

## Being black — and black-and-blue

### Why minority women stay in abusive relationships

"I can't call the police on him, Yolanda. You know they might beat him ...."

"That might be just what he needs! The man ain't got good sense ...."

"He's fine .... He's just ... he's just been under a lot of pressure lately ...."

"And then he puts a lotta pressure on you — your throat, your back, your face and whatever else you can get ahold of. He's crazy ... and you must be crazy to stay with a man who hits you! You must be crazy, too."

"I got to. You know I got to. He's ... he's all I got."



TRACEY JONES  
Columnist

Women encased in these areas seem to view domestic violence as an extension of socioeconomic injustices administered against black men. Because of the tremendous disempowerment that black men are made to feel, they in turn disempower their mates by beating them. In essence, they say and do to her what couldn't be said and done to the person that they are truly angry with.

The true nature of the violence, then, for black women, seems to indeed be masked behind other forms of abuse and is not seen for what it really is. And it is abuse — plain and simple. It is nothing that is deserved or that should be endured out of some deluded sense of loyalty. Abuse is abuse no matter who it is from and women should not feel as if they have no other choice but to "grin and bear it."

Blue bruises may not show up as clearly on a black woman, but the pain is the same regardless and should be dealt with in a way that is practical for the woman's environment.

Churches could be of great help to black women in violent situations. The church has been at the forefront of black culture for centuries. Pastors and church members and religious organizations could offer "rooms" for temporary or more long term shelter for battered women.

Pastoral counseling of the couple may even help deter the violence that she is experiencing.

Unfortunately, this consideration is something regular shelters do not offer minority women. Some women perhaps do not take advantage of shelter services because they feel that the buildings have been established for Anglo women. The physical and emotional environment may be welcoming to middle-class women, but may be hostile and foreign to poorer women. Shelter officials need to take this perception into consideration and act accordingly to provide an atmosphere conducive to the well-being of all clients.

Community members need to be more responsible in their attitudes toward the problem of domestic abuse also. A more compassionate attitude — not one of blaming the victim or dismissing it as something a woman just has to go through — would make it easier for the battered woman to leave her harmful environment. But irresponsible and/or indifferent attitudes toward the problem only serves to feed and nurture it.

It is not wrong or traitorous or selfish to remove oneself from a situation that is not healthy. That is a right, not a privilege. Because a man who "loves" with clenched fists and cutting words is not what is deserved or needed.

He is *not* the whole world; he is *not* all that you have. You have yourself — and that is more than enough.

Jones is a senior psychology major

## Razing A&M buildings demolishes our history

Over the course of several decades, many buildings on campus have been torn down to make way for the new. Schools located in confined areas of large cities try to save significant buildings for the sake of history while a university like A&M with copious amounts of space for expansion prefer to demolish rather than preserve.

The idea of architecture is to build not only a place to work, live or play, but to define the time in history in which the building was built. Architects designed the Empire State Building to be a monument to the strength and wealth of New York, the economic and cultural capital of the nation.

Wrigley Field and Yankee Stadium remind us of a time when baseball was the love of America's spring. Washington D.C. teems with architectural endeavors that honor great men long past and ideas not yet forgotten.

American architecture during its early building period is different from that of any other nation. Most major buildings in any country are built during a time of prosperity and America's economic rise coincided with the rapid evolution in technology during the 1900s. Building programs across the country were impressive and the workmanship of the first half of this century is nearly impossible to duplicate now.

The rise of American architecture was not confined to the major industrial and cultural capitals of the nation. Small towns fortunate enough to serve as county seat paid foreign architects to come to their tiny corners of the world and make for them a place to remember. States put money and pride into their government buildings. Colleges raised money from wealthy alumni and the state to make their institutions resemble the American idea of prosperity.

A small military school in Texas entered the 1930s with the idea of creating its own testimony of prosperity. In 1929 Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College began a building program that produced some of the most impressive buildings on campus. By 1932, 10 buildings would be erected which would define the path taken by a small college on becoming a major university.



