

## THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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## Local life and back-to-school blues

### Wrecked cars, crowded bars mark start of school year

Well, it's over. The summer is dead, the streets are congested and school has started once again. It's even cooled off some — the temperature's back down to the low 90s.



MACK HARRISON  
Opinion editor

Summer sessions at Texas A&M are laid back. Traffic is not as bad compared to the fall and spring semesters, the stores are not as crowded and you can actually find a decent parking space.

The break between semesters is even quieter. The difference between the interim and the fall semester is astounding. The town seems to come to a standstill as it awaits the students' return. For most people still here, it represents the last bit of peace and relaxation before the onslaught of a new school year.

The three weeks between sessions spoiled me. It was like I had the town all to myself. After graduation ceremonies, most students leave town for a short vacation before the fall semester. This scholar, on the other hand — being cash-free and transportationally challenged — stuck around to earn enough money to get his car out of the shop.

Stranded afoot in College Station, I relied on the charity of friends and a borrowed bicycle for transportation. Let me just say it's not too fun to pilot a bike down a partially repaved and totally jammed University Avenue at 5:15 in 100 degree heat and 110 percent humidity, only to come home to a house

with no air conditioning.

Air conditioners are life support systems for Texans, but every summer it seems I end up living in a dwelling where the air conditioner either breaks down or is nonexistent.

This summer, our window unit went out at the end of July. The air conditioner repairman evidently didn't believe our slow cooking was a major problem, because we didn't hear from him for nearly a month.

He fixed the air conditioner, finally — right when the (relatively) cool weather came through last week. Next thing you know, our hot water heater will break down and we'll get it fixed — in April.

Since a 14-inch fan is no substitute for freon and an air compressor, I beat the heat by spending most of my free time at Duddley's.

College Station bars are enjoyable in the summer — they're not as crowded, and there aren't as many students present. In the fall, however, there is a disproportionate influx of patrons to bars they don't normally frequent. A friend of mine came up with the reason for this phenomenon.

Dave's Drinker Displacement Theory states that the normal increase in student population in the fall brings newer, underage students to clubs that admit minors. The younger students overwhelm these places, forcing students of legal drinking age to retreat to 21-and-over establishments, where they in turn crowd out the regulars and irritate the hell out of Dave, who just wants to drink in peace.

What's really irritating about the fall is all the traffic congestion brought about by bad drivers — and even worse, the parents who taught them inadequate road skills.

A co-worker recently told me he saw three

wrecks in one day at the corner of Texas Avenue and F.M. 2818. Driving down University one evening, I had to slam on the brakes three times because some blind or brain dead driver pulled onto the road right in front of me.

Of course, it doesn't help that the City of College Station, in its infinite wisdom, decided to wait until all the students got back before it repaved University Avenue. Heaven forbid they should repave the street in the summer, when there's not as much traffic.

But what should we expect from a town without the foresight to plan for more than one major north-south thoroughfare in the whole damn city?

By the way, the University decided to follow the city's example by repaving the parking lots along Wellborn Road the week before school begins. Why does A&M wait until school starts so it can inconvenience students, but announce multicultural requirements, administrative shakeups and school name changes in the summer when there's no one around to take notice?

The students, staff and faculty are back, however, crowding the streets, shops and bars. A friend heard me complaining about this and replied, "Mack, you've turned into a local."

I suppose I have gone native. I've lived here for the past four years. I've learned all the back roads and shortcuts around town. I've discovered some hole-in-the-wall restaurants and bars that are worth visiting. And I've made the pilgrimage to Shiner.

Hell, I can even tolerate country music once in a while.

Mack Harrison is a senior agricultural journalism major.

## Battalion turns 100

### Newspaper: An A&M tradition

For most students, today is just another beginning of another school year. But to all of us here at The Battalion, this is the beginning of something special.

Today's publication marks the beginning of The Battalion's 100th year of service to the students and faculty of Texas A&M. For a century, we have provided the University with news from around the campus and around the world.

