. Nevertheless, I feel those of us of the feminist persuasion have an obligation to support the sisters on the cheerleadin' squad. Heaven forbid that they be required by this barbarian from Arkansas to wear revealing costumes! They should stick to the Puritanical outfits they wear now. How hateful that the man (we always knew no good would ever come to lettin' an Arkie buy the Cowboys) thinks cheerleaders should be required to socialize with football players, an obviously inferior class of persons. I'm a little puzzled as to why it is OK to stand on the sidelines and jiggle and shake in an effort to whip up enthusiasm for football players, but not OK to pal around with them; nevertheless, it's clearly a freedom of choice issue — no woman should be required as a condition of employment to socialize with anyone.

I consider the reasoning behind the cheerleaders' unwillingness to perform at social functions at which liquor is served to be so obvious as to require no explanation whatsoever. They say they want to retain their clean-cut image. I had not previously been aware that they had a clean-cut image, but that's only because I had not studied the matter deeply enough. Now being set straight

**Molly Ivins**  
 Syndicated Columnist

upon this question, I cry shame upon Mr. Jerry Jones, who feebly insists that his intentions have been misunderstood by "the girls," who he says are "the pick of the litter." Mr. Jones, shut up.

I trust this analysis of these vexing public policy questions has been of some assistance to the readership and that my own newspaper will now remove the affair from the front page.

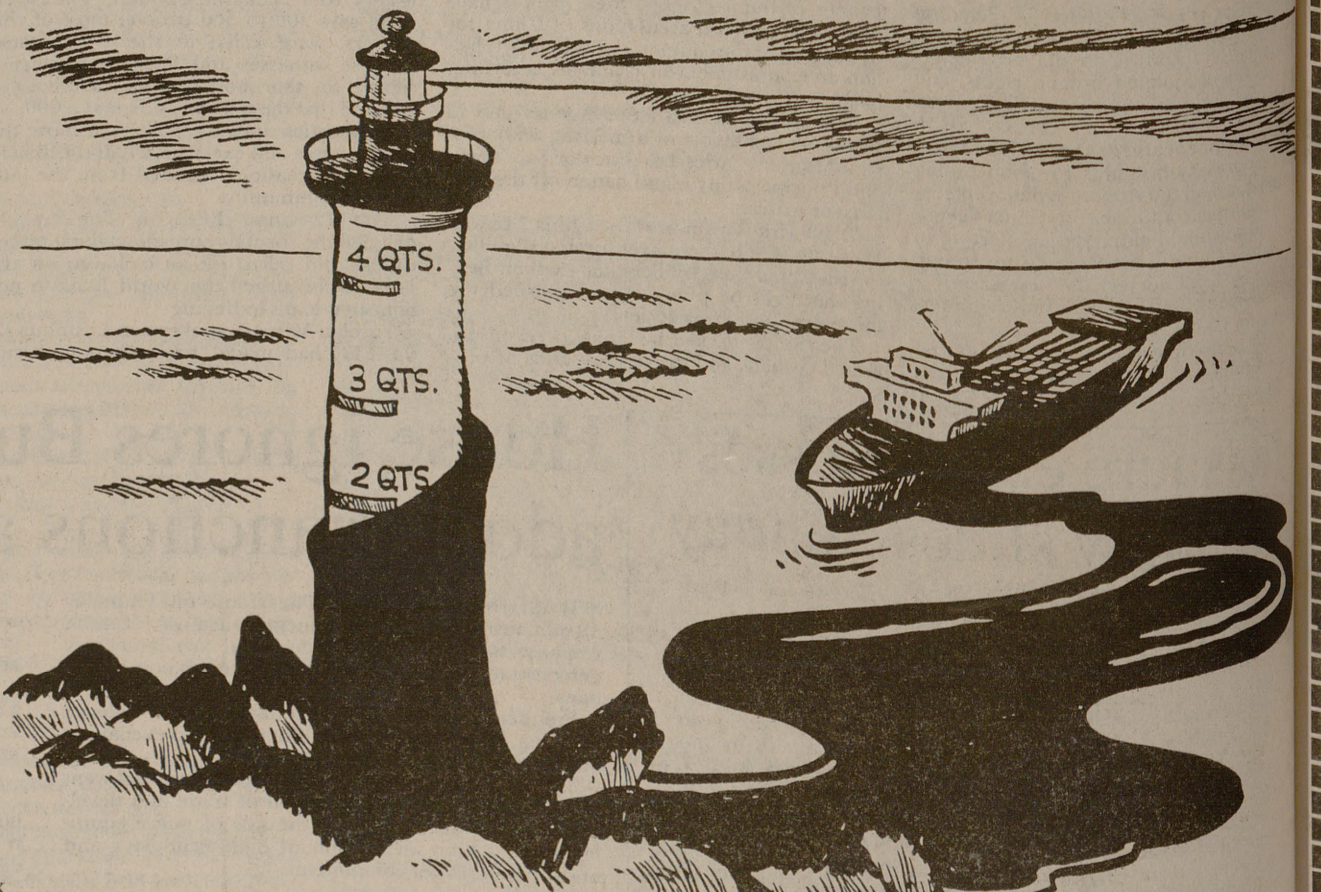
The Supremes, in another 5-4 special, now say the state of Texas cannot kill John Paul Penry unless and until the jury, finding him guilty of murder, is also informed of the fact that he is mentally retarded. But, say the Supremes, should a jury so informed then choose to off Penry despite the fact that he's not bright enough to function in society, they may do so. Penry is not profoundly retarded, he can walk and talk; nevertheless, his personal history is so ghastly (he was horribly beaten and abused by his own mother) that you cannot hear about it in detail without gagging.

