

# Women must fight to overcome sex discrimination

Three women at Texas A&M have begun a campaign to make students realize that women are discriminated against in advertising. Unfortunately, their message seems to have been met with resounding non-response.

I saw one of the fliers distributed by the group, which calls itself Members for Ending Discrimination in Advertising, and it was quite disturbing. But it hasn't surprised me that there has been little evidence that their ad, which ran in The Battalion on Nov. 19, and fliers have made any impression on the student body.

There's a reason for that. It's that women on this campus, like many women in the United States, have decided they aren't victims of



Ellen Hobbs  
Columnist

discrimination anymore. The attitude of many women seems to be that discrimination doesn't exist for them in this day and age. They separate themselves from feminism and say their fights for jobs and promotions don't have anything to do with women's rights, just their own talents, job skills and drive to achieve.

Many college women believe the job market won't be any different for them than it will

for their male colleagues. They don't seem to think there'll be a problem getting jobs that pay them the same salary as men for the same work.

But statistics show otherwise. According to the 1980 U.S. Census, working women — on the average — earn 60 cents to every dollar men make in the same job. For women in professional jobs, the average is slightly higher — 63 cents.

Sure, a decade has passed since those numbers were collected. It might very well be that when the results of the 1990 Census are tabulated, those averages could be higher.

But it's not likely to change that much. Between 1970 and 1980,

when the women's movement in the United States was in full swing, the average woman's salary increased only two cents to every dollar made by men. That means if the increase from 1980 to 1990 is seven times higher than the increase from 1970 to 1980, women still will average less than three-fourths of the average salary men make for the same work.

And those professional women who are making 63 cents to every dollar now? In 1970, they were making 64 cents.

Women today are victims of discrimination, in their search for jobs, in their paychecks and in their education. But the biggest enemies women have today are themselves, because of their self-

perpetuated ignorance and denial of oppression in our society.

Women must realize they still have to fight for their rights, and they have to stand up and say the way they are portrayed in advertising, as well as in movies, on T.V. and in magazines, is unfair. They've got to fight the portrayal of women as objects and in stereotypical roles because that portrayal affects the perception of women as a whole by our society.

But if women can't face up to the fact that they are victims of discrimination, the fight won't begin and they won't ever really be considered equal.

Ellen Hobbs is a senior journalism major.

MARGULIES  
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## University shuttles end parking complications

As a faculty member who was offered a reserved parking space, I want to respond to a complaint about the campus parking situation which has been mentioned repeatedly on this opinion page: that parking lots reserved for faculty often stand only three-quarters full while students sit in their cars waiting for spaces to clear in the student lots.

My response is simply this — the vast majority of students and faculty should stop driving to campus and start riding Texas A&M's shuttles.

The usual complaint is that riding shuttles is frightfully inconvenient.

But if the alternative involves waiting in long lines to get into a parking lot, or having to go to campus much earlier than you would like to, I fail to see that the bus is inconvenient.

In my own case, I find I save time riding the bus. From my apartment in Bryan, it takes about 12 minutes to drive to campus, whereas it takes about 20 minutes to get to campus by bus — five minutes walking to the bus stop and 15 on the bus.

But for those 15 minutes on the bus, I am getting work done: reading, writing or editing while my friendly bus driver does the driving.

So the extra eight minutes actually constitutes a gain of four minutes in work time.

Riding the bus also saves money and is environmentally sound.

Although the reserved faculty parking space I was offered would have cost no more than a two-semester bus pass, I will save about \$72 on gas in the course of the school year by saving 30 miles per week at current gas prices.

Riding the bus also reduces wear and tear on my truck, and it lightens the load I place on our common natural resources.

Gary Varner  
Reader's Opinion

The only respect in which the shuttle system is genuinely inconvenient is that buses do not run on weekends, but this could be corrected easily and efficiently.

Although ridership undoubtedly would be low, by making routes like Reveille and Center Pole run only once per hour on the weekend, one bus could cover as many as four routes.

Center Pole and Reveille are combined into a single half-hour run after 6:15 p.m. on weekdays.

If it were changed and these routes ran every hour on the weekends, one bus could cover Reveille and Center Pole in one half hour and one or two other routes in the second half hour.

The shuttle system runs to within a half mile of the vast majority of homes and apartments in Bryan-College Station, meaning the majority of students and faculty members could save money and time and could lighten the load on the environment by riding the shuttle.

