er 18, 1994

they drove the whole

ed me that

n and were

plexes by a

to get anyppens quite n most stu-

ify if neces-

sleep until

ning, I pon-nen in the

conclusion

ne to in my

d ringlead

handgun.

is-does this

ower when

gun in my

eone to flip

in the clos

e trying to

ever arises. anxious" in e"? Would er had just

at, or just ife? Have

into your

d there and

these ques-

paint with

ou are not

of the top-

xperiences. be done to

sing hand-

no solution.

little boys.

ome kids of

our current

ll guns are

n Gilbreath

Class of '95

the process that are

criteria is

on't print," can write a

lain about ctices em-

te Student

ar-old all-

called for

roved that g," Darling

M Corps of

oud of the

who stuck

I them be-

make the

"It's an

t changed

It's effects y, 20 years

vould have

Today, the

n, he said.

rs decide if

he project.

rs did not

y reasons

per election

"The Col-

of College

roject."

n in

S.T.

cellence.'

ver

all

PINION

THE BATTALION **Editorial Board**

Belinda Blancarte, Editor in chief Mark Evans, Managing editor Jenny Magee, Opinion editor Sterling Hayman, Asst. opinion editor 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.

or start.

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

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

EDITORIAL

CELEBRATION TIME

A&M reflects on struggle of female cadets

the fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. We commend Texas A&M for joining in the celebration of these women and all who helped to pave the way for them.

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 campus. women joined W-1, the all-female still face unit of the Corps and the first of its These women were so determined to join the Corps that they were willing to pay a substantial price. Not only did all of them have to drop their classifications and start over as freshmen, but they also faced harassment and cold shoulders from their male counterparts, from non-reg students and from professors, as well. However, these women persevered,

Sixty women on this campus should be holding their heads up extra high today. These sixty fe-

extra high today. These sixty females are immersed in the middle of this university's oldest tradition,

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

Aggie Band. Nonetheless, women still have a long way to go. After all, Texas A&M thrives on tradition, and any move from the status quo is regarded with distrust and sometimes con-

Females in the Corps represent a change in the oldest, longest standing and most revered tradition on this Therefore, our women

still face harassment and incomplete acceptance from both regs and non-regs alike.

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. Maybe then, these and future female Cadets will receive the acceptance and the respect that

Caught in web of foreign policy

Game of politics dictates Clinton's actions in Bosnia

ry to imagine driving nervously to class, fearing enemy shelling FRANK 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. The women – young and old – were raped and then everyone was slaughtered.

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. To top it all off, Louisiana-born Texans are killing other 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, but it still won't let Texans have any more weapons. The Feds would stop Louisiana, but don't want to anger Florida and Georgia who have old political It's such a shame when so many lives can

ties to Louisiana.

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

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. But, after doing some research, the picture becomes much clearer. Here's what I think is going on.

Most of the world, including the United States, the United Nations and NATO claims to be neutral in the Bosnian War. These organizations and the media are calling this fighting "a civil war" or a "family feud" that we should avoid. But we can't. There is a political web that surrounds the globe. When a country chooses to be uninvolved – it immediately because in the state of th

ately becomes involved. We need to look at this "web" a little more closely. But first, the facts.

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. According to the United Nations, 80 percent of the killing is being done by Serbians against Bosnian Muslims.

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. This is not only a breach of the embargo, but is also Serbian aggression. The Serbs have now taken two-thirds of Bosnia and one-third of Croatia by force.

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.

Here's where the political web gets hairy.

The French, British and Russians have historically supported Sophia politically supported Sophia support

ported Serbia politically and don't seem to mind a bunch of slaughtered Bosnians and Croatians. This support goes back to World War I when Germany was a common enemy. Serbia, which shares a similar religion and culture with Russia, was a big help during the war and Russia hasn't forgotten. But Germany hasn't forgotten either, and would love to get its economic paws on Croatian warm water ports. France and Britain are quite aware of this possible "German economic expansion," and it makes them nervous. They still remember the "old" Germany.

