



## Down and dirty

Marco Vargas (on top), with company P-2/N-1, wrestles in the mud with Mark Brookshire of company P-2 Tuesday afternoon

after Elephant Walk. During the event, juniors taunted the "dying" seniors by throwing eggs, shaving cream, and mud at them.

RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

## Texas GSL reports decline in defaults

Future looks brighter for agency loan corporation president says

HOUSTON (AP) — The president of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp., which paid a record \$244 million in default claims last year, said that he believes things may be looking up.

"Over the last five months, we've seen a steady decline in the number of default claims filed," President Joe McCormick said. "We turned the corner in August or September of last year."

Officials say a shakeout in the default-plagued trade school industry is improving the agency's financial prospects.

Most of the \$244 million in claims were covered by federal reinsurance. However, because the Texas guarantee agency's defaults exceeded a rate determined by a federal formula, the state student loan corporation had to pay \$14.1 million out of its reserves. That resulted in a record loss for the 1991 fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

On the positive side, the agency guaranteed fewer loans for students of for-profit trade and technical schools in the year just ended, McCormick said. Loans to such schools have proved risky.

More private trade and techni-

cal schools have closed in Texas as the federal government has tightened restrictions on school default levels and sources have dried up, said Bednar. Bednar heads the Education Agency's division of proprietary, or for-profit, schools.

Many of those schools most of their tuition from students who receive low-cost loans from the federally guaranteed program.

Bednar said 70 Texas schools closed during the 13-month period ending Oct. 1. Closings have numbered openings for the three years, and the total number of trade and technical schools dwindled from 342 a year ago to 301 now.

"The main reason for the closings seems to be the lenders in Texas," Bednar said.

Houston Chronicle in Tuesday editions. "Also, there's been a concerted effort ... to more closely regulate those schools."

As trade school fortunes faltered, the guarantee agency portfolio mix has begun to shift toward more stable loans to students at four-year universities and graduate schools.

## Staff, student relations top spring editor's list

### Nominee to focus on leadership

By Melinda Cox  
The Battalion

Better preparation of Battalion staff members and improved relations between Texas A&M's school newspaper and A&M students, faculty and administrators are only some of the goals of The Battalion's next editor.

The Texas A&M Student Publications Board recently nominated Douglas Pils, a senior journalism and economics major, as editor of The Battalion for Spring 1992.

"As editor-in-chief I feel I'm in a better position to help the paper overcome any problems it might have," Pils said. "I think my most important responsibility as editor-in-chief is in leading the staff."

Pils said he applied for the position because the spring semester

is his last semester at A&M and he would like to move up to a more overseeing role.

He said the staff of the paper is one of his main concerns. He said he wants to organize and train new and old staff members in the computer system that has recently been installed for use by The Battalion staff.

The staff should be able to have guides or manuals available to them to use and refer to if they have a problem with the system, Pils said.

Staff members are students, too, and it is important to have a system they can understand so all their time isn't spent on the computers, Pils said. Staff members must have time to go to school as well, he said.

Pils said he would like to bring new staff members into The Battalion office a week before school begins to give them a course in the computer system and help them become familiar with the newsroom.

The newsroom is another one of Pils' concerns. Pils said he would like to begin a better filing system which would keep track of

graphics and stories needed for the paper.

He said he also wants to improve communications between the different desks involved in a newspaper. Different desks represent the different sections of the paper such as sports or lifestyles.

Students who work for the paper are assigned to one of the desks and are responsible for covering events that fall under that particular desk.

Pils said he wants to begin evaluations of how well staff members perform their duties and start pay incentives which reflect this performance.

"A student might begin work for The Battalion at a 65 or 70 percent wage level," Pils said. "However, if duties are carried out by the staff member then the salary would be bumped up to full salary."

Pils said he would also like to set up a bonus system which would reward staff members for work done "above the call of duty."

The main responsibility of The Battalion, Pils said, is to the A&M community. The paper should re-

fect events at A&M, but coverage by The Battalion shouldn't blindly promote the school.

"The paper is here to report the news as fairly and accurately as possible," Pils said.

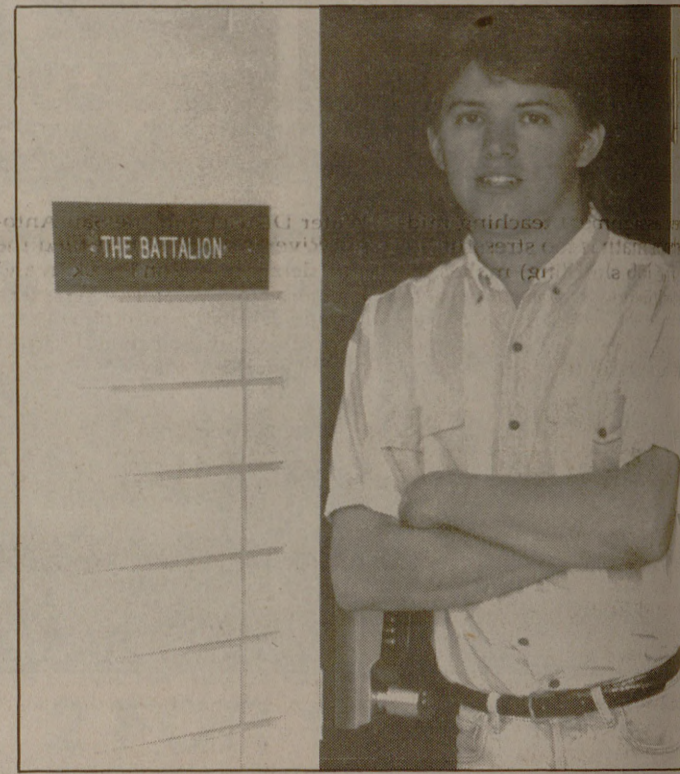
"The paper is here for the students, staff and faculty, but the paper shouldn't be used as a public relations venue for the University."

Pils said, however, that there will be times when his job will call for a little "PR."


He said his job will involve coming in contact with the public, dealing with complaints that come to the paper and being in close contact with staff members of the paper.

It is important to present a positive image to the people you work with because this image has a trickling down effect, he said. A positive image means being in close contact with staff members and being available when they have concerns or questions, he said. It is important to be aware of these concerns, Pils said.

"The success of any editor will depend on the quality of the staff around him," Pils said.



Douglas Pils, Battalion editor nominee



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If you are graduating in December, or if you will be co-oping, student teaching, or studying abroad, or will not be enrolled during the Spring 1992 semester, and you would like your housing deposit back,

Written notification must be received in the Housing Office, 101 YMCA Building, by:

**MONDAY,  
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**Don't wait --  
Time is running out!**

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