



'And all bitches are created equal'

Degrading songs paint women as objects of lust

"... In reality a fool is one who believes all women are ladies; a nigga is one who believes all ladies are bitches. And all bitches are created equal. To me all bitches are the same, money hungry scandalous, groupie hos, that's always riding on a nigga's d-- always in a nigga's pocket..."

— N.W.A., "One Less Bitch"

"... Want be good not good at all to meet a tall short black brown young man fulla his power in the dark..."

— Ntozake Shange, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide"



TRACEY JONES
Columnist

close, so plentiful and so accessible, more likely than not, it becomes one of their most salient figures of authority.

A young woman is constantly fed the idea that women in general are emotionally devoid, mindless, faceless whores to be passed around as profanely and interchangeably as cheap property. These songs never speak of a woman's intellectual capacity, thoughts or intimate feelings as a part of her. Women are presented as mechanical, almost inhuman objects that have only breasts and lubricated vaginal walls to offer. The young woman is not offered alternatives that teach her she has much value just the way she is, and doesn't deserve to be penetrated in the fashion of a "rabid mongrel dog."

Over time, the woman starts to internalize the value (or rather, the lack of it) placed on others like her. The women in these alienated environments who in turn feel a deep sense of worthlessness and helplessness — a condition which this music contributes to — are often the same women who fill welfare rolls, commit crimes and suffer from depression.

In addition, it is a serious injustice to communicate the message to impressionable young men that their worth depends on the devaluation of others. It is not coincidental that rape and sexual assault are among the most frequently committed crimes by adolescents.

I do not doubt by any means that there are women who aptly and easily fit these lyrical descriptions. However, it is not characteristic of all women and it is irresponsible and moronic to present it as such.

These lyrics have severe social implications. College students, who supposedly know better, do not need to support these artists. Instead we need to serve as positive living examples and practical role models to those who are young and encased in neighborhoods with little or no positive alternatives to offer them — especially because rap music is marketed much more aggressively in these detached areas than in middle-class America.

A "bitch," a female dog that lapses into heat at certain times of the year, is mounted feverishly from behind by any and every animal present at this time, and is at the best of a domineering master.

What could possibly be so flattering and humorous about being a "bitch"?

Jones is a senior psychology major

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100 years at Texas A&M

EDITORIAL

Culture shock

Multicultural policy not needed

Under the guise of a new title, "United States and International Culture," the Texas A&M Liberal Arts Council passed a resolution last week to push cultural diversity on new students.

The new policy will require Liberal Arts students to take six hours of courses in international and domestic areas, half of which must include race, ethnicity or gender issues in the United States.

To put it bluntly, such a policy is simply another attempt at the politicization of education and has no place at Texas A&M.

Cultural diversity is an admirable goal that should be reached — but not by cramming it down students' throats. Dr. Richard Stadelmann, an associate professor of philosophy and humanities, is right in saying that forcing students to take these classes could result in increased hostility rather than increased understanding.

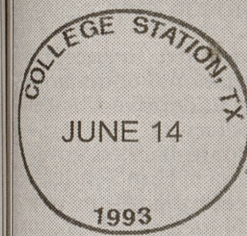
It has been accepted for some time that the current curriculum does not adequately reflect the contributions of minorities or other cultures. In an attempt to correct this, the Liberal Arts Council has made the mistake of simply requiring students to take specified classes. The

answer, of course, is to redesign the existing courses. Students should not have to take "Black History" or "Women's History" in addition to "White Male History."

By segregating minority and ethnic studies into their own classes and departments, the University may be establishing havens for "politically correct" activities rather than the educational forum it is seeking.

In addition, it is ironic that only the College of Liberal Arts is requiring its students to take these courses. Liberal Arts students are already more likely to learn about cultural diversity than students of other colleges because of the classes they are required to take.

The resolution does not need to be implemented by the College of Liberal Arts or by the rest of the University. To ensure that students receive an education in cultural diversity, the University does not need to force students to take specialized courses. The required courses just need to be redesigned. And if minority and ethnic studies are to remain specialized departments, then enrollment in these classes must remain a matter of choice.



MAIL CALL

Students suffer when research comes first

I have one question. Is research so important that teaching should come in second? Granted, it is necessary to conduct research in order to remain competitive with other universities but is it not one of the purposes of a university to provide higher education for students? I, like many other students at this university, came to Texas A&M to pursue an education and a degree.

While I believe that research is just as important to education as teaching, it is obvious, within some departments, that research takes precedence over teaching.

This past spring, I took a course in a foreign language. On the first day of class, the instructor said that research was more important than the class. As a result, this particular instructor gave

three weeks (10 days) worth of "walks." This included canceling class for an entire week, two weeks before finals! While, to some students, this sounds great, not every member of the class thought it was terrific. Because of her excessive absences due to either research or presentation of research papers, our class had to teach ourselves for the most part. This is a very difficult thing to do in a foreign language.

If instructors are not here to teach, don't let them. I am struggling to pay for my education and I don't appreciate having to teach myself. If I wanted to do that, I would have taken correspondence courses. Besides, this university would not exist if it weren't for all of us annoying, complaining, and paying students. Just think about it, OK?

