



## EDITORIALS

### Human guinea pigs

#### Tamoxifen side effects kept quiet

Tamoxifen is a synthetic hormone currently being studied as a means to prevent breast cancer in high-risk women. Allegedly, the government failed to inform participants in a recent drug trial of a study that seriously questions tamoxifen's safety. Women enrolled in a five year trial were led to focus on the unproven, potential benefits of the drug instead of its many side effects and potential risks. Critics claim that research centers modified the consent forms women are required to sign in order to de-emphasize and even exclude certain risks.

While side effects such as hot flashes and weight gain are typical to most drug studies, research indicates that tamoxifen also increases the user's risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus, as well as blood clotting.

Regrettably, the researchers neglected to adequately inform the thousands of women who trustingly allowed themselves to be used as subjects. Such blatant neglect of patients' rights is particularly tragic at a time when the call for more breast cancer research is at an all time high.

With an estimated 1-in-8 women at risk of developing breast cancer, the need for the development of new and more effective treatment is critical. However, science must remember that the women who agree to take part in any studies must be informed of all the risks in order to make informed decisions. The apparent abuse of power and neglect on the part of researchers in this recent study only hurts the overall effort to find the cure for breast cancer.

### Voter interest grows

#### Possibility of highest turnout ever

As the Nov. 3 election rapidly approaches, the possibility exists that this year's presidential race will prompt the highest voter turnout in history.

With the current polls showing no clear forerunner, the outcome of the election is very much in doubt. Millions of disaffected voters are registered and ready to cast their ballots, including many college students voting for the first time. The participation of so many traditionally apathetic voter groups might sway the election in a direction that the empirical political analysts simply cannot forecast.

For example, this week Jesse Jack-

son made the rounds in Houston, gathering six bus loads of homeless people and ushering them to voting booths, where according to Jackson, they cast their votes for Gov. Bill Clinton.

The candidates themselves have used unorthodox campaigning methods in an effort to reach new voters; ranging from late night talk shows to Music Television to the "electronic town hall."

Historically, voter turnout has hovered around 30-35 percent of the electorate. The 1992 presidential election promises to establish a new standard. Make sure you're a part of it.

### 'Fish spurs' spark fond feelings

#### Senioritis subsides after brief encounter with cadet

Burnout had definitely set in. As a fifth-year senior about to graduate, school for me had become more of a chore than anything else. Days seemed like they consisted of little more than going from the office to home to my office to classes (when I managed to make them) to my office and home again.

Home football games meant heavy traffic and standing in the sweltering heat for hours. Yell practice was just too late at night. Dudley's was my new hangout. Let's face it, in Aggie land terms, I was dead.

And I felt it in a big way. Until today.

Today was different from most days. After my roommate and I signed up for the Association of Former Students induction banquet in the MSC, I took a walk through Academic Plaza, my favorite part of campus. It looked the same. Same trees. Same sidewalks. Same monuments. But this time, I took a mental note of it, thinking that in just a few months I might regret taking all of this for granted.

Several blackbirds that had been rustling in the grass took to flight as I passed. The American flag rippled in the breeze. Sully was deep in thought, possibly wondering if his school would ever have more than a handful of cadets. The Academic building stood silent, keeping watch.

This part of campus is always quiet. Serene.

Until he arrived.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Silence. Serenity.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Quiet once again.



ATLANTIS TILLMAN  
Editor in Chief

The freshman cadet knelt on the ground. His spurs refused to remain intact for more than a couple steps. He righted himself and began again, only to stop a few feet down his path.

I felt a smile creeping across my face as I watched him start and stop. When he was close enough to see me watching he grinned sheepishly and explained he was already late for class.

I walked beside him for a while, as he was going in my direction. He greeted everyone he saw with a bellowing "Howdy" and a smile.

Rattle. Click.  
Rattle. Click.  
Silence.

The homemade spurs once again mocked him as they lay on the sidewalk. Handing them over I asked the cadet if he thought he would ever make his class at this rate. He laughed, and we both went our separate ways.

