

NEW AND IMPROVED
NORTHGATE



Northgate or Disney?

The area may look unfamiliar, but bars remain the same

We all have celebrated there after a final or a game. Some people have stopped by for lunch and an early binge. It is a place where nobody knows your name and not many people care if you came.



RICHARD PADDACK
columnist

It is the home of many legendary watering holes, one of which has been ranked in the top 25 college bars in the United States by several prestigious publications and another that strives to keep live music alive. It is probably the only place where one can get drunk and still get change back from a \$10 bill. For people who have not guessed what I am talking about, they are probably already there, minus \$10 dollars and anticipating the arrival of friends in about 10 to 12 hours. For those who follow the descriptions, the place being referred to is the infamous Northgate.

Recently, Northgate has gone through some extreme cosmetic alterations. These changes have appealed to some but apparently angered others. Now that the construction crews are adding the finishing touches and starting to pack up, this may seem like a moot point, but there are points to be made and minds to be opened.

Those who are angered with the changes made to Northgate are the "old Ags" and alumni who like to remember things the way they were when they were either students or beginning their careers here. This is understandable because Aggies thrive on tradition. It is what we are, it is what makes us proud.

The banning of ring dunking last year broke a

lot of hearts, but students rolled with it or found ways around it. This too shall pass.

My last Northgate experience was different to say the least. Instead of struggling to find my way out of The Dixie Chicken, I had trouble finding The Chicken altogether. Instead of going home to cry about it, I swallowed my pride and sauntered up those unfamiliar steps in the back of the bar around the construction to join my friends and never looked back.

Everyone has had to adjust to the changes, or progress, as a majority of us have learned to accept it as it is. Several people probably say, "Why change a good thing?" Well, in light of the city's past reputation, they would do anything to deter further growth of this city. In fact, we could all benefit from these recent changes to Northgate. More parking is a definite plus, as well as no more potholes the size of private lakes. Other attributes include better lighting and removing the drive-thru street behind the bars, which should curtail the crime rate significantly and make everyone's Northgate experience a little safer. The new facelift should be much more appealing to out-of-towners during game time and other events, bringing in extra revenue to all of the privately owned small businesses in the area.

In the immortal words of Bob Dylan, "The times, they are a changin'." So instead of crying and drinking alone, come on back to the place where still no one knows your name or cares if you came, because although the outside may have changed, it is what is on the inside that counts.

Richard Paddock is a junior journalism major.

University expansion should move upward, not outward

Texas A&M University, despite its many faults, is a great place to gain a college education.

However, one of these faults is its strongly shadowed University's many goal: filling knowledge and character into its students. Recent years have begun to detract from educational experience. The university has grown too big and will stop expanding outward.

There are three considerations to examine when looking at this issue. The first consideration is where the university can expand. The second is time between classes and the on-campus transportation. The final consideration is the expected continued growth of the University. Right now, main campus is boxed in by Texas Avenue, Wellborn Road, University and George Bush Drive. Across the tracks, the campus spread across University and as far as the George Bush Line. At this point, the University can expand North and West. These are the only directions to expand because all the rest of the near campus is owned by businesses and residents. The University would have to buy all the land it needed, and although sometimes alumni donations make the University seem like the richest college in Texas, it doesn't have that much pet-



CHRIS HUFFINES
columnist

This means campus is going to get increasingly longer than it is wide, which will prolong travel time. Also, the farther it expands in those directions, the more major safety concerns arise, like Wellborn Road and the train tracks, for students trying to get from one side of campus to the other.

The University currently allots only 20 minutes or so between classes. Walking from the Wehner building to the Blocker building, this is plenty of time. However, if the University continues to expand, the entire campus will be faced with the same predicament students in the Bush school are facing. The classes there finally surrendered the conflict in scheduling, and have been rescheduled so students have enough time to get to their other classes. Imagine the chaos if even one-third of main campus classes were placed on this timetable. All of a sudden, scheduling would be a nightmare, especially when the administration would be forced to change a class's scheduled time along with changing what classroom it meets in.

