

**OPINION**

# Students encouraged to run for SG offices

Friday is the last day to file for Student Government offices. You may not be able to find out who you're running against (because Student Government won't tell you — see story on page 1), but you can still run for an office and let your voice be heard.

The Battalion Editorial Board encourages all students to participate in Student Government.

Any student interested in being a candidate must fill out the below voter's guide information sheet. Save Student Government some time and bring this application to the Pavilion already filled out, compliments of The Battalion.

And good luck.

**The Battalion Editorial Board**

VOTER'S GUIDE INFO SHEET

(please print legibly)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE YOU ARE SEEKING \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

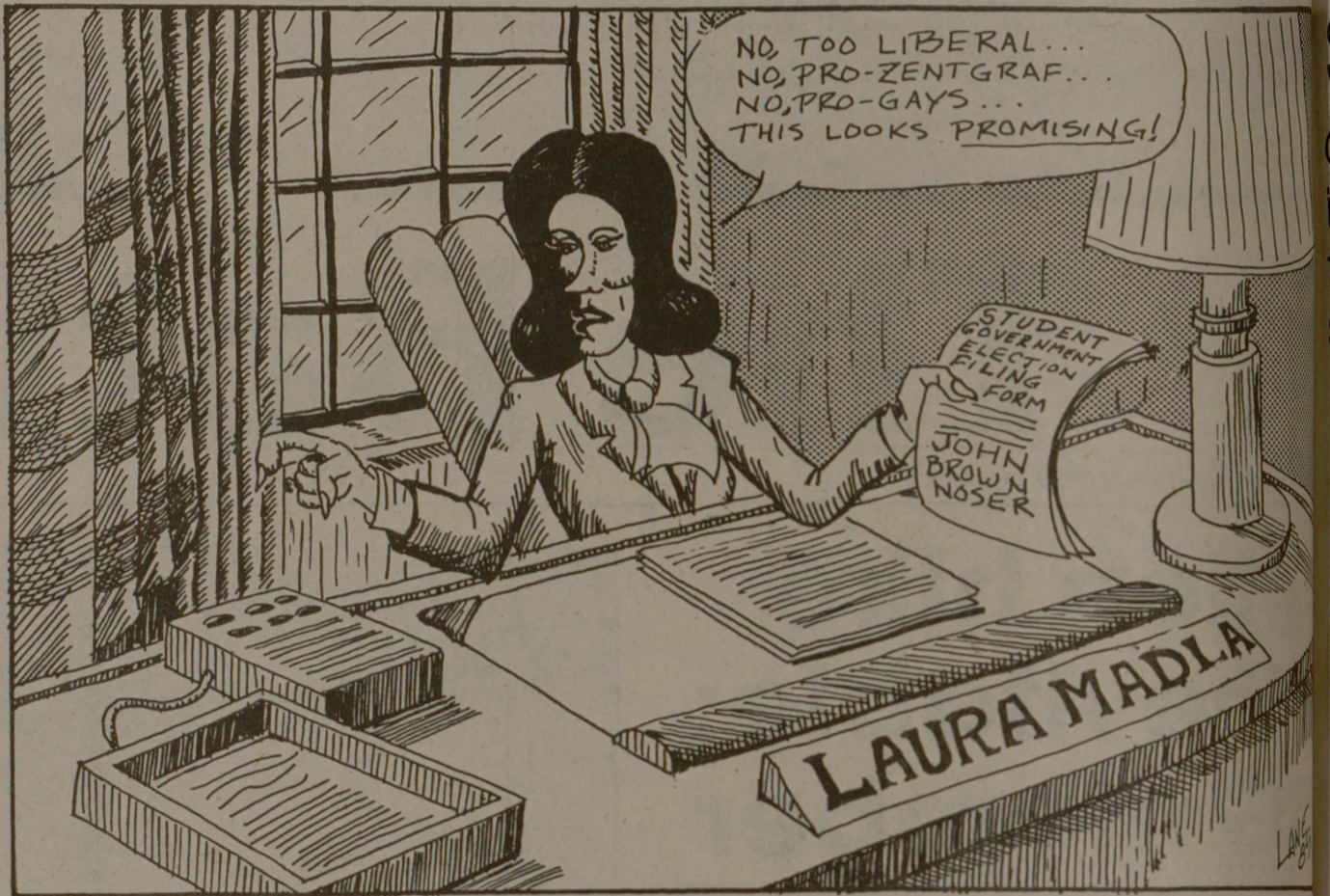
MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

IN 150 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW:

- 1) Why are you running for the office you are seeking?
- 2) What qualifications can offer the student body at Texas A&M?
- 3) What are your goals, or what will you work for if elected?

