



EDITORIALS

Mauro of the same

Politician doesn't belong in cabinet

In the wake of Bill Clinton's presidential victory, many experts mention Texas Land Commissioner Gary Mauro as a possible appointee to his cabinet. Mauro managed Clinton's unsuccessful Texas campaign. Yet, in light of repeated revelations of unethical behavior, Clinton should maintain the integrity of his administration by passing over the Texas politician.

Early last year, a Houston paper uncovered a myriad of questionable business ventures by Mauro undertaken after he took office in 1983. Presently, Mauro owes nearly \$5 million on his failed investments and seems of the verge of personal bankruptcy.

Just months ago, inspection of phone bills for the Texas General Land Office revealed that the office

apparently made business calls for the Clinton campaign and charged the calls to taxpayers. Mauro and his employees allegedly used state time and money to conduct Clinton's bid for Texas votes.

An unsuccessful businessman and a shady politician, Mauro defied the sacred trust of the electorate by involving himself in unethical if not illegal conflicts of interest and misuse of position.

Many politicians reward their faithful and hard-working supporters with government positions, but federal spoils must not fall to incapable and unethical politicians. In trying to build a team capable of changing America, Bill Clinton should deny Mauro the sinecure of any federal post warranting Mauro's abilities.

The tourist trap

National parks falling to ruin

A recent audit of national parks by the Interior Department found serious deficiencies in Park Service efforts to protect our federal lands. The audit cites "serious and irreversible degradation" of natural resources and points to park service allocation of the majority of funding to visitor services as a major problem.

In Texas, Padre Island National Seashore made the audit for the quantity of debris washed ashore from offshore oil rigs and ships dumping refuse into the ocean.

Too many people remain unaware of park service deficiencies in protecting national parks. In 1903, Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "Surely our people do not understand even yet the rich heritage that is theirs."

It seems a fitting sentiment for our current situation as well.

Our park lands are set aside to be preserved in their "original state" for the "benefit of the people."

It is vital and necessary for the Park Service to engage in programs for visitor service; however, their primary mission is to preserve park lands.

Unless we are content to live in a country of little more than strip malls and parking lots, then we all must take a more active role in ensuring the preservation of "our" national park lands. We must make sure our legislators know that we insist that the park service adhere to its mission of preservation before there is nothing left worth preserving.

Morality suffers in sexual sell-out

Restoring the sanctity of sex is reasonable, prudent

Sex. You think about it. I think about it. In fact, our entire society seems to rotate around it. Sex sells. Big.

Prime time television is successfully pushing its limits further and further. Madonna's "art" book is a major best seller. "Basic Instinct" was an enormous box office hit. Why? Sex. Oh, the joys of modern progress.

We've gone too far with this sex thing. We've defiled it. We've made it commonplace. We stood in the temple and sold its sacredness.

Look, I'm no hypocrite. I am no model of purity — no judge of morality. In less than two months, I will marry my soul mate, my true love. I know what desire is. I know what pleasure is.

Not for a minute do I believe that sex is bad. In fact, I believe that it is one of the greatest gifts that God ever gave to a man and a woman. But, it was meant to be honored. And, yes, I do believe it was meant specifically for husband and wife.

It is tragic that we as a society have collectively adopted the attitude that, by a certain age, virginity is a shameful thing. Does it seem at all sad that a man or a woman must explain why he or she is not sexually active?

I resent the attitude of so many "experts" who wisely advise parents to just accept that no young person in this day and age could possibly wait until marriage. You should resent it, too.

You're rolling your eyes at me now, right? Maybe I am unrealistic or prudish or cold. I'll explain why I feel the way I do.

First, let's talk basic biology. Sexual intercourse can lead to pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and death. Birth control is not completely effective. I had a friend conceive her child while faithfully taking the pill. A condom does not completely ensure that AIDS will not be



TONI GARRARD
Columnist

transmitted. Scientists have said this over and over.

So, no matter what we do to foolproof ourselves against the negatives of sexual activity, we cannot completely succeed. Being "responsible" means improving your odds a great deal. That's all.

If we kept sex within the sacred bonds of marriage, the AIDS epidemic would be far less of a threat, if it even existed at all. Sexually transmitted diseases would have very little transmission. Virtually no pregnancies would be unwanted.

But, let's say that a person is always "responsible" and never becomes an unlucky failure rate statistic. He or she has a fling here or there, or even a limited number of meaningful relationships where sex seems perfectly appropriate.

Chances are, that first one, that second one, that whatever number one will not be THE ONE. So, by the time THE ONE comes along, there has been a history of other ones.

