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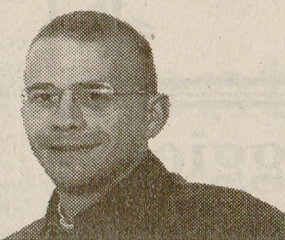
Graduation: not just a job, an adventure

Different types of alumni react to big day differently

In a month or so, the semiannual mass exodus of Aggies from campus will occur. Like so many lemmings sprinting for a cliff, graduates will disperse and make a mad dash for ... something somewhere I presume. As evident by the varied plans of soon-to-be graduates I've spoken to, there are many, many kinds of things to do after graduation.

FRANK STANFORD

Columnist



around a little more before they decide on something important. Experiencing some life before registering for the rat race may have its merits.

Type B graduates, this is what's in store for you:

- You've got all kinds of time, not to mention a degree. Don't be afraid. You know you won't starve, and this is important.

- Dismay. Your friends you laughed at who got those boring degrees actually DID get good jobs. Accountants will now laugh hard (if their genes permit such action).

- Whatever people with immediate jobs can't do. The ability to go somewhere: Alaska, Peru, India. Work your ass off for one summer, and save every dime. Buy "The Lonely Planet" travel guide and go. No one regrets it.

- Yes, graduate school is possible now. A few more years at the grind and you might get your chance to give those accountants the raspberry.

Last, but certainly not least, Type C Alumni knew from the beginning they were clueless careerwise and chose the attitude of, "Oh, I'll just worry about it when the time comes. Maybe grad school, maybe Tibet. This anthropology class is so interesting it's killing me. Let's get high or something!"

These individuals can be found in any department on campus (maybe not Elementary Ed.), and range from barely graduating to graduating with honors. Not being conservative, they don't match the A&M ideal, but are responsible for a great deal of much-needed color around here.

In the future you can expect:

- To continue your same outlook on life, probably enjoying every minute of it.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy student

I figure there are only three kinds of graduates, however.

The first variety is what I'll call the Type A alumnus. This labeling - although similar in a few respects to the personality-heart attack scale - refers to the student whose primary motivation for college was to get the best job as soon as possible and get the hell outta Dodge. This student not only knows exactly what area of what field is projected to be the best employment opportunity upon their graduation month, but also is actively searching for job opportunities even as a sophomore.

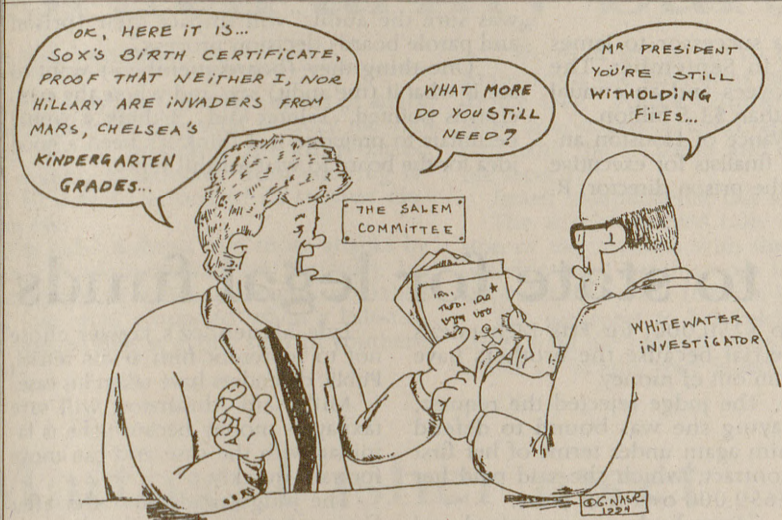
These Type A students are mostly found in the Business schools or Engineering departments, but are certainly not confined to them. Liberal Arts, however, definitely does not cater to this type of job-seeker for a number of reasons, the most important being the lack of jobs, of course (and lower paying ones at that).