This is one of those cases that defies the simplistic, judgmental vengeance-seekers. Penry not only committed a brutal murder, his victim happened to be a lovely young woman, newly married, from a family well-known in her East Texas town, with all the bright promise of her youth and beauty and kindness destroyed without reason by this subnormal victim of a hideous upbringing.

Who is to blame? Penry's mother is dead and was clearly insane herself. I can find no one, unless it is the social workers who failed to remove Penry from his mother's care, and while that

was clearly a failure of responsibility, the death penalty is not yet attached to it. Is Penry now such a monster that the state should murder him? To do so is to hold John Paul Penry responsible for his acts. But he does not have the mind of an adult and could not conceivably be regarded as sane even if he were not retarded.

The Supreme Court of the United States could not bring itself to conclude that society has no right to murder the retarded. Under their ruling, someone with an IQ of 40 can be held accountable for his or her actions, even though a 3-year-old four times that bright would not be. It was a gutless decision. And it means another East Texas jury will presumably be called upon to re-try Penry and to sentence him, this time with all the facts about his background, and to make a final decision in a case the Supreme Court didn't have the collective courage to decide.



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"Batman" comes from a local the sale of Batman merchandise. The movie opened at the Odeon Post Office. The manager, real his name, was on how local ticket. Nationally, "Batman" is a huge merchandising success. Warner Bros. has 130 firms to sell e-shirts and toothbrushes. "Batman" insignia are everywhere. Bryan-College Station is dealing in Batman merchandise. A dramatic ri-

That broke the day record set by sequel, "Ghostbuster" over weekend session. But along with movie, "Batman" is a huge merchandising success. Warner Bros. has 130 firms to sell e-shirts and toothbrushes. "Batman" insignia are everywhere. Bryan-College Station is dealing in Batman merchandise. A dramatic ri-

## Chief

By Holly Beeson  
 STAFF WRITER

As the sky light in celebration Day, people shot dangers of fire regarding their u. The use and works is outlawed Station, as in ma cause of the high they cause.

More than 1 later injuries oc year. The num doubled since 19 College Stati Harry Davis sai

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