THE BATTALION

NEWS

stricting

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buquerque right away han to attend the ay hearing. Sen. Leticia Putte of San Antonio, nan of the Senate tic Caucus, has said if y they are prepared to y another 30 days, the n length of a special

of the Democrats rom Albuquerque on the as the Legislature

ally is sad to see the gislature so divided and e time, we felt validated we accomplished what t to do," said Sen. Judith

D-Laredo. Democrats fled the on July 28, shortl erry called a second ive special session. ence denied the Senate , halting business in the er chamber that

wo-thirds of its mempresent for business to ted. licans, led by U.S. lajority Leader Ton Sugar Land, have been

or lawmakers to redrav essional districts, saying nds show Texas should ore Republicans in on. Democrats have ority in the delegation

emocrats contend th map should not be and say proposals e Legislature this year e hurt minority repre-

des, meanwhile, facea ednesday in Laredo on ocrats' federal lawsuit es that their constitu ghts as well as the ights Act have been rough the redistricting

lated development, the partment in a letter to Secretary of State's id that prior federal is not needed on s decision to do away ovision requiring that of the Senate agree to l to be debated.

said the Justice nt letter was another age to the Democrats e lawsuits they filed us."

Live and learn: The freshman code

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

By Rachel Hollon THE BATTALION

Every year, a new crop of students enters exas A&M. They are virtually free of parental ontrol for the first time, free to choose whether go to class or sleep in and free to make imporant decisions: they are the freshman class.

Freshman year can be full of pitfalls for eshmen who do not learn from the mistakes of ose who went before them.

The trials, experiences and lessons of freshnan year are important parts of college life. Feeling invincible, enjoying newfound freelom and skipping classes are just some of the verwhelming sensations of entering college. However, there are many pitfalls that unsusecting freshmen fall into.

Buck Barner, a senior nuclear engineering ajor, fell into the trap of freshman mistakes. amer had all early classes his freshman year in

"It's no wonder why most 8 a.m. classes are pen to the young freshmen. The upperclassmen we been there and know better," Barner said. They know the pain of going to bed at 3 a.m. nd waking up at 7:30 to get to their 8 a.m.

After two weeks of dragging himself out of ed, Barner began skipping class.

Foregoing class except for the review and test ays seemed like a good plan while he was wiled up in his sheets. However, when Barner received a 'C' for his 8 a.m. class, he realized he ad sacrificed his grade for sleep.

Now, Barner said, he makes it to his early asses and has avoided the inevitable wrath of scholastic probation.

Barner's advice for the freshman class is that, hile it is OK to take a day or two off every nce in awhile, freshmen should go to class ore times than they skip to avoid a 2.0 gradepoint ratio or lower.

Bret Beavers, a senior biomedical sciences jor, found that sometimes freshman year can

> Texas A&M University With you every step of the way

Beavers said he regrets not joining any of &M's hundreds of organizations his freshman ear because he missed the opportunity to meet

people. Beavers said he found it hard to meet new people when he came to A&M.

"I come from a small town so I didn't know a lot of people when I moved to College Station," he said. "I didn't live in the dorms either so that made it even harder to meet people. I mainly just hung out with a couple of my friends from high school.

He attributes his well-rounded personality and happiness to organizations he later joined.

"I'm happier and less stressed now. I've learned to have a much better balance between school and fun," Beavers said.

Beavers' advice for incoming freshmen is that it is a lot easier to join organizations to get to know people, but keep your priorities in

order. Now when he goes out, Beaver said he

always runs into someone he knows.

Brandon Foster, a junior marketing major, found that living in the residence halls

isn't always a dream come true.

He went potluck to find a room-

mate his freshman year.

Foster said he had an idea of what his college roommate

would be like-- like many people, he had a vision that his roommate would turn into his best friend.

Instead, Foster and his roommate had personality differences that made living together difficult.

"It got to the point to where we got into a fist fight over a movie," he said.

Foster said that although he learned a lot from the experience, he wouldn't recommend it. Daniel Antonio, a senior industrial engineer-

ing major, found out the hard way that long-distance relationships sometimes hinder the first year of college.

Antonio began dating a girl at the end of his senior year of high school. They were attending different colleges, so they decided not to put too much pressure on the relationship.

they could.

The first semester proved to be difficult. They both shut themselves off from getting to know new people, and still talked to each other almost every night.

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"Neither of us joined any clubs or really went out to parties," Antonio said.

After a wonderful Christmas break with each other, they both headed off for their respective schools.

Antonio said he stayed in his room and continued to shut himself away from a full college

experience, while his girlfriend became. more active in school and started making friends.

Antonio said he became jealous of his girlfriend's new lifestyle and after one argument, the relationship, that had taken so many sacrifices was over.

Antonio said his mistake was not pursuing the longdistance relationship, but the sacrificing he made to keep it. He said he would have loved to have joined organizations and gotten to know new people, but he doesn't regret the relationship.

Antonio's advice for the Class of 2007 is not to be afraid of new experiences, especially during your freshman year. Whether it is sleeping through classes, being on scholastic probation, difficult roommates or long-distance relationships, the first year of college is never easy. Each student has his own

perspective on college, and if there is one thing to be learned from others' mistakes it is how to avoid them and get the most out of the first year



Fri. Aug 29 11-3pm

"We had decided very early on that when it came time for us to head off to college, we would break it off," Antonio said. "The only problem was we never expected to grow as close to each other as we did that summer."

When it came time to go to school, they did not want to break up, and tried to rectify the situation by agreeing to see each other as often as of college.

SETH FREEMAN. THE BATTALION

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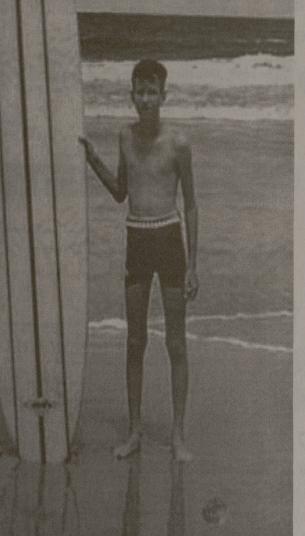
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