Type A graduates, this is what is likely to be in store for you (if you haven't calculated it out already):

- Your first real paycheck accompanied by your first new car and a debt engulfing your first year's salary.

- A raise or promotion in the first couple of years that will make you feel like a "player" in the real world. The real world chuckles, however.

- A raise in the amounts of bills you're paying and realizing that, "Gee whiz, Dad wasn't kid-



EDITORIAL

A helping hand

Community service benefits all

'Tis the season for community service. With the regular spring cleaning also comes this weekend's Big Event and Special Olympics. Although both projects are great ways to give something back to the community, they are not the only ways.

The Big Event cannot reach everyone who needs help in this community. Students don't need to look far to find yards that need to be cleaned up or fences that need some repair. The owners of these places may not have filled out the forms for the Big Event and don't know who to ask for help. If students want to take good care of their community, it wouldn't hurt to ask these people if they need help.

Brother and sister involved in services such as the Special Olympics say that it is hard work. Helping others isn't always easy or convenient, but it can be very rewarding.

In a time when all we hear about is the bad things that happen in society, people may feel apprehensive about getting involved. But we shouldn't sit back and wait for others to organize us; we should take the initiative ourselves. It doesn't take a Big Event to help people

(although it certainly helps). All it takes is human kindness and time.

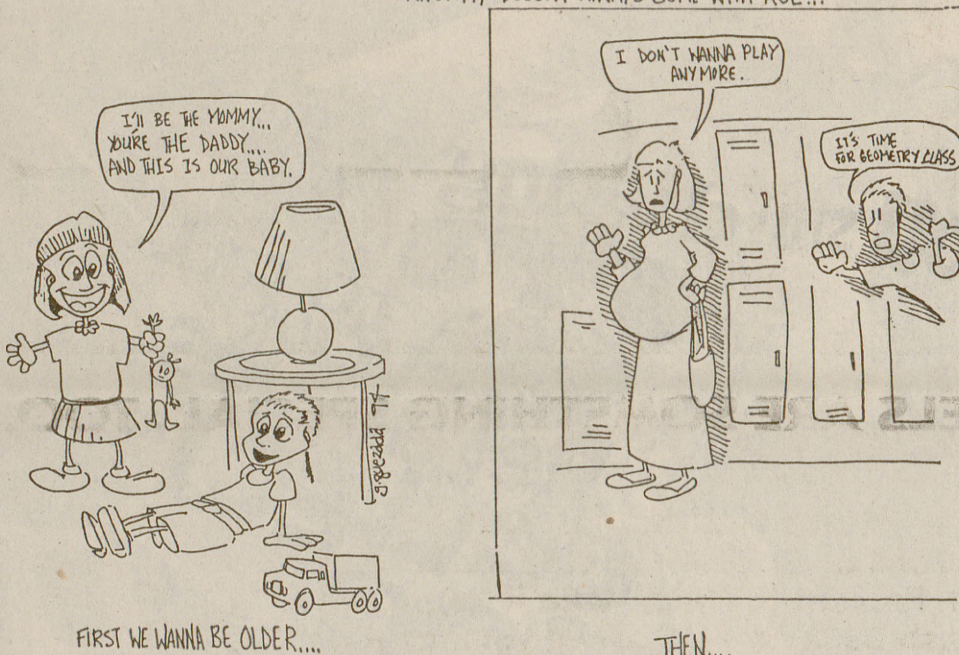
While students don't always have a lot of time on their hands, our lives will only get busier after we graduate. We use this time in our lives to do so many things that we may never get the chance to do when we're older and settled down into a routine job. We should make community service one of those things we make time for.

This weekend may be the first time some people have taken part in community service. Hopefully, they will gain something from this experience and want to give more of their time in the future.

This weekend is also a time to recognize people who devote their whole year to organizing Special Olympics and the Big Event. To them, we should all be thankful, and we should learn from their example.

Whether you do community service all the time or just started this weekend, don't let it be the last time. This is our community, and although the people we help may not be just like us, they are our neighbors, and helping them can make a difference.