Jennifer Rooth
Class of '94

Battalion criticized for election coverage

What little respect I had for the editorial board and the faculty advisers of this newspaper has all but vanished as a result of the non-coverage decision that was made in Monday's edition of the Battalion concerning the results of the U.S. Senate race between Kay Bailey Hutchison and Bob Krueger this past weekend.

This particular race was not only a landslide victory for Hutchison, but was also a race that contained several firsts.

She will be the first female senator from the state of Texas and for the first time since the late 1800's, Texas has two Republican senators. If any one of these topics is not news then I am a sad judge of what should be reported.

Journalists are taught to be objective and to report both sides of a story. Why is it that this story was not reported at all in the Battalion, the only source of news for some people? I think it was not reported because a conservative candidate won the race. Had Krueger won the race, the story would have been on the top of the front page with a banner headline.

I suggest that the editors of this paper do what they have been taught to

do and report both sides of All of the news.

Charlene M. Helton
Accompanied by six signatures.

Free beer, ballgame make afternoon

I got a little story for ya Ags. It is one of the more unique experiences in my career at A&M. It was a Friday afternoon and I was walking out of the MSC to my truck. I was just thinking about how great the rest of the afternoon would be out at the pool catching the Aggie baseball game on the radio. All of the sudden this nice lady stepped out of her car and said, "Excuse me sir, do you drink?"

Bewildered I said, "Well only occasionally." She then handed me a six-pack of Miller Genuine Draft and said "Well here, take this because my son bought it and he wasn't supposed to." Wanting to please the lady, I accepted the cold beer. I was stunned and before I could get her name and thank her son, she had vanished. Needless to say, Friday afternoon was great.

There is a God.

Coy Kouba
Class of 1992

Perot should fund organization himself

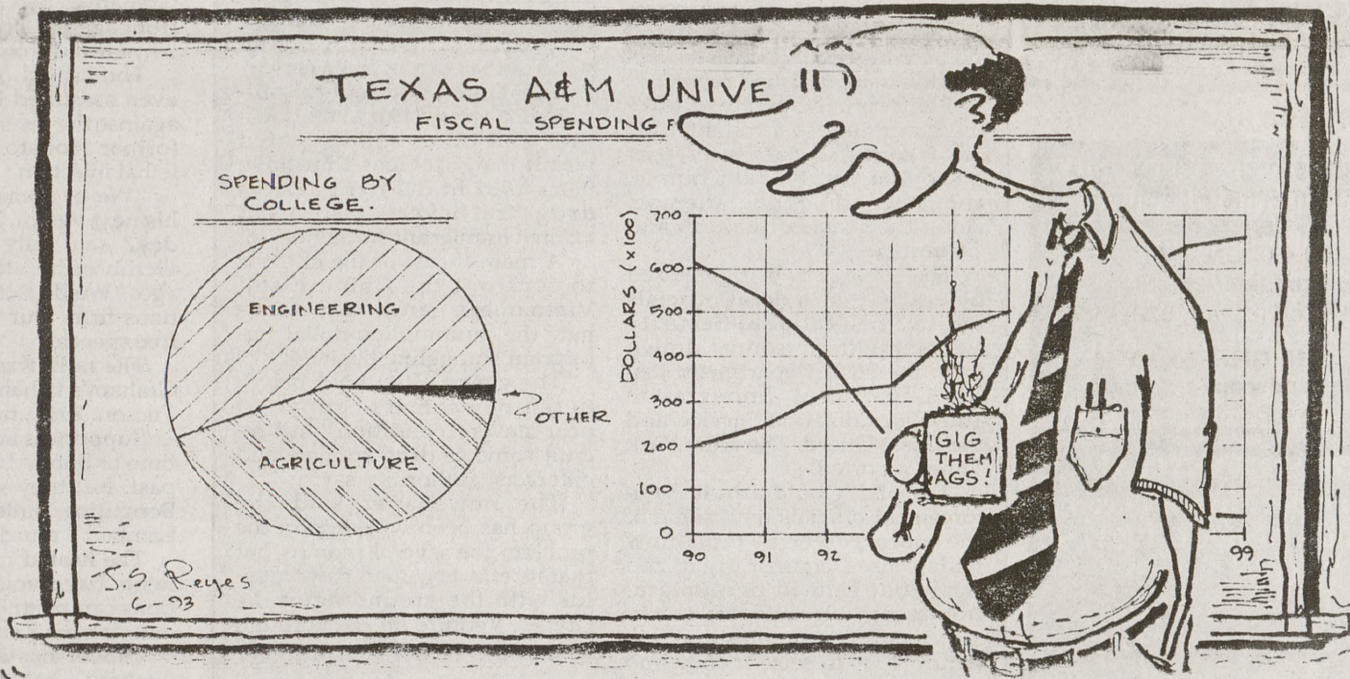
On Ross Perot and United We Stand America: Let me get this straight — average, middle class Americans are sending their own money to a billionaire.

Ross Perot spent \$60 million of his own money on his presidential campaign. If he is so concerned about this country, why doesn't he spend his own money to fund United We Stand?

Chris Marquette
Graduate Student

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"...IN CONCLUSION, WE FEEL THE ADDITIONAL REVENUES GENERATED BY THE ARBOR BEAUTIFICATION AND BATHROOM STALL USAGE FEES SHOULD ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT LEVELS OF RESEARCH FUNDING, AND STILL HAVE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT."