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## So you want to be a star? Head east American culture continues to fascinate people of Japan

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be recognized everywhere you go? I have. As a kid, I used to dress up and walk around in high heels hoping someday to be a famous model like Brooke Shields. My dad is 5'7" and my mom is 5'2". The odds weren't with me.



MELISSA MEGLIOLA  
Columnist

Although I would still sell my soul to look like Cyndi Crawford, I thought I had cured myself of such interests. I don't buy tabloids, read People or follow royalty. But this summer I experienced it. Stardom. And I'm hooked. I was flocked to by people interested in looking and dressing like me who wanted to take my picture and occasionally ask for autographs. I was asked for insight on people known to be a part of my world. Michael Jordan's name probably came up most — I was thrilled to be questioned about him. Upon seeing me, many of my fans giggled out of nervousness or became unusually quiet as they pointed in my direction. What happened? A number one album? A hit movie? A genetically unexplained growth spurt? No. No. And I wish. In May I traveled to Japan with my family. We hit all the tourist attractions — mostly ancient shrines and temples — at a time when many Japanese children were taking school trips to the very same places. Girls and boys

alike were totally captivated by Americans. At the Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto, a little girl about 10 years old approached me and asked in English if I would please pose for a picture with her. About 30 seconds later, my sister and I were standing in front of a camera surrounded by her entire class. They each held up two fingers making the peace sign rather than the rabbit ears I remember cleverly sneaking into pictures at that age. "Thank you, thank you," I heard from all directions as they left to join their teacher. The scenario was similar all over Japan. At the home of the Great Buddha, three junior high school students approached my sister and I. Eager to practice their English, they shyly began a conversation, consulting one another for vocabulary. English is a compulsory subject for Japanese students, and they speak it surprisingly well. I answered questions on my family, my home and basketball. I was amazed by their questions and even more so by their knowledge. When I answered that I live in Dallas, the girls knew that Dallas is a city in Texas. Asking about Jordan — I swear I didn't initiate the topic — one girl was concerned about his match up with Patrick Ewing in the playoff series against the Knicks. "The Bulls are down by two right now," she informed me. "But I think they will win the rest. I think Michael Jordan is a very nice man." From the color in her face, I loosely translated "nice" to mean good looking. Being the subject of so much attention enhanced our trip. Interaction with the Japanese people in general was overwhelmingly pleasant. Neither I, nor anyone in my family, speak any Japanese. I can now say goodbye (*sayonara*) and thank you (*domo arigato*), but that is the extent of my attempt to be bilingual. More than once when we looked lost, someone on the street would stop and walk us blocks out of his way to our destination. When my mother asked a department store hostess where to cash a traveler's check, the woman escorted her out of the store and was in the process of walking her to the nearest bank before my mom could stop her. Both generosity and thoughtfulness are characteristic of the Japanese culture. But thoughtfulness doesn't explain the autographs and pictures. Japanese children love Americans. Movies and American television contribute, but parents and teachers must teach their children to know and love the United States, an honor I'm not sure we deserve. In our own country, we are constantly trying to increase our awareness of groups within our society, yet we forget about everything outside it. We wonder if children in New York should be read stories about kids with two daddies. We struggle to understand different religious sects, identify with the plight of the homeless and appreciate all types of social and political opinions. We get so wrapped up in our subcultures, we forget that there is life outside our borders. Although many different lifestyles and beliefs are surfacing here at home, we need to remember that other countries are emerging and changing as well — like Japan, the leading world economic power.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major