MINORITY DOESN'T ALWAYS COME WITH AGE...



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 letters and guest columns for length, style, and accuracy.

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

Address letters to:
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Corps Commander responds to election controversy

If you read Thursday's Pulitzer Prize winning swill, "Tampering disrupts student elections," I'm sure you were disgusted by reports of ballot tampering and violations of the election codes by that band of Huns known as the Corps of Cadets. As it turns out, this wasn't the whole story, but that didn't stop The Battalion from ripping me with a misleading and biased story. Naturally, I have received criticism from readers, too, but I don't blame them considering the trash they were presented.

Upon learning of ballot tampering by four cadets, I was disgusted to hear that anyone would so flagrantly violate the Aggie Code of Honor. This weak attempt at influencing the outcome of the election was remarkably stupid and ill-conceived. Upon discussing the issue with Student Body President Brian Walker, I learned that the ID numbers of those individuals were in his possession. I can assure you that these individuals will be punished to the fullest extent. If any cadet offenders are reading this, I urge you to turn yourselves in prior to the Honor Board investigation.

Walker was also in possession of the ID

WILL HARAWAY
 Guest columnist

number of a non-reg voter who marked all CTs off the ballot. It seems The Battalion didn't get this little tidbit in time. It is irritating that this was not mentioned in the first article. Inclusion of such information would have detracted from our criminalization. Fortunately, this information was presented in Monday's follow-up.

On behalf of the Corps, I apologize to the student body for these individuals, and wish to further apologize to any candidates who were marked off the ballots. I hope you realize that this was not an encouraged activity, nor was it part of a sinister conspiracy. It would be neat if The Battalion would be more thorough in its reporting, but it might detract from their delight in drag-

ging the Corps through the mud, so I won't hold my breath.

It is interesting that the Election Commission withdrew the fines citing the same flaws in the regulations that I maintained were the source of the problem. I applaud the election commissioner's courage in admitting that the regulations are so unclear, his case wouldn't stand. It seems I was within the bounds of the law after all. Even though I could have stated it a little more eloquently, I was right and am glad that I provided the Batt with an "exciting" story.

I will assume that the imbecile that authored Thursday's editorial, "Corps under fire" can be none other than Beavis of MTV. He states that "the University saw what is fast becoming an annual Aggie tradition - campaign violations by members of the Corps of Cadets." Last year, the J-Board overturned the commission's assertion that my memorandum was campaign literature. The Battalion even ran an editorial entitled, "Election appeal: Lifting fines a good idea." I fail to see how violations could be an "annual event" if we were exonerated last year,

and at the time had not had a hearing on this case. I bet Beavis feels stupid now considering the outcome of Monday's hearing.

It would be neat if The Battalion would be more thorough in its reporting, but it might detract from their delight in dragging the Corps through the mud, so I won't hold my breath.

The final sentences of this masterpiece state: "Undoubtedly, the great majority of the cadets in the Corps had nothing to do with the attempt to rig Wednesday's vote. But cadets, particularly the leaders, who continue to corrupt student elections..." Was Beavis suggesting that I tried to rig the election by promoting ballot tampering? He should know that this is dangerously close to defamation and is a classic example of the Batt's yellow journalism. Perhaps he

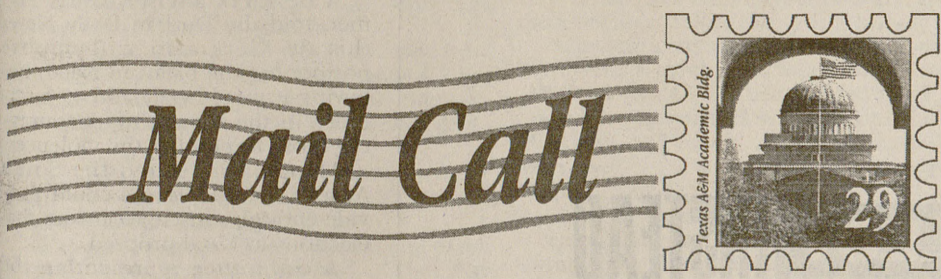
was confused by the sensationalist article that mixed the stories of ballot tampering and a regulatory dispute over campaign literature together.

