

Frogs ho  
up polls

Friday, October 13, 2000

PORT WORTH (AP) —  
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## Another parking pain

### Forcing students to park at Post Oak lot ludicrous; reasoning of PTTS flawed

**T**exas A&M and parking have never gone hand in hand. The parking situation has worsened over the years as the incoming classes have continued to increase in size. Then, it got worse when the blue lots were relocated because of the inherent danger of the railroad tracks.

Get ready Aggs, because parking has just reached an all-time low. Wednesday's *Battalion* reported that six parking lots regularly used for commuters will be closed Thursday and today for members of the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST).

Gearred toward science teachers, CAST hosts more than 600 short courses, field trips and on-campus tours. Most events will be held in Reed Arena and Rudder Tower.

It is understandable that measures needed to be taken for these visitors to come to the campus.

Everyone knows there is not usually any room for extra cars. But, the measures being taken are not understandable.

First Bowl Champion findings do not come out two days after TCU plays at Tulsa. That poll to account schedule status other factors, is the biggest into which teams will enter bowl games the first try.



MELISSA BEDSOLE

two hours before their class is scheduled. "This is a once-every-five-years deal, and these are very important visitors to our

This does not mean students understand anything. All selfishness aside, many students have schedules that do not allow them to add an additional hour or more to their commuting time. In addition, many students

have work schedules that are closely coordinated with their class times.

Worst of all, many students leave town on the weekends, and an extra hour in College Station on Friday does not help those trying to beat traffic on the roads.

Wait a minute — this lovely plan is about to get worse. Of course, these CAST members should not walk around campus — the railroad tracks are too dangerous.

To get them safely from one building to another "19 buses will be pulled out of regular service to accommodate the conference," said Angela Newman, PTTS communications specialist.

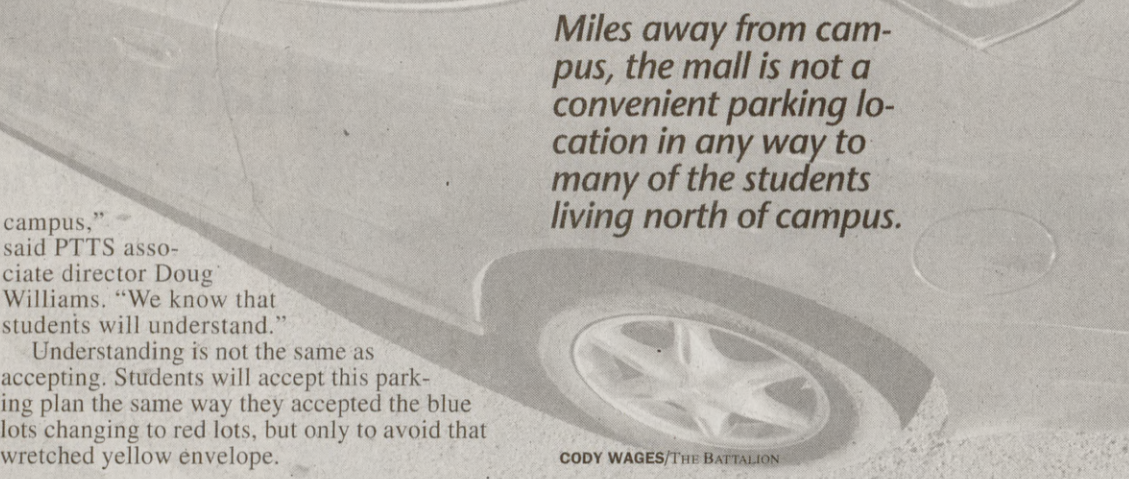
How many buses does that leave for students to use between classes?

Do students still attend this school? Getting around campus will be even slower now. So, add another hour.

This week's lot closures will be a "major ordeal" for students and PTTS alike, Newman said. That is for sure.

Best advice: Leave for class a little early, or maybe just take the day off.

Melissa Bedsole is a junior psychology major.



Miles away from campus, the mall is not a convenient parking location in any way to many of the students living north of campus.

CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

## Reality bites

### Television shows a bad influence

**D**oes anyone want to watch a wanna-be millionaire? This is a question that the television networks have answered "yes" to as millions of viewers tune in to witness Americans winning millions.

How far will people go to win \$1 million, and how many more will tune in to watch? Millions of people watch every week as Regis Philbin hosts potential millionaires.

Thousands were watching when alleged multi-millionaire Rick Rockwell selected his bride, Darva Conger, live on national television. Even more watched the week-by-week saga of "Survivors."

Even with all the publicity, there are flaws to this televised-reality, moneymaking frenzy. Perceptions become blurred, pockets become larger compensating for risks, and everyone waits for a chance at the jackpot.