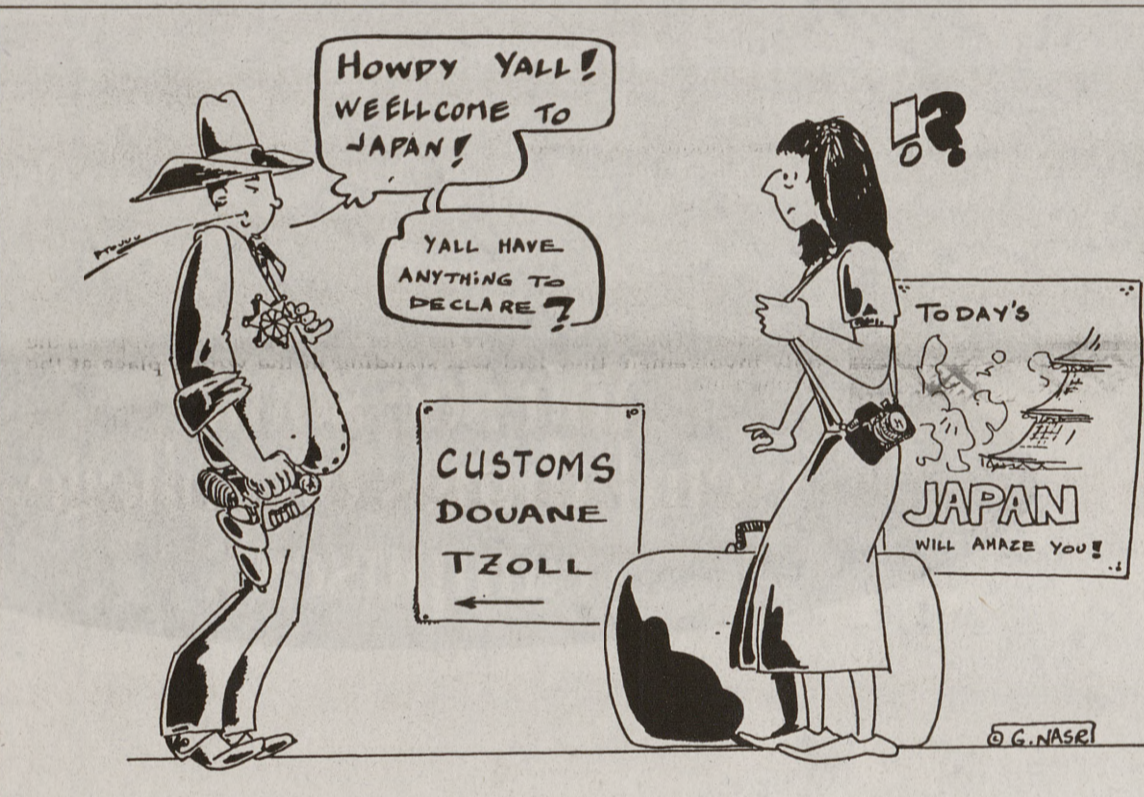
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## EDITORIAL Time to act

### U.N. must stop chaos in Somalia

The United Nations needs to act quickly as possible so they can continue with their relief mission. However, it seems ironic that although CNN can interview Aidid on a daily basis, the U.N. forces cannot even figure out where he is. However, Aidid may not be the only factor distracting the U.N. Disagreements within the 29-nation U.N. force may be preventing the United Nations from effectively carrying out its humanitarian aid mission. The commander of Nigerian forces in Somalia has accused Italian troops of not coming to the aid of his soldiers and Italian officials have repeatedly criticized U.N. tactics and caused problems within the command system. The Italians have already replaced their controversial commander and are in the process of pulling out of Mogadishu, but the United Nations have requested that the Italians leave their last few hundred troops for an "indefinite time." If the Italians are undermining the U.N. effort, the U.N. command should realize it would be better off without them. If the U.N. is to fulfill its humanitarian aid mission, it must establish order in Somalia as quickly as possible to prevent the waste of more food and the loss of more lives.

Following the recent attack that killed seven Nigerian soldiers, Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid is still at large and still maintaining U.N. peacekeeping efforts. Since the United Nations took over the humanitarian effort in Somalia, 47 peacekeepers have been killed and 175 wounded in clashes with militia forces. There is little doubt that Aidid can be blamed for almost all of these casualties. Meanwhile, tons of food destined for the Somali interior are being in port because the United Nations has been forced to reassign normally used for humanitarian aid workers. Relief groups have criticized Aidid's manhunt, claiming that many objectives are taking priority over humanitarian ones, but fail to realize that these military objectives must be accomplished before food can be delivered safely. The latest attack on U.N. peacekeepers was the deadliest since June, when 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed. There is reason to believe that these attacks will continue until Aidid is captured. The United Nations must step up efforts to apprehend Aidid as



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## A school by any other name does not smell as sweet to some

What's in a name? That which we call a school by any other name would smell as sweet. Well, Shakes, times have changed since you wrote "Romeo & Juliet." The importance of a name is widely argued. Even in your day, the big deal was male primacy to carry on the family name. Today there are women who decide to change their maiden names when marrying, disputes over product names and, of course, disputes over university names. So, is it what's on the inside that counts or is it the label? On Friday, August 27th, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents unanimously decided to change the names of three System schools in South Texas.



