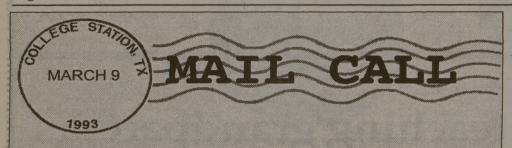
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Before you sign, know the truth

This letter is intended for those individuals who are presently sophomores in the Army ROTC program and are considering whether or not to sign a Guaranteed Reserve Contract. Since I am currently a Second Lieutenant in the Nation Guard, I can give you the real scoop. However, before I do, I want it to be known that I'm not trying to talk any of you out of signing a contract. I just feel that you should be given the whole picture.

You will probably have people tell you that the eight year obligation is required from you for the \$1800 that you receive over your final two years. However, you probably won't be told that this money is considered in your financial aid package (i.e. you would have received this money anyway if you were receiving financial aid, but it would have been in the form of a loan instead of a grant).

Likewise, you will probably be told that you will receive over \$200 per drill. However, you probably won't be told that you can lose up to 30 days of active-duty pay if equipment is lost by your subordinates. Officers will tell you to make your subordinates sign hand-receipts for the equipment. The only problem with this is that there is an extremely high rate of turnover among enlisted personnel in the Army Reserves. Furthermore, you will be lucky if you are allotted time to do an inventory more than once a year.

Finally, don't expect your civilian employer to give you vacation time of

on top of your two-week annual training (many view this as your vacation time).

Now weigh this with the good things that you have heard about getting commissioned, so that you may come to the right choice for you.

> 2 Lt. Michael Buck Class of '91

Drinking not part of college curriculum

There's something that has been plaguing A&M ever since I can remember. It has given this University a label with many people I know, and I'm sure it's been branded the same by many others. What I'm referring to is alcoholism and drinking. This of course, should be of no surprise to anyone reading this letter, however, I do feel that this topic needs to be discussed on a local newspaper level - and the Battalion would be ideal for this purpose. I have been in many discussions with many different people about one thing about those choosing not to attend Texas A&M University. Among other obvious reasons, such as "A&M does not adequately accommodate to my needs, and/or my Major," which anyone should be able to understand, there has also been the frequently-heard notation that "Yea - Texas A&M, the Beer-Drinking Capital of the World That doesn't impress me ... " Well, it doesn't impress me either.

This is where I ask for your help in

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the matter. Inform people that this isn't what college life is supposed to be -getting drunk of the weekend, sobering up on Sunday, and resuming school on Monday (hopefully) - this isn't what these four or five very important years are all about. They're about growing mentally (and sometimes spiritually), making lifetime friends and commitments and of choosing what path of life you really want. Hopefully, you can see my side - and I"d appreciate your interest and concern by responding in one of your articles.

> Mark A. Magee Class of '94

Employers irritated with irresponsibility

I am writing this letter in response to the lack of professionalism displayed by many graduating students here at Texas A&M. The placement center on campus works very hard to provide students with as many employment opportunities as possible. To do so, they assure prospective employers that our graduates are responsible students and job candidates. We in turn need to live up to our part of this agreement.

My father, a manager and recruiter for a worldwide engineering firm, spent the last two days at A&M recruiting mechanical, electrical and civil engineers. His division has openings for college graduates at around \$35,000, offers excellent benefits, and opportunities for advancement. Last night, they held and information session for prospective applicants. Around 35 students signed up to attend and between 12-15 actually showed up. The company paid to have refreshments that went to waste and the recruiters were surely irritated by the exceptionally low turnout.

If you sign up to attend an informational session, you are committing yourself to attend. Companies are by no means required to hire Aggies. If many more of my fellow students display such a lack of responsibility and consideration, these companies may choose to recruit only at schools where they have had high attendance and applicants who displayed a strong interest in their companies. I, like everyone else, hope to get before I graduate. Please don't hurt my chances by turning employers away.

> Melissa Megliola Class of '94

Clinton's economic plan seems slick

This letter is in response to Charles Ewings' letter printed in the March 2 edition of the Battalion. It seems that Clinton wants to add the value one could receive by renting their house out for the year to our income, thereby raising the number of people who are moved into a higher tax bracket. Sounds kinda SLICK to me.

Secondly, I am tired of this liberal lie that the rich got an unfair tax break and didn't pay their fair share during the Reagan/Bush years. First of all, everybody got a tax break in the eighties, but the "rich" got the smallest break of them all, by about 1%. Also, during the last few years, the top 5% of wage earners paid 40% of the taxes. Seems pretty fair to me.

President Clinton may want to increase jobs and improve the infrastructure, but his stimulus package will cost about \$170 billion, and his youth jobs package will cost about \$4 billion. The economy is growing better than it has in the past few years. In the last quarter of 1992, Gross Domestic Product grew by 4.55, the largest growth in 5 years. We don;t need to tinker with the economy right now. Let the market forces take care of the problems.

It seems Clinton doesn't want "shared-sacrifice" or else he would cut his salary and really cut spending, not just reshuffle money in the present

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economy. Remember, tax increases have never reduced the deficit, and for proof I point to the tax increases under Reagan and Bush that were supposed to reduce the deficit. The only thing that can reduce the deficit is to cut funding by scraping the "current services baseline" way of funding the government and only adjust budgets for inflation.

> Travis Waddell Class of '96

Religious debate found enlightening

I would like to commend both Campus Crusade for Christ and the Agnostic and Atheist Student Group for carrying out a wonderful debate last Wednesday night. Both groups showed great tact in using facts and reasoning power to answer some very tough questions. I hope to see more of such debates, especially between other religious and philosophical groups on campus, but all done in a spirit of wanting to understand each other.

> Peyam Barghassa Graduate Student

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