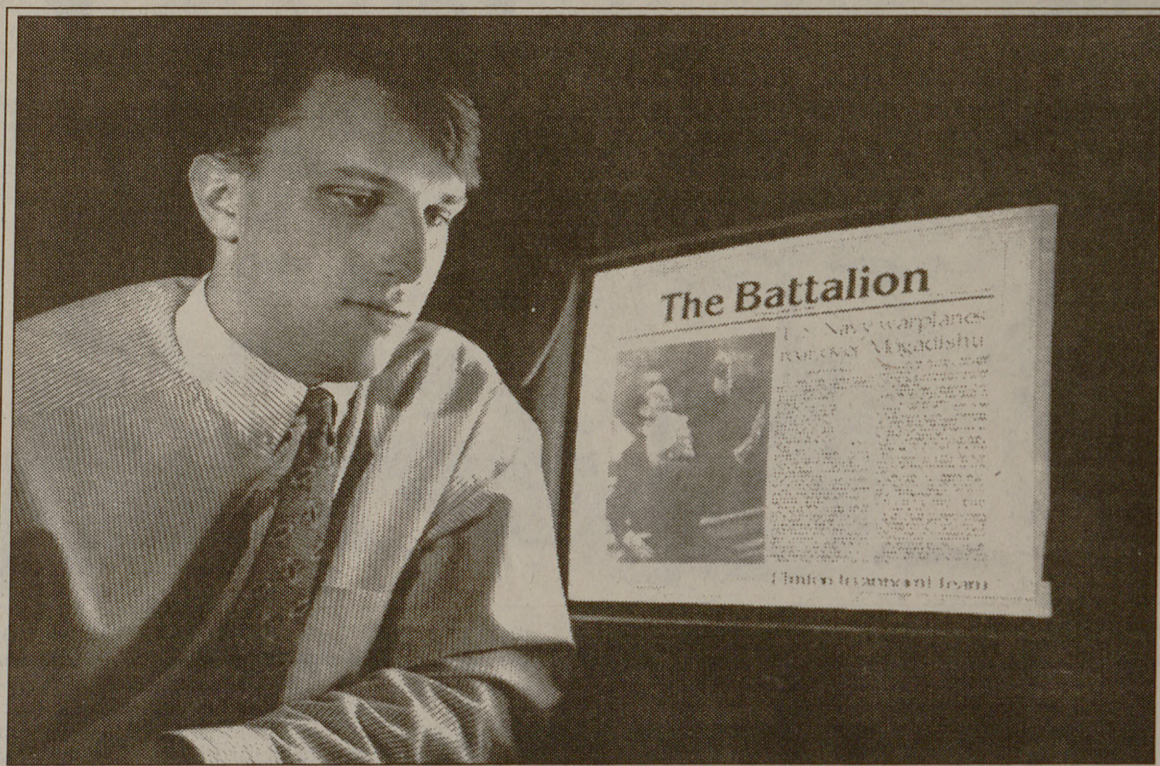


Newspaper faces challenge

Spring semester Battalion editor to provide campus with quality coverage



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

By TODD STONE

Contributing Writer of THE BATTALION

Providing the A&M community with quality news reporting while training an inexperienced news staff will remain a constant challenge for The Battalion next semester, said incoming editor in chief and senior journalism major Steve O'Brien.

"The people that work here go to class," O'Brien said. "They're full time students like everyone else, they're not paid like professionals. This is part of their learning process. During this process, they will make mistakes."

O'Brien, who first joined The Battalion staff as a sports writer in the spring 1991, was nominated for editor in chief by the Student Publications Board Nov. 4 and was approved the following week by A&M Provost Dr. E. Dean Gage.

O'Brien said The Battalion staff must constantly strive to improve because it is so widely read at Texas A&M.

"We are one of the only two major papers in this metropolis," he said. "Obviously that means many more people will use us as their source of news and will look to us as opinion leaders."

The Battalion was recently

awarded the Regional Pacemaker - the "Pulitzer" of college newspapers - for newspaper journalism. O'Brien believes this national recognition is a sign of better things to come.

"I would like to think that it helped the students' perception of The Battalion," he said. "I know that a lot of students find the newspaper just kind of average, but compared to other college newspapers, just like our football team, we're one of the best three or four in the country."

Still, controversy has followed The Battalion this semester, including accusations of racial insensitivity after the newspaper

ran a cartoon depicting an African-American state legislator as a small black dog.

"There have been things this semester that have led to questions of our sensitivity towards minorities," O'Brien said, "but people have to remember that things can be interpreted in a lot of different ways. There's always a chance for one group to look at something different than another."

O'Brien said the composition of the spring staff is a cross-section of different backgrounds, including members from minority groups, fraternities and the Corps of Cadets. There are more women than men on the newspaper staff. O'Brien said this variety of people on staff will serve as a strength for the newspaper.

"I believe our diverse staff will eliminate any insensitivity by any other staff member," O'Brien said. "I think we have succeeded in a lot of areas by covering multicultural issues."

The content of The Battalion is independent of the University, O'Brien, who was managing editor this fall, said this freedom gives the newspaper the opportunity to offer readers all sides of the story because it remains free from direct University control.

"The administration could set their own agenda (with control of the content) and decide what they think is important for the students to know and censor stories or opinions that they thought were bad for the university," O'Brien said. "We report the facts regardless of who could be affected. As long as we are accurate fair and truthful, then we have done our job."

O'Brien said he wants to have a cooperative relationship with

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.63	H/I	SI ₂ /SI ₁	\$1325 ⁰⁰
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1.51	G	SI ₂	\$7315 ⁰⁰
1.01	I	VS ₂	\$4625 ⁰⁰
.89	I	SI ₂ /I ₁	\$2414 ⁰⁰
.72	E	VS ₂	\$2700 ⁰⁰
.61	J	SI ₂	\$1450 ⁰⁰
.53	I	VS ₂ /VS ₁	\$1475 ⁰⁰
.51	G	SI ₁ /VS ₂	\$1530 ⁰⁰
.46	I	SI ₂	\$1125 ⁰⁰
Pear Shape			
.73	G	SI ₂ /I ₁	\$2178 ⁰⁰
.71	H	SI ₂	\$2250 ⁰⁰
.61	I	SI ₁	\$1185 ⁰⁰
.42	H	VS ₁	\$820 ⁰⁰
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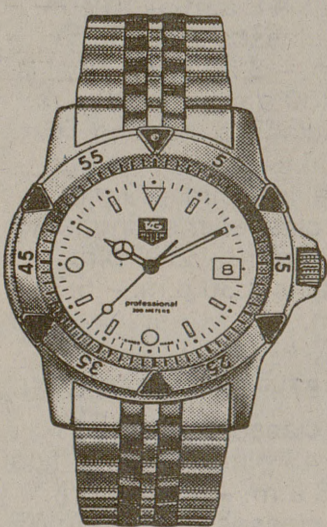


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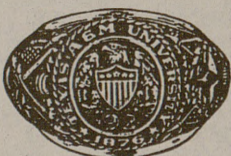
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