Why do we accept this as perfectly normal? Why should we? Believe it or not, sex is not necessary to sustain life. It's necessary to create it, yes, but not to live it.

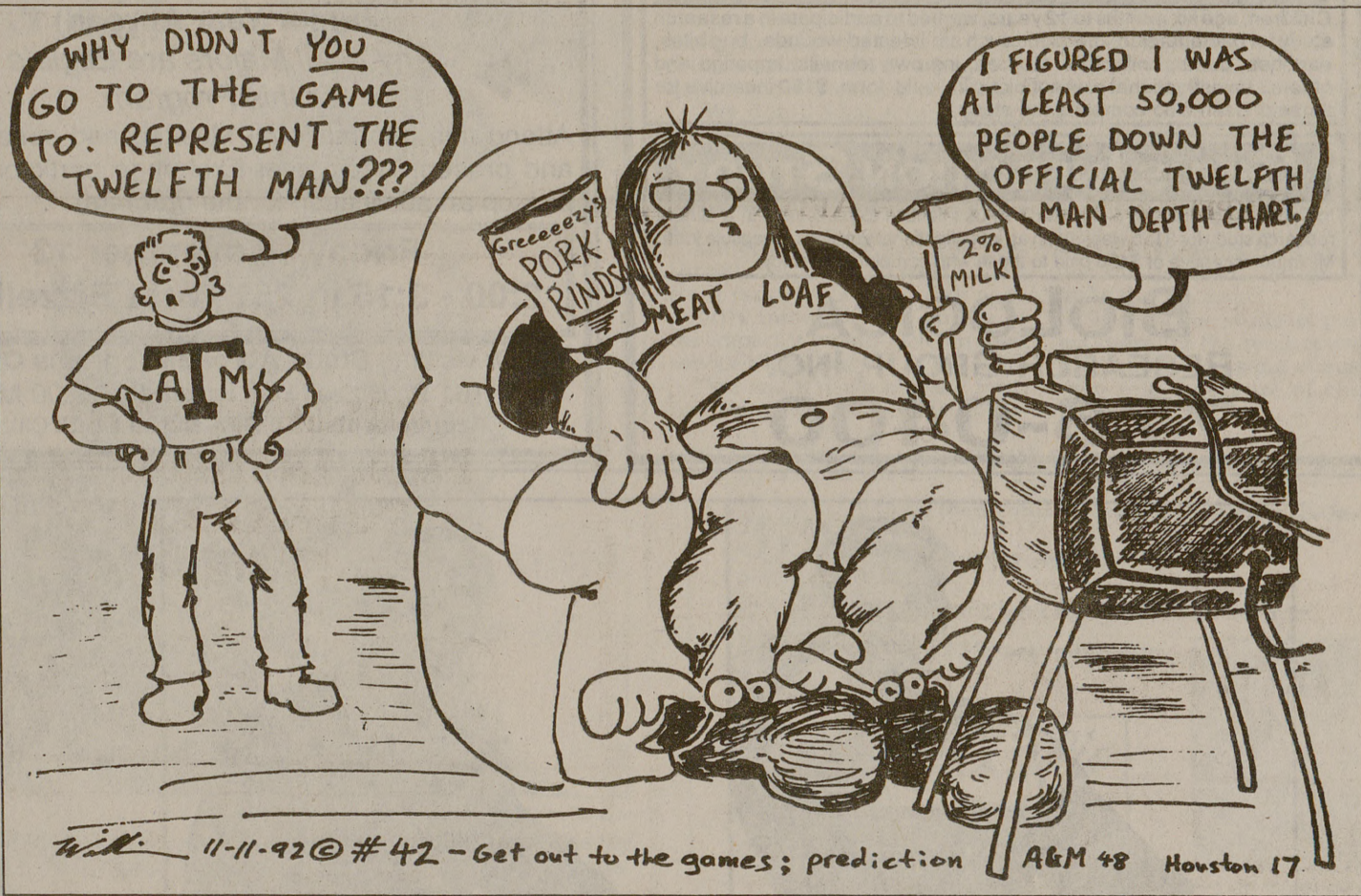
I'm not trying to judge, condemn or hurt anyone. I have been there. I know. My intention is to compel someone else out there to wake up one morning, look at our world and say, "Why?"

Why do we assume we just have to have sex? We are more than hormone levels and sexual organs. We are not slaves to lust or temptation. To say we are is quite simply insulting.

Sex. It can be a very beautiful thing. It is supposed to be a very beautiful thing. One religious leader even suggests that the level of pleasure shared by a husband and wife during their lovemaking is the closest one can ever come to understanding the intensity of God's love for us. Imagine that.

