

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Head out on the highway

Motorcyclists rule the road, feel the rush of having the wind in their hair

By Jose Cruz  
THE BATTALION

John Creasy, a junior engineering major, started riding motorcycles because he found the speed and freedom attractive. However, he had no idea riding would effect his love life.

"I've found that certain girls won't date me now. A lot of girls here at Texas A&M are looking for their MRS degree, so they want safety in the future, and they don't see motorcycles as a part of that,"

Creasy said. Students such as Keith Smith, a senior geography major began riding motorcycles mainly because it's relaxing and exciting. Smith said motorcycles offer something that no other form of transportation can offer.

"I like the speed and being out in the open, with nothing around you. It's just you, sitting on an engine and two wheels," Smith said. "It gives you a freedom. If I'm stressed out, I jump on my bike and go for a ride, and you won't see me for hour, maybe longer."

Some people believe, however, that the freedom and speed come at too high a price because of the danger involved. Chad Lasnau, a senior economics major, said motorcycles are dangerous, but that with proper training and caution, they offer many benefits over cars.

"My mom was scared at first, and she still is. It's definitely more dangerous than driving a car," Lasnau said. "You have to be more aware of the people around you because if you wreck, you will have more serious injuries than you would have if you got into an accident in a car. So as a motorcyclist, you have to constantly keep your guard up."

According to riders, some benefits of riding a motorcycle include better gas mileage and ease of parking. In addition, Creasy said riding a motorcycle made him a better car driver.

"When you are in your car, you know it isn't going to be as fast as your bike, so you have nothing to prove anymore, and that makes you a better driver."

he said. "People call me a granny driver in my car, but as soon as I get on my bike they're scared of me."

Due to the slick roads that may cause more danger on two wheels than four for example, most riders have a car they can rely on when the weather conditions are not optimal for riding. Also, riders use their automobiles whenever they must carry multiple passengers and items, such as groceries, that a backpack alone can't hold. The destination and weather conditions usually determine whether riders will mount their motorcycles. Even though motorcycles may not be the most convenient form of transportation, riders say the danger factor is their biggest disadvantage.

**"If my parents found out I ride a motorcycle, I would probably get removed from the will and possibly disowned."**

— John Creasy  
junior engineering major

Smith has been riding motorcycles for about two years now, but said the danger mostly comes from bad automobile drivers rather than motorcyclists.

"Most of the time, the danger comes from the cars on the road. They are our biggest problem," Smith said. "I've almost been run off the road and pulled out in front of by cars many times."

Motorcycles have such a bad image that some riders, such as Creasy, have resorted to keeping their passion a secret.

"If my parents found out I ride a motorcycle, I would probably get removed from the will and possibly disowned. They pay for my school, so

I'm taking a bit of a risk, but that just shows how much I love riding motorcycles," Creasy said.

Motorcycle riders have the image of being reckless and irresponsible on their bikes, which, Smith said, is the main reason why Texas A&M won't officially recognize the bike club that student and Bryan-College Station riders have formed.

"Sport bike riders especially have a bad image," Lasnau said. "People think we are irresponsible and reckless and only drive fast. As a result, cops tend to keep a closer eye on us more than on cars."

But that image only represents a small number of riders, Creasy said. He said most of the people he rides with are cautious and respectful of the street laws. Part of the reason for this is that riders such as Creasy have

personally witnessed motorcycle accidents.

"I have several friends that are missing a lot of skin now," he said. "Witnessing an accident serves as a reality check for you. Just like in any sport, there are certain things that you witness that cause you to reevaluate things."

Having a motorcycle wreck is more likely to be fatal than in a car because there are no seatbelts to keep riders from flying off the bike, and there is no car frame to bear the impact.

