

Creativity in Motion

Hidden publishing opportunities available for students

BY JUSTIN GARRETT
The Battalion

Two strangers pass one another on a busy sidewalk. Their eyes meet, and the moment provides short-lived respite from their daily routines as both find something irresistibly strange in their glances. The moment passes and they redirect their attention to their destinations. Each is absolutely unaware of the promising opportunities, such as this, they pass each day.

This painful scenario is played out all too often in the lives of student writers. Due to a simple lack of knowledge, they are left with emptiness while they seek for something right in front of them.

They should seek no longer, for a vast array of publishing opportunities hungrily awaits to feast upon their talent.

The Texas A&M University Press Consortium is A&M's very own publisher and belongs to a network of university publish-

ers. Although there is a common misconception that university-affiliated presses will only publish scholarly nonfiction material, in actuality they also print general interest books from a variety of literary disciplines. Due to its location and publishing status, the A&M Press is an ideal starting point for local writers.

However, should one choose to venture outside of College Station in search of fortune and fame, one will not be disappointed as there are numerous possibilities for publication. The only problem is finding them.

Luckily, most large bookstores carry writer's guides overflowing with resources. Many of these guides contain listings of hundreds of publishers, magazines and other helpful sources for getting work on the market. In better volumes, detailed descriptions of what the particular agency is looking for, contact information and the pay rate for a piece of given length is also provided.

One such guide, *The Writer's Market*, has

full listings of agents, publishers, magazines and even literature contests across the nation. The simplicity and efficient organization of these books leaves the writer with only two timely tasks: producing work and submitting it.

Because writers are generally extremely busy, they may have little time for contacting publishers and mailing manuscripts.

In this case, a writer may choose to work through an agent. Agents are in constant contact with publishers and function similarly to agents of other fields, working to promote the interests of their clients.

In most cases the agents receive 15 to 20 percent commission on sales, giving them incentive to locate the most profitable arrangement between their client and a publisher.

For those who would rather promote themselves, literary contests can offer valuable assistance in gaining much needed recognition. Such contests commonly offer cash or other prizes for winners. Many are

held by publications who will print winning work, providing the exposure beginning writers yearn for.

Hundreds of contests are held each year across the nation. Many of the contests held by smaller organizations have little publicity, thereby narrowing competition and increasing an individual's chance of success.

Given that there are so many contests, finding one that is well suited to one's writing style is not a difficult task and is highly recommended. The most common place to learn of upcoming contests is in magazines, newspapers and other publications.

Professionals advise that writers research the contest they are considering entering. If the same contest has been held in previous years, one should attempt to obtain copies of winning work.