ROY L. CLAY  
Sportswriter

These buildings stand out among campus structures. The Administration Building imposes itself over all who enter the east side of campus. The Geology Building has intriguing tile work, rounded stone mosaics and an oddly linear tower entrance. The Chemistry Building, which has just been remodeled, seems to stand out among the rather dull structures surrounding it. Also, two of the buildings in the mall area behind the old Administration Building were built between 1929 and 1932.

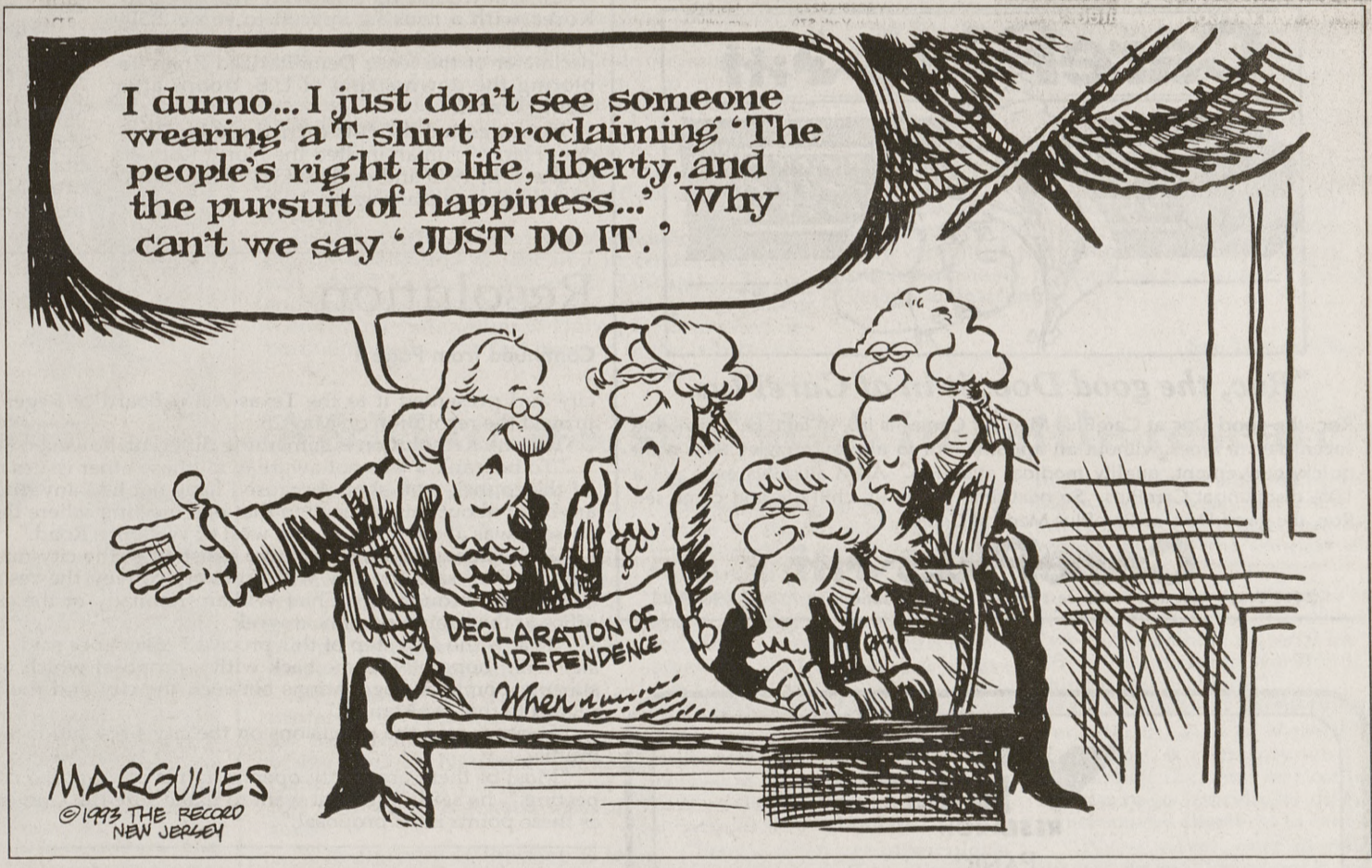
Today, when most buildings tend to be lacking in imagination and workmanship, it is wonderful to think what it was like to wander the halls of these old school buildings. What would it have been like to study in a place where you were surrounded by fine wood-working and oak floors instead of the ever pervasive partition walls, acoustic ceiling tiles and fluorescent lights? Even though Evans Library is imaginative in its outer design, there is something lacking on the inside. The most architecturally interesting part of the library is in the old building, where it joins the new library. The ceiling is painted in an intricate design and tall windows provide light to study by.

