

Clevenger for student body president

Student body runoff elections are Tuesday, and The Battalion reiterates its endorsement of Ty Clevenger for student body president.

Clevenger, presently speaker of the Student Senate, has shown that he has the ability to get things accomplished for students.

Because of Clevenger's efforts, students now can receive refunds on unused Aggie Bucks at the end of the semester. He also convinced administration to provide 24-hour access to some Macintosh computer labs, and he was the driving force behind the collegiate license plate bill, which has generated more than \$200,000 in scholarships for A&M students.

Clevenger has been active in student government since he was a freshman, and at every level he has shown his competency and ability to make things happen.

Students can vote between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday. Polling locations are the MSC Flagroom, Kleberg Building, Blocker Building and the Academic Plaza. In case of rain, the Academic Plaza location will be moved to the covered porch of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Knock down barriers set in front of wheelchairs

On Oct. 5, 1985, I was involved in a very serious car accident. The head injury I incurred left me in a coma that lasted nearly a month. After I awoke, it took another two weeks under surgical intensive care to get me where I could function somewhat on my own again. After being laid up for a total of six weeks, they told me it was time for some physical therapy. I thought "Great! Get me the hell out of this bed." Then they brought in a wheelchair.

"Hey, what's with the chair? I feel fine," I said. I did feel fine, but I also had not walked in six weeks and had a significant deposit of calcium in my hips. Over the next three weeks in a rehabilitation hospital, a wheelchair was my principle means of transportation.

At the end of my three week stay I was well enough to leave the hospital and begin outpatient therapy with which I eventually became bipedal again. That was nearly five years ago and I am constantly reminded of how fortunate I am to have made it out of my accident with the ability to walk. My experience in a wheelchair was nowhere

near the hassle that students here at Texas A&M and all over the world must endure.

As I walk across campus I see things I can't believe. For instance, passing by the Northgate post office I noticed that the access ramp for the handicapped was roped off. I thought, "Oh, that's convenient." Then cutting through Hobby and Neeley Halls I noticed that a truck (and I know who you are) was parked right in front of a sidewalk access ramp. The real problem was that the truck was *legally* parked. I decided to go to Handicapped Student Services and find out what is being done about these matters.

On my way over, I asked some people about problems that they have seen on

campus concerning the handicapped. One person said he thought that people were basically inconsiderate toward the handicapped (as far as not getting out of their way on sidewalks and such).

Another person noted more specifically that the handicapped entrance doors in the Harrington Building were very heavy and closed far too rapidly.

When I arrived at Handicapped Student Services I spoke with the secretary, Lynne Barlow. She, along with workers Emily Farmer and Michelle Lambert, told me about the parking problems involving the use of parking spaces designated for the handicapped by non-handicapped people. The scenario they painted went like this: A non-handicapped person

parks in a designated space and then to himself, "I'll only be a minute. Besides, they can park somewhere else. The problem is that they can't park somewhere else. There are reasons these spaces are where they are. The spaces are usually located near a building, sidewalk or access ramp."

I was then introduced to Jimene Conn, who has been a student worker for three years and presently coordinates the day to day operations of the handicapped shuttle bus service. I first asked her about the parking problems.

Conn said, "When problems are brought to the attention of Handicapped Student Services, we intercede on behalf of the handicapped person." She said this was done for the legal parking space in front of Hobbs and Neeley Halls, but the problem has yet to be solved. She also told how students who use their temporary handicap parking pass the full six months even though they are well long before the pass expires.

I have harped on the parking issue because it is visible. However, it only represents a small percentage of the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users. Conn cited other problems such as the lack of wheelchair-usable desks, classrooms, broken elevators, heavy doors, the inconvenience of lifts as opposed to elevators and getting across the tracks to classes in buildings like Kleberg.

Having spoken with Handicapped Student Services, I have become incredibly aware of the problems faced by handicapped students. I have decided to spend today in a wheelchair and find out first hand what it is like.

I encourage everyone to take notice of some of the things that may be barriers to handicapped people. When you discover something, try to remove or tell Handicapped Student Services and have them address the problem. Imagine yourself in a wheelchair and then thank whoever or whatever that you don't need one.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for Andy's column on his day in a wheelchair in next week's Battalion.

Andrew Lankford is a senior industrial distribution major.

Andrew Lankford
Reader's Opinion

Mail Call

Quit squabbling, start relaxing

EDITOR:

In the past few weeks, the Mail Call section has been full of slanderous and rude comments made by Aggies directed to other Aggies. Come on guys! Whether we came for the traditions, a great education or just to have a good time, the fact is we are all here and we're all Aggies!

There has been so much squabble over bonfire, the parking situation, Greeks, the Corps and Shelby Metcalf that some of us have forgotten how to stop and enjoy life here in Aggieland.

This is supposed to be the prime of our lives, so let's all take advantage of it! In the infamous words of Bill and Ted, "Be excellent to each other!" Why don't we relax and go to the Chicken. The first pitcher is on me.

Rich Yax '91

Traditions, students have changed

EDITOR:

On Feb. 28, a letter was published in Mail Call that really bothered me. It was written by Lindy Sparks, and basically what she had to say was that all people against the traditions at A&M are not true Aggies and they should leave.

Last semester, I wrote a letter criticizing the yell leader, who, at bonfire declared that anyone against bonfire was not a true Aggie and should leave. The reason I wrote that letter was to express my dislike for mindless generalizations, and I wish to do it again.

A&M is definitely a school based on tradition, but allow me to point out that there have been many changes in Aggie traditions over the years. Several years ago, only white males attended A&M. Women went to Texas Women's College and blacks went to Prairie View A&M.

Until 1965, everyone was required to be in the Corps of Cadets since A&M was solely a military school. If you look around campus now, you can see all those traditions have changed with the times.

Here's a more trivial example: The Corps freshmen used to polish the

dome on the Academic building regularly until pilots flying into Easterwood Airport started complaining about the glare from the reflected sunlight.

If what Lindy Sparks and her colleagues say is true, then no women, blacks, civilians or pilots are true Aggies. My point is this: Tradition plays an important part in Aggie life, but it is not immune from changes. Since this is our school, it's up to us to make those changes when it is time.

As for Lindy Sparks, I think we have seen that some upperclassmen are doing a thorough job training their freshmen.

Jeff Goodmark '92

Roll with traditions

EDITOR:

In regard to your article by Ken Fontenot in the March 29 issue of The Battalion, I would personally like to tell him that his feelings are not shared by the majority of A&M students. Information from the 1990 A&M poll states that 84.7 percent of students think that Aggie traditions are great. Also, when Ken and others like him enrolled at A&M, they knew of the traditions and still wanted to come here.

In regard to other institutions changing, let them change. We are not close-minded, we just want to keep things the same so others can participate in the future. We can't "get rid" of anyone anymore than we can get rid of the A&M traditions. After all, "Once an Aggie, always an Aggie!" So the best thing to do is to roll with the flow instead of fighting the issue. After all, you can't move upstream with a downstream current.

Jonanna Winkler '93 and Lisa Lubbach '93

Have an opinion? Express it!

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by Don Atkinson Jr.

