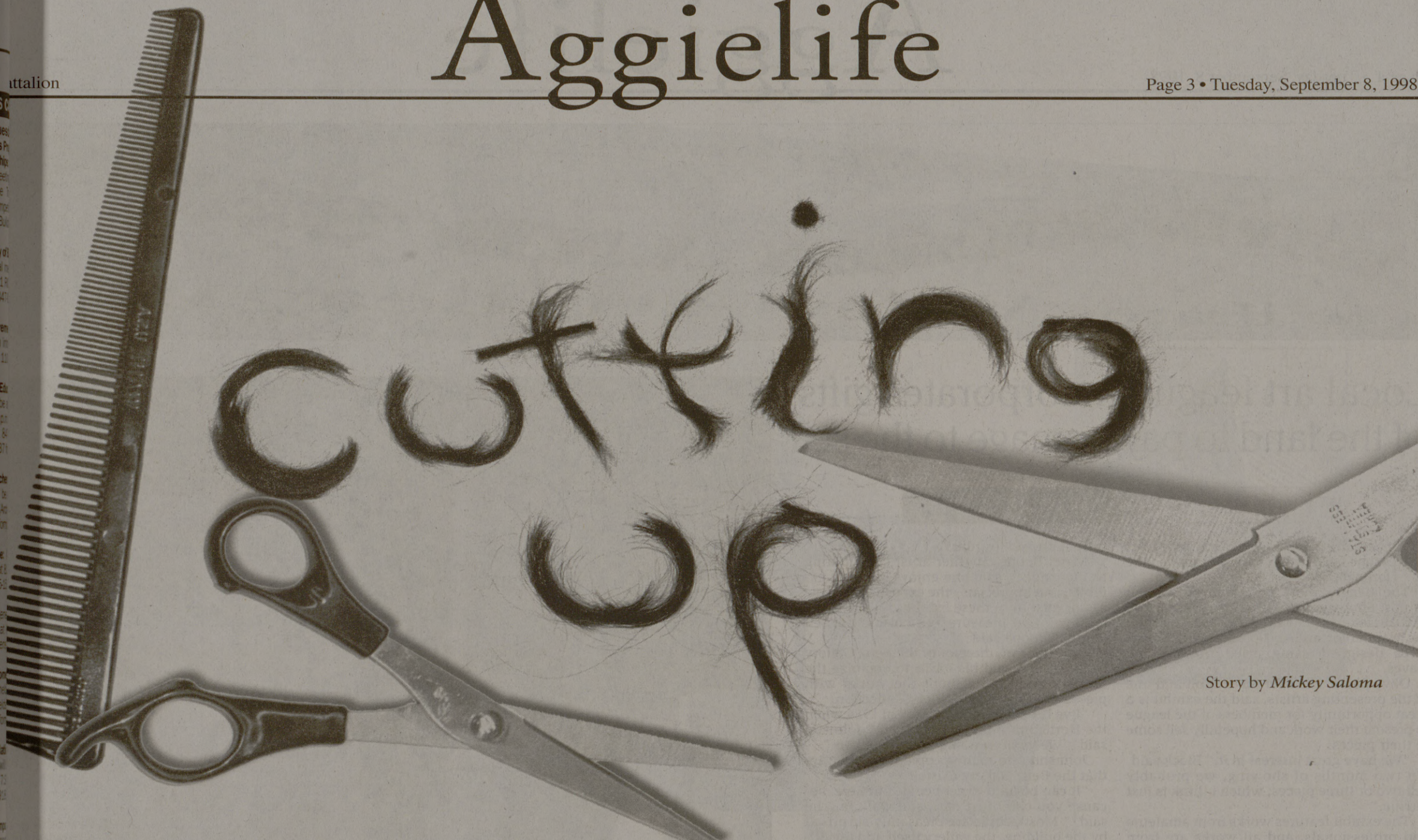


Aggielife



Story by Mickey Saloma

From short to long hairstyles, Aggieland barber shops provide shear adventure



Hairstyles have been a symbol of individuality for much of the 20th century. Hair is no longer a mere tool to protect one's scalp but rather a sign of one's knowledge of what is in and what is out.

