

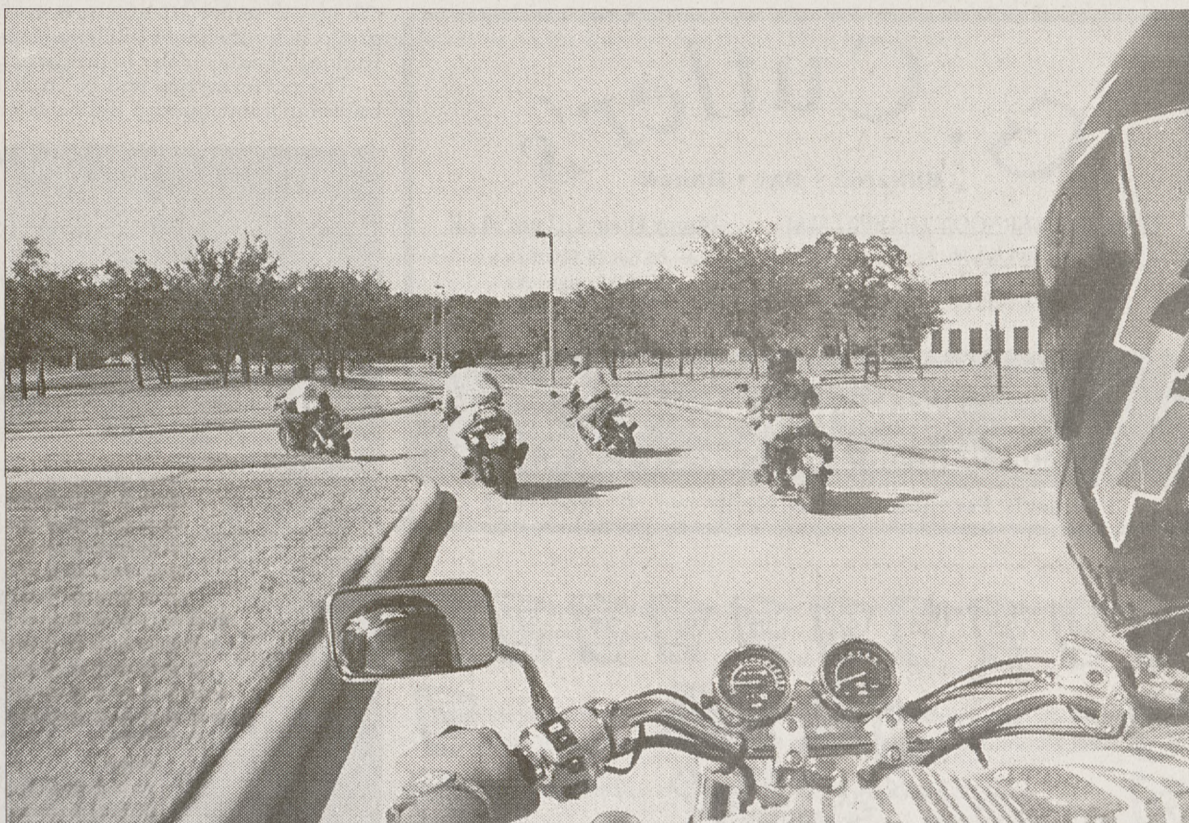
To Senator Bob Dole

FAN MAIL



Happy Holidays from
THA DOGG POUND

On the road again



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Lalo Sanchez, a freshman mechanical engineering major, follows the A&M Motorcycle Club.

Motorcycle enthusiasts share their hobby in new Motorcycle Club

By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION

They say there is a club for everyone at A&M. And if riding around the state on a motorcycle to unknown destinations is your thing, then there is a motorcycle club for you.

In its first full year as an official club, its members scoff at the idea of being A&M's official "motorcycle gang."

"If you saw us, you'd see that we're the farthest thing from a gang," Ronnie Hay, a senior electrical engineering major and member of the motorcycle club, said.

The club was organized last fall and was recognized as an official university organization in the spring. Most of the members found out about the club through word of mouth.

The club's activities range from meeting at Sweet Eugene's House of Java every Thursday to taking rides across Texas together, including today's trip to Houston for the Rice game.

