



## EDITORIALS

### Crime on campus Safety attributed to students

Texas A&M deserves favorable recognition for its showing in a Justice Department survey on campus crime. Among all Southwest Conference schools, A&M ranks fifth safest in the number of violent crimes reported during the 1991 school year. However, when the number of enrolled students is taken into consideration, A&M's ranking rises to third.

On a campus of over 41,000 students, only seven violent crimes were reported last year. With student enrollment figured in, the campus crime rate is 0.17 violent crimes per 1,000 students. This number places A&M above Rice, Houston, SMU and UT.

Our campus is not isolated from the problems that plague any town or city in the country, and yet with thousands of students and faculty members, as well as hundreds of visitors who flow in and out every day, only seven violent crimes were reported.

This low per capita violent crime rate is no accident. Both the efforts of campus police and preventive action taken by students has helped to keep the level of crime relatively low.

In six months, the number of security officers has been increased from 36 to 42. The police department continues to improve the lighting on campus and even has a number specifically designed for reporting lights that have malfunctioned. Free phones are scattered conveniently across the campus. Shuttle buses are available until 2 am, and the Corps provides a service by walking students to wherever they need to go after dark.

However, it is the students who are largely to credit for the low violent crime rate. Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, admits that outside of robberies, the police have done very little to actually prevent the violent crimes.

It is the campus community that has made the greatest difference by becoming more aware of how to prevent crime and avoid becoming the victim.

At a time when this University seems to be inundated by complaints, it should be noted that efforts are successfully being made to secure the safety of faculty, staff and students. This is most definitely the mark of a world class university.

### Supercollider survives Facility will benefit A&M, nation

Construction on the world's largest science laboratory, being built in northern Texas, continues, a near-victim of cuts in government spending.

The superconducting super collider being built near Dallas survived one more year as Congress allocated \$517 million to continue its construction.

The survival of the \$8.3 billion mega-project is good news for U.S. researchers who are looking to the new collider as the best hope for advancing the understanding of atom particles. Research made possible by the giant atom-smasher is expected to bring the U.S. back into the forefront of sub-atomic research, where Japan is the current leader.

Texas A&M will benefit from the facility, where graduate students and professors are planning experiments for when the project is finally

completed.

The superconductor will allow researchers to study the properties of atoms accelerated to previously-unattainable speeds using more than 10,000 magnets.

Each year brings another hurdle for the project as Congress looks for new ways to cut spending. So far the project has survived. But next year will bring a new challenge as newly elected members in the House and Senate must be persuaded that the billion dollar project will be worth the investment.

The completion date for the superconductor is set for 1999. When complete, the project promises to provide thousands of jobs for scientists, and research facilities for students from A&M and other schools around the world. But the project can return on the investment, only when — and if — completed.

### Editor's Note

Due to the volume of mail received regarding the events at last Friday's midnight yell practice, The Battalion can accept no more such letters for publication in Mail Call or as guest columns. Letters on that topic appearing in today's Mail Call will be the last to run. The Battalion thanks its readers for their response.

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the opinion page staff and editor in chief only. They do not represent, in any way, the opinions of reporters, staff, or editors of other sections of the newspaper. Columns, guest columns, and Mail Call items express the opinions of the authors only.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

Letters should be addressed to: The Battalion - Mail Call  
013 Reed McDonald / Mail stop 1111  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843

## MAIL CALL

### Women should take safety precautions

Since I have been back at A&M this semester, I have seen several times something that disturbs me — girls walking alone on campus after dark. Some may ask, why do I care? I have two older sisters who mean the world to me and their safety has always concerned me. I was also fortunate enough to meet and get to know a wonderful girl this summer who unfortunately had been raped. I know the event traumatized her severely and only recently was she able to talk to me about it. I can't comprehend the pain she must have dealt with and the pain she is still dealing with. The point I'm trying to make is, if you are on campus or anywhere where you will be walking, running, etc. ask another girlfriend, a guy you know or call the guard room and have someone go with you. I'm sure most guy friends would be more than happy to contribute to your safety. Safety comes in numbers and I hope you'll be careful.

Brian Stokes  
Class of '95

### Kindness of faculty, students, appreciated

To everyone at the Math Department, the Office of the Provost and Dean of Faculty, the College of Liberal Arts and Office of the Dean, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and to all my colleagues and students I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for all your kindness, caring and help in being there for my son Alexander and myself after the tragic death of my husband, Professor Ilya J. Bakelman of the Math Department. Thank you and God Bless you all.

Irene R. Bakelman

### LoBaido on the Batt causes reader nausea

I would like to thank Kenneth W. Elwell for the excellent exposure of Anthony LoBaido's sinister rhetoric in the September 11th issue of The Battalion.

Too many people seem to stay high up in the clouds missing the essential turning point in LoBaido's columns such as "enemy of the cross" in his last column, or "liberal anti-Christ" some Batts ago. The context in which these words are used reflect the mind set of a sick man, or shall I say an extremist of the worst kind?

