

## The Battalion Editorial Board

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The Battalion



100 years at Texas A&M

## EDITORIAL

### MSC hat controversy

Aggies are not obligated to uncover

The Memorial Student Center was established as a memorial to all Aggies who have fallen in war. In respect for Aggies who gave their lives fighting for their country, "all gentlemen are requested to remove their hats while in the building."

However, certain student groups at Texas A&M have recently refused to remove their hats upon entering the MSC.

These students express that they do not want to remove their hats because doing so pays tribute to men who attended Texas A&M when it was an all-white University.

On the other hand, some feel that by not removing hats, people are being disrespectful to those Aggies that gave their lives for this country and its ideals.

Despite the strong argument for removing hats upon entering the MSC, one thing must be made clear - these students do not, and should not have to do so.

In fact, the strongest argument for removing hats also serves to validate the argument for not removing hats: Hats are removed to honor Aggies who died defending this country and its ideals. Specifically, these men fought so that peo-

ple would not have to do things against their will, which includes removing a hat in a building.

No matter how strongly one feels about removing a hat upon entering the MSC, one must realize that people are not obligated to do so and should be allowed to leave their hats on if they wish. That is why the signs at each entrance "request" hats be removed; they do not "demand" that hats be removed.

In order for Texas A&M to remain the world class University it is known to be, basic constitutional rights must take precedence over all traditions.

While A&M is famous for its spirit in following traditions, those who feel obligated to maintain tradition must realize a fine line exists between tradition and totalitarianism.

In addition, people must realize that a tradition loses its integrity when all who observe it are doing so under coercion.

If people so desire to maintain tradition then the best thing those people can do is to observe that tradition themselves. A militant drive to maintain tradition will only be self-defeating.

## MSC



COLLEGE STATION, TX

## MAIL CALL

APRIL 15

1993

### Students respond to false KKK flyers

In response to the KKK's flyer in which they said that whites were not represented in Texas A&M University's Cultural Diversity Week, we must correct the grand dragon by breaking the news to him that whites did have their fair share of representation.

During the Aggie Cultural Extravaganza, the Primetime Posse did a skit on famous Jazz musicians in which there were white and black artists portrayed. We can say this with a high degree of accuracy as we are members of the Primetime Posse and depicted some of the white performers.

We can't begin to express our feelings of animosity toward supremacy groups such as the KKK. We denounce all such groups that believe one race or color is superior over another.

We, the whole human race, have many problems to solve in the world -

such as rapid deforestation, over industrialization, pollution, etc. We can't possibly solve these problems if we're arguing amongst ourselves.

The KKK and all related groups need to realize that if the human race is to survive, we have to work together.

Mike Andres  
Class of '96

Adam Artho  
Class of '96

### Local resident thanks Big Event participants

A great big thank-you to all the Aggies who took part in the "Big Event" on March 27.

Our school, Allen Academy, was blessed with the Asian American student group. They were wonderful, and very hard-working. We really appreciat-

## Never stop growing into adulthood

### Be accountable without abandoning your youth

Last weekend I went to Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, "The Phantom of the Opera," accompanied by two very important women: my mother and my closest girlfriend.

As it is a penchant of mine to draw correlations between two largely unrelated subjects, the evening prompted me to consider how much of an adult I have really become over the last few years.

The musical production was, as my Aunt Mary Lou might say, high fallutin'. Women from all walks of life sauntered, bobbed and bounced around me dressed in everything from the exquisitely chic to the hilariously expensive. I held my head up, pulled my shoulders back and hoped to look like I belonged.

Before attempting to locate our seats, we three women fulfilled a feminine ritual by heading immediately for the ladies room - "lounge" it was called. The experience was an assuring one, because it was here that I realized how alike we all were.

Despite what everyone looked like or where they came from, we were all pretty much equal standing in line waiting for our turn to lounge. It was much like that moment of epiphany when, as a young girl, I realized that Elizabeth Taylor, Princess Diana and Jane Pauley all had to lounge just like me.

Now I started to feel like the adult that I was. Perhaps I lacked the wisdom of some of these women - especially my mother who has been smarter than me since I was 13 years old. But, I was no less an adult, right?

By intermission, after Christine and Kaoul pledged their love beneath the gargoyle and secured the wrath of the phantom, I was feeling sufficiently overwhelmed by the experience. In high school, my friend and I had promised one another that we would be there some day, and there we were. It was a small milestone, somewhat like getting my driver's license. A long-time goal had been recognized, and I felt secure in my maturity.

