

'World-class' status will come only with diversity

Freedom from racism and prejudice is a mental health issue, but it is more than that. It is a moral issue, a social issue and a principled issue for educated men and women of all backgrounds. This means it is an Aggie issue, because Aggie men and women come from all backgrounds, races, creeds and sexual orientations. Aggies are Aggies regardless of their differences, and are respected because of these differences.

Tensions caused by intolerance present a serious threat to this University, to students, families, communities and the country. Intolerance threatens not only the civil

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and human rights of our students, but also their potential for effective working relationships and harmony within our society.

Many people believe that they are tolerant, when in fact they are intolerant. Intolerance involves more

than the childish acts of hate mail, sexist or racist jokes or destruction of a student display. It can be conscious or unconscious, acted out in the form of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping or dualism.

Defining these terms will give a better understanding. Prejudice is the prejudgment of an individual without the sufficient grounds or information to do so. Discrimination is the act of limiting individuals or harassing individuals based on their membership in certain subgroups. Stereotyping is done when certain traits are associated with an individual based on their membership in a particular group.

Dualism is the act of seeing individuals in a polarity of good or bad, right or wrong. In reality, all individuals are different and unique. Intolerance promotes hatred and fosters ignorance. It is a fact that intolerance for differences is destructive not only to the victim but also to the one who is intolerant. It blocks the intolerant person from growing mentally and emotionally, from living a happier life and from contributing to a more peaceful world. Narrow-minded thinking is actually a part of development. Individuals should grow through this developmental stage and move beyond it if they wish to function more fully, if they wish to function as psychologically healthy individuals.

Diversity has been the basis of Ag growth. After women were accepted students in 1963, A&M began to grow. Diversity of the gender of students made a big difference.

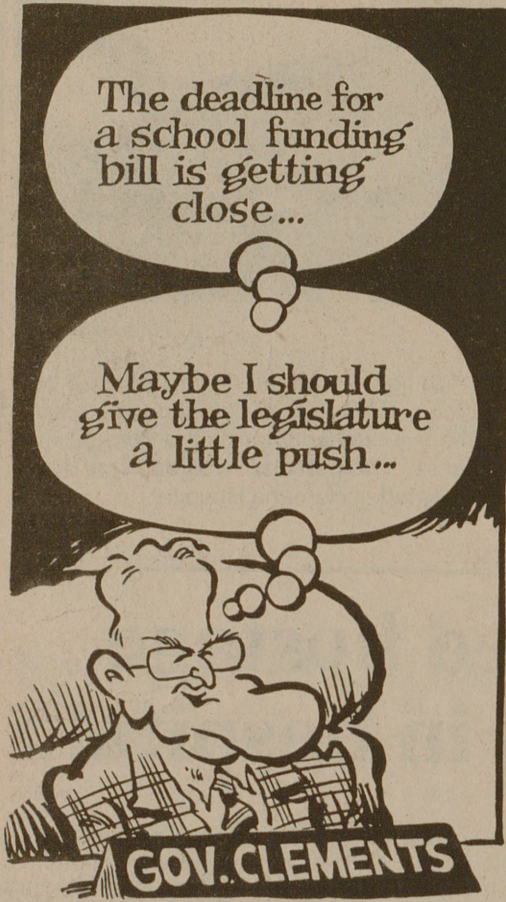


A serious result of prejudice is the destructiveness of that hate to the intolerant persons. Hate burns like an unending fire and lingers like a festering sore. Hatred is connected to fear and retards rational thinking. When intolerant groups or individuals attempt to judge, belittle and threaten their victims because of lack of understanding, it affects us all politically, economically and socially. Intolerance is a waste of mind and heart.

There is a lesson here. Diversity provides the opportunity for growth, to learn from one another are the things that make us grow. That's why we are here — to learn. To do that, we need many opportunities to learn about different ideas, different ways of solving problems and different ways of living. That's what a "world class university" all about, and that's what world class students are all about.

For those who subscribe to the philosophy that "Highway 6 runs both ways," consider what we lose when we force others to leave because of our intolerance. With that highway goes future strength and power of Texas A&M University.

Dr. Maggie Olona is the assistant director of the Student Counseling Service.



It's time that Barbie dumped Ken

The advertisement for Enjoli describes her best. "She can bring home the bacon (nah nah na nuh), fry it up in a pan (nah nah na nuh) and never let you forget you're a man."