LoBaido's columns are not like commercials where you can miss half of it and still understand the message. That is his "trick" and it is the trap. I wonder if LoBaido understands the implications of his writing.

LoBaido managed to rise to the position of an assistant opinion page editor of the Battalion. What a good choice. It makes me feel like throwing up!

Frank Schnorrenberg  
Graduate student

### LoBaido criticism filled with errors

In reading Kenneth Elwell's guest column (September 11), I was shocked by his unsupported accusations, historical misinterpretations, and illogical conclusions.

First, he states that Anthony LoBaido has a "twisted...un-American philosophy." What about LoBaido's philosophy is un-American? Elwell claims theism, but although theism is not patriotic and cannot be labeled "American," Christianity has been a part of America for almost four hundred years.

Elwell's comparison of medieval serfs to black Americans today is completely irrelevant and inaccurate. Individuals in America have political and economic freedom, unlike those in feudal kingdoms, so blacks are certainly not "economically imprisoned."

And perhaps mentally ill people were killed during the middle ages because people did not then know or understand mental illness.

As Elwell's history continues to the coming of the Calvinists and Puritans to America, historical myths abound. These people did not build a free and tolerant nation. They had no tolerance for political beliefs other than their own. Well-known examples of this are the expulsions of Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams from their communities for practicing religion differently than the Puritans.

Mr. Elwell concludes his column by citing Nazi Germany as an example of family values. How can a system that took youth away from their families to be indoctrinated with Nazi beliefs and taught to turn in family members be an example of family values? Then Thomas Jefferson is exemplified as a model proponent of freedom. Need I remind Mr. Elwell that Jefferson was a slave owner? I suggest that Mr. Elwell review his history before misleading his readers with his own fallacies.

Cynthia Finley  
Class of '95

### Canadian health care system not that bad

In the Battalion of September 11, in an article on health care reform, Penny Workman is quoted as saying "if someone (in Canada) needs emergency care, they can't get it because they must go on a waiting list..." This statement is at best misleading, and at worst, simply not true. In the vast majority of cases, the Canadian health care system provides the care that is needed promptly and efficiently.

My personal experience in Canada bears this out. When I required preventative surgery, there was no problem in scheduling it promptly when I explained that I would soon be leaving the country. Furthermore, it was possible to work around my own schedule, which included writing and defending a Masters' Thesis. More recently I have had three grandparents, an aunt, and an uncle all promptly receive the emergency care they needed. I personally have never seen anyone's health jeopardized by having to wait for medical care or an urgent surgical procedure.

Of course no system is perfect and there is the occasional horror story. These stories attract attention precisely because they are rare exceptions, and therefore newsworthy. Contrary to Workman's statement, they are not the rule.

Heather Donsig  
Graduate student

### Author claims book was misrepresented

In the September 4, 1992 edition of your newspaper, guest columnist Tim Thornton makes false statements about my book, "Churches That Abuse". He claims that my discussion of the Great Commission Churches is based solely on information provided by a single individual, Jerry MacDonald, and that I have taken the "alleged" experiences of this person and projected them onto the entire network of churches. This is inaccurate.

As a sociologist, I am concerned about regularities and patterns of behavior rather than idiosyncratic or unique factors. The patterns which I identify in the book are based on data representing a broad spectrum of ex-members, not just those from a single congregation, as Thornton alleges. The reason I quote MacDonald extensively relates to the fact that he is the only sociologist who, until recently, has conducted scholarly research on this relatively obscure religious group. It happens that he is also an ex-member of the controversial church. The leadership of the organization has engaged in a campaign of misinformation about my book in what I can only conclude is a highly defensive exercise in damage control.

Ronald Enroth, Ph.D.  
Professor of Sociology  
Westmont College

### More midnight yell comments, advice

Following Sept. 11th's yell practice, one thing is apparent: the threat of a beating is not an effective deterrent for keeping persons off exalted Kyle Field. The way I see it we have two means at our disposal for deterring these trespassers of tradition. Our choices are 1) capital punishment or 2) indifference.

Although capital punishment would be effective, hopefully, we can all agree that it is immoral and extreme.

We are therefore left with the second deterrent: indifference. I understand that for those who are proud and respectful of Aggie tradition, it is difficult to be indifferent towards obviously disrespectful behavior. Ignore the insurgents! They do it for entertainment, attention, and challenge. If no cadet is in chase, there is no entertainment, attention, or challenge. I believe this will put an end to Kyle Field crossings entirely.

Harold Miller  
Graduate student

In the past four years that I have been here, I have never seen anything like what happened at yell on Friday.

I can't believe that so many people have so little respect. For those of you out there who have no Aggie spirit or respect for Texas A&M traditions, that is your business, but stay away from our yell practice.

How anyone can knowingly & intentionally go out there and trounce all over Kyle Field is beyond me. I was embarrassed that A&M actually had people within the student body with so little respect.

To the class of 1996, you are the keepers of the spirit — don't let it die. I don't want to come back here in five years and see what I saw Friday night again.

Kara Clements  
Class of '92