We have seen A&M grow from a fledgling college to the third largest university in the nation. We have witnessed students of this university fight in two world wars plus conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

We have seen 19 presidents, the Great Depression, the rise and fall of communism and the first man walk on the moon.

To commemorate its 100th birthday, The Battalion has commissioned and designed a logo that will become a permanent fixture in the paper this fall. Also, the nameplate on the front cover has been redesigned to give the paper a more old-fashioned look.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on some of the storied events of Texas A&M's past and how The Battalion covered those events.

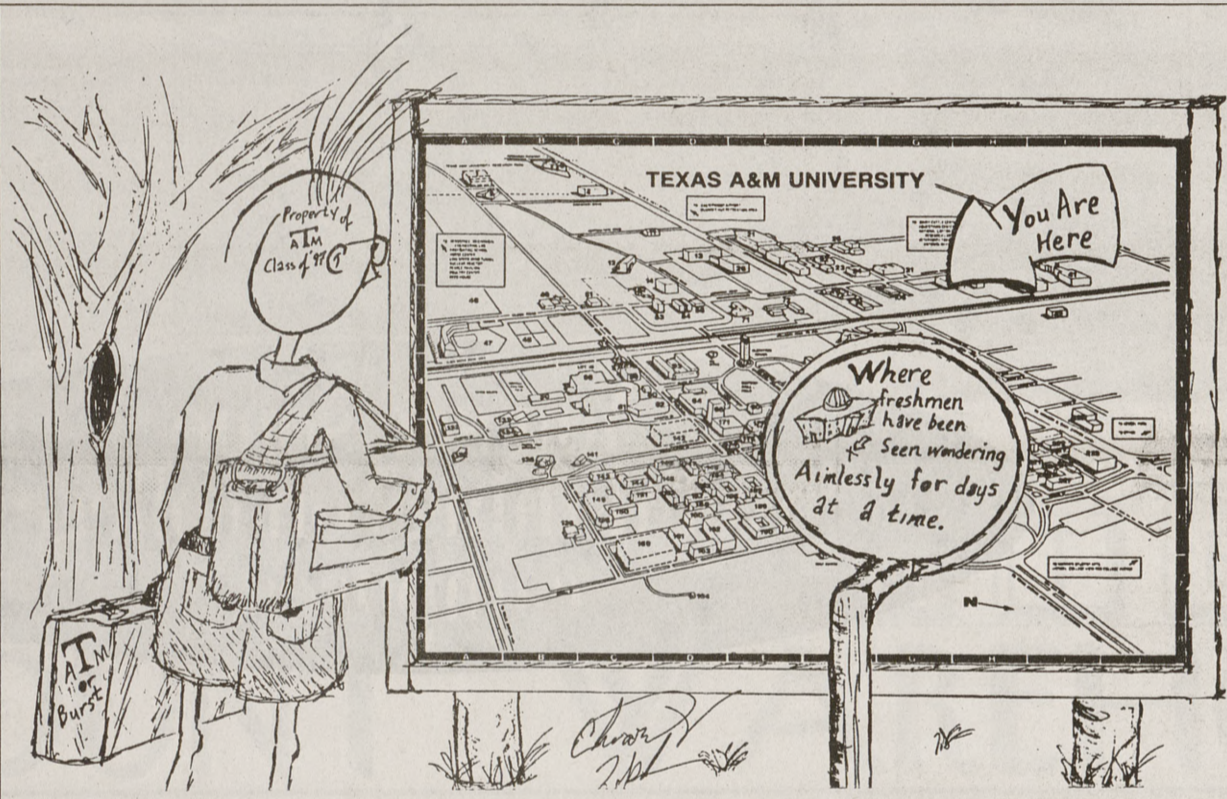
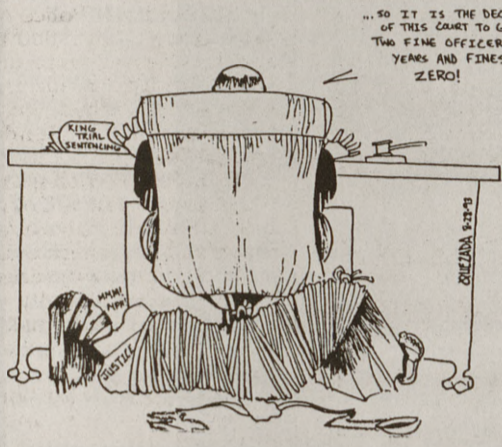
On September 30, we will publish a special 100th Anniversary commemorative issue of The Battalion, complete with photos and relics from old issues. This edition should be a keepsake for anyone who loves Texas A&M and anyone interested in its history.