The club has close to 100 members, about 40 of which are actively involved. The club also has its own web page, which has a news group members use as a source to go on spontaneous rides.

"Sometimes we ride just to see where we can go," he said. "Then we find our way back."

The club has taken road trips to small Texas towns like Round Top, Carlos and Caldwell, and it also rides to away games together.

"Going to away games is something we'd like to make into an occurrence every time there's an away game if we could get the people together," he said.

Before the club leaves for the Rice game, it will have a motorcycle show from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rudder Fountain. Some members will be present to talk with people about their motorcycles.

"There will be a good number of bikes out there for people to see," Clayton McInnis, president of the club and a senior business management major, said.

The club members have also worked as corner workers at a motorcycle race at Texas World Speedway.

Rick Boss, vice president of the club and a junior finance major, said the job was a fund raiser for the club, which is still in its beginning stages.

"We're still young, but we're trying to get a core group of people together," Boss said.

McInnis said the club would like to set its sights on even bigger things.

"I want to see the club grow to have enough people to make an impact," he said. "We're trying to plan two big rides. There's a Harley Davidson Toys for Tots ride in December that some people have shown an interest in, so we'll see."

McInnis also said he would like to see the club participate in activities like Big Event.

The club is primarily composed of men, but McInnis said many women have also joined so they can go riding with the club.

"We call them our Aggie Bike Chicks," he said.

The club members would like to re-establish a Motorcycle Safety Foundation in College Station. Boss said the foundation offers beginner's training courses that are required to get a motorcycle driver license for those under 18. The course can now substitute for a driving test.

"It's pretty nice to be able to leave 10 minutes before class and find a close parking spot."

— Rick Boss
vice president of the A&M motorcycle club

"That's something we'd like to get in the next coming semester," he said.

McInnis said the club is more about people who like to go riding together than avid motorcycle collecting.

"We just got together to have other people to go riding with," he said. "Motorcyclists tend to be strong individuals, but it's good to get together with others. We like to take off riding whenever the weather's good."

Many of the members have been riding motorcycles since they were young. Boss said he has been riding since the age of 12. Such a young age is not too young to start riding, since most motorcyclists start off riding dirt bikes and three wheelers, Boss said.

But not everyone in the club is an experienced motorcyclist.

Boss said some of the members do not yet have motorcycles, or had them at one time and are hoping to get one again. It's not hard to wonder why someone would want to have a motorcycle, Boss said.

"The benefit to a motorcycle is that it's rather inexpensive compared to a car," he said. "There's usually better parking than handicapped spots. It's pretty nice to be able to leave 10 minutes before class and find a close parking spot."

November 9, 1995

Senator Bob Dole
United States Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Sen. Dole,

Hi Senator. I figured you were sitting around in your mansion just looking for a new CD to put between De La Soul and Eazy E in your "Albums to criticize" section.

I bet you're waiting for the new Dogg Pound album to start World War III.

But calm down. Have a drink. Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

Dogg Food is not the first sign of the apocalypse, and it is not the end of the world as we know it.

Now we all know that you're not exactly a big fan of rap. Your efforts to silence the "mainstream deviancy" of gangsta rappers are well known, and these efforts possibly even prompted Time Warner's dumping of the rap-dominated label, Interscope Records.

We're sure we won't see you sipping coffee with Ice Cube, smoking blunts with Cypress Hill or walking your dogs with Snoop Doggy Dogg.

But despite pressure from C. Delores Tucker, William Bennett and your bad self, rap is still alive and well. It's not going anywhere.

Which brings us to Tha Dogg Pound. Ever since your rap tirade brigade started up in June, speculation has run rampant about the duo's debut album.

And I'll have to agree with cha Senator. *Dogg Food* is a big disappointment. Instead of building on their promising contributions on Snoop's "Doggystyle," Daz and Kurupt rely too heavily on the G-Funk sound of Dr. Dre.

The beats are there.

The lyrics and rhyme skills are not.

Of course, the formulated gangsta style is there. Daz and Kurupt promote themselves as the new kingpins of misogyny, especially on the ultra-sexist "If We All F—" and "Some Bomb Azz P—y."

By subscribing to the 2 Live Crew method of treating women, they reduce the male intellect to the lowest common denominator.

