

The misconceptions of spring break

Media paints false picture of college students on break

BY EMILY HARRELL
The Battalion

It's a familiar scene: hundreds of barely-clad, fake-baked college students gyrate to remixes of remixes as Carson Daly gives the play-by-play at MTV's annual spring break party. Angela Fields, a senior biomedical sciences major, said she and her friends left MTV's presence during their Panama City Beach vacation her sophomore year at Texas A&M.

"When we were down there, it seemed like everyone went wherever MTV was," she said. "And that place was usually more fun, because there were more people there and the bar usually had drink specials."

Fields said while MTV's presence brought some excitement to the beach, it also brought a degree of snobbery.

"It was almost like an elite thing. You couldn't even get near the hotel that hosted it unless you had a wrist band," she said. "I think [MTV takes] college stereotyping to an extreme. Everyone has a wild streak, but you can't be wild all the time. I don't mind spring breaks where I have to be productive, either. You can't party all the time and continue to be a college student."

Eric Hill, a senior geography major, said MTV's portrayal of spring break affects college students and the station's audience negatively.

"I think it's negative one way or the other," he said. "I don't like the whole hedonistic attitude where people follow girls in skimpy bikinis around with cameras to clubs to see if

they'll hook up with people. The whole thing disgusts me.

"I think that MTV just plays to our sexual desires. I think that's partly accurate of what college students are like, but not entirely. It describes us as unintelligent party goers. I think we need to set a good example for our younger brothers and sisters, our peers and someday our own children. We want to create a good society for our children, not just have a good time."

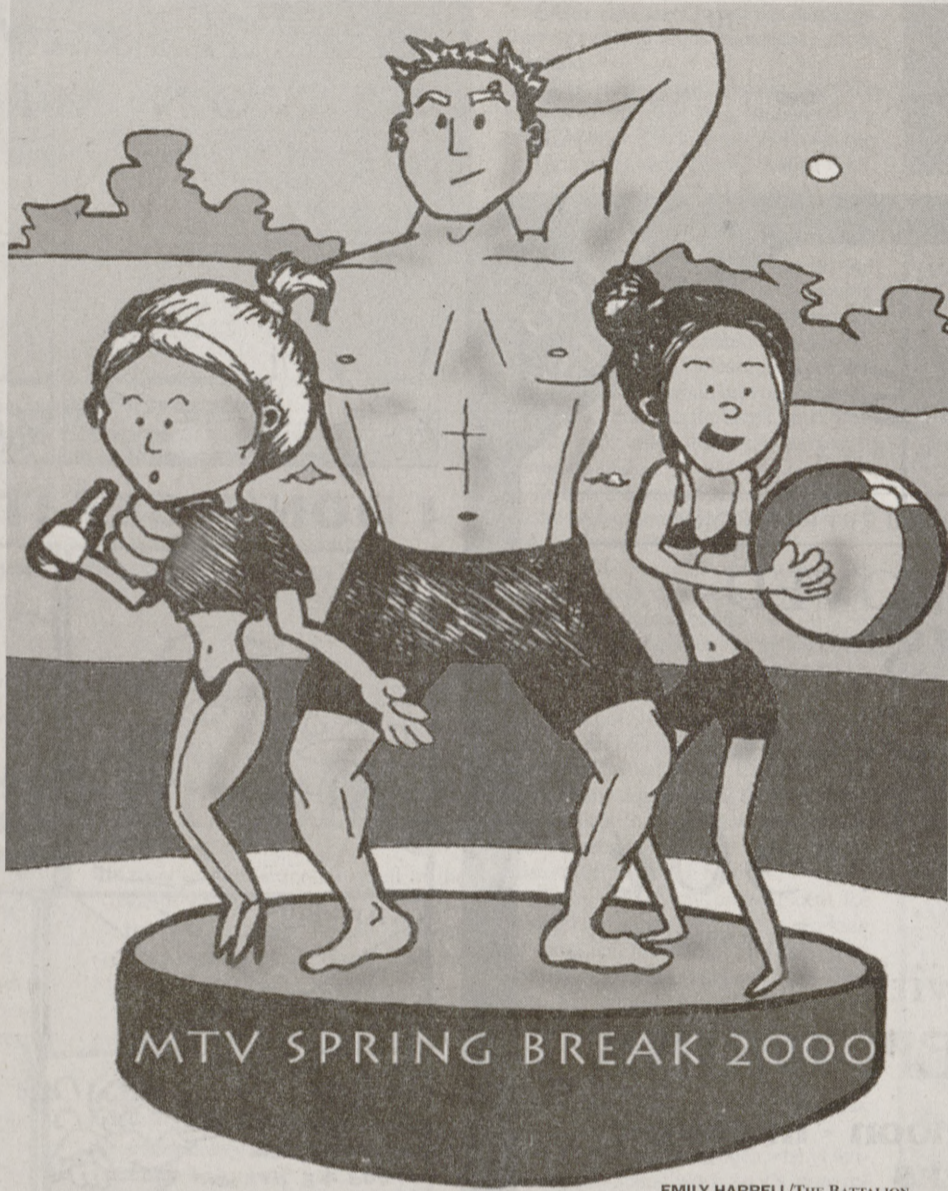
While MTV's spring break programming gives the world a glimpse into one facet of the college experience, the ways that college students spend their spring break vacations are more diverse. Whether chilling in the snow-capped mountains or lying on the beach, what college students say they really want is relaxation and a break from the books.