Unfortunately, the current mass-transit buses cannot meet the needs of the student body now, much less in the future. It may help to replace the current fleet, at least, until those buses get old and mildly dysfunctional, leading to the delays and missed classes students are faced with now. In addition, were the campus to grow outward, Bus Operations would require more buses, which would cost more money, especially since they would be hiring more drivers and juggling routes to accommodate all the students.

Finally, the University is going to

expand. It is inevitable. In its drive to become a top-10 university, A&M will have to add facilities, if for nothing else than the new-and-improved College of Liberal Arts being assembled. The University will be adding facilities, and they have to go somewhere to do so.

The solution is simple. A&M needs to take some of the older, extremely unattractive buildings on campus, level them to the ground, and build bigger, better buildings in their place. Two prime candidates are the Reed McDonald building and Scoates Hall.

Reed McDonald is, quite simply, a building that could use a facelift. The building is located right next to Blocker, which will help concentrate classrooms within easy walking distance of each other. It makes good sense, especially since it will be a great excuse to finally get rid of the only burnt orange-trimmed structure in the entirety of Bryan-College Station.

Scoates Hall is even more ideally located than Reed McDonald. Right between the Bright building and the Grassy Knoll, Scoates is near to both Northside and Southside. The building itself, when compared to any of the more modern buildings near it, is an eyesore. Plus, it is only a three-story building. Valuable space is being inefficiently used.

The University has nowhere else to turn. It can either expand out and make students' lives more troubled than they already are, or the University can expand upward, replacing its own dead wood. It seems like an easy enough choice.

Chris Huffines is a sophomore speech communications major.

the Mexican firemen by not writing without knowledge and research.

Ricardo Thierry
Ph. D. Student

Editor's Note: The headline "Americans take responsibility for fires in Mexico" may have been misleading. Paddock would summarize his column by saying a majority of the fires were started by political propaganda.

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
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111
Campus Mail: 1111
Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: batt@unix.tamu.edu



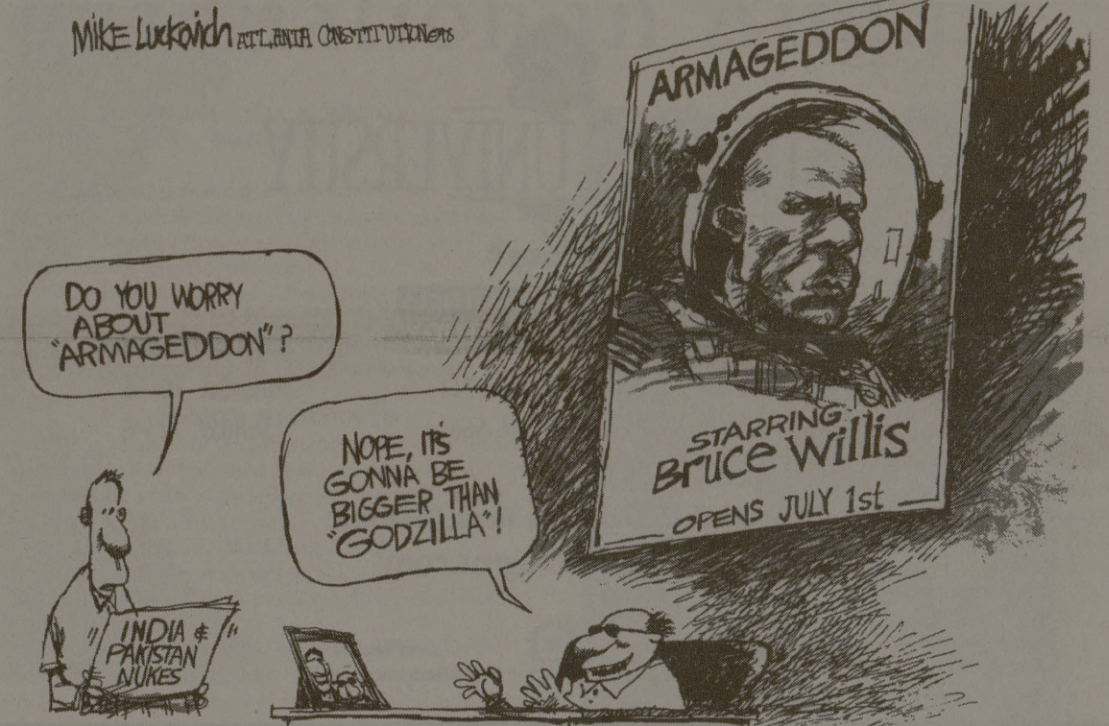
MAIL CALL

Response to Richard Paddock's Tuesday, June 2, column:

