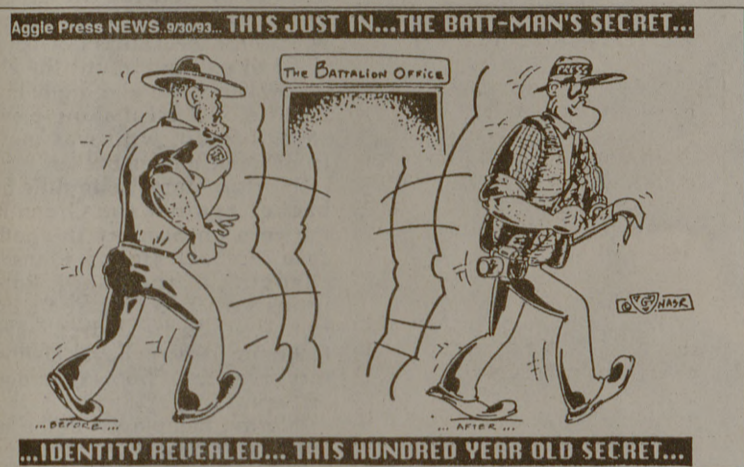


THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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 BELINDA BLANCARTE, night news editor
 MACK HARRISON, opinion editor

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Why do journalists put up with it all? What has drawn staffers to The Battalion all these years?

Pardon our narcissism this week — we're celebrating. It's not every day your newspaper turns 100. As you have probably gathered by now, The Battalion is commemorating its centennial year of publication. One hundred years of newsprint. One hundred years of writers rushing to meet deadlines. One hundred years of editors harassing writers about deadlines. One hundred years of Battalion staffers rushing to get the paper to the printers before press time.



MACK HARRISON
Opinion editor

Why do we do it? Why do writers, photographers, editors and graphic artists put themselves through the stressful, frenetic pace of the newspaper business? It's certainly not for the paycheck. Battalion staffers haven't always been paid — in fact, most of us started out not expecting to get paid. Any money you receive you regard as a bonus — extra spending money. No one ever bought a new car on a journalist's salary. Most Battalion staffers end up balancing the newspaper, schoolwork, at least one other part time job and whatever social life they

still have energy for. Usually, the grades are the first to go. I'm sure a few staffers manage to make good grades and still work on the Batt, but I can't recall any.

If we don't do this for the cash, then why? Why do writers spend hours waiting to talk to a source that may not even call? Why do editors stay up all night waiting for a story to come in and then spend hours making it look good on the page?

Once the printers' ink gets in your veins, it's over.

A reporter will work for weeks on a story, interviewing reluctant sources and sifting through wild rumors only to find out that the murder coverup she was investigating was actually just a drunk graduate student who cut himself with a grapefruit knife and didn't tell anybody.

A news editor will get home in the early morning hours after laying out the newspaper, see a story on CNN and go back to the newsroom to pull that story off the AP wire and put it in next day's edition.

A sportswriter will travel to an away game at his own expense and return home to deal with an uncooperative Sports Information Department.

A photographer will spend an hour and several rolls of film trying to catch the best image with her camera — only to be told there's no space for it to run that day.

An editor will handle irate phone calls and pressure from the University administration

whenever someone takes offense to the most minor point of debate in the newspaper.

An entire staff will resign when it feels the hand of censorship closing about the newsroom.

Why do we do all this? Why do we put up with angry readers, reluctant sources and an apathetic public?

Because, damn it, it's the greatest feeling in the world. To have the paper go to press knowing you're the ones who've just broke a major story — you are telling the world about something it had never heard of until now.

It doesn't matter if you wrote the story, assigned it, edited it or photographed it. You may even work in a different section of the paper — it doesn't matter. It's a team effort and you know you did your part.

You'll sit in a bar and talk shop all night long, because you love what you do so much.

This camaraderie binds The Battalion staff together. Journalists here express their love for Texas A&M by doing their best to produce the best newspaper they possibly can, one that serves its readers: the students, staff and faculty of Texas A&M.

It is this lofty goal that the founders of the Battalion set out to achieve; it is this same goal that we, their descendants, are still striving to carry out.

Mack Harrison is a senior agricultural journalism major

EDITORIAL The Battalion

A century of service to A&M

The Battalion celebrates its centennial with a special commemorative edition today. The staff has spent the last month researching the history of the newspaper as well as the history of Texas A&M. We have uncovered some great stories from the past, and we have put them together into what should be a keepsake for anyone who appreciates A&M history.