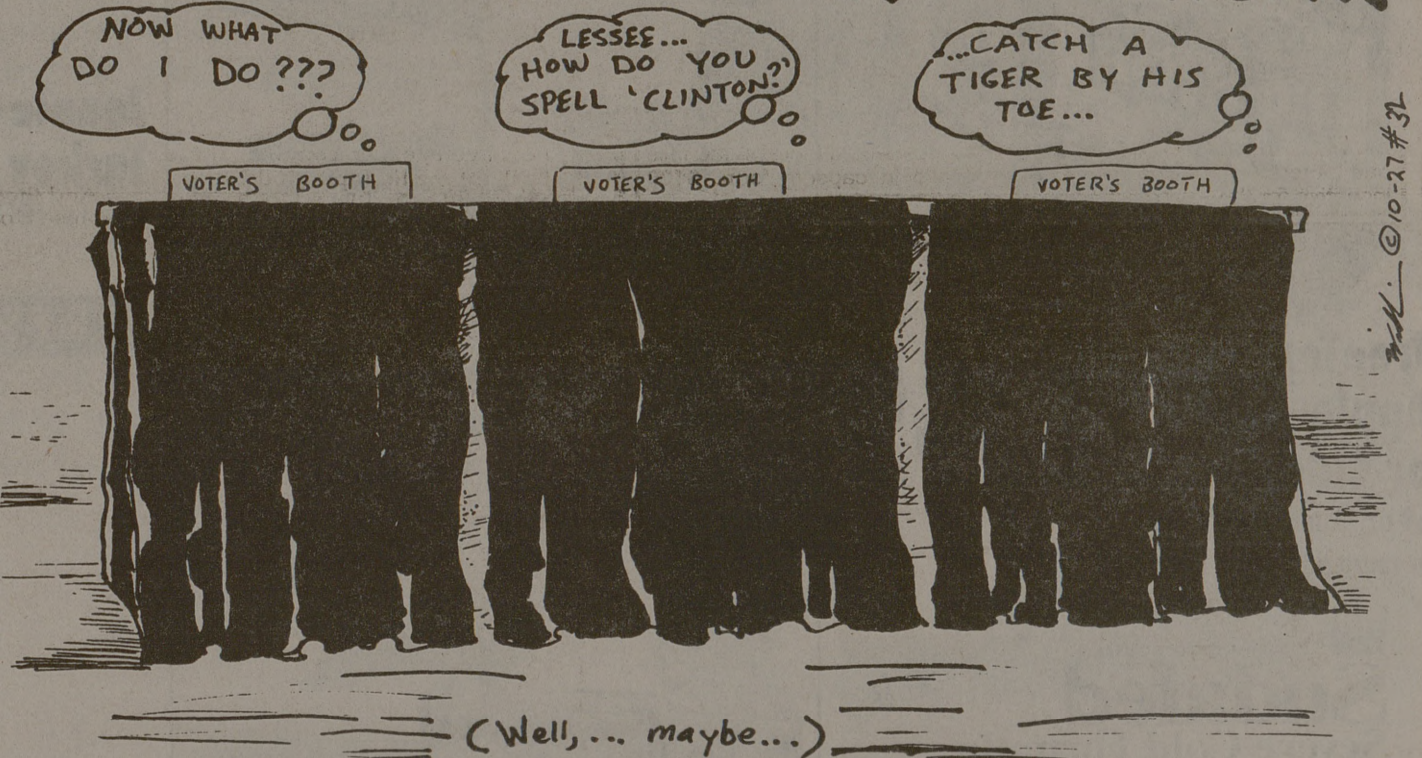
As I made my way I felt better than I had in a long time. This semester Texas A&M has seen its share of troubles. The charm and personality of A&M has been tarnished for me in many ways, and many times I wish I could have remained untouched by it all — blissfully ignorant.

As the echoes of the cadet's spurs faded, so did some of my disappointments. The frustration I have felt this semester as one controversy has been replaced by another eased some. The anger I have felt over these situations softened a bit. I was reminded of why I came to A&M. I felt a bit of that Aggie spirit return to my dead, fifth-year senior attitude. Maybe I was simply able to put it all into perspective.

So, with some 50 days left here, I felt I had been given new life with which to finish the semester. The school I have held so dear for so long is still alive, and it is still Texas A&M.  
Rattle. Click.  
Gig 'em.

