

THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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EDITORIAL

CELEBRATION TIME

A&M reflects on struggle of female cadets

Sixty women on this campus should be holding their heads up extra high today. These sixty females are immersed in the middle of this university's oldest tradition, the fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets.



So often, our celebrations are in honor of our of our rich traditions. This celebration is just as sweet, but it is different, for we are not celebrating a tradition so much as we are celebrating the shattering of one.

It was in 1974 that 51 brave women joined W-1, the all-female unit of the Corps and the first of its kind. These women were so determined to join the Corps that they were willing to pay a substantial price.

and 25 of them finished that first hard year in the Corps of Cadets.

Fortunately, progress has been made since 1974. Present-day female Cadets can sport the knee-high cavalry boots, a Corps uniform, and can even join the Aggie Band.

Females in the Corps represent a change in the oldest, longest standing and most revered tradition on this campus.

We salute all present and former women of the Corps for their courage and their refusal to let anything or anyone stand in their way. At the same time, we ask that all Aggies join in this salute sincerely.

Caught in web of foreign policy

Game of politics dictates Clinton's actions in Bosnia

Try to imagine driving nervously to class, fearing enemy shelling at any moment. To those of you with rural roots, what would it be like to find out that today your home town was easily overrun by soldiers from Louisiana.

FRANK STANFORD Columnist



Your grandparents' town was shelled and burned last week, and no one survived. Your whole family is now dead because a neighboring state hates Texans.

Arkansas, an old Texas enemy, is selling weapons to Louisiana because they were both part of the Louisiana Purchase. The Federal Government is staying out of the war because it has new, fragile ties with Arkansas.

The rest of America considers it a "Southern problem" and prefers not to step on any toes. What's going to happen to Texas and Texans? They want to kill us all.

Whoa. Pure fantasy. This scenario is so very impossible to imagine, it sounds ridiculous. But this is essentially what's happening in the former Yugoslavia right now.

Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, - Muslims and Christians - "are fighting." That's about the extent of knowledge for most of us, including me.

Most of the world, including the United States, the United Nations and NATO claims to be neutral in the Bosnian War.

But we can't. There is a political web that surrounds the globe. When a country chooses to be uninvolved - it immediately becomes involved. We need to look at this "web" a little more closely.

Bosnia is a multiethnic country recognized by the United Nations, but it has Serbian people living there as well - the "Bosnian Serbs." Serbia is recognized too, but is Orthodox Christian.

In spite of denials by Serbia, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry reports that Serbia is supplying these Bosnian Serbs with arms in defiance of the U.N. arms embargo.

The United Nations, which is supposed to step in when this stuff happens, sent members to Bosnia - to observe. Most of these on-site "peace keepers" are French and British.

The French, British and Russians have historically supported Serbia politically and don't seem to mind a bunch of slaughtered Bosnians and Croatsians. This support goes back to World War I when Germany was a common enemy.

The U.S. Government would just like to see the Bosnian War stopped, but since the Cold War is over, we're trying to remain on good terms with Russia.

It's such a shame when so many lives can hinge on a foreign president's party affiliation. It's just politics as usual.

Croatia. So what do we do?

Last Saturday, the Clinton Administration decided to "not enforce" the arms embargo any longer. This means the Bosnians can finally get more weapons to defend themselves.

It looks like partisan politics to me. Bob Dole, the soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader, sponsored the resolution last summer to lift the embargo.

Even though this change of direction is putting a strain on NATO and U.N. relations with America, apparently getting political support back home in voter-land takes precedence.

Oh, by the way, some justice accidentally got served in the process.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy major

Trip to Mexico causes appreciation of culture

A&M students visit Monterey Tech University, learn culture, traditions of new environment

Cultural sensitivity remains a hot issue on university campuses across the country. It is second only to abortion (and maybe Bonfire) in its ability to generate letters to Mail Call on our campus.

MELISSA MEGLIOLA Columnist



swimming," Curlee remembers. "I didn't know what to do."

Eventually she found someone to help her but she was unable to explain her situation.

struggled with the language barrier until finally, they found the former vice president of Students Affairs at Monterey Tech who was able to drive her back to campus.

Day also experienced an unexpected situation. As a blonde who is almost 6 feet tall, she attracted special attention when she went out dancing.

"At first it was great," Lisa admits, "but when it didn't die down, I felt totally, totally insecure. I just wanted to hide under a table.

In addition to the ranch party and club outings, the hosts at Monterey Tech planned other special events for the Aggies. They visited the International Studies department on campus, toured a brewery and of course, shopped at the Mercados.

