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This page's stories will vary from week to week. This week, Gregory Hines talks about himself and his new starring role in "White Nights," James Michener's latest book is big (not only is it about the big state of Texas but it's 1,096 pages long), and 40 percent of U.S. households watch TV evangelists.

CATHY RIELY
WALTER SMITH

4 From the desk of Cathy & Walter

It's been seven months since we started out as co-editors and our time to leave has finally come. We bid all farewell and good luck as we go out into the "real world."

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Not even Richard Chamberlain can save this cheap "Raiders" remake. 'Mines' gets a one out of five.

Every culture or community has its sacred cows, whether it be the real thing in India or tradition at Texas A&M. But people shouldn't always take themselves seriously, so in this, our last issue, we decided to prod and poke a few of those sacred cows.

At first we were a little hesitant because of A&M's tradition of upholding traditions — the love-it-or-leave-it mentality runs deep. But sometimes, looking at something in a different light gives a whole new perspective, whether strengthening a feeling or changing an opinion. It's only through an examination of one's own folly that man can better himself.

Our guest columnist Penelope Ode offered to undertake this vast venture, with research assistants Jay Blinderman, Mary Cox, Karl Pallmeyer and Tricia Parker contributing.

Penelope worked closely with all of us to choose some sacred cows to examine. We decided we'd all look around us, trying to take a different look at everyday events. We came up with quite a mixture of pokes ranging from relatively subtle nudges to almost tacky jabs. We may have missed a few obvious ones or included a few obscure ones, but we picked the cows that were grazing near us.

We don't intend to offend anyone, and any resemblance to, or likeness of, anyone living or dead is purely coincidental (for the most part).

In addition to poking a few cows, Jay Blinderman takes a look at Police Beat. If you've ever read those blurbs, you'll believe in the old adage that truth is stranger than fiction. But the blurbs only scratch the surface, so Jay set out to uncover the behind-the-scenes story. He looks at a real Police Beat item and embellishes it (adds fanciful or fictitious details, sort of like what the National Enquirer does).

Since this is the last issue we will be co-editing, we decided to leave on a rather light topic. If you don't find the jabs and pokes of your sacred cows very funny, feel free to write us and let us know. We probably will be graduated and moved by the time your letter gets to the At Ease desk, but at least you'll have the enjoyment of releasing some pent-up frustrations. Which happens to be exactly what we did with this issue.

— at ease co-editors

at ease staff

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