

## EDITORIALS

### Democracy wins

#### Election ends with high turnout

As the polls closed on Tuesday and the eyes of America turned to the results, democracy proved the real winner in this record turnout election. The elections shocked a typically apathetic populace into an electoral fervor. Voters discussed issues with passion unmatched by any in recent history.

The mere fact that the Texas election results were delayed due to a shortage of ballots attests to the renewed interest in electoral politics.

While several factors contributed to the increased participation, voters ignored the smokescreens of mudslinging and name-calling in order to delve into the real issues of this election: the economy, the debt, the educational system, the rights of the individual.

A response to the failed policies of the past, voters opted for a change in the status quo through the election of Bill Clinton and through the election of the first black female and Native American senators.

However, the close of the polls and the counting of the ballots do not signal the close of political activism for the American people. Rather than recline in the easy-chairs of indifference, we issue the call to continue the spirit of democracy that coursed through this election. Let us continue to make our opinions known not only through our votes but also through our actions. In the words of President-elect Bill Clinton, "Remember a place called Hope."

### Business is good

#### Grad school garners top honors

Texas A&M University received some very welcome recognition last week when Business Week listed A&M's business graduate school among the top 20 "second-tier" schools in the country.

Business Week cited Texas A&M as one of only three universities in Texas that fit the "second-tier" criteria of providing students with a first rate education at a reasonable price. In fact, of all 20 schools on the list, A&M has the second lowest tuition cost.

While graduate students are certainly pleased with the positive ratings, the University as a whole has cause to celebrate inclusion on the list. Positive exposure from a re-

spected business magazine could possibly drive up undergraduate applications among the most qualified of potential students. More and better applicants result in an increase of overall student quality during the coming semesters.

It is heartening to see outside sources recognize Texas A&M for something positive, such as providing the best possible education at a cost that rivals any reputable college.

At a time when tuitions rise and colleges struggle to meet financial demands, this University stands among an elite group of educational institutions that have not forgotten a primary concern — the student.

## Goodbye goatee, hello manhood

### Flowering facial hair offers rite of passage to men

I did it. I killed it. After nearly four months of growing and nurturing my goatee, I cut it off. As crazy as it sounds, I loved that thing. I was very close to it. I remember the day it was born — Aug. 8, 1992. I was so proud.

Since I think of myself as a basically "clean cut" guy, I thought growing a goatee would be funny. But mostly, I just wanted to prove that I could do it. It's a sort of stupid initiation into manhood.

Every guy must prove that he is strong, independent and virile enough to become a man. Most guys play or at least watch football. Others protest the anti-environmental, imperialistic Republican establishment. Lots of other guys learn to jitterbug. There is just something manly about leading a lady in a dance. But perhaps the most common initiation is the initiation of facial hair. Real men grow beards.

I hate football, and I don't have anyone to dance with. So all my hope of proving my manliness to myself and the world laid in the simple and painless task of growing some sort of facial hair.

Of course it took about two weeks for people to realize that I was trying to grow a goatee. They laughed at me when I explained that yes, I had washed my face that day and yes, that was indeed hair on my chin.

The day before I came back to school, I ate lunch with an old Ag. He warned me that they wouldn't let me into Brazos County with this thing on my face. I didn't know how right he was.

Despite all the talk about being "world class," this University fails to tolerate people of slightly different appearance. As much as I hate to say it, most Ags are shavists. Aggies hate hair so much that many even shave their heads. And not just cadets. Haven't you ever noticed how many guys on this campus have Beaver Cleaver cuts?

When I returned to school, people reacted negatively. Every time I saw one old friend of mine, she asked me



DWAYNE PURVIS  
Columnist

when I planned to shave. One time she even became violent. She grabbed what hair she could and dragged me down the hall. I thought the guy was supposed to do that to the woman! On the whole, though, people just looked at me funny. Some people tried to avoid directing attention to the growth. They seemed to understand its nearly sacred significance.

About six weeks into the project, I considered shaving it. When I confided my misgivings to a friend, he encouraged me onward, "Don't shave it yet. It's just starting to look ... to look ... well ... like it's filling in." He motivated me to persist.

A couple of weeks later, I went home. My dad quickly pointed out that my goatee felt like a Brillo pad. He maintained a supportive, if harrying, stance despite his thinly veiled disapproval. Dad would make a good Ag.