In the '60s, The Beatles inspired many people to rid themselves of their traditional haircuts in exchange for a new look.

Men began to grow their hair long; women began to grow it longer, and the world has not been the same since.

Standing in the whirlwind of the ever-changing hairstyles are the barbers and hairstylists of the world.

Hair today, gone tomorrow. The job of acting as a liaison between the world of the boring hairdo and the innovative hairstyle is a task many bold citizens of Bryan-College Station have undertaken.

Blessed are the barbers and beauticians, for they have a direct influence on how others truly see us.

Texas A&M students have a plethora of choices when it comes to where they will get their hair snipped, clipped, buzzed or teased.

Barbershop choices are endless, yet each one offers something different to each fashion makeover victim.

The Memorial Student Center has housed a barber shop since the center was opened in 1950.

A&M housed another barbershop in the YMCA building prior to the construction of the MSC.

Theresa Herin, MSC Barber Shop assistant manager, said the shop primarily gives haircuts to members of the Corps of Cadets, but are not limited to Corps-style haircuts.

"The MSC barber shop was a Corps shop for many years," she said. "However, since the times have changed, we now accommodate all students," she said.

Herin said the MSC Barber Shop is a good choice for many students because it is located on campus and extremely convenient.

Northgate Barber Shop is another easily accessible barber shop. It has been operating since 1935.

Jennifer Baker, owner and manager of Northgate Barber Shop, said they cater to many families as well.

Baker said the key to Northgate's success is the amount of barbers they have.

"We have seven barbers at one time which keeps the wait down," she said.

Ridgecrest Barber Shop is another place that has cut the hair of Aggies for a long time. Ridgecrest was opened in 1940 and carries the tradition of keeping the cadets' hair short.

Jackie Laywell, manager of Ridgecrest Barber Shop, said that 75 to 80 percent of Ridgecrest's business is from current and former Corps members.

Laywell said the key to her success has been the establishments good personal relationships with her customers.

"I have attended many things such as March to the Brazos and the Cavalry's 20th Anniversary party to build good rapport with my customers," Laywell said.

Redmond Terrace Barber Shop has also worked on building good relationships with its customers.

A.C. Vinzant, owner of Redmond Terrace Barber Shop, said he enjoys catering to the cutting needs of customers.

"Redmond Terrace is a traditional barbershop, complete with a barber pole, that strives to keep their customers happy," Vinzant said. "We don't claim to be the best, the customers decide who is the

best, we just cut hair however the customer wants it cut."

Benefield and Company offers not only haircuts, but perms, color, corrective color, highlighting, manicures, pedicures, acrylic nails and waxing as well.

"We like to cater to those looking for the best in all our different services," Benefield said.

Cutler and Cutler Salon is not a traditional beauty salon.

It has been opened for only five years, and specializes in all haircuts.

Mandy Smelser, a hairstylist for Cutler and Cutler, said the business strives to create the right atmosphere.

"We have created a stress-free environment for our customers," Smelser said.

Cutler and Cutler creates this atmosphere through its specialties. Each haircut comes complete with shampoo, rinse and scalp massage.

Cutler and Cutler employs not only cosmetologists and hair stylists, but two massage therapists as well.

Also, they use only 100 percent all-natural products which produce absolutely no chemical smells.

Smelser said the olfactory nature of this experience sets it apart from other businesses.

"We like to provide aromatherapy for all of our customers," Smelser said.

Citizens of Bryan-College Station have many choices when it comes to where to get their hair cut and styled. Aggies no longer have to go home to get a good haircut, because the ultimate haircut can be found in this area.

Aggies should take heed of the old barber adage: once the barber cuts the hair, it is the responsibility of the owner of the hair to keep it from being messed up.



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