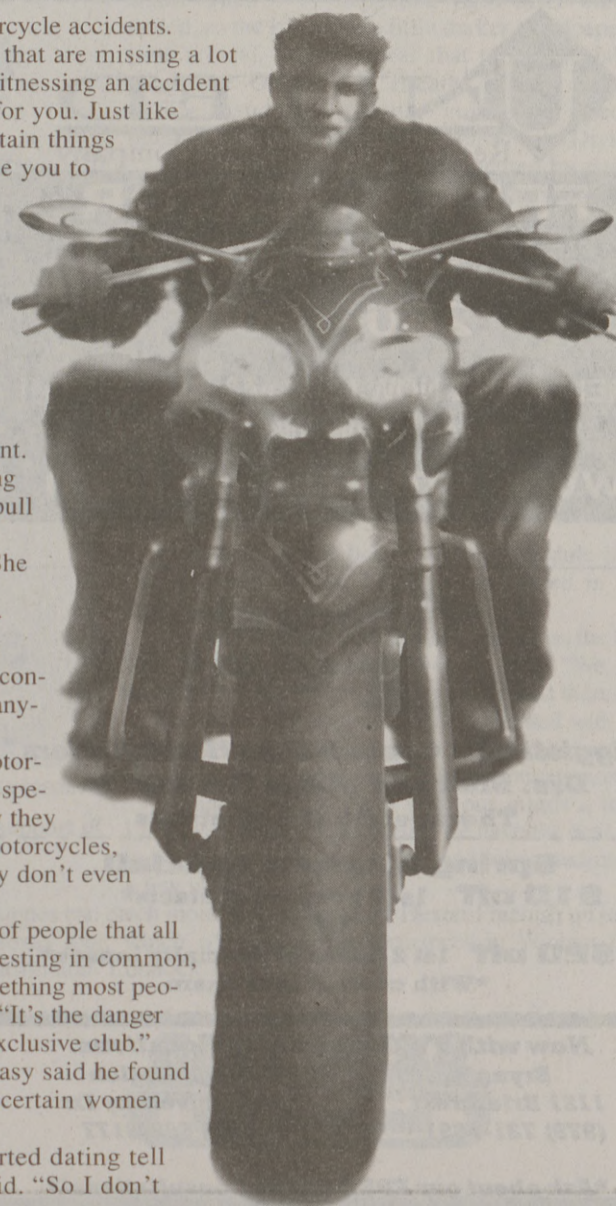
"I had a friend that just recently got into an accident. She didn't even do anything wrong; she just had a car pull out in front of her and she couldn't avoid it in time. She missed an entire semester because she had to recover from the injuries. If you're weak of mind, then you'll convince yourself not to ride anymore," Creasy said.

Camaraderie among motorcycle riders is present and special. Most of the riders say they wave to other people on motorcycles, while most of the time they don't even know the other person.

"You belong to a group of people that all have something really interesting in common, and you go out and do something most people don't do," Creasy said. "It's the danger that unites us. It's like an exclusive club."

As for his love life, Creasy said he found a way to handle the issues certain women have with motorcycles.

"I've had one girl I started dating tell me to get rid of it," he said. "So I don't talk to her anymore."



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## How does your religion view organ donation?

ASSEMBLY OF GOD	Donation is highly supported by the denomination. The decision to donate is left to the individual.
BAPTIST	Organ donation is encouraged as an act of stewardship and of compassion for those who are suffering.
BUDDHIST	Donation is a matter of individual conscience. A high value is placed on acts of compassion.
CATHOLIC	Organ and tissue donation is an act of charity and love. Pope John Paul II has stated that Christians should accept this as a challenge to their generosity and fraternal love.
CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST	The decision to donate is left to the individual.
EPISCOPAL	A resolution in 1982 recognizes the life-giving benefits of donation. All Christians are encouraged to become donors "as part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave His life that we may have life in its fullness."
HINDU	The decision to donate is left to the individual. Organ transplantation can be used to alleviate the suffering of other human beings.
INDEPENDENT EVANGELICAL	The decision to donate is left to the individual. Nothing in Scripture contradicts organ donation.
ISLAM	Muslim scholars belonging to various schools of Islamic law have cited the principle of the priority on saving human life and have permitted organ donation and transplantation as a necessity to procure that noble end.
JUDAISM (ALL BRANCHES)	Organ donation is a contemporary Mitzvah. When a human life can be saved, it must be saved.
LUTHERAN	Donation contributes to the well being of humanity and can be "an expression of sacrificial love for a neighbor in need."
METHODIST	The United Methodist Church encourages all Christians to become organ donors as part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ.
PRESBYTERIAN	Members are encouraged to be organ donors.

### Organ Donor Card



I have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. I wish to donate the following:

Any needed organs and tissue

Only the following organs and tissue:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals have witnessed my commitment to being a donor:

GET THE FACTS  
SIGN A CARD  
TELL YOUR FAMILY  
SAVE LIVES

Talk to your spiritual leader about organ donation. Then, talk to your family about your decision to donate.

Come talk to us today at the MSC or the Blocker Building from 10am-3pm.

www.donorworld.com  
1.800.355.7427

www.organ.org  
1.800.788.8058