One of the buildings of that era, P.L. Downs Natatorium, is scheduled to be demolished along with the old field house and outdoor pool. Built in 1932, Downs Natatorium is full of interesting history and remarkable design. But the building has not been able to withstand the ravages of time. Today, Downs is no longer considered worth preservation. It is a tragedy that the pool, which is in excellent condition, cannot be saved.

There are buildings on campus erected before 1929, but they must be well cared for if they are to survive time. These buildings are vital links to an age we can no longer perceive without artifacts. There are only a few people left who can recall life at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at the turn of the century. But these buildings have their own knowledge to offer. If they are cared for and preserved today, then they will be able to relay that knowledge tomorrow.

It is remarkable to note just how many faculty houses, auditoriums, hotels and school buildings have been lost by fire or razed to make way for the new structures. It seems a sad commentary that a university of such distinguished tradition has such little regard for its own history.

Clay is a senior history major



COLLEGE STATION, TX  
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1993

## MAIL CALL

### Professor clarifies tenure guest column

On July 6 the Battalion was kind enough to publish my guest column. Unfortunately, two apparently inconsequential editorial changes (the omission of the first paragraph and a change in the title) both make my commentary seem pretentious and in parts incomprehensible.

This is what the first paragraph said:

"On June 23 The Battalion published rather devastating criticisms of A&M's tenure system by two assistant professors in the Psychology Department, with special attention to the case of Ms.

Wendy Stock. Since the matter transcends the protagonists, it might be useful to sketch some thoughts that could be construed as a letter to tenure candidates at A&M. I hope they reflect also the opinion of some of my colleagues."

Without this first paragraph, of course, much of the last part of the comment makes no sense.

The title of the column was "Tenure and the case of Ms. Stock." The title used by the editors ("An open letter to tenure candidates") confers to my comments a tone of arrogance and authority that was far from intended.

I was not set to lecture the campus community on official rules out of the blue, but rather formatting my com-

ments on a specific in what "could be construed as a letter to tenure candidates", hoping that they would "reflect also the opinion of some of my colleagues."

Leonardo Auernheimer  
Professor of Economics

### Tenure denial reflects emphasis on research

This letter is in response to Chris Calhoun's poor excuse for supporting the Psychology Department's denial of tenure for Dr. Wendy Stock. To begin with, if a professor does have an "attitude problem," I do not think it would have any impact on the committee's decision to grant tenure. This is evident if you look at some of the professors who currently have tenure at this institution.

Also, the remark about Dr. Stock being a "femi-nazi" displays not only your ignorance, but bad taste in programs (i.e. the Rush Limbaugh Show). Feminism is not the complete domination of the world by women, but the

movement for equality of women in all aspects.

I have also taken Human Sexuality (Fall 1992) and found it to be quite interesting and thought provoking. I did not find it to be a "Male Bashing 101" course, but an educational class in which the human sexuality of both genders are equally presented.

The unanimous decision against granting Dr. Stock tenure merely reflects the vast importance that is placed on research (rather than on students) and the prevalent conservative ideals that this institution was founded on. Good luck in California, Dr. Stock!

Christopher H. Alvarado  
Class of '94

### Drivers' attitudes dangerous to cyclists

Your article on bicycle accidents (The Battalion, June 21) preached safety to cyclists, but neglected to mention that the greatest threat to a cyclist's safety occurs when the driver of a motor vehi-

cle does not recognize the legal right of a cyclist to ride on the roadway.

The recent accident on Wellborn Road was not the first time a local cyclist has died after being hit from behind by an automobile. All drivers of these pollution-spewing hulks of glass, rubber and steel need to become aware of their lethal nature. Sell the car, ride a bike. We will all live better.

Matt Moses  
Class of '83

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