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. In addition, France and Britain have always been our buddies and we don't want to offend them either. And remember our pals in the Islamic

World, the ones with all the oil? They would be very unhappy if we turned against their Muslim brothers in Bosnia and

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. France and Britain are upset with this decision. So, why a Clinton change of heart?

It looks like partisan politics to me. Bob Dole, the soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader, spon-sored the resolution last summer to lift the embargo. And with all the dissension in the air these days, Clinton could sure use some friends in the Republican Party.

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. It's such a shame when so many lives can hinge on a for-

eign president's party affiliation. It's just politics as usual. Oh, by the way, some justice accidentally got served in the

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy major

PROPOSITION 187 NO

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. We are referring specifically to the racial slurs in music and the mistreatment of women at the bonfire site, and the posters displayed on campus by the College Republicans attacking affirmative action programs and focusing upon perceived benefits to minority students.

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. The mission of Texas A&M University states that the "university campus must encourage

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 mis-

sion 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 so-Universities should be places where the freedom to share ideas is promoted and encouraged. We encourage more thoughtful in-depth dialogue among faculty, staff, and students regarding issues that lack understanding. The dialogue is necessary to assure the mutual respect that is due every person on this campus. The open discussion of these issues can bring more of an understanding to the challenges facing this institution

as it prepares for the 21st century. 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. We ask that all members of the university community accept the responsibility of creating a campus climate that welcomes all who come to work and study here.

Dr. Ray Bowen, President Dr. J. Charles Lee, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Jerry Gaston, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Robert L. Walker, Vice President for Development

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 We reserve the right to edit letters for length,

style, and accuracy.
Address letters to:
The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Fax: (409) 845-2647

Trip to Mexico causes appreciation of culture

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

MELISSA

MEGLIOLA

ultural 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 let-

Columnist

should be forced to take classes on multiculturalism. Even more arguments de bate what exactly constitutes the fulfillment of such a requirement. This fall, however, 20 Aggies made a

significant effort to learn about another culture. Resident advisors, directors, hall representatives and International Studies students piled into vans and drove over 10 hours to Monterey, Mexico to become residents at Monterey Tech for five days.

The program began three and a half years ago when Michael Osterbuhr, Director of Residence Life at A&M, met the director at Monterey Tech. Together, they decided it would be beneficial for students from the two schools to meet and learn about each others' culture and campus life. Each year since, A&M students have traveled to Mexico, and Monterey Tech students have visited A&M.

The program just keeps growing and growing," said Osterbuhr.

This years group was the largest ever, as it was the first year the International Studies department and the Committee for Mexican-American Culture to participate. Spanish language skills varied greatly among them. One participant, Lisa Day, a sophomore psychology major, estimates that about half the group spoke Spanish, one quarter knew enough to get by and one quarter was totally lost.

They did not stay together on camus, but split up and roomed with Mexican students. The arrangement was particularly helpful for understanding the struggles of foreign students trying to adjust to life on the A&M campus.

"I really feel for them now," said Ava Curlee, a class of '97 industrial distribution major who speaks no Spanish. "The trip really opened my eyes.

On the fourth day of the trip, students from both schools ate, played volleyball and went swimming at the Ranch Monterey. As they grew tired, some students took naps on picnic tables in the shade.

Ava read for a while and then fell asleep. When she woke up, she was

"No one else was taking a nap. No one was playing volleyball and no one was

swimming," Curlee remembers. "I didn't know what to do." Eventually she found someone to help her but she was unable to explain her sit-

uation. The two ters to Mail Call on our campus. Arguments abound over whether students 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. Everyone wanted to meet and touch her. At one time, she remembers being totally surrounded by Mexican admirers.

"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. I'll never stare at someone who is different now.

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. Students were also able to attend Expotech, a fair held on campus to celebrate the customs and traditions of the different Mexican states.

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. The lack of adequate recycling recepticles on campus is an issue that the A&M residence halls are trying to address this year, so Ross was particularly interested.

"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 Aggieland. 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 contin-

ued support from both schools, the exchange should continue to grow in the future. Students want to participate more than once. Monterey Tech is the home of the Borregos or Rams."There are some students that have become so involved with the program, that we've started calling them BorregAggies. That's cultural appreciation.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major