It is with great pain that I found your lines very poor knowledge about the situation of my country and a great deal of disrespect. As a journalism major you should have checked better for your sources.

Indeed "El Niño" is affecting not only Latin America but also the United States. The evening news in College Station have reported some fires due to the dryness of the fields around the county. The

MIKE LUCKEY ATLANTA CREATIVES



Immigration requires assimilation

The Ellis Island generation traveled to America to become part of something. This was done not only to better their lives economically, socially or politically, but to passionately contribute of themselves in an American setting.



ALISON LACKEY
columnist

Traveling from Italy, my great-grandfather settled in New York, where he eventually obtained an American business partner. This partner would finance my great grandfather's grocery store and collect 50 percent. Once it was time to post store signs, great-granddad offered the family surname, Casmiri, as the name of their grocery. His business partner objected and urged him to "Americanize" his name and label the store Cashmer's grocery.

He reluctantly performed this "Americanization." He did this without losing his heritage and cultural value. His desire to become part of America pushed him from reluctance to inclination. He carefully absorbed American principles and the English language. Words were not cause of a disintegration of his Italian heritage.

Today is different — contribution to the American setting is different. Some people adamantly feel that their heritage and culture is lost in the mongrel abyss of America.

Immigrants travel to the United States for numerous reasons; however, it is a known fact that many immigrants come here solely searching for employment and an improved

economic status. Many times, for immigrants, collecting the benefits of health care, social services and education is an unattainable goal.

Bilingual education stimulated much discussion. In states with high immigrant populations such as Texas and California.

In California, 1.4 million students statewide have limited English proficiency. Many newly-naturalized American citizens have ignored the hinge of English in our American public education systems and crusaded for bilingual education. The American setting is shadowed; the apple pie has spoiled.

Bilingual education, the realm with which many American public schools have been operating to educate non-English speaking students, may very well have lost its widespread appeal.

Ron Unz, pioneer of Proposition 227, pleasantly watched California voters authorize the proposal in last Tuesday's primary. After all, we do speak English in this country. It is not established as the national language; however, the Constitution is written in English. In the Proposition 227 vote, it is undeniable to mention that a large portion of the 60 percent victory were Hispanic citizens.

Extinguishing the fires of bilingual education could set a blaze through many other states, such as Texas, New York and Florida that are swollen with immigrants. The surging of immigrants, the kaleidoscope of cultures, must assimilate to the task of learning English and benefit from an English education in our public school systems.

However, it is understandable that the public primary and secondary education system is already lacking funds to teach classes in English. We do not have the re-

sources to hire several Croatian math teachers or Korean social studies teachers for numerous school districts in Texas. With the current violence in schools and piss poor salary offerings to match, some public schools are steadily entering the crap zone. Attracting teachers has become a problem, especially to a specific set of teachers who speak various languages.

We must focus on improving the watered-down education system in English and create a system that stimulates non-English speaking students to learn in English, so that it is the responsibility of every citizen to take advantage of and value a state provided education.

Prosperity would increase. Individuals with mastery of more than one language are realizing increased value in the job market. These days the doors are opening up wide as for college grads. My Spanish and German course work has been more than just fulfillment of a requirement. Culturally-enhanced classes have significantly contributed to my college education.

But, it is not oppressive to learn the language of your country and receive education in that language.

If an American were to seek a new life in another country, it would also be their responsibility to assimilate. They would be benefiting from their new country, culturally, socially and economically. Therefore, they must respect the country, and shift their lives around their new language. It would be their duty to do this, as well as it is immigrants' duty to pursue American education in English.

Allison Lackey is a senior English major.