Four months after that first measly stubble, the goatee finally felt complete. I endured teasing and torture to arrive at the place of confidence. Then one Sunday, a friend of mine sat me down and absolutely demanded that I cut it off. She argued that it looked bad, and that she hated to watch me "fondle" the thing. I laughed at her audacity to tell me what to do. And, I admit, I was a little embarrassed.

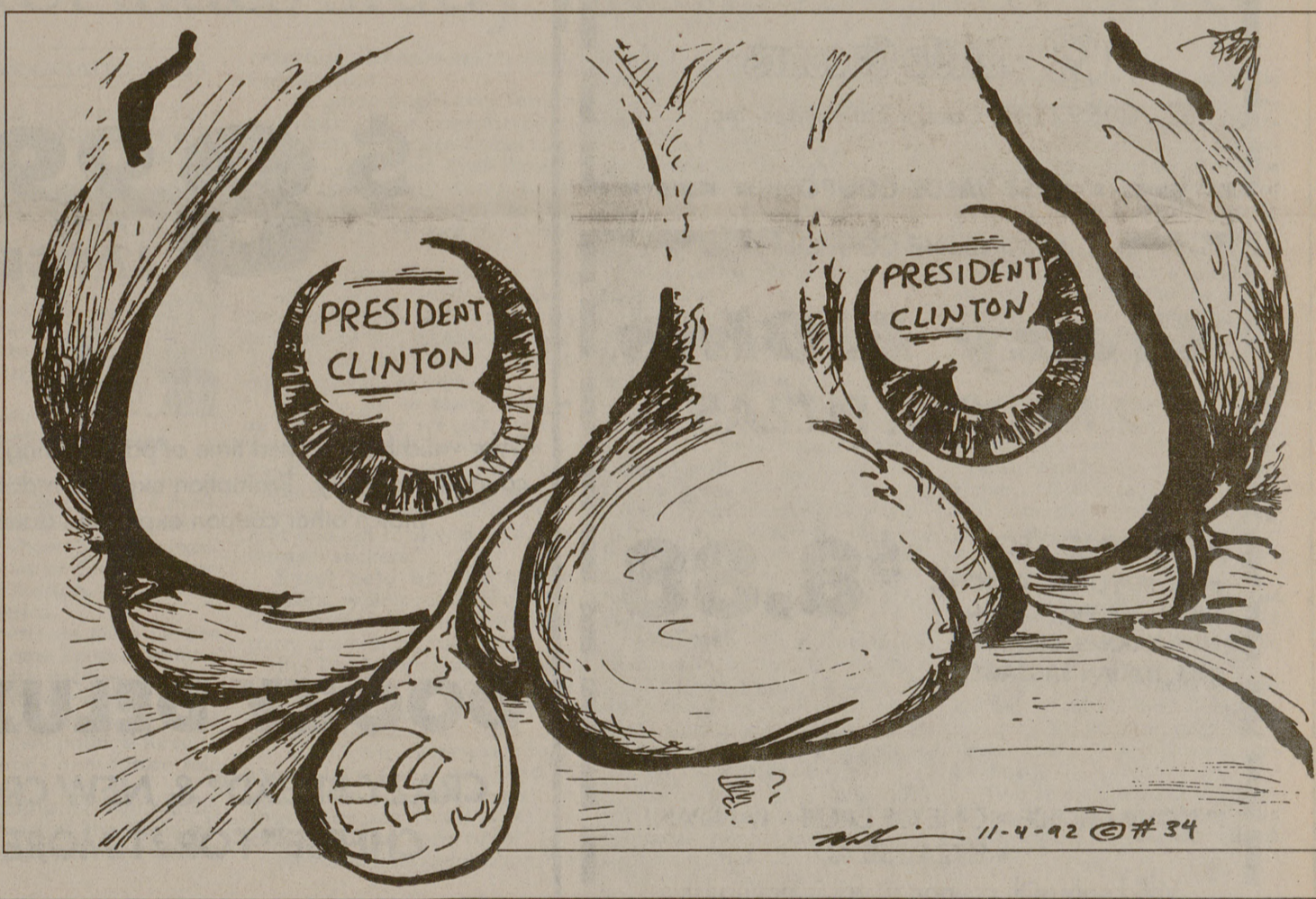
When I told my dad what she said, I hoped to find some comforting words of encouragement. Instead, dad said flatly, "She's right, son. It looks bad."

Ouch. Months of endeavor to prove that I could grow facial hair, then, almost at once, I realized that all my efforts amounted to nothing, literally.