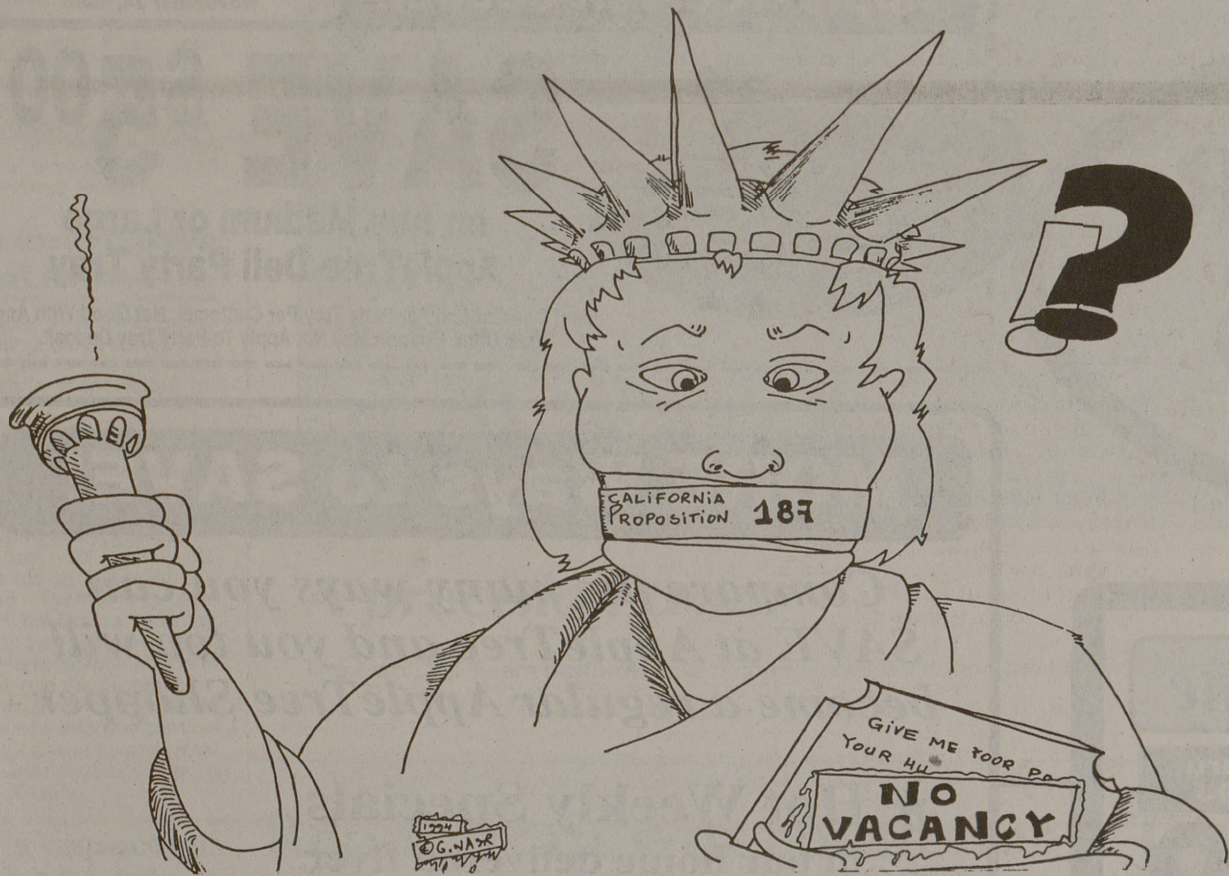
Not only did the A&M students get to learn about another culture, but they exchanged ideas about residence life. Owen Ross, RHA president, was amazed at the recycling program at Monterey Tech.

"You learn much more while you are there than you realize," he said. "It's really an exciting program."

While Ross brought back pictures of the bins for glass, paper, plastic and aluminum, he was able to leave the Mexican students a bit of Aggie land. After the Friday night dance, at midnight, he led a yell practice and taught his hosts how to Gig 'Em and hump it.

According to Osterbuhr, with continued support from both schools, the exchange should continue to grow in the future.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major



MAIL CALL

Officials discuss recent campus controversies

The purpose of this letter is to make clear our beliefs regarding the racial incidents and the treatment of women which have recently occurred on our campus.

Such incidents are destructive to our university community. Complete harmony in our community will never be possible. What is possible is for all concerned to understand that those of us in leadership positions are charged with the responsibility of providing a campus climate, that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual.

a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of each person." Any form of harassment and any form of illegal discrimination against students, faculty, and/or staff is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the university mission and will not be tolerated.

We believe the racial and gender incidents that have occurred on this campus have been a form of intolerable behavior. Members of the student leadership involved in the recent incidents have responded with appropriate public apologies and the pledge to help advocate our university commitment to diversity.

Texas A&M University is committed to the exchange of ideas vital to a free society. Universities should be places where the freedom to share ideas is promoted and encouraged.

Points of view which characterize other groups as inferior because of their race, ethnicity, or gender cannot be suppressed, however, these viewpoints can be challenged. Open interaction on various points of view can be debated and discussed intelligently to bring about a better understanding of how people

think. We must continue to create an environment in which diversity will be understood and accepted by the entire university community.

The changing population of Texas underscores the critical need for Texas A&M University to seriously evaluate the attitudes of the university community toward age, race, ethnicity and gender diversity. To that end, we affirm that Texas A&M University will meet the challenges of change regarding our core values of commitment, excellence in academic programs, inclusiveness, and caring for students, staff and faculty.

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