Tillman is a senior journalism major

### 1992 WILL SEE RECORD VOTER TURNOUT!! CONGRATULATIONS, AMERICA!!



## MAIL CALL

### Mandatory racism class not the answer

We are writing in response to Steve Miller's letter to The Battalion on Oct. 21 concerning required multiculturalism classes. We disagree with his recommendation that these courses be required for college aged students. Learning about other cultures is important to a well-rounded education, but by the time that students reach Texas A&M, many of their values and ideals have already been cemented.

We were brought up to see everyone as equals and only dealt with racism in situations entirely outside of our families, which seems to be the way Steve Miller was raised as well. It is difficult for some people to understand a belief that contrasts their own. The members of SAE may not have thought that their actions could offend people or have overtones of racism. That does not imply stupidity, just a difference in upbringing.

"Jungle parties" and other situations that appear racist may be a reflection of

a larger problem, but a required course in multiculturalism is not the answer. Racism is a social issue just as criminal activities and acceptance of differing sexual orientations and religious doctrines are. Is a one-semester class concerning these issues going to solve these problems though? Probably not. It may even push some students to resent other races or cultures because they are being forced to take the class. Teaching children from the beginning that acceptance of, or at least respect for, different choices is one of the keys to social peace.

Maria V. Bell  
Anne Walthall  
Class of '93

### Some like Feducia's bathroom humor

This is in response to Mark B. Bendiksen's letter on Oct. 27 denouncing Stacy Feducia's scatological humor. I think two things should be mentioned. First of all, there are a lot of us who sincerely enjoy bathroom humor. Also, I think we need to consider when was the last time Mr. Bendiksen passed gas. I don't mean just a minuscule little toot, but a 30-second, roommate-chasing monster fart. Come on, Mark, out with it! Until then, censor your own reading.

Dave Massey  
Class of '92

### A&M needs more self-defense classes

The new 1993 Spring Class Schedules are now out, and if you flip to the Kinesiology section, you can find an array of classes to fulfill your four Kinesiology 199 requirements. If you are interested, you can find 44 sections of golf, 35 sections of weight training, 33 sections of tennis, 24 sections of bowling, and over three more pages full of classes.

Among these classes there are two sections of self-defense. This number of self-defense classes would be perfectly fine if there was not a great demand, but last semester this class filled up in early registration before the regular phone registration commenced.

Now, do not get me wrong — I have nothing against the variety of skills which could be learned, but shouldn't something like self defense be accessible to anyone who would want to take the class?

I am not just writing this letter because of a casual observation. I have personally had my life threatened and have been injured by attackers here in College Station. Sometimes it is terrifying for me to be alone at night.

Among the things taught at this University, shouldn't A&M be teaching individuals to have more control over their lives? Would this class really be that expensive? The only things necessary for the class would be an empty room and a knowledgeable instructor, especially considering this class could

possibly save someone's life or at least some great anguish.

Jennifer O'Gorman  
Class of '94

### Yugoslavian civil war coverage accurate

I was delighted to see a series of balanced articles (Oct. 19-22) on the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. Congratulations on a job well done, and thank you for providing a forum for expressing different opinions on this very complex issue. Our students and the American public in general need to have complete, unbiased information on this subject.

Dr. Dragomir B. Bukur  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering

### Two-percenters ruin A&M for senior

I would like to thank those few two-percenters who thought it would be cool to flatten all of the tires on my friend's car in a Northside parking lot last Saturday night.

When I came to Texas A&M, I did not know what to expect, but I quickly found out that A&M is an awesome university. When people ask me how I like it here, I tell them I love it.

Lately, however, after reading several other letters and seeing what happened to my friend's car, I find it hard to talk about this school in a positive way. I think it's about time to pull our heads out and start acting like the Ags we are and stop acting like those who go to that other school in Austin.

Let's have a little more consideration for other people and their property. If you don't think that you can handle that, then get the hell out and don't let the door hit you in the back because we don't need that kind of attitude her. Quit making liars out of those of us who tell people what a great institution this is.

This is my last year here, and I'd hate to leave with a bad attitude about the students at A&M. The bottom line is, let's stop fighting each other and start working with each other and make this the world class university that I know it can be.

Paul Phillips  
Class of '91

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 author's name, Social Security number, class, and phone number. 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