But some things don't change. We begin this year, as usual, with our special Back-to-School issue.

With four sections dealing with campus events, entertainment news and football previews, the Back-to-School edition is our biggest paper of the year.

And, of course, we will continue throughout the semester to keep students abreast of events occurring around campus, just like we have for 100 years.

The Battalion is a tradition older than Bonfire, Midnight Yell and the 12th Man. We hope we can continue to inform readers at Texas A&M University for another century.



Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff.

Columns, guest columns and letters express the opinions of the authors.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

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

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call  
 013 Reed McDonald/Mail stop 1111  
 Texas A&M University  
 College Station, TX 77843  
 Fax: (409) 845-2647

## Remember: Only you can prevent more government growth

Slowly, quietly and discretely our country has been defiled. On July 4, 1776 the United States of America was founded. At that time we had no government, no established prejudices, no welfare, no regulations on environmental pollutants, no income tax, no Social Security, no National Health Care, no entitlements, no PACs, no five mph bumper safety tests, no USDA, no FDA, no FCC, no NEA, no honey subsidies, no foreign aid, no tobacco subsidies, no rent control and no EPA.



ELIOT WILLIAMS  
Columnist

For over 150 years — and particularly during the 60 years from the end of the civil war until World War II — America lived almost completely in this pristine condition. The government knew its role was very simple: to protect, encourage and stay out of private enterprise. Dur-

ing this period, the United States was the freest, most prosperous society on earth. Living standards rose 5 percent a year, and the average American's income was six times higher at the end of that period than it was at the beginning.

The government was primarily a policeman, protecting the marketplace from force and fraud. Gradually, the government began instituting monetary controls and protectionist policies. As these policies took hold, the Great Depression set in. The depression, blamed on free market capitalism, was only worsened by Roosevelt's New Deal.

The New Deal legitimized peacetime price controls, welfare, huge taxes, massive government employment and the bureaucratic control of industry. Today, there is no service, no transaction and no enterprise that the government does not control. The state regulates what a farmer can grow in his field, how many office workers can be employed, what race they must be, how many hours a business's employees can work, and even what words can be used to describe a potato chip. Is it "new" or "improved"? What does "no salt" mean as opposed to "low salt"?

The government has bureaucrats at work deciding such minutia — all at our expense.

The government of 1993 controls our entire economy. Enterprises are being taxed and regulated to death. Social policies are consuming monstrous portions of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). One study by Robert Rector of the Heritage foundation found that since the onset of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, total welfare spending in 1990 dollars has amounted to \$3.5 trillion. More importantly, these policies don't seem to be achieving any visible goal. Living standards are falling each year, violence is rampant, and mounting fear for one's safety is replacing hope and progress.

Professor Peter Marcuse of Columbia University says that the homeless population is increasing at a rate higher than any other time in postwar years. There is a lesson to be learned — the government cannot solve our problems.

The obvious moral purpose of government is to protect its citizens from domestic and foreign aggressors who use coercion. The government has not done its duty in protecting its citizens from its own domination. The problem we are ex-

periencing in America today is a failure of government, and more importantly, it is a failure of the people.

In short, the outrageous growth of government in the last 60 years can be most directly attributed to our continual reliance on it to solve our social and economic problems. Since the advent of the welfare state, we have slowly begun to view the government as the "Great Provider." We look to the government for moral guidance, for economic security and for social harmony. The government can provide none of these things.