**DON'T FORGET:** WE WILL TAKE MUG SHOTS OF EACH CANDIDATE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CANDIDATE'S INFORMATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 8. PLAN TO BE THERE!



# You've come a long way, baby

The other day I called the Registrar's Office, under orders from my mother, to find out when I would graduate.



**Kari Fluegel**

"When does the College of Liberal Arts graduate?" I asked.

"Graduate or Undergraduate?" the voice on the other end asked.

"Undergraduate," I answered.

"You will graduate at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 4," she said.

At that precise moment, it hit and it hit hard. After 17 years in school I am going to graduate. After counting down in years, I can actually count the days.

I remember in kindergarden the day we were doing the Bunny Hop. I was doing the best imitation of a bunny — in particular the Easter Bunny — that I knew how. I was hopping up and down with my hands folded slightly below my

waist pretending to carry a basket of Easter eggs.

My teacher asked me if I needed to use the restroom.

In third grade, I had a nasty habit of finishing my work and then getting out of my chair to bother the other students. One afternoon, my teacher tied me in my seat with some old panty hose that the class was using to stuff pillows.

Recess came around and when my teacher dismissed the class for recess, she forgot that I was tied to my chair. For 10 minutes I sat tied to my chair and cried.

In my fifth grade class, there were eight boys and two girls. But Kathy and I could beat up any of those eight boys. One particular day, Bobby kept bothering me, so I gave him a black eye.

His father called my father at work and told my dad that he should control his daughter. My father came home and said, "Good job Kari."

On the last day of school in the ninth grade, my "best" friends gave a note to the boy I had a crush on. The note told him everything. I still can't look that guy in the face.

My senior year in high school was the year that I did most of my growing. That was the year that I decided going to become a writer. But I did most of my growing up the weekend that of my best friends was molesting club adviser.

My first two years in college were spent at the junior college in my hometown. I had my first hangover as a man. Now I live in a dormitory at A&M and I have a hangover almost every weekend.

I'll never forget the time I spent my ankle falling off a barstool, and sober then. I'll also never forget morning I crawled out of bed and the toilet only to find it covered with incredibly sticky substance. I later found out that the substance — lovingly plied by a friend down the hall — my roommate watched — is normally used to keep bugs off of trees.

Only 65 days until graduation. Come a long way.

**Kari Fluegel is a senior journalism major and an assistant city editor for The Battalion.**

# Senate serves as forum for faculty awareness

With the birth of the Faculty Senate in April 1983, the faculty of Texas A&M University acquired an advisory role in the governance of the University. This is an appropriate step for an institution moving up in the ranks of universities. The faculty, with help of administration and support staff, guides the learning process of students while inspiring them to realize their full potentials as citizens and as professionals. It is imperative, therefore, that the faculty of a university has a mechanism to speak to issues facing the university. Teaching, research, scholarship, educational resources, facilities, programs, curricula, quality of life in the community, planning, and faculty welfare are areas of faculty responsibility and expertise.

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university faculty because we treasure the interactions with students who are the hope for the future. We want our graduates to be the most responsible citizens and accomplished professionals that their talents will permit.

The bleak prospects for the support of higher education in the next biennium are of great concern to members of the faculty. The ability to recruit replacements for vacancies on the faculty has been impaired seriously by the national perception that higher education in Texas is in trouble. Furthermore, talk of decreased budgets and the possibility of no raises, or even termination of faculty, makes those of our faculty with national reputations, or without tenure, more susceptible than common to outside offers. Many of us are hopeful that a State which so recently committed additional resources to primary and secondary education will not reduce, in the final analysis, its commitment of the higher education of students coming from the improved schools. It concerns us that the irreversible damage done by each passing day under the possibility of reduced budgets appears to be little appreciated outside the University community.

It is discouraging to hear emphasis on "fat" in the budget when efforts to cut costs in one area to provide for needs in others are a common occurrence, yet deficiencies are apparent in some areas. We lack a funded sabbatical program. Facilities, in general, are crowded. Teaching loads are heavy in the areas of most rapid growth. Vacation days for newcomers are limited and sick leave for nine and 10½ month employees has been threatened. Despite the significant progress made in recent years, much more input of resources is needed to put us on equal footing with peers at other major universities. Where is the "fat?" Most of us must use the resources available to use quite frugally to attain our goals. In many cases this is done without benefit of modern equipment or other state of the art items.

The faculty now has a mechanism to address issues for which it bears responsibility and in which it has vested interests. Having a means to make recommendations on matters of concern and to participate in planning for the future is important for the morale of the faculty. The Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University is striving to become a body deserving of the respect of all who care about this University. After all it's in its second year and is, therefore, a tradition.

**Dr. Murray H. Milford is the Speaker of the Faculty Senate.**

# Creativity, crayons not just for children

I'd been hypnotized by the magic of Crayola Crayons years before I tried them out on mom's white wall. In fact I ranked Crayolas number two on my list of Important Things, second only to my Lite Brite.



**Cami Brown**

Problem was, mom's walls ranked a sacred number one on her list of Things to Keep White.

"Colors," as I called them, made real my pencil drawings of cats, flowers and big-teethed monsters. I loved crayons because I could break them and they still worked. I'd tear the paper off them and I wouldn't get in trouble. I could make the sun blue, the sky yellow or turn my friends purple. I could escape into a world that I created, and then return to the calculated dramas of my real life.

At first I worked with the basic materials — typing paper and coloring books. But creativity possessed me and I could not overcome the lure of the monumental white walls.

It started with an inconspicuous doodle, and soon it was a masterpiece — every color in my color box was represented. It was beautiful. Mom thought it was nasty. That began our miniature war on the finer points of creative expression, but I surrendered because mom had superior weapons. She had a belt — I was armed with crayons.

Logical adult against naive child. It was a short-lived experience with spontaneous creativity, but it illustrates how maturity can overshadow creativity.

I'm not advocating vandalism, but the urge to write on the wall — so to speak — is an urge too many people ignore. Everyone finds ways to be creative as child, but some jerk started a rumor that says you have to give up childish behav-

ior to be mature. I say it's healthy sometimes to see the world through the unsophisticated freshness of a child's eyes. It's enlightening to skip down the hall, to play paddleball, to color a picture out of the lines, to ask silly questions.

Be creative. Be fresh. Think new. Seeing the world as a child is one way to free the imagination.

Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited while imagination embraces the entire world."

Creativity has a place in our society, whether you're in engineering, computer programming or any other left-brain oriented occupation. Developing both the creative right side of the brain and the analytical left side can make the brain more effective. In other words, a balanced brain will help you think better.

The secret to creativity? Let your imagination run wild. Brainstorm for ideas. Be curious and ask stupid questions. Have a 15-minute play time each day. And for God's sake, learn to be childish sometimes. Children are our creative teachers.

Let ideas out rather than work at them. If you feel like writing on the wall, go write on some wall. If you feel like singing nursery rhymes, or making mud cakes, don't let the weird stares or the nasty comments from the uncreative stop you.

My creative outlet as a child was scribbling on mom's walls. My sister's forte was decoupage. (She spent hours gluing foil squares on plaster figures. To each her own.) It's important to set free the creative side of your brain, without being influenced by sneers from peers.

I learned early, thanks to Crayolas and naivety, that quenching my creative thirst was worth the spanking I knew I'd receive later. Creativity is worth it.

**Cami Brown is a junior journalism major and an assistant news editor for The Battalion.**

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory resource for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

**Letters Policy**  
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the author.

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