Then I borrowed \$17 from my mother so that I could buy a poster and a key ring promising that I would pay her back - which I forgot to do. What was that about feeling



TONI GARRARD CLAY  
Columnist

secure in my maturity?

Since then, I've been doing some accounting for what determines whether I have grown up. Perhaps some of you may recognize a few items.

To start with, I will highlight a few of the things that belong under the "I'm just a tall kid" category: I borrowed money from my mother for a poster and didn't pay her back. My parents still pay for my car insurance, and I can't bring myself to voluntarily assume responsibility. I'm a lousy cook. I don't know what I want to be, and I'm almost out of time. I still occasionally get so mad at my hair that I throw my brush across the room.

This list could go on forever, of course. Until, finally, I remind myself of what I have known all along: No one really ever stops growing, at least not those who rightly call themselves adults. Not even my mother, who realized long before I that her daughter was no longer a child.

While I may have acquired little in the way of wisdom in my few years of living, there are certain things that I now realize only an adult can truly understand. The first of these would be the knowledge that a loving relationship involves a great deal of work. Work which provides a greater return than any job will ever offer.

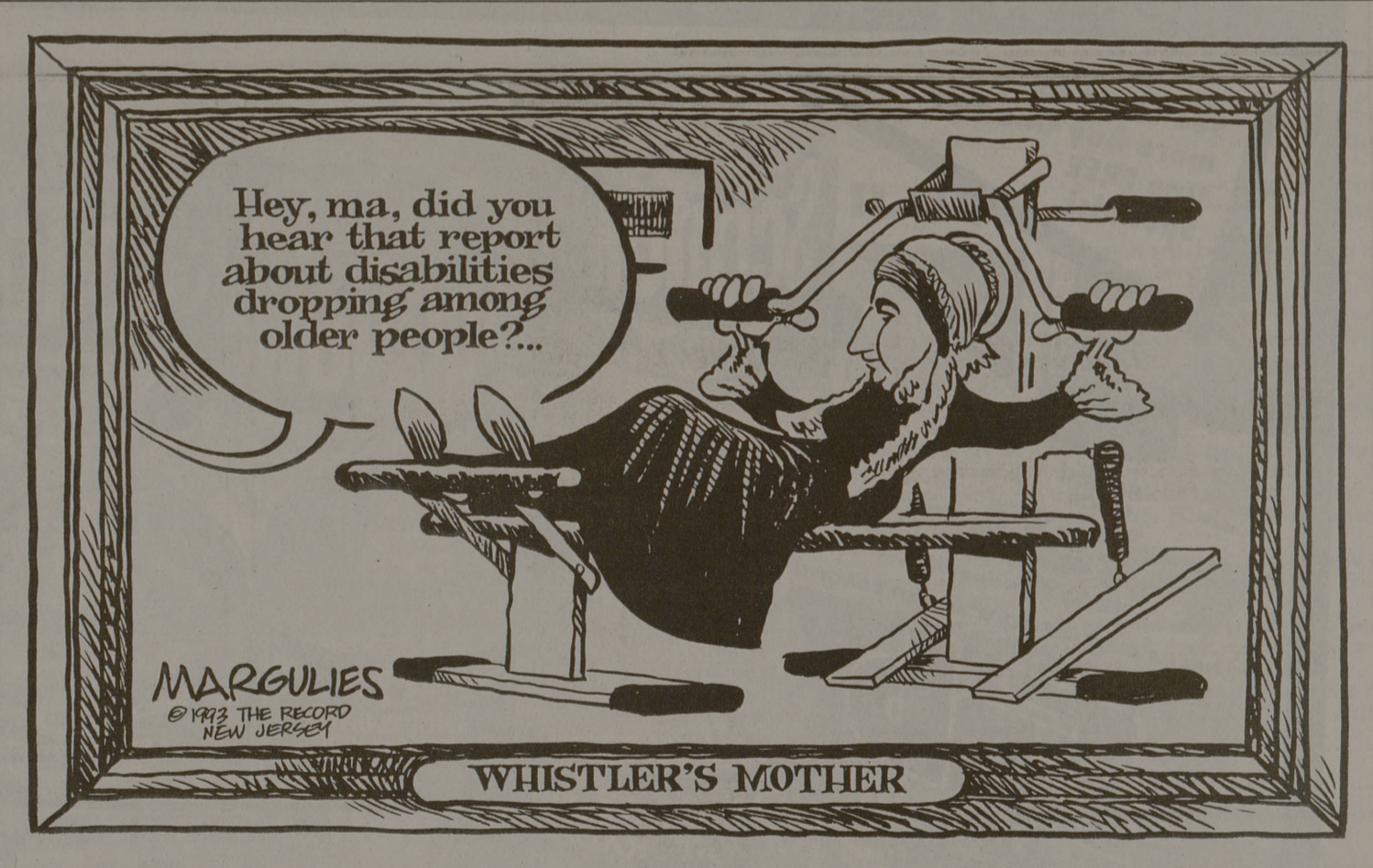
I've also come to see that there are some things only an adult can accomplish. For instance, I have successfully registered a number of times for classes at Texas A&M. I turned down an opportunity to see a favorite band in concert because a paper was due. I found decent housing at an almost reasonable rate. I am more willing to take the heat for taking a stand. I even kept my cool once when a pickup truck pulling a flat bed trailer loaded with a John Deere crept out across three lanes of traffic just to slow me down to 13 miles an hour.