JOHN SCROGGS  
Columnist

The only problem is that one of the schools has quite a few people very unhappy with the change. Texas A&I University isn't having a party about being re-named Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Now, the other two schools, Corpus Christi State University and Laredo State University, aren't having any qualms about the name changes. But we must remember that both of these schools, before the A&M initiative, were only two-year institutions. Along with the name change, they will expand into four-year institutions and enroll freshmen and sophomores. These two schools have more to gain from Texas A&M than just a name. Texas A&I University, on the other hand, is different. As a former student of Texas A&I University and a current student of Texas A&M University, I find myself in an interesting spot. I can see the pros and cons of both sides of this issue. Both universities have so much in common that it's terrible to see their alumni at odds with each other. They each have incredibly conservative student bodies, both have sweltering summers and most importantly, each university has intense school pride.

It's that pride that is getting in the way. Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville, who is in favor of the name change, said the individuals opposed to the name change should be pleased that the school is getting prestige with the new name. She was also quoted in The Battalion on August 30th as saying that the alumni are too attached to their memories and are afraid the new name will take those away. Oh, Romeo! Excuse me, Rep. Rangel, but aren't

those legitimate concerns? The students and alumni at Texas A&I University chose to go to Texas A&I, not Texas A&M. Whatever their reasons were for their choice, they are proud of their school. They feel that Texas A&I has enough prestige and influence without the name change. Isn't pride one of the foundations of Texas A&M? I'm sure there would be quite an uproar if anyone ever suggested that we change even one letter of the Texas A&M name. Why is it so difficult for university officials to understand the strong emotions felt in Kingsville? Several proud Hoggies — yes, their mascot is the Javelina, similar to the wild boar but commonly called the Hoggie — feel that they are fine just the way they are. The University has survived for years without any help from A&M. Some even say that their prestige may actually drop with the new name. I must admit that Arts and Industries does have a nicer ring than Agricultural and Mechanical. Those individuals in favor of the name change keep arguing that because Texas A&M has acquired the school, it can do as

it pleases. With money and power comes authority. Also, what small college would pass up a chance to have "A&M" in its name? Of course, most of these arguments sound vaguely similar to those used to support the Imperialist Age. Remember the "white man's burden"? In the end, it comes down to whether or not what's truly important is the name or the content. Is money and funding more important than pride and heritage? We here in AggieLand should be able to answer that one in a heartbeat. Well, whatever the arguments may be, between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 8, 1993, a reception will be held in Kingsville to signify the death of Texas A&I University and the birth of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Among the performing bands and official speeches, a few students will be found on campus next to the Hoggie Statue burying a time capsule filled with Texas A&I memorabilia. Texas A&I University will then be just a memory.

John Scroggs is a senior English and philosophy major

COLLEGE STATION, TX  
 SEPT 8  
 1993  
**MAIL CALL**

### Thank you, students for blood drive help

The family of Faye Caldwell wishes to express their appreciation to the Commandant, Thomas Darling, and the A&M Corps of Cadets for the blood drive held on Sept. 3.

Faye, the mother of two A&M seniors, Chris and Shan, is undergoing treatment at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for leukemia. The father, Tom, is a former student, class of '61. Faye's condition is greatly improved, and there is reason for optimism. Her

recovery can be attributed, in part, to the love, care, concern and generosity of the students of Texas A&M.

Chris Caldwell  
Class of '94

### Greek, CT, non-reg: we all go to A&M

Texas A&M University is set above other institutions in that it has a unique sense of unity among its students. Each student at Texas A&M can take pride in the Aggie spirit, traditions and camaraderie. This goes for all students, regardless of their cultures, backgrounds

and lifestyles. Unfortunately, recurring incidents have illustrated that the Aggie unity we all hold so dear to our hearts is becoming a thing of the past. Demonstrating this apathy were some of the Walton Hall Warriors on All-U Night when they yelled, "Walton loads, CTs suck!" The following night a few of the Puryear Hall Playboys visited the quad in order to chant, "CTs, CTs, don't be blue. T-sips \*\*\*\* their roommates too!" These types of derogatory statements would seem more appropriate at a lower class institution, not Texas A&M. However, this bitter relationship is not only held between a few non-regs and Corps members. For instance, much animosity is also directed towards Greek organizations at this campus. The popu-

lar slogan is "Rent a Friend ... Join a Frat," which is often advertised by both Corps members and non-regs, only adds to this growing problem. The ideal environment, which A&M provides, gives students the opportunity to pursue their individual preference in student lifestyles. No matter which organization we decide to be in, we all chose to be Aggies. We all attend the same fine University, cheer for the same team, and partake in the same traditions. "We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we. True to each other as Aggies can be."

Kyle Robinson  
Class of '96

Francisco Sanchez  
Class of '96