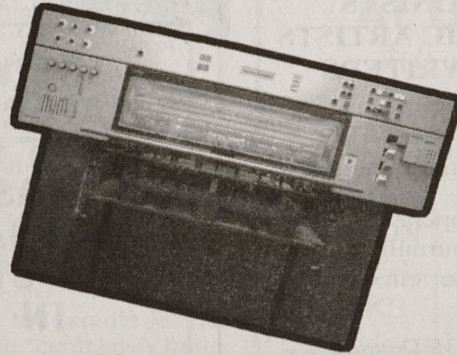
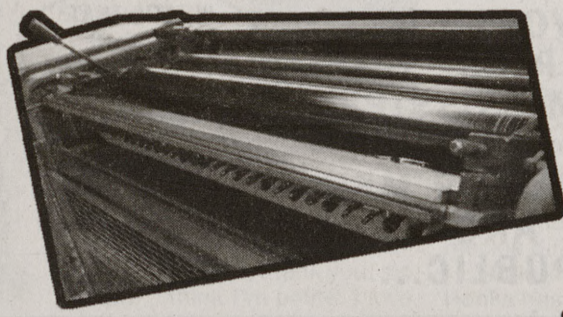
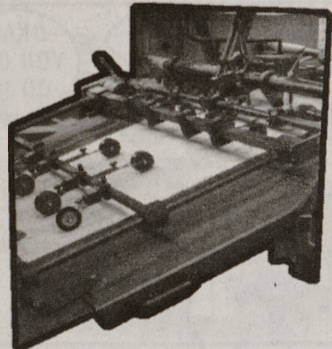
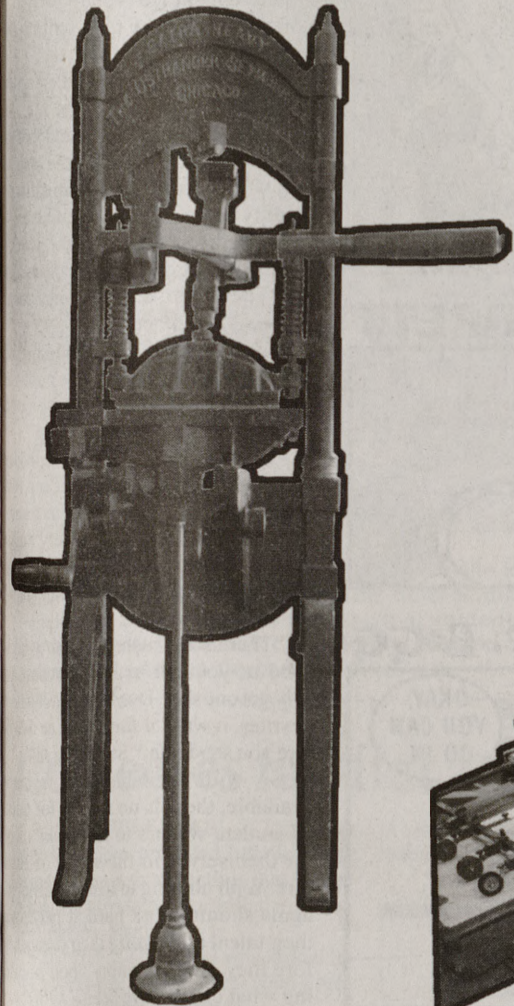
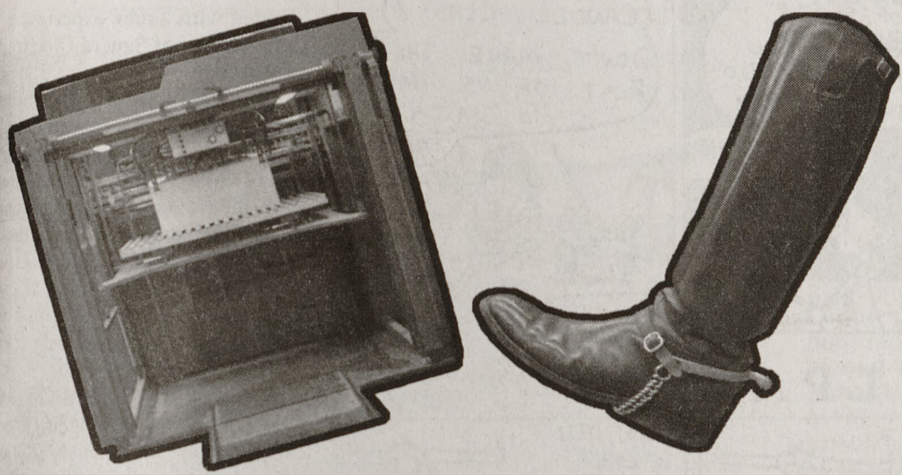
That way the elements that may have contributed to the work's success may be identified and then used to strengthen one's own work.

Despite these countless opportunities, many young writers are still hesitant to pursue publication. Given that most successful contemporary writers are in their late 20s through early 50s, young writers may often feel they will not be taken seriously because of their age.

This is not the case. Many publishers actually seek young writers because of their fresh perspectives on the world.

"Readers want a view of an unknown world. If a young writer can open the window and make it accessible, the reader is re-

See PUBLISHING on Page 4.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

6 DON'T GET BURNED!! 9*

Monday Dunk Tank Schedule

DUNK 'M WHILE THEY'RE HOT!!!!

10:00 Forrest Lane, Corps Commander
10:30 Jessica Haider, HD

Tuesday Dunk Tank Schedule

10:30 Nima Pourrajabi, RA
11:00 Kim Novak, Coord.
Student Judicial Services
11:30 Bill Anderson, MSC President
12:30 Wade Countryman, Corps Staff, University Relations

Rudder Fountain Today - Wednesday 10am - 1pm

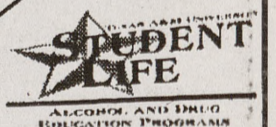
Resource Tables

ODPhi - "Brothers Against Drunk Driving" Tuesday March 7 @ 8:30pm 292a MSC

FREEBIES

Look for the PRIZE PATROL on Tuesday

The Majority of Aggies Drink 3 or Fewer Drinks per Week



did you know....

- 77% OF AGS WHO HAVE SEX DO IT SOBER
- 83% OF AGGIES HAVE NOT USED MARIJUANA IN THE LAST
- 60% OF AGGIES HAVE NEVER DRIVEN A CAR AFTER DRINK-
- 90% OF AGS HAVE NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE WITH AUTHORITIES (POLICE, ADMINISTRATORS, ETC)

Rollover rollover Convincer

AGGIES

Monday, March 6, 2000
CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION
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president and a senior
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April 21.
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on campus. It is positive
eyes and ears of the camp
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leadership experience.
Hurd said he is ready to
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Radio Producer
Web Master
Graphics Editor
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and office hours are 8 a
as A&M student to pick
all subscriptions are \$60
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