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# The real news about KEOS 89.1 FM

Community radio station offers diverse programming, volunteer opportunities

**Editor's Note: In the Oct. 23 issue of The Battalion, numerous mistakes were made concerning radio stations KEOS, KAMU and KANM in a column written by John Burton. The Battalion apologizes for the actual errors, for not contacting KEOS and for any other problems that may have arisen from this situation. The following is a column submitted by Eric Truax, president of Brazos Educational Radio.**

Long-time residents of Bryan/College Station may know that the local radio landscape was changed profoundly with the addition of community-sponsored public radio station KEOS 89.1 FM in March of 1995, providing an eclectic mix of music and a variety of voices previously unheard on Brazos Valley Radio. From contemporary folk to Texas blues garage rock bands, and from the world-class news coverage of the BBC Newshour coverage of social justice and grassroots democracy issues on Democracy Now, KEOS is certainly a breath of fresh air. But what most people do not know is the circuitous route that KEOS founders took on the way to the first 1995 broadcast. Sadly, one of those people who know nothing of that history is John Burton, columnist for The Battalion. Burton's uninformed and fact-free opinion column on Thursday, October 30, regarding KEOS was a particularly malicious and obnoxious diatribe. Why he no spent a bit of time researching the story and to label a fledgling, volunteer-run, grassroots public radio station as "kommunist" and "dishonest" is a mystery, but he knows nothing of the history of KEOS. As founder and president of KEOS, I'd like to clear this up right now.

The most glaring error Burton made was the consistent mistake of mixing up KAMU 90.9 FM with KANM Cable Radio. The facts of KEOS' origin have very little to do with KAMU 90.9 FM, instead involving KANM Student Cable Radio, which cablecasts on TCA cable 99.9 FM. KEOS was formed by a group of Texas A&M students and staff, including myself, who wanted an independent, alternative voice for the entire A&M community, including non-students. Since we knew that the planned programming would be controversial, we specifically wanted independence from the Texas A&M administrative structure which had already made ominous noises about KANM's programming on cable. What do you do if you live in Bryan/College Station and you want to start a radio station to broadcast a variety of voices, ideas and music? What do you do if you want to hear alternative political voices and music and ideas from cultures around the world, including public radio programs heard in communities around the country but not in Bryan/College Station? Do you ask Texas A&M to do this for you? We decided no, we would do it ourselves, and in 1991 formed an independent non-profit organization, Brazos Educational Radio, to begin navigating its way through the Byzantine rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. This was done openly with the explicit, but unofficial, support of KANM Student Radio. Brazos Educational Radio is, and always was, a completely separate organization from KANM, which is a student organization formed under the rules of Texas A&M. Our stated mission has always been to integrate students into the management and programming of KEOS, but we would also include A&M faculty and staff, as well as people who have nothing to do with A&M. Unfortunately, a couple of years into the process of forming KEOS, the situa-

tion changed. The Department of Student Activities and some KANM students began to insist on student exclusivity and control of the planned station. They wanted a "traditional" university-owned and controlled model rather than the independently-owned, KANM-operated community radio model we originally envisioned based on the success of similar hybrid stations around the country. Numerous meetings ensued, with KEOS offering KANM the opportunity to manage the station, so long as they adhered to the core principles of diversity and allowed non-student involvement. For whatever reason, KANM as an organi-

zation declined to participate. So, more than two years into the search for an inclusive community radio station, the KEOS board of directors and some supportive KANM students found themselves cut off from campus support and forging new alliances off campus. KEOS signed in on March of 1995 with a small but very energetic group of volunteers based in an old tortilla factory near downtown Bryan. From the first day, KEOS has been received with enthusiasm from Texas A&M students, faculty and staff as well as numerous doctors, lawyers and other professionals living in Bryan/College Station.

KEOS was recognized by Insite Magazine in their special Best of Bryan/College Station issue as one of the best radio stations in the Brazos Valley. We're still growing more than two years later and very much need your help. Everybody is a volunteer at KEOS and we're always looking for help doing anything from answering phones to raising money to being on the station staff.

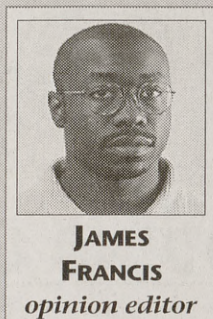
Eric Truax is volunteer President of Brazos Educational Radio, the parent organization of KEOS. He is also Program Director at KPFT 90.1 FM in Houston and Texas A&M Class of 1982.