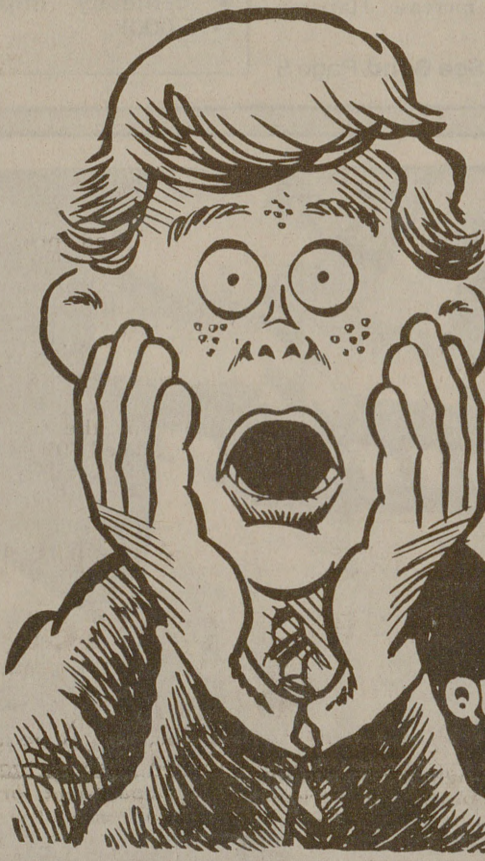
So although most faculty do not need reserved parking spaces, students should stop complaining about the time they spend waiting for parking spaces.

We all should support the University's progressive attempt to develop public transportation rather than encouraging use of personal cars.

If everyone who lives within a half mile of an A&M bus stop would ride the bus instead of driving, the University's parking problems would be solved.

Instead of just refusing to build more parking lots, we probably could afford to tear a few out.

Gary Varner is a visiting assistant professor of philosophy



HOME ALONE  
A PRESIDENTIAL COMEDY WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT

## Mail Call

### t-sip behavior was offensive

EDITOR:

Upon attending the Texas A&M vs. t.u. game, I realize how much I appreciate A&M and how many millions of dollars you'd have to pay me to go to t.u.

About 10 of my fellow A&M and myself left College Station and arrived in Austin in time for yell practice.

We promptly were greeted at the capital with rotten eggs thrown at us, along with someone standing in the middle of yell holding up the Longhorn sign. If it had not been for several CTs that said killing him was "bad bull," then he would have been flattened.

We attended Saturday's game, and afterward were ridiculed and shoved as we left. Both young and old t-sips shoved us, saying, "Beat the hell outta A&M."

Losing by one point is hardly a whipping, and the game proved how much spirit A&M has since we went for the win rather than take the certain tie.

Texas certainly is a university with no class! Go Miami! Beat the Hell Outta t.u.!

Andy Smith '93

### Soldiers request letters

EDITOR:

Howdy A&M! I am the adjutant of the 27th Combat Engineer Battalion (Airborne) from Ft. Bragg, N.C. My unit was the first non-divisional combat engineer battalion to deploy Aug. 23 on Operation Desert Shield. Currently, there is no rotation policy for our return to the United States. We hope we return by June.

We are located in the middle of the desert. We are proud of our lineage and colors and are proud to represent the United States during this time of need.

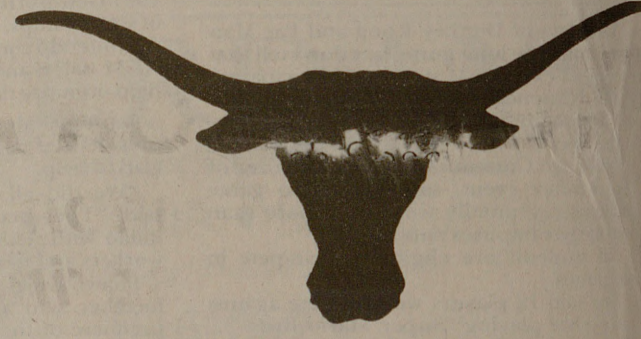
Two months before we were sent to Saudi Arabia, we just had returned from a 100-day deployment in the Honduras.

Many soldiers have been away from their families, friends and loved ones for the majority of this year. It has been, and will continue to be, the love and devotion of those same people that encourage our soldiers to do their best in all they set out to do.

Soldiers within the unit receive a letter or two a week — some addressed "to any soldier." These warm and thoughtful letters do much for our soldiers stuck in such an austere environment.

I would like to extend sincere holiday greetings to Texas A&M students and citizens of College Station. We are going to be away from our homes during Christmas and for many days thereafter. I'm enclosing our unit's address. We would welcome any letters your readers wish to send our soldiers.

Kenny Crawford '85  
1LT(P) Kenny Crawford  
Attn: Tiger Soldier  
27th Engineer Battalion (Cbt.Abn)  
20th Engr Bde  
APO, N.Y. 09657



### Longhorns have no class

EDITOR:

I never realized how obnoxious t.u. fans are until I saw them in action at Saturday's game in Memorial Stadium.

As an incoming freshman, throughout the semester I was amazed at how everyone at A&M truly hated t.u., but I didn't understand why.

I always thought A&M and t.u. were almost identical universities; and at one time, I even considered attending t.u. Now I'm embarrassed I applied after what I witnessed in Austin this weekend.

The yells and gestures for each team are fine — it's all part of the rivalry. But when their student body throws chunks of ice at our band — that's when a good rivalry becomes a bitter hate. I was proud of the way the band did nothing to retaliate.

After the game, t.u. again showed their "true colors" by harassing yell leaders and the A&M student body. If A&M had won, I am certain that the A&M would have shown more class and respect for the other team.

Ultimately, I hated for A&M to lose the game; but it made me realize what little class t.u. has and how lucky I am to be a "good ol' Ag."

Lee Briggs '94

### Have an opinion? Express it!

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

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