In fact, according to a study by the University of Connecticut, the number of people believe who they need to make their dreams come true has doubled since 1987, when people thought \$50,000 was sufficient for yearly income.

These millionaire programs are not healthy for an easily manipulated society.

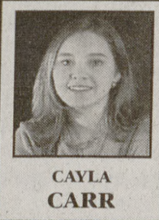
For one thing, television is television, and reality is reality. There is no happy medium. In the hit series "Survivor," for example, the idea was that people were supposedly stranded with one another on a deserted island — television cameras and all.

Sacrifices and achievements had to be made by each individual to survive on the island until their peers voted him or her off the island.

When someone was eliminated, he or she was forced to return to modern civilization and was flown home on a plane. To win the \$1 million, a person had to be the last person left on the island. How realistic is this?

One minute, rats are the only source of food, and the next, a plane trip home is an option. Being stranded on a deserted island does not happen every day, but when it does happen, the prize is not \$1 million; instead, it is actually surviving.

Almost a decade ago, the first "real-life" show, "The Real World," aired on MTV. Since then, audiences have become bored watching similar seasons. To retain audiences' interest, reality



CAYLA CARR

shows have merely created bigger risks.

In the Fox show, "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire," 50 women were gathered and evaluated — similar to a beauty pageant — as Rockwell chose his bride. Since the two had just met, Conger obviously did not marry Rockwell for love.

Money was at stake, accounting for the risk she was taking. In her case, she learned quickly that the money was not all that important.

With her marriage annulled, she embarked on her next adventure as she posed for Playboy magazine and ironically continues to claim that she wants her "privacy" back.

Conger took a risk by appearing on the show and will be known from now on as the hypocritical tramp.

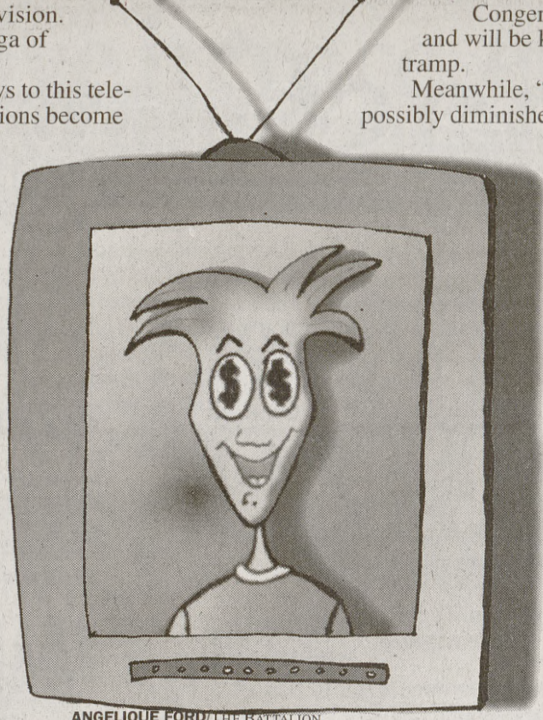
Meanwhile, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" has possibly diminished the popularity of typical game shows like "The Price is Right" or "Jeopardy," that give out smaller amounts of money and prizes.

Answering trivial questions on a game show is not the practical route to wealth. Instead, viewers of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" are hypnotized by contestants' easy access to money.

The first few questions are usually not difficult, so many contestants are able to walk away with at least \$32,000. However, in many instances, luck most likely outweighs wit.

These are examples of how detrimental the television shows can be to society. Many people believe money is the answer to their problems.

Could this 13-year increase reported by the University of Connecticut be a result of the availability of wealth on reality



ANGELIQUE FORD/THE BATTALION

television shows? Episodes of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," a televised millionaire marriage or "Survivor" are whirlwind adventures in which dollars add up quickly and individuals' values diminish. Society's fate will only plummet if viewers continue to tune in to watch others make millions while overlooking their own chances for financial success.

Cayla Carr is a junior speech communication major.

## Grads matter, too

Analysis

### of Vision 2020's second and third imperatives

**V**ision 2020 aims to elevate Texas A&M from No. 17 to among the top 10 public universities within the next 20 years.



JENNIFER RAMBY

Today's focus is on the plan's second and third imperatives: to "strengthen our graduate programs" and "enhance the undergraduate academic experience."

The first imperative of Vision 2020 — improving faculty — leads into the second: "Outstanding professors attract superior graduate students, and, in many instances, the money to help support their research."

One of these precepts involves increasing A&M's graduate population in numbers and quality.

According to the task force idea, "The current measures of excellence for universities are focused on the breadth and depth of their graduate and professional programs."