Now, as The Battalion enters its second century, we can look forward to the future. The people from the past who have made The Battalion the acclaimed newspaper that it is today have set tremendously high standards for us to follow. Those standards must be met every day when the paper reaches the newsstands. We can only hope that we continue to raise these goals even higher for the staffs that follow.

As journalists, we are obligated to provide people with all of the news — not just the good news, and not just the bad news. Yet as students, we all attend class, work on homework and

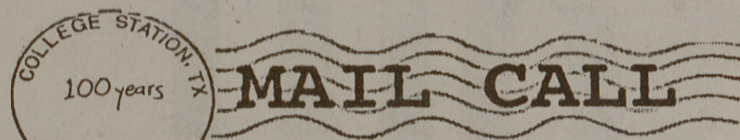
take tests just like the rest of the student body.

Just like anyone who works while going to school, sometimes work and school conflict. And, occasionally, mistakes will happen. But unlike the engineering or chemistry laboratory where students can learn in private sessions about their crafts, our "laboratory" is seen by 42,000 people every day.

Still, the quality of the newspaper continues to improve as the quality of journalism students attending Texas A&M improves.

Also, students from other academic fields are finding that you don't have to be a journalism major to work on the paper. All you need is an inquisitive mind and an interest in the University.

With all of these things going for us, we hope the higher standards we set for The Battalion can be passed on to future generations. In this way, we can insure that the people of Texas A&M can enjoy The Battalion for another 100 years.



100 years of 'Howdy' letters at Texas A&M



October 1, 1893
 I'm writing to voice my displeasure over the ignorant freshmen who refuse to say 'Howdy' on campus. This college won't survive 10 more years at this rate, but at least we still don't have fraternities. Also, this damn place needs a football team so we can beat the Hell outta t.u.!!
 Mortimer "Red" Ass IU
 Class of '97

October 1, 1993
 I'm writing to voice my displeasure over the ignorant freshmen who refuse to say 'Howdy' on campus. This college won't survive 10 more years at this rate, and the dope fiends, democrats and fraternities are all behind it. But at least we've got Bon-Far! Whoop!!
 Mortimer "Red" Ass IU
 Class of '97



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, cartoons 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 length, style, and accuracy.

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

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

Today's campus newspaper: A hundred years in the making

After four months of researching, writing and editing, The Battalion staff has finished the 100th anniversary issue.

All of those late nights in the newsroom and countless hours spent in the University Archives culminate with the release of today's special section.

A lot of us around the newsroom were worried about this issue. After all, it's not every day that your editor asks you to report on 100 years of Battalion and Texas A&M history.

But, we lived through it, and we learned a lot along the way.

When we first laid out the plans for this edition, none of us had any idea of what we had gotten ourselves into. We knew little about the history of A&M — and even less about the history of our



MARK EVANS
City editor

own newspaper. That soon changed.

We learned that this University has seen many changes during the 100 years that The Battalion has existed. When the newspaper first rolled off of the presses in 1893, only 500 students attended Texas A&M College, and all were members of the Corps. A&M's current enrollment surpasses 43,000 students and 1,900 are Corps members.

We learned that some of these changes have not come without controversy. When the school decided to admit women in 1963, 4,000 students booted A&M President Earl Rudder when he made the announcement.

One student said, "Co-education would make A&M just like any other cookie-pushing school. It could ruin us."

We learned that A&M has many interesting anecdotes about what the school used to be like. For example, in 1918, in the midst of World War I, increasing numbers of students and army personnel on campus prompted the College to set up tents in front of the YMCA Building to provide housing for A&M's growing population.

And, the College even has an unsolved case of its own. Old Main, the College's

first building, was destroyed by fire in 1912, and College officials never determined the cause of the fire. Even a committee formed to investigate the blaze was unsuccessful. To this day, no one knows how the fire started.

We learned that controversy has become a tradition here at The Battalion.

Controversy has become a tradition here at The Battalion. One of the first incidents occurred in 1908 when A&M President Henry Harrington suspended seven members of the staff.

One of the first incidents occurred in 1908 when A&M President Henry Harrington suspended seven members of the staff for printing an article that disputed a comment he had made.

In 1967, President Earl Rudder fired Battalion Editor Tom DeFrank because of an unsigned letter that appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" column. The ac-

tion was the climax in an ongoing conflict between the newspaper and the administration. DeFrank went on to become the senior White House correspondent for Newsweek.

In collecting all of this information, the Batt staff virtually moved into the University Archives. In fact, during the last two weeks I barely saw my writers. Every so often a few would come in to tell me about all of the interesting anecdotes they uncovered. At one point, my writers told me that the workers at the archives even offered them food.

And we still managed to put out a quality newspaper.

On a more personal note, last week I had the opportunity to meet a truly remarkable woman who had some interesting stories to tell about A&M.