I am not asking for perfection anymore than I would want it asked of me. I am asking for you to join me in some moral contemplation. Let's clean out the temple.

Garrard is a junior speech communication major



MAIL CALL

Cultural sensitivity talk ignores Irish

I am an Irish-American writing in response to the unfair conditions that have been facing me and my people in this country. It has to do with the injustice, inequality, and prejudice that I must deal with due to the lack of a multicultural society. I believe that I will never be able to achieve success in this country until there has been enough sensitivity shown toward my ethnicity.

I also believe that the only way this enlightenment will occur is through education. It is time that American youth learn about Irish leaders like Mickey Rooney, Bono, Lucky Leprechaun and other Irish greats that have shaped history. Through this education, I propose that children will not only become culturally sensitive to my heritage but will learn many important facts and culturally relevant information for lifetime purposes (i.e. Irish jigs, Pub trivia, potato knowledge). I'm sure that many of

you probably don't want to hear about my culture, but I've been forced to learn about American culture for 20 years, and what good will that do me?

I feel an inherent need to stand up for my roots and the roots of my Gaelic brothers and sisters. Who says the Irish have all the luck? The Irish have been persecuted since the early 19th century. Because of the hardships of my forefathers, I am not able to make it on my own in today's society. What I and my brothers and sisters need is Pan Irishism to lead the way to promote multicultural education and to unify this country. I just know that if education can teach someone about biology or math or history, then it most certainly can teach a person how not to be racist, and then I might be able to accomplish something with my life in America. Irish unite!

Erin O'Brien
Class of '92

Police racism charges unsupported by facts

Manuel Arias, in his Nov. 4 letter, alleges that the College Station Police Department committed a "terrible act of racism" on Oct. 16 by arresting four Hispanic males. It is clear that the allegation is based on nothing more than conjecture and personal feeling rather than any facts.

As a former College Station police

officer, I am very familiar with the standard operating procedures in cases similar to those described by Arias. I saw many citizens complain, in writing and via phone, that officers either did too much or too little when they responded to a disturbance. As is the case with Arias, they were infrequently third party, non-involved, non-informed persons.

Arias writes that a white male and a Hispanic male were going to fight. Police officers arrived before the fists flew but Arias felt that neither person was questioned "in the proper manner."

It does not concern him that he does not know what the questioning revealed and he does not know what the arrestees were charged with. A few possibilities: public intoxication, threats made in the presence of the officers, warrants, the car was stolen, weapons, or the arrestees were contacted previously by the police and told not to come back. The list is endless and so are the complex situations that officers face every day.

In recent times some law enforcement agencies have come under fire for various actions and policies; some, not all, were apparently racially motivated. Citizens and police alike want to blame someone for these problems, and guilty parties should be held accountable. For this reason it is important for us to obtain all of the information related to a situation that stirs our blood before we go off half-cocked and throw around inflammatory, groundless accusations of racism.

I also feel that The Battalion, or any

news organization, has an obligation to obtain some facts before printing such a divisive charge like Arias' even though it may only be an opinion.

J.K. Armstrong
College Station

Liberal arts often has left-wing agenda

Discovering other social groups is not the major problem with the latest multiculturalism controversy. In fact, many students here at A&M are desperate need of exposure to "alternative" perspectives. I have no problem with the class Bubby Trammel envisions, except I fear it would not be the racial bounding/learning experience we love to watch on television. It would be a politically-biased diatribe against the existing "power structures" — something that many liberal arts students have come to accept as business as usual at Texas A&M.

A recent National Endowment for the Humanities report describes a trend in higher education where free-thinking and diversity are sacrificed at the hands of multiculturalism and the political left.

"Telling the Truth: A Report on the State of the Humanities in Higher Education" confirms what I have seen in many of my upper level history and English classes. The analysis of "texts" and history is limited almost exclusive-

ly to discussions of class, race, and gender. More often than not, the professor is so intent on instilling his or her ideology (usually Marxist/feminist), that an "objective" free exchange of ideas is impossible. In a senior Shakespeare class, more time is spent discussing gender and how Shakespeare (as the white male) should be "de-centered" than is spent discussing the plays themselves. In a grammar course it is now almost absurd to ask, "What is the correct usage of the English language?" There is none, because we don't want to offend "incorrect" usage.

And we being the good A&M we are, we sit back and take it all in uncritically, without thinking, without questioning.

This is not the purpose of education. This is not the purpose of a class to expose us to different perspectives.

Or is it?

Matthew Franz
Class of '92

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Letters should be addressed to:
The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald Mail stop 1111
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843