A bit tamer, but still Bob Packwood-ish is the first single, "Let's Play House." The song is perhaps the best sounding track on *Dogg Food*. But that's not saying much. Even worse, the talents of Nate Dogg and Michel'le are grossly misused on the unmelodic melodies. And the nursery rhyme choruses miss the boat completely.

Ironically, a guest appearance by Snoop (Daz's cousin) on "Smooth" shows just how far behind the Dogg Pound is in comparison to their mentor. Snoop's unique rhythmical drawl is a drastic contrast to Daz and Kurupt's sleepy monotone vocals.

What is most interesting about the album is that despite the controversies surrounding its release, it is surprisingly not as violent as expected from a gangsta rap album.

So you see Senator, there's really nothing to worry about. I doubt those evil fellows in Tha Dogg Pound will invade your Kansan turf any time soon. Your pretentious bubble of white-bread America probably won't be penetrated by those evil African-American males of gangsta rap.

Not yet anyway.

Best of luck in '96,

Rob Clark

Rob Clark,
THE BATTALION

ALBUM REVIEW

**Tha Dogg Pound
Dogg Food
Death Row Records
★ (out of five)**



Spirit of Aggieland inspires The Maroon Collection

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

The Aggie Spirit has inspired many people to great works throughout the years, but now it has inspired two artists to create an entire collection of works depicting Aggieland and its spirit.

The Maroon Collection, an exhibition of original works by Texas artists Tammie Bissett and Timothy Vanya, is on display at Gallagher's Gallery in College Station.

From images of Reveille and Bonfire to tributes to the Corps of Cadets, the Aggie and Parsons Mounted Cavalry, each work attempts to capture a special part of the unique spirit and tradition of Texas A&M.

Vanya said the camaraderie and spirit of A&M have been an inspiration to him.

"A&M is unique to any place I've ever been," he said. "My heart has just been captured by this school. That innate quality that makes A&M what it is like the fountain that I drink from."

Vanya attended art school at the University of

Houston but said he has become a transplant Aggie.

"I had to study art at the University of Houston," he said, "but I came to A&M for my inspiration."

Bissett did not attend Texas A&M, but she said she has been caught up in the Aggie Spirit since her husband entered school at A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine two years ago. She said the school and its students have provided an ideal subject for her work.

"The traditions make A&M a great subject because the Aggies are so supportive of the University," Bissett said. "That is a rare quality. You can see it in everyone at A&M. It catches them in the heart."

Bissett is licensed through the Norman Rockwell foundation and is trying to bring Rockwell's special touch to her A&M pieces.

"I'm trying to bring the Rockwell flair and the spirit of A&M together," she said.

Bissett used the Rockwell flair in one of the pieces on display at Gallagher's. "Anticipation" depicts a member of the Corps of Cadets picturing himself in his senior boots.

Vanya is working on a special piece depicting the

Singing Cadets. The piece attempts to show the Singing Cadets of past and present.

"Home of the 12th Man" is a piece by Vanya on display at Gallagher's. The picture combines fall and football in a special tribute to the 12th Man, the Southwest Conference and the new Big 12 Conference.

"It's a simple piece," Vanya said, "but I think there's a lot of emotion in it."

Kim Mallet, manager of Gallagher's Gallery, said the Maroon Collection has received a positive response from the community.

"The collection captures the true Spirit of Aggieland, and people appreciate that," Mallet said.

James Phillips, a junior management major, said the collection captures many of the qualities that make A&M unique.

"The works are a special tribute to what it really means to be an Aggie," Phillips said. "You get a special feeling each time you look at any of the works and realize what a wonderful school this is."

Vanya and Bissett are both continuing to work on more pieces depicting the Aggie Spirit. Vanya



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Works by Texas artists Tammie Bissett and Timothy Vanya are on display at Gallagher's Gallery.

Vanya said he has at least 15-20 drawings he would like to do.

"I hope this is something that I'm doing when I'm an old man," Vanya said. "I'm just very thankful for the opportunity to draw for A&M."

Bissett also has several more A&M pieces in mind for the future.

"Once it's in your blood," she said, "you feel like an Aggie and get caught up in it."