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Albritton Tower nears its tenth anniversary

History of campus landmark rings of controversy

By Jennifer Gressett

THE BATTALION

As the 10-year anniversary of Texas A&M's Albritton Bell Tower approaches, students can reflect not only on what it added to student life, but also what it once took away.

Ford D. Albritton, Jr., a 1943 graduate of A&M, first dreamed of his million-dollar tower while he was serving as president of the Association of Former Students in 1969. After visiting campuses across the United States, he noticed that many of the eastern schools had a carillon, which he said could add to the beauty of A&M's campus.

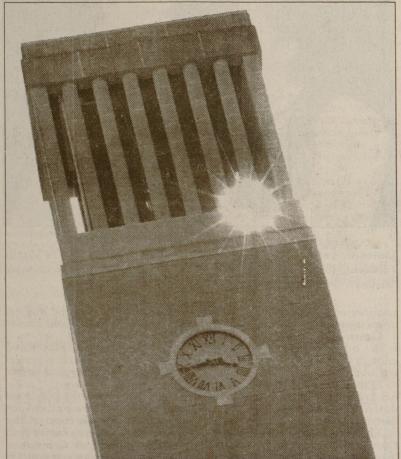
"This carillon will add an important dimension of dignity and integrity to Texas A&M University while serving as a constant reminder that the University is continuing to strive for an ever increasing degree of academic excellence," Albritton said.

Designed with 15-foot arches at its base, the bell tower matches the arches of the Academic Building and frames a view of the former Texas Gov. Sul Ross.

However, because the tower looked too much like "the one in Austin," Amy Longmire, an elementary education major who gives tours on campus, said that Albritton decided to give it an Aggie touch

gie touch.

"If you look closely, you can see that the four o'clock position was incorrectly placed," Longmire said. "The place where you would normally find the Roman numerals 'IV' has been replaced with four Roman 'I's."



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALIO

But despite its addition to the spirit of Aggieland, the bell tower wasn't always looked upon favorably. In fact, at the time of construction, students seemed to believe that education was of more importance than bells. Wayne D. Norman, of College Station, said that even with one million plus volumes in the Sterling Evans collection, the library still lacked in the art and literature categories.

"What we need are books to expand our minds — knowledge to carry us when we we leave A&M," Norman said. "We don't need any more bricks or memories to add quality to 'university life."

Perhaps of more importance to students, though, was the removal of a war memorial that was donated by the Classes of '23, '24, '25 and '26 "in recognition of the splendid part by the A&M College of Texas in the World War, and of the heroic sacrifices made by her sons."

John Klubenka, Class of '83, said the student body sat back

only to watch a tragedy occur.

"I am referring to the relocation of a war memorial to a warehouse and the destruction of a living memorial for the ego of a 'good Ag,'" Klubenka said.

In the hopes of preventing any degradation of the memorial, Klubenka proposed a petition that would not only return the construction site to its original condition, but also would demand that the bell tower be named after the veteran whose tree was destroyed. In addition, he proposed that the tower should have 55 bells, each inscribed with the names of the 55 Ags who were killed in World War I.

"The bell tower serves no useful purpose and should not be allowed to replace monuments to war heroes," Klubenka said.

Consequently, his efforts went unseen. Instead of a war hero, it is Albritton's own name that appears on the second-largest bell. The inscription reads: "May the bells of this carillon ring, sing and peal with a mighty force for the love I have for God, family and country and for that part of my heart that has never left these hallowed halls."

Although Albritton's donation of the bell tower was indeed a great one, it was the specific demands for his money that created the most controversy.

"There is a great tradition at this school. The tradition says that once you graduate you should become rich and successful," said Karl Pallmeyer, of the 1985 Battalion staff. "Once you're rich and successful, you should donate lots of money to Texas A&M."

In the future, he added that strict guidelines should be considered. If the donor is serious about wanting his gift to help make Texas A&M a quality university, he shouldn't mind giving it without restrictions.

Spring training

Students gear up for season with nutrition, exercise

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Tis the season! Summer is coming and spring is almost here. Thousands of students are beginning the fierce fight against flab and fat.

Whether male or female, whether Speedo or thong, "We must look good in swimsuits!" they cry.

To begin this struggle, Marta Floyd, personal trainer for Aerofit Club and Activities Center, said students must form a weight loss program to suit their personal needs.

"An exercise program needs to be very individualized," Floyd said. "What is needed to get in shape really depends on the person."

Floyd said the two most vital things a person must do to lose weight are eat low fat foods and exercise regularly. She said students who haven't exercised in a while should start out slow.

"If you haven't exercised recently, it's best to start by doing some kind of cardiovascular work three times a week for anywhere from 20- to 60-minute stretches," Floyd said.
"Swimming, biking, running, aerobics, stairmaster or rowing machine, any exercise that uses

aerobics, stairmaster or rowing machine, any exercise that uses large muscle groups in a continuously rhythmic pattern is good."

Steve Lumpee, owner of

Gold's Gym, also advises beginners to exercise lightly.

"Some people think they are in better shape than they are," Lumpee said. "They go out and jog five miles when they decide to get in shape. But the problem is they are too sore for the next few days to keep exercising, because they overdid it. It's much better to start out with too little than too

much."
Floyd, Lumpee and Dr. John
Green of the Texas A&M health
and kinesiology department all
recommend a student, or
anyone considering beginning
exercise, check for possible
problems that might be

aggravated by exercise.

"Nine times out of 10,
healthy young people aren't
going to have many problems,
but it's always good to check,"
Green said.

While developing an exercise program, the student needs to decide if he or she wishes to concentrate on losing

weight or firming up.
Green said students most interested in losing weight should concentrate more on endurance type exercise such as running, walking and stairmaster. Those students more interested in firming up, he said, should concentrate more on resistance exercises,

like weightlifting.
But developing an exercise program is not enough.
Students interested in losing weight and becoming fit must also watch what they eat; and since March is National Nutrition Month, now is the perfect time to start.

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