

# Opinion

## From discrimination to sexual exploitation

Living up to its reputation of sexual discrimination, Texas A&M has moved on to bigger and better things — sexual exploitation.

This exploitation is in the form of athletic hostesses — 50 sweet, young things who "escort" athletic recruits and their families around the University and to football games. The hostesses also eat pre-game meals with the recruits and often go out to clubs with them afterwards.

The hostess program is part of the Student Government Athletic Committee, and its purpose, according to Athletic Department representative Robert Crouch, is to allow "the women an opportunity to help" Aggie sports.

Why do the hostesses have to be women? Men can answer questions about the University and also provide entertaining conversation.

Why don't members of the MSC Hospitality Committee or the Aggie Club provide this service for potential recruits? Does A&M provide personal escorts for potential electrical engineering majors or potential professors? No.

Women are being exploited to lure young athletic recruits to A&M. Anything for a winning football team . . .

Unfortunately, this hostess program is just another example of the sexist, narrow-minded attitudes that prevail at A&M.

Not until University administrators and students regard all people — regardless of sex, race or creed — as equal will this University finally trudge forward into the 1980s.

The Battalion Editorial Board

MARGULIES  
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## Congratulations, Margulies

Jimmy Margulies, the editorial cartoonist for The Houston Post whose work frequently appears in The Battalion, has been awarded the Global Media Award in recognition of his cartoons promoting population control. The award is sponsored by the Washington-based Population Institute, a private organization concerned with global population issues.

Margulies, whose cartoons are distributed by United Feature Syndicate, will take a two-week trip to China from Oct. 30 to Nov. 15. Margulies will be accompanied by fellow journalists presented the award in other categories and members of Congress. An award ceremony will be held on Nov. 5 in Peking, where a plaque will be presented to award winners.

Margulies' work has been honored on numerous occasions, including awards from the National Newspaper Association, the Freedoms Foundation and the International Salon of Cartoons. His cartoons have been featured on the "Neil-Lehrer NewsHour" on PBS and appeared in such publications as "News & World Report," "The Washington Post," "The New York Times" and the "National Review."

Margulies is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and has a degree in graphic design.

## Faculty gets a charge out of new travel plan

The American Express Corporate Card — don't think of leaving Texas A&M without it. Don't you dare pay for your business expenses any other way.



Loren Steffy

The University has made an agreement with American Express Travel Management Services and Executive Travel, granting the companies almost exclusive rights to travel accounts for University-related business trips, thus effectively eliminating competition.

The new program offers every faculty and staff member an American Express Corporate Card on which to put all travel expenses. American Express

has agreed to waive the annual charge card fee because of this special agreement.

The card may appear to be a free gift from A&M, but faculty cardholders are still responsible for paying all charges on their American Express bill, travel expenses or not. And while faculty members are shelling out the money for their trip and waiting for the University to reimburse them, A&M is drawing interest on the travel money.

Travel advances will continue to be offered for people who are ineligible for the American Express Card.

The new travel arrangement is optional. Faculty members can use their own travel agent and method of payment for business expenses, but if their favorite travel agent gets a ticket at a higher rate than Executive Travel offers, the faculty members must pay the difference between the two out of their own pockets.

The new agreement is supposed to guarantee the lowest air fare and hotel rates.

What A&M doesn't tell travelers is that to get the lowest possible rates through any travel agent, reservations should be made 30 days in advance. If a reservation is made less than 30 days in advance, the ticket price is the going rate at the time the reservation is made.

If reservations were made 30 days in advance, the American Express bill could arrive before the trip is taken. The University can't reimburse anyone until a travel voucher is filed, which can be done only after the trip is completed. When the University bureaucracy is running well — which is as frequent as Satan feeling a cold draft — travelers can be reimbursed in about three weeks.

Meanwhile, the American Express bill is due. Faculty members must either

pay the bill — business expenses and all — or face the outrageous interest rate, which the faculty member, not the University, will have to pay.