What we need is change. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, government spending as a percentage of the GDP would be 23.4 percent without President Clinton's new budget. With the new budget, government outlays will increase while taxes will approach 20 percent of the GDP — compared to 18.8 percent without the plan. Is this the path to freedom and happiness? Clinton's plans emphasize more governmental regulation, more taxes to fund the bureaucracy, and an expansion of welfare benefits.

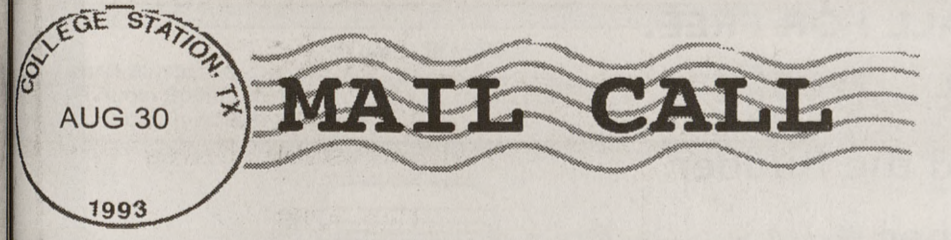
Is this the kind of change our sick economy needs?

The answer is a resounding "No!"

The kind of change we need can not be spoon-fed to us by a man who has spent almost his entire post-collegiate life on the government dole. The change we require is too complex to be settled at the polls in November every 4 years. We have already gone too far. Many of the liberties our forefathers cherished have already been revoked by the provider mentality. We must alter our attitude regarding government and begin to rely on ourselves, on private enterprise, and on our friends to solve any problems we may be experiencing.

As college students, we have the ability to make this change. Our generation must fight against growing government and make the sacrifices necessary to restore the freedom and happiness that was once felt by citizens of the United States. No one ever claimed liberty was easy to achieve, but as freedom loving Americans, it is our duty to stop falling victim to the ease of relying on the government to solve our problems.

Eliot Williams is a sophomore electrical engineering major



### Mailout puts being Greek over being Ag

I am writing this letter in regard to the 1993-94 Fraternity Rush mailout. In this mailout, the editor for the Interfraternity Council, Chris Cowan, states,

"Yes, being an Aggie is an honor, but being Greek holds a longer line of pride and tradition than anything imaginable."

You, Mr. Cowan, have put being Greek over being an Aggie. I have always been very supportive of the Greek system, but I, as are many other Aggies, am flatly offended by this statement. One of the things I hold dear to my heart

is being an Aggie. Being an Aggie is the best possible thing, and it boasts more pride and tradition than imaginable. True, I may not be Greek, but I believe there is a saying that goes: "You are an Aggie before you are anything!" You have obviously forgotten this, but I am now here to remind you.

At this time, I would like to comment that in all the organizations I have ever been involved, the advisor made it a requirement that they proofread anything before it goes to print. I think it would be a wise decision for your advisor to begin doing the same.

As Interfraternity Council Editor and a representative of the Greek system, Mr. Cowan, I think you should take responsibility for your actions and apologize to all Aggies in the A&M community and

abroad. I surely hope that you will correct this statement that is so offensive to so many Aggies.

Good luck with Rush.

Brian Hicks  
Class of '95

### Mailing financial aid checks makes sense

In response to Seth Fuller's letter on financial aid checks (Aug. 5), "Quit complaining!" While I agree that the financial aid department does have some problems, remember, they do have to contend with several thousand students.

They have never gotten my check to me on time yet, either. I usually have to borrow money elsewhere to cover my fees.

However, I think mailing the checks is a great idea and long overdue. Sure, it could get lost in the mail or perhaps worse. But, it seems to me that since I signed the loan papers and am responsible for its repayment, the check should come to me first anyway. That's a side comment. Besides, the government probably decides on the order of receiving funds. The reason I am writing is this: I have better things to do than wait in a line for three hours or more ... like wait for a parking space! Thank you Texas A&M; I'll check the mail.

Scott Clanton  
Graduate Student