I shaved. I killed it. Looking in the mirror I realized that perhaps they were right. I do look good without a goatee, if I say so myself. And I still hide the secret confidence of knowing that I can grow something on my face.

So now, when I walk across campus, I snicker to myself when I see guys sporting put hair on their faces. I laugh with all the guys strutting thin goatees and beards, trying to convince someone who isn't listening. I know that as they grow it out, they will grow out of it.

Purvis is a junior petroleum engineering major



## MAIL CALL

### U.S. historians must explain whole story

Recent events concerning cultural insensitivity and ignorance form conclusive evidence for the necessity of teaching Americans about their entire heritage. American heritage and culture is all too often singularly equated with European heritage and culture. European history, indeed, is an important part of American history, but it is not American history in its entirety.

Europeans and the forefathers stole an entire continent from the Indians who were already settled in North America. The forefathers, after their theft, decided to import slaves to labor on their newly "found" soil.

Four hundred years after these transgressions, the U.S. government has never apologized to either the Indians or the Afro-Americans. The Indians have almost been exterminated, and no one is responsible or at fault? To make matters worse, Indians, Afro-Americans,

and other minorities are not credited with their contributions to American society.

In this election year we hear much about the "common" or the "average" American, and how hard their lives are economically and socially. They are unemployed; they're losing their houses; and their marriages are strained.

For over a century we Afro-Americans, and Indians have attempted to tell America her history. No one listens when we say that unemployment is twice the national average among Afro-Americans and is almost nonexistent in the Indian community. Few of us have had homes to lose because the majority are always in perpetual economic hard times.

Oh, and our marriages, well, that is self-explanatory, and if it is not, then it is obvious that you do not know the history of America.

Darion K. Akins  
Class of '92

### Officers show racism in arresting suspect

I am a Hispanic student here at Texas A&M. During the evening of Oct. 16, I witnessed a terrible act of racism by the College Station Police Department.

As I was leaving a local bar in the College Station area, I had a conversa-

tion with four Hispanic individuals in a car who were just having a fun time talking with people as they left the parking lot.

Five minutes later I turned around to see one of the Hispanic individuals and a white male squaring off to fight. The white male was yelling at the other guy who seemed to be just defending himself. The other Hispanic guys stayed in the car during the ordeal. Before the fight got started, several policemen came racing in to stop the fight.

You would think that when a fight breaks out between two people that both would be questioned in the proper manner by the police.

As I was sorry to witness, the Hispanic individual was not only questioned but was wrongfully arrested along with his companions in the car. The other individual involved in the incident was released without questioning.

It is apparent that the College Station officers were biased in their decision to act upon the Hispanic individuals. I saw no point in arresting the individuals in the car, and I believe that both males involved in the incident should have been interrogated properly.

The College Station Police officers were racist in their actions. Not only do I feel strongly about the incident but so do other witnesses who were with me, two of whom are white.

Manuel Arias, Jr.  
Class of '93

Accompanied by three signatures

### Sexual preference minorities examined

We often find ourselves observing discussions (TV, radio, The Battalion) about the pro's and con's of sexual preference as a basis for a minority status. Most of the information was simple mudslinging amongst heterosexuals and homosexuals.

Before considering this sexual preference idea for society as a whole, one must investigate the implications that minority status for sexual preference creates.

If sexual preference is to be protected by law, this law must make allowances for any sexual preference. Whether you like it or not, this includes but is not limited to bestiality, necrophilia and pedophilia.

If you find any of these behaviors unacceptable yet accept homosexuality and/or heterosexuality, then you are a bigoted, sexist pig. Hence you are guilty of sexual discrimination and should be justly punished.

By the aforementioned argument, one must show tolerance for necrophiles, pedophiles and homosexuals. If this is true (as it must be in order to justify the argument), a man who decides to engage in sexual intercourse with your children, whether they are dead or alive, is protected by his right to sexual preference.

A man was recently convicted of criminal activity involving rape and

murder where he had homosexual relationships with some of his adolescent victims before, during, and after he killed them.

This type of behavior is in accord with the sexual preference argument and would be used as a legal loophole in favor of this guilty man. We are speaking specifically about the Jeffrey Dahmer atrocities.

This letter is not to discreetly bash the "alternative" lifestyles or to address the topic of consent. Its purpose is to elucidate some of the ramifications (albeit extreme, but we had to get your attention) that would occur if policies, whether positive or negative, are pursued with respect to sexual preference.

Zeke Pez  
Class of '93

Owen Watson  
Graduate student

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