A&M intends to welcome more graduate students while maintaining the current number of undergraduates.

This action may make A&M better able to compete with other public universities, but undergraduate students need to take steps to ensure that their needs and desires will not be overlooked.

The first goal includes making "financial support for graduate students competitive with that of the best institutions."

ceive, simply will not understand what it means to be an Aggie.

To preserve A&M's unique culture and tradition, students need to ensure that the spirit of Aggieland will be appreciated and fostered by those the administration is seeking to draw to campus.

Vision 2020's third imperative involves making A&M "a residential, learner-centered community that attracts excellent students and provides quality learning and mentoring experiences."

The first of four precepts says A&M intends to "provide students the optimal undergraduate experience in a research university."

The first goal will lead to more well-rounded students because it aims to increase consideration of leadership and other aspects of the student — not just academics — upon admission.

While A&M currently has the highest retention rate in Texas, administration aims to reach a freshman retention rate of 95 percent.

The second precept is to "establish honors tracks" by "substantially enrich[ing] the honors program and quadrupl[ing] the number of undergraduate students involved in them."

Honors opportunities are significant as long as they are not the focus. As the precept states, A&M is known for attracting students who do not traditionally join the honors program, and they need to be afforded the same educational opportunities as the graduate and honors students.

The fourth precept of the third imperative is one of the most significant: "Value and enhance [the] strongest and best values of Aggie Spirit."

The task force idea states: "Perhaps the most uniquely defining characteristic of Texas A&M University ... is the role of traditions in perpetuating Aggie Spirit."

Traditions make A&M unique, and they make A&M better.

The goals include 100 percent involvement in "the other education," increasing the Corps of Cadets population to at least 2,600, and building a student leadership center to promote leadership and participation.

The administration also intends to "use the strength of Texas A&M University's student enrichment and traditions to facilitate students' learning, both in and out of the classroom."

Bonfire cut met this goal because it harbored tradition, created an inclusive campus community and provided a learning experience out of the classroom.

If cut were preserved, it would represent one of the administration's goals for A&M.

While many goals may seem harmless, they are all worth consideration. It is important to read between the lines and discern exactly what actions may affect the student body.

Jennifer Ramby is a sophomore journalism major.

## Blurred Vision

Part 3 of 7

While scholarships are always admirable and will draw graduate students, undergraduates need to maintain the same scholarship opportunities, if not gain more.

Another goal aims to "recruit 75 percent of graduate students from institutions other than Texas A&M University and 50 percent from outside Texas."

Because Aggies have been accused of being provincial, this will increase diversity and bring new cultural influences to the school.

What is questionable is how the administration can put a number on how many students it will bring into its own grad programs.

If students in the top 30 percent of the pool are qualified, this means that A&M would actually lower standards for the sake of diversity.

Additionally, when students apply to A&M for graduate school, being an Aggie should count for them, not against them.

By bringing in outsiders, the administration is diluting the strength that binds the A&M student body through traditions particularly important to undergraduates.

Graduate students, foreign to A&M's "other education" that undergraduates re-

GER HOUSE  
Lunch Special  
Grand Opening

## Homosexuality viewed as deviant, immoral

**I**n response to Eric Dickens' Oct. 9 column.

It gave me great pleasure to finally see someone with the bravery to drop the shield of political correctness.

Dickens' satirical column was a refreshing reminder that not all of society has fallen before the pagan altar of endorsement to worship this "queer bandwagon" as pop culture's latest vogue.

It is high time that the moral among us took a stand against this outbreak of sexual perversion.

No other sexual fiends are allowed to roam the streets free; pedophiles and rapists are locked away, and, in some cases, castrated.

If America is to reclaim its roots as "One Nation Under God," it is time for the rest of us to take a stand.

Alton Baker Class of '04

## Mail Call

### Israelis not blameless

**I**n response to Mark Passwaters' Oct. 12 column.

It disappoints me to hear a fellow Aggie have such disregard for humans, to see them murdered and expelled from their homes in order to gain a "strategic advantage."

There is a lot of wrongdoing on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, but all the blame should not be placed on a nation that throws rocks out of complete desperation at the second-strongest military in the world.

Passwaters is correct when he states, "The struggle for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has been well documented." However, it has been documented by Jewish-dominated media. The Israelis do not want peace; they want the entire land for themselves. Unfortunately for them, Palestinians have occupied this land for hundreds of years.

I spent the summer in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where much of the violence is occurring. The Palestinian people

are not heartless rioters. They are caring, family-oriented people who are tired of empty promises and tired of not being able to move about the land freely.

I am tired of only hearing about the benefits to Israelis in articles.

Elizabeth Boyd Class of '01

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