She is the epitome of a modern woman. In the business world she is respected as an entrepreneur. She owns and manages her own clothing store, record store, soda shop, movie theater and Burger King.

After business hours she relaxes in her townhouse that is equipped with a swimming pool, patio set, tennis court and hot tub. She also has invested in water front property and bought a beach house.

It's amazing that she can find the time to manage all of her businesses and be a successful beautician, secretary, lawyer and rock star. Even with her hectic schedule she still manages to maintain a steady relationship.

Who is this incredible woman? Why, it's Barbie of course!

Running her own businesses, owning two homes and successfully managing several careers, Barbie has her life together. She only has one thing holding her back — Ken.

Let's look at their relationship, shall we? For over 50 years Ken has lived off of Barbie. He wears her brand of clothes (actually, all he ever wears are those stupid green shorts), eats her

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brand of food and lives in her townhouse. To tell the truth, he doesn't even own his own hair. He wears a plastic toupee.

Does Ken own his own car? No. He uses Barbie's moped, Volkswagen Cabriolet, van, 57 Chevy, convertible Corvette and Ferrari. Do you know why he uses her cars? It's because he doesn't have enough money to buy his own car. Why is that? It's because he doesn't have a job.

What's that you say? Did you say maybe he got laid off? No, Ken has not worked a day in his pretend life. Look at the commercials. You never see Ken's office building or Ken's store. Oh, I know. You're thinking sometimes only one person works in a marriage while the other spouse stays at home. Well, that's just it! They are not married!

Let's just forget about all that living in sin business and concentrate on what's important. For 50 years Ken has been

stringing Barbie along and has never had any intention of marrying her. How do I know? Well, have you ever seen a wedding ring? No, I didn't think so.

I realize that there aren't that many male pretend dolls around, but Barbie does have alternatives. She should date Raphael the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. He's the perfect partner. He's a Ninja and a gentleman. Plus, by dating a turtle, she can take things nice and slow. The only problem with Barbie seeing Raphael is having to handle the bad press. Several people are opposed to inter-species dating.

Another perfect man for Barbie is none other than G.I. Joe. I know what you're thinking. Isn't he a little short for her? Well, now they have the new action size G.I. Joe that is bigger and better than ever. Just think, she would have a man in uniform. Besides, she would get free military benefits.

If worse comes to worse, there is always the World Wrestling Federation figurines.

Any of these men would be perfect for Barbie! She needs to go ahead and dump Ken and start dating. Barbie just needs to look Ken straight in the eye and ask, "What have you done for me lately?"

Diane Bass is a junior journalism major.

Mail Call

'Let there be rock'

EDITOR:

Two big thumbs up for Patrick Hays' article on the need for an album rock station here in B-CS. There is definitely a market for this format. I am sure there are many others like Hays and myself who love rock 'n' roll. We have waited long enough; it's time we did something. Let there be rock!

David Sugarek '90

Campus buildings sterile, dull

EDITOR:

With all of the attention currently being given to the quality of our environment and Earth Day, I felt it was about time we took a look at our own campus. In the time since I started as an undergraduate in 1984, many of the green spaces on campus have been wiped out for, well, quite mediocre buildings. Trees and fields have been plowed over (and not just around the MSC) for structures that look like a collection of insurance buildings rather than academic facilities on a prestigious college campus.

None of these new buildings instill any pride or beauty into our campus (with the possible exception of the new alumni center), and they certainly won't look any better with time. The best buildings and spaces on campus remain the originals (i.e. Systems, Academic, Halbouty Geosciences), which have sadly been joined by sterile, beige-colored monoliths that dull the senses (i.e. parking garages, new Chemistry, Aerospace and Petroleum Engineering buildings).

While our newer buildings exude harshness, areas that were designed as meeting or gathering locations have been sadly ignored. As we lost Rudder Fountain and plaza to construction, it seems as if the fountain in front of the Old Chemistry Building has been forgotten. Certainly a campus which can drop millions of dollars at a time on "world class" projects can spare a little to repair a fountain which has been in this condition all semester.

I want A&M to not only be a top-ranked school, but to also have a campus that will be a source of pride for all. What type of campus environment do we want to pass on to future Aggies? Certainly we want more than parking lots and tall buildings. Think about it next time you walk by the Century Oak.

Jeff Munger '91

Have an opinion? Express it!

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