While some Aggies say they look for complete relaxation in their vacations, others use their time away from classes to gain extra experience in their career fields. The ambitious Aggie can find volunteer opportunities everywhere from South by Southwest in Austin to hospitals in their hometown.

Fields said that although she wished she could go to Panama City Beach again for spring break, she is going home for the break to volunteer in a hospital.

"I'm going back to Dallas to stay with my family and I'm going to volunteer to shadow an anesthesiologist at Lakepoint and Garland Memorial Hospitals to get recommendations for

See **SPRING BREAK** on Page 5.



EMILY HARRELL/THE BATTALION

Bryan - College Station not worst place to vacation

BY JUAN LOYA
The Battalion

Stop! Don't let the promise of sunny beaches or drunken debauchery this spring break obscure the obvious and local amenities the Bryan-College Station community has to offer. That's right. B-CS might not be where the inebriated masses flock each year, but it offers something South Padre and Cancun sorely lack — hometown charm and charisma.

OK, so maybe the good times are a little harder to locate in this quiet college community. But for the adventuresome, the willing and the brave, spring break thrills are just around the corner.

In fact, one need look no further than our own Post Oak Mall where, in addition to the fine shops and services, one can find the most entertaining invention modern man has ever devised — the photo booth.

Imagine the fun, crowding into the booth with one or two close friends (if they're not in Palm Beach, of course) and making silly faces as the camera records the glee-filled moment. In addition to the picture, creative borders are also provided, such as "Most Wanted" or "Double Trouble" to add character and levity to the light-hearted keepsake.

If one should find himself in need of refreshment after that cheer-

filled adventure, the food court is a bountiful arena of nourishment and cuisine. And, lest we forget, it is all at an affordable price.

The Chick-Fil-A children's meal is one of the best values in town, supplying a junior order of chicken nuggets, junior fries, a junior drink and a box of crayons for less than \$3. But wait, there's more! Color the activity sheet that comes with the kid's meal and become the lucky recipient of a vanilla-flavored ice cream cone at no extra cost. Look for service like that at any other spring break location and expect to find a big heapin' dose of nothing coming your way, brave traveler.

Unknown to many B-CS residents are the many unique and bizarre oddities that inhabit this community: the Snowflake Museum, the Kaleidoscope Theater and the Quad. In fact, even roaming through the halls of the A&M vet school one can find a garish parade of freakish and grotesque mutant beasts — nature's mishaps collected in one glass display. This is no joke. A two-headed sheep, a two-headed calf and a rabbit with Bunnica-like fangs all occupy the bizarre spectacle. They await the intrepid traveler, the curious and the daring, to behold their strange glory.

But for those with less daring desires, the comforts of one's own

See **COLLEGE** on Page 5.



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