If the new plan so obviously harms the faculty and staff, why did the University sign the agreement? The answer is money.

If the University pays out travel advances, it loses interest on that money. But if expenses are charged on an American Express card, the University can keep its money in the bank an extra month or two and draw interest on it.

The new travel agreement is "the result of a thorough study of University travel," according to a memo circulated by the Office of the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. Obviously the "thorough study" failed to consider that the faculty and staff would be paying the price so the University could make some extra money on interest.

It doesn't seem to bother A&M officials that faculty members could be drawing interest on the money they don't have while they await reimbursement. Basically, the University is taking interest money away from its employees and keeping it for itself. The new plan assumes faculty members have the money to lay out in advance for the business trips. Of course, many don't, which is why travel advances exist — did.

When times get tough, it's nice to know you can count on your employer to make them tougher. There really is no such thing as a free lunch — or credit card. The moral should be clear: Beware of universities bearing free American Express cards.

Loren Steffy is a junior journalist major and the Opinion Page Editor of The Battalion.

## If you've seen one prince, you've seen 'em all

Everyone in Washington is talking about the visit of Prince Charles and Princess Di in November. Most people are behaving like idiots trying to wangle an invitation to one of the glittery affairs. I'm happy to report my wife and I couldn't care less.



Art Buchwald

"I never was big for royalty," I said to her as we roasted potatoes in the fireplace.  
"Me neither. If you've seen one Prince of Wales you've seen them all."  
"The thing to do is not answer the phone for the next two weeks. Then if Buckingham Palace calls we can always say we were out."  
"Suppose they deliver the invitation by hand. I saw a wiggled footman in the neighborhood yesterday. He was only two blocks away."  
"Don't open the door. Once royalty serves you with an invitation you have to go."  
"I don't know why the girls who patronize my beauty parlor are making such a fuss," my wife said. "After all the prince and princess are just like any young married couple having marital trouble."  
"How do you know they're having marital problems?"  
"I read in People magazine that Charles and Di aren't getting along. She keeps going out until 4 in the morning and he keeps falling off his horse. They say that Di has fired all of Charles' servants as well as his private secretary."  
"That's what you call tough love," I said.  
"What makes it even worse is Di has cut off the prince's contact with all his

friends from his bachelor days and will not allow him to see any of his old girlfriends."

"Why would a wife do that?"  
"She's very headstrong. She's not the shy virgin we saw being married on TV by Barbara Walters."

"You never know what is going on behind closed doors."  
"It wasn't behind closed doors. It was in Vanity Fair."

"What did they say about the prince besides the fact he keeps falling off his horse?"

"He's lonely and bored. The reason is that his mother won't give him anything to do. Queen Elizabeth is keeping a tight rein on the throne. The Prince has no duties and seems to be out of it."  
"I'm glad we're not going to any of the parties because we wouldn't have anything to discuss with him," I said.  
"You're not supposed to talk to royalty unless they talk to you first," she told me.  
"Where did you hear that?"  
"I read it in Miss Manners."

"Well, if you can't talk to them, what's the big deal about getting invited to a party?"

"The National Enquirer said that although you can't talk to him, you can stare at him," my wife said.

"Why do people kill to go to that kind of bash?"

"I guess it's just to say they've been there."

"Are you sorry you weren't invited?" I asked her.

"Of course not. What woman wants to go to the trouble of buying a brand new evening gown and silver shoes just to meet the next King of England, when she can stay home in her bathrobe and

watch 'Dynasty' on TV?"

"That is exactly the way I feel. Let other people fight for two chairs at J.C. Penney's. I'd rather have two seats to a Redskins game. Did the mail come today?" I asked.

"Yes, it's over there."

"Anything in it?"

"Not really."

I peeked out the window. "Maybe the British Embassy doesn't know where we live."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.  
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except during examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$50 per year. Advertising rates furnished on request.  
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed Hall Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2811.  
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.