All things said, there is one point I want to clarify: Being an adult does not mean abandoning the child I once was. Loosing that little girl would be loosing a bit of life's joy.

When I told my husband that I wanted to write about growing up, he said without hesitating, "Write about the monsters under the bed."

I stared. "There are no monsters under the bed, Roy." The little boy in him peeked out. "There will always be monsters under the bed."

Clay is a junior speech communication major.



MARGULIES  
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NEW JERSEY

### WHISTLER'S MOTHER

ed their eagerness to help and the cheerful way they worked. Thanks to them our campus is looking good!

Allen Academy  
Bryan, Texas

### Questionable quality amuses older student

I read the Battalion almost every day, mostly for the entertainment value. Especially entertaining are the Mail Call letters. As an older student, I am amused at the letters submitted by students who are usually immature and lacking in life experiences, expounding their ignorance.

Today, however, I would like to comment on the quality (or lack thereof) of the columnists writing for the Batt. Where do you people recruit from? I haven't read such idiotic drivel in my life as what I usually see on the Opinion page. The garbage in the April 7 edition was more offensive than usual.

I was especially offended by John Scroggs column. I am sick and tired of the homosexual community telling me that I need to be "educated" so that I will change my views of homosexuals. I am "aware" (another liberal buzzword) of the homosexual lifestyle. It doesn't matter how "educated" one is, homo-

sexuals are still sick people. Personally, I don't care what you do as consenting adults in the privacy of your domicile. When you start wanting to teach your lifestyle to children as normal, then you have crossed the line.

Also, I resent the demands by the homosexual community for more funding for AIDS research. You chose this destructive lifestyle and now you want the taxpaying public to finance a cure for your disease (anyone can get AIDS, but the homosexual community is responsible for the spread of the disease to the point where it is now).

What's new? Everybody wants to be subsidized nowadays. By the way, I consider it my right as an American to not like someone for any reason I choose. I will treat you equally within the bounds of the law, but I don't have to like you. I think homosexuals are sick, disgusting individuals. It's my opinion and I am entitled to it, period.

Now, on to you Lamar Harris (oh, you sensitive guy). Get real pal. Those big busted bikini-fitted Budweiser women are there because they get paid good for being there. They are being rewarded for their natural endowments, just as star athletes are being rewarded for their God given talents. Simple natural law of supply and demand. Where there's a demand, someone will supply it.

Regardless of what you "educated" liberal thinkers believe, men and

women are different. I don't think most women feel that they are severely oppressed. Sure it's harder for women to break some of the barriers, but you make it sound as if men spend their spare time sitting around thinking up ways to keep women down.

When you grow up, you will realize that there are all kinds of men and women. View each individual for what they are, not what you think they should be. Don't try to stereotype all women (or men) with this limited vision of yours. Hope the real world's not too much of a shock for you.

Howard Brown  
Class of '93

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Columns, guest columns, and Mail Call items express the opinions of the authors.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

Due to space restrictions, guest columns will not be accepted unless the author contacts the opinion page for prior approval before submitting columns.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

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