



**BATMAN**



**The Joker**

MARGULIES  
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## Student proposes alternative tree plan

The Rudder Oak. Let's see. It's really located outside the Memorial Student Center, not next to Rudder Tower. So, why do they call it the Rudder Oak? Oh, OK it's named after General Earl Rudder who kept it from being cut down when the MSC was originally built. He did this because the tree is over 100 years old.

Well, what's the big deal? It's only a tree, and it's in the way of the expanding the MSC. As far as I can tell, trees have been coming down for buildings since buildings started going up. In fact, some buildings that go up are made from the same trees that come down. So why not cut this one down, too.

After all, Aggies have been cutting down trees for years. It is a tradition in Aggieland. To prepare for Bonfire, a bunch of short-haired, late-aged teenagers, with their underwear hanging out of their shorts, could gather around the tree. They wear their underwear hanging outside of their shorts because this is, after all, the '80s and their mothers have been working since the early '70s and haven't quite gotten around to teaching their sons how to dress.

Anyway, back to the tree at hand. First, get these short-haired young men around the tree. Give one of them a red

**Tim Hammons**  
Guest Columnist

helmet and put him in charge. The others will also have helmets of differing colors that determine some sort of a rank. This ranking is actually based on the length of their underwear. I'm not sure if the one wearing long underwear is the highest in rank or the lowest.

The red-helmet gives the important command "CUT IT DOWN," in a voice just this side of puberty, and the rest of the youngsters would have to go to work cutting down Rudder Oak.

The end result would be one fallen old tree, a dislocated finger, a burned-out Ford Mustang and a crushed truck. Please don't ask me to explain, it always ends up like this.

In order to sanctify this cutting, we will use this tree in an Aggie honor that only a few trees have the honor of being — the center pole!

I'm not sure why we have this tradition every year. But what the heck, it's tradition, so let us not question it.

Besides, using the tree for center pole

will save a lot of money. Close to \$35,000 would be saved if we use the Rudder Oak for center pole. This is the cost of trying to move the tree, and there is no guarantee that it will survive.

I realize not everybody is going to be entirely happy with my proposal for the Rudder Oak. Rudder may not be too happy about the whole thing, either.

So let's take the \$35,000 and buy a bunch of smaller trees and plant them in an empty field somewhere. This shouldn't be too hard to do, after all A&M has plenty of land. The closest estimate on live oaks is \$16 a piece. For that \$35,000 we can get 2,187½ trees. Now the real work comes in hand. To plant them, we get Alpha Phi Omega, the service fraternity, to help plant them. Just between you and me, these guys love doing hard, monotonous labor for next to nothing. (Trust me, I did it for a year and a half!)

The end result will be small four foot forest that we can call the Rudder Forest. A happy ending that I think even Rudder would be happy with.

*As with all columns, opinions expressed by Guest Columnists are not necessarily those of The Battalion. Persons interested in submitting guest columns should contact the Opinion Page Editor at 845-3314.*

## Rose doesn't make much sense

News item: An investigation into Cincinnati Reds Manager Pete Rose's gambling habits alleged he made bets on the Atlanta Braves.

Could this conversation have ever taken place?

"I want a dollar (a thousand) on the Braves tonight," Pete Rose said to his bookie.

"Peter," he began, "nobody bets on the Atlanta Braves. Wouldn't you like to rethink all this?"

"Who's the future Hall-of-Famer here, me or you?" asked Rose. "I want a dollar on the Braves."

"Pete, Pete, Pete," said the bookie. "They have no hitting, they have no pitching, they have no fielding, they're slow and their bat boy is into science projects in school. Why don't you consider the Mets against the Dodgers tonight instead?"

"Whose money is this," asked Rose, "mine or yours?"

"Soon to be mine if you stay with the Braves," said the bookie, who continued, "The Braves are the same team who traded Steve Bedrosian to the Phillies for Ozzie Virgil.

**Lewis Grizzard**  
Syndicated Columnist

"Bedrosian promptly won the Cy Young award as the league's best pitcher and Virgil promptly went into a coma.

"Haven't you been paying attention to baseball?"

"But I like the Braves uniforms," said Rose.

