

# Breaking the Sex Barrier

By Roger Miller

The first woman to attend class at Texas A&M did so in 1895. Miss Ethel Hutson, daughter of a faculty member, attended class for two years but was recognized only as "an honorary member of the class of '95." Seventy-five years later women still face countless obstacles in breaking the sex barrier at Texas A&M.

In 1963 the Board of Directors took the first step toward making A&M coeducational. The board at that time announced that women could enroll in graduate programs and veterinary medicine. Also, daughters and wives of faculty, staff or students could enroll in undergraduate programs. Since that time coeducation has raced forward at a pace rivaled only by a first-grader reading "Gone With the Wind."

Last semester about 1,130 women enrolled at A&M. Of these, several hundred were married or

related to faculty and staff members. Compare this figure, achieved in seven years, with the average yearly total enrollment increase of around 1,000.

The student life booklet in the new high school information brochure states, "Texas A&M is a coeducational institution which admits men and women to all studies on the same basis."

This also will appear in the new catalog. I applaud the university for this progressive step. Our literature now complies with the "Equal Protection under the Law" clause of the fourteenth amendment of the U. S. Constitution and the recent civil rights acts.

However, if this step is not followed by more positive ones, its effect will be little noticed. It is one thing to comply with the letter of the law and another to comply with the spirit of the law. We must provide women with

the same opportunity to acquire the same education as men receive here.

One thing is certain—under our present policy, whatever it actually is, we have achieved only token co-education.

A&M is a state university supported by state taxes. As such, it has a responsibility to provide an education for all segments of the citizenry. A&M has done an admirable job of shouldering the added responsibilities of being a university, with one notable exception—it has neglected an integral part of our society, the women.

This is not to say that university officials should venture out, take thousands of girls by the hand and lead them back to Aggieiland. Admittedly, co-education is a slow process, but seven years is a long time! University officials should encourage girls to come here, include them in recruitment efforts and provide some type of housing for them.

The administration, in my opinion, has failed to adequately include girls in recruitment efforts. Other than stating the official policy and lack of available housing, the current recruitment literature does not even mention women.

Point in fact: one of the latest university brochures does an excellent job of presenting A&M's strong points — it's enough to make me almost want to go there! But the only place in the whole brochure that women are even mentioned is in the last line. It's in a section on housing and reads, "No university facilities are available for single women students."

I sincerely doubt that that will convince many girls that A&M is the place for them, but it does bring us back to an interesting point. Why are there no university facilities for women?

University officials point out that each September there are not even enough dorms for the male students. They also remind that an extravagant dormitory complex is in the works for the near future. They hint that at this time some consideration may be given to on-campus housing for coeds. But they are quick to add that they receive little or no request from girls for campus housing. I only suggest that until we have something to offer, we will receive no requests.

If on-campus housing is not feasible at this time, then the next best thing would be university approved off-campus private housing. This understandably would involve some cost to the university. Most of the cost would evolve from having to maintain some form of control over housing. If this control wasn't maintained, the university might have to answer for mismanagement. But at a time when the university is spending \$260,000 to build a mall through the center of campus, I can see little reason to exclude a potential source of top quality students on the basis of cost!

Fred Campbell  
Class of '73

(See Sex Barrier, page 3)



"Remember that soap formula I've been working on?"

## Bulletin Board

### TONIGHT

Petroleum Engineering Club will meet at 7 p.m. in front of the MSC. Pictures will be taken for the Aggieiland of both members and faculty. Dress is coat and tie or class A.

### WEDNESDAY

Aggie Wives Bridge Club will meet at 7:30 in Rooms 2A-B MSC. Regular and intermediate groups will play for fun and prizes. For further information, those interested may call Mrs. Humphries at 846-8033.

Panhandle Area Hometown Club will meet at the Country Kitchen at 5:30 for a club eat-out.

DeMolay will meet at 7:30 at the Sul Ross Lodge. All DeMolays are invited.

### THURSDAY

Texarkana Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 in the lounge between dorms 6 and 8. Plans for picture will be discussed.

Lubbock-South Plains Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the MSC. Club pictures will be taken. Coat and tie or class A

should be worn. Seniors and juniors may wear midnights.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You

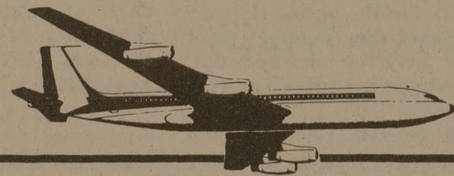
St. Thomas Chapel  
906 Jersey St.  
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Canterbury Association  
Meetings: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarten — Nursery,  
Monday - Friday  
(Enroll now for 71 - 72)

Sunday Services  
8:00 - 9:15 - 11:00 a.m.  
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6:30 a.m.

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FEBRUARY 24, 1970

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## THURSDAY NIGHT BUFFET

M.S.C. Dining Room  
Candlelight and Live Music  
\$2.75 per person  
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### MENU

- Steamboat Round of Beef Au Jus
- Baked Virginia Ham
- Beef Stroganoff w/Noodles
- Shrimp Creole w/Rice
- Party Fried Chicken
- Mussels on the Half Shell
- Potatoes Au Gratin
- Buttered Peas and Carrots
- Boston Baked Beans w/Brown Bread
- Assorted Condiments
- Tossed Green Salad - Oil & Vinegar
- Cole Slaw - Apple Sauce
- Mandarin Orange Marshmallow Salad
- Assorted Jello Molds
- Waldorf Salad - Potato Salad w/Egg
- 3 Bean Salad
- Macaroni Salad
- Dessert from the Table with Assorted Cream and Fruit Pies
- Cake - Cheese Cake
- Rolls - Butter - Tea - Coffee

## The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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K-N—Mar. 2-6 Make-ups—Mar. 23-31

CIVILIANS—Coat and Tie CORPS—Uniform

pictures will be taken 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

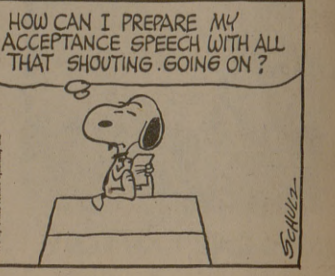
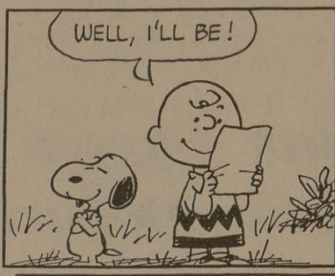
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