College Station & Bryan

Community Radio 89.1

## Your Eclectic Company!

## Film depiction sets setting for change at Texas A&M



The big buzz this semester is the horror film *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. It has all the elements of a great *Scream* ripoff, but the title is a bit closer to Texas A&M than most students and faculty might think. This semester is simply continuing the long-celebrated tradition of absolutely nothing being done by students, faculty and the city of College Station. For everyone's reading pleasure, I hereby classify all recent ongoings under the film title, *I Know What Hasn't Been Done This Fall*. This film stars Joe Construction Worker as the man who will never complete renovations to the construction problems on and off campus, Mary Jane Allnighter as the student who will never study or go to class, but complain when test-taking time comes around and John C. Administration as the man whose only purpose in life is to repeatedly say, "This problem will be corrected, and I, with the University's backing, wholeheartedly disagree with the ensuing actions taking place." Think about it. Ross Street has been a defunct visual locale for spectators since Sul Ross saved the first Reveille mascot from a dog pound. Everywhere you turn, orange cones, stripped blockages and traffic directors plague the streets. It almost sounds like a new-fangled advertisement for Lucky Charms cereal. But believe me, there is nothing magically delicious about having to take five detours in order to get from a residence hall to the Memorial Student Center Bookstore. It is only a matter of time before some unsuspecting student takes a stroll on Ross Street and finds him or herself suddenly being eye-level with

the curb. This is where Joe Construction Worker comes into the picture. There are more than a couple of people who have been hired to take care of the construction troubles surrounding and branching out from A&M. One would think that a hundred or so hired hands could pull off paving a few roads. But then again, there's nothing like driving home from campus and seeing a blinking arrow the size of Mount Fuji closing in on your car's windshield. Yet with all of this not going on (nothing being completed that is), students have other troubles on their minds — the main problem being that they are in school, having to deal with difficult professors, enduring classes and still find time to work three jobs in order to pay the rent and tuition. Although it is a noble cause for students to deal with all of this in their lives, somehow classes seem to be the only things that take the lower end of the stick. So what happens next? Well, Mary Jane Allnighter decides that after eight hours of work at the bookstore, five hours time to balance the checkbook and cry over imminent bankruptcy and two minutes to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in one sitting, she decides (at four o'clock in the morning) that it is time to study for her final exam that is scheduled at eight o'clock. For all non-mathematics majors, what Mary Jane is attempting to do is study 15 chapters in the span of four hours — in actuality, only one because the other three will be spent falling asleep and waking up 30 minutes into the exam. Students really need to learn to take care of themselves. This does not only mean physical fitness, but organization and time management. A student cannot expect to pass any class in college if he or she never attends the class or always makes the attempt to pull the mighty allnighter.

James Francis is a junior English major.



### MAIL CALL

**Generalizations demean genders**  
*In response to Donny Ferguson's Oct. 29 column:*  
I, for one, am wrenching sick of being placed beneath the nationwide label of the simple-minded, incompetent, goof-off of a male that your column readily addresses. Not only is it arrogant to deem your personal opinion to be "the truth," but the statements that I read seem more like insults to all men. First, your sources and proof are lacking in that they seem to be based on a mere generalization — the "Homer Simpson" image stained onto American men of late. Your examples hardly described any respectable guy I have come to know, besides a couple of lazy slobs not fit to represent the male population. I, as well as dozens of guys I have come across, am fully capable of dressing myself sensibly and presentably without some girl picking my clothes out for me. It is also unfair to label any

programming as "male" or "female" shows, whereas you completely disregard, even slap in the face, any guy who watches shows with any real substance. I don't know what you do with your free time, but I'm not one to sit around watching sports news all day while mindlessly fumbling with a lump of silly putty and neither are many other guys that spring to mind. In your column, you have simply extracted the best in women, the worst in men, and stamped the whole collection of examples as "official." You have neglected the qualities in men that still remain, or the details about most men that may just prove you wrong. I have known some brilliant guys. I have known some brilliant guys. I have also known some of both sexes that are not the brightest bulbs on the planet. I come from a high school where the top three students were all guys. I have also been to commencements where the valedictorian was female. I'm not trying to say that anybody is smarter than anybody, but only that you are not giving credit where credit is due. Just consider your main sources: television watchers and slobs. In a few cases involving some guys, you may be right in your set image, but it is far less than fair to judge an entire sex by its worst specimens.

Tony Guerrero  
Class of '01

### Female character defiled by column

*In response to Michelle Voss' Oct. 29 column:*  
There are predators in every corner of nature. Even though Voss tempers her column about predators preying on unsuspecting freshman girls, her words still seem to give the impression that the problem is much bigger than it appears. I also feel her comments are disrespectful to the women she references. If we accept Voss' premise, we must accept the fact that women are not intelligent, bright, free thinkers. My experience has taught me that women in general are very strong-willed and determined people. As a final note, even us "nice guys" like Taco Bell and ramen noodles.

Keith Gatewood  
Class of '99

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:  
The Battalion - Mail Call  
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Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX  
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For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.