To add insult to injury, the news article was released on the AP wire and appeared in my home town under the headline, "A&M Corps leaders accused of tampering." The fact that I had nothing to do with any ballot tampering is irrelevant.

I know that I am sarcastic and rough around the edges, but when agitated by a reporter, I get a little testy. If you have ever had the pleasure of being railroaded in the press, you can understand my frustration.

Hopefully, the Senate will approve some coherent regulations next year and we won't have this problem again. If you are concerned about bloc voting, don't be. Only 839 cadets voted this year. Be assured that I don't tell people how to vote, because it is unethical and impossible. And Beavis should do his homework. I was never in public relations.

Will Haraway is the Corps commander and a senior political science major



Preaching in class not Constitutional right

On March 30 The Battalion ran both a Faculty Friends ad and a letter from an accounting professor concerning the protected speech of certain religious fundamentalists under the U.S. Constitution. Apparently, the Faculty Friends have come under attack for disclosing their university affiliation in an ad promoting this religious organization. Indeed, it does seem that any reasonable interpretation of the Constitution would consider such an ad "protected."

However, what is certainly not protected

under our Constitution is active proselytization or "testifying" during class time at this state supported institution. It is my understanding that certain faculty unfortunately engage in this type of behavior. Our Constitution also affords protection to religious minorities, and accordingly, no student need be subjected to a particular faculty member's interpretation of who the son of God is if they do not wish to be.

Further, the ad that ran was offensive, but not because it disclosed university affiliations. It was an unflattering, cartoon-like depiction of members of the first-century Jewish rabbinate mocking the Resurrection. Such an ad is unlikely to foster the under-

standing called for in Prof. Smith's letter, and exposes the Faculty Friends organization for what it really is.

Wayne Grossman, CPA
 Graduate Student

Fisher's campus visit wins student's support

Last Thursday, March 31, was indeed a memorable day for me. As a young voter seeking to broaden my views on today's candidates and issues, I was truly delighted to personally meet with U.S. Senatorial Candidate Richard Fisher.

Without question, he is our best choice for the U.S. Senate. He is firm with his decisions, right on target with the needs of today, and honest in his desire to serve and empower people rather than entrench and decide for them.

In my intention to become more politically aware, I attended an "Aggies for

Mattox" meeting in January. I was immediately swamped and highly insulted with Mattox's "PC" propaganda attacking Andrews and Fisher, and promoting his "women's issues" and "minority platform of support from African-Americans and Hispanics."

Richard Fisher was totally different; he treated me like a human being, not just an ethnic statistic. Not once did he make reference to my gender or ethnicity (I am actually more Italian-American than Hispanic-American). Fisher is compassionate, understanding, and so down to earth that he even grilled a hamburger for me in the Commons cafeteria. Whereas, if I understand it correctly, his opponent is too scared to come to Aggieland.

Clearly, Mr. Fisher's presence in the United States Senate would indeed be an asset for the citizens of our country and the proud Aggies of Texas. Opinions, however, are irrelevant if we don't vote.

Christina Cedillo
 Class of '95

Silver Taps no time for picture taking

The definition of Silver Taps states: "Silver Taps is a serious and solemn event and a final tribute to any student that has passed away." The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad is there to honor the students who have passed away, much like all fellow Aggies attending Silver Taps. Undoubtedly, the Ross Volunteers Firing Squad is an integral part of Silver Taps. The opportunity to serve is seen as an honor; however, it is not one intended to bring recognition or glory. Last night as Silver Taps came to a close, a camera flashed and our feelings of honor, respect and loss were replaced with feelings of anger and disappointment. The true feelings evoked by Silver Taps will never be captured on film, rather they must become a part of your soul.

Amy Reeves
 Class of '94

Accompanied by 14 signatures