"Uniforms? You'd bet on a team because of its uniforms?" asked the startled bookie.

"Argentina had great uniforms when it fought the British in the Falkland Islands war and it didn't do them any good.

"Look," said Rose, "you want to take my money or not?"

"Sure, I want to take your money," said the bookie, "but I know better ways for you to throw it away. Why don't you flush it down the toilet? You'll see it a lot longer than you will if you bet on the Braves.

## Mail Call

Editors note: The following is an open letter to the Board of Regents that was submitted to *The Battalion*.

### Students propose project relocation

EDITOR:

It is with profound regret and deep sadness that we have learned of plans to expand the Memorial Student Center into the mall area on the northeast side of the building. We wish to express our alarm at the proposal to relocate and/or destroy the 26 trees in the area, as well as the destruction of the one area on campus that we all daily identify with Texas A&M.

Surely, there must be a better solution. We recognize the need for more space for the use of student programs and other programs, but should the aesthetic quality of our campus suffer? We think not. Therefore, we propose the location of the project be changed to the vacant lot immediately south of Cain Hall. We have this location for the following reasons:

- The Cain Hall South site is a rather unattractive, muddy, vacant lot with trees to disturb.
- The Cain Hall South site is in close proximity to the Memorial Student Center, and could be, in fact, connected by a pedestrian bridge (as in the proposed expansion).
- The location does not involve the wholesale destruction of one of the most frequented and beloved campus areas.
- The Cain Hall South site is more convenient to parking areas.
- There would be a minimum of disruption of campus activity, for the other observed uses of this site in recent years have been by drill team camps, fly-fishing and bait-casting classes, and pre-football game barbecues.
- If further expansion were necessary, additional floors could be added without detrimental effects to the aesthetics of surrounding buildings (i.e. Rudder Tower).
- Campus growth in recent years has been focused to the west, so the Cain Hall South site would be a logical and natural step in this direction.
- The Cain Hall South site would avoid making the MSC grounds look like a concrete, sterile environment that is found today between the Halbouty and Blocker buildings.
- The grass we all respect and love so dearly will be spared, as will the honoring of a tradition and the memories of those who gave their lives in service of our country (Memorial Student Center).

As you can clearly see, the Cain Hall South site offers an attractive alternative to the mall area location. I am sure you will find that most students would agree.

This brings us to another point concerning the remarks made by Gen. Wesley E. Peel, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction. Gen. Peel told *The Battalion* that the people who opposed the expansion didn't care about A&M or its students. We are deeply offended and concerned by Gen. Peel's statement for we represent a cross-section of the student body of Texas A&M. Below are the signatures of members of the Corps of Cadets, fraternities, sororities and non-reg's, as well as faculty and staff. We fervently care about Texas A&M and its traditions, and certainly we care about the appearance of our beloved Texas A&M — for both today's students and for future generations.

Todd A. Greenberg '88  
accompanied by 64 signatures

### Solution needed for parking sticker problem

EDITOR:

Well, it's that time of year again — parking sticker time. It upsets me just as much this year as it has the last two years.

I am supposed to come up with an extra \$100 just to be able to park in order to work at my job.

I am divorced, mother of two, and sole support of my family. This is the time of year I am looking at outfitting two kids for school — not to mention school supplies. Just as I think I have taken care of, the kids are attending their first day of school — then I realize that the outpouring of money has just started — more school supplies are needed, gym clothes, pictures, insurance, etc. — it's endless.

The thing that bothers me the most about the parking sticker, is that we who make \$5 plus per hour are expected to come up with the \$100 just the same as the faculty and staff that make \$50,000 and more. To some on the A&M campus this is just an aggravation and nuisance. To others of us, however, it makes the difference of having food on the table or not. It creates a real hardship, it means doing without necessities, not luxuries.

To add to the confusion and stress of this time of year, it's the time of year our paychecks are mixed up due to the fiscal year ending.

I guess what I do not understand is why parking stickers are not figured on a sliding scale basis — it seems to me at least, that would provide some aspect of fairness. At the very least, why not deduct the price of the parking sticker monthly from our paychecks?

There has to be a practical and fair solution to this problem?

Debbie L. Butterworth

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include classification, address and telephone number of the writer.



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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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