Amber May Threlkeld was born on the A&M campus in 1894, only one year after The Battalion began publication. Her great-grandfather, John Carson, donated the land on which the University was built.

She lived on the A&M campus with the rest of her family. Amber said she remembers that when she was a child, cadets often visited her parents. She said she was fascinated by the cadets and

wanted to take part in their activities.

"I marched with my little broom," she fondly recalled. "I had my little toy broom. I'd have that as my gun."

Amber continued to live on campus after she married. Her husband worked at the College's power plant. She gave birth to her son and daughter in a log house on campus.

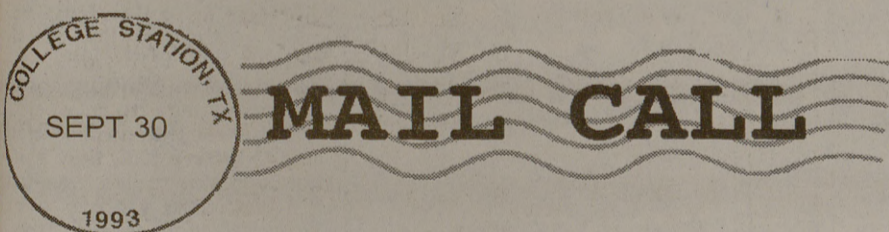
Mrs. Threlkeld donated many of the pictures appearing on the cover of the special section. I thank her and her family for their hospitality last week during our visit.

I congratulate everyone who worked on the special section. Everyone did a spectacular job. Such people have made this newspaper what it is today, and such people will continue to uphold the high standards The Battalion has maintained.

To the staffs that have preceded us, you've left us with some awfully big shoes to fill. I only hope that we live up to the legacy that you have left behind.

Happy 100th, everyone. Here's to another 100 years.

Mark Evans is a senior biology and journalism major.



North audience tries to silence protester

A lone Aggie chose to exercise his right to free speech and protest the Oliver North speech on campus. As he stood with his sign outside the auditorium before the speech, alone against the thousands who poured inside, he was insulted, taunted, jeered, physically threatened and followed until a few conscientious Aggies whisked him away from the area.

The Aggie Democrats denounced North, calling him a disgrace. Their rationale for not protesting was that they were more interested in education than ugliness. I saw no educational information around campus preceding North's visit, and certainly, demonstrations need not be ugly.

I imagine they were just plain scared. Scared of the personal attacks and violent insults that would be hurled at them, rather than following any convictions.

This is the type of oppression and intimidation we have come to expect at A&M. It is also in direct violation of

civil and constitutional rights given to U.S. citizens.

No one comes here expecting to find a liberal haven. But one would expect a basic respect for fellow man — a basic respect for the Bill of Rights. This students here are benefiting daily from freedom of speech, yet think it a selective right. And the aggression and violence that follows this misconception only turns inward and unleashes itself on fellow Aggies.

Aggies are well known for blindly and angrily following their conservative agenda, while knowing little about the issues they so violently support. This is why the Ku Klux Klan knew a ripe recruiting ground when it saw one. This is why Oliver North came here, despite being an indicted criminal.

It is also why, sadly, only one person had the courage to protest an event that would have been met with extreme controversy anywhere else.

Eileen Murphy
Graduate student

Multiculturalism — Give it a rest, Aggies

So much has been going around about the proposed multicultural requirement, I just had to say something to both sides: GIVE IT A REST! If anyone thinks that a multicultural requirement is going to lessen the image of Texas A&M University or somehow change what it means to be an Aggie, they are out of their minds.

Wanna know what multiculturalism is? Look around sometime, y'all. The same people you go to class with everyday are white, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, International, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, straight, gay, male, female — whatever. Whether or not you give a damn about their culture is moot.

What makes this place great is that these are the same people you go to Midnight Yell with, stand up as a part of the 12th Man with, say "Howdy" to,

build Bonfire with, put your arm around to saw varsity's horns off with, and who you shed a tear for at Silver Taps and Muster.

If the administration wants us to take a multiculturalism class, fine. Great. Don't worry about political indoctrination; Aggies are way above brainwashing. If you disagree with your prof, you're not going to suddenly jump up in class and say, "Wow! I'm going to totally change my belief system based on your last lecture!" You might even learn something interesting, if you're not careful.

Ags, don't whine about a mere speed bump on the road to getting that Aggie Ring and an A&M diploma. Just show everyone what we already know: if the world's citizens were as willing to drop their differences to become a part of something better, they may someday approximate the greatness that defines the fightin' Texas Aggies.

Scott Rylander
Class of '94