

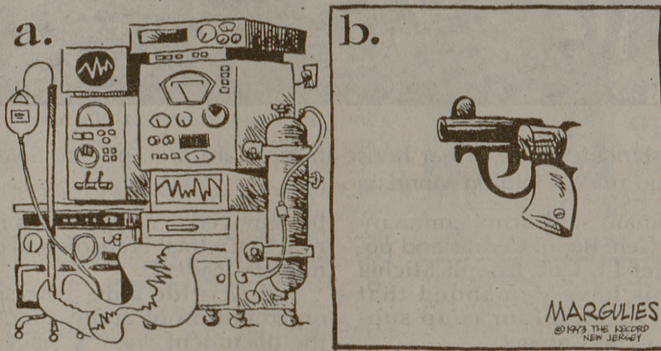
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WHICH TECHNOLOGY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SKYROCKETING HEALTHCARE COSTS?



EDITORIAL

Hypocrisy lesson

School teaches discrimination

School boards now have the jurisdiction to decide whether unwed mothers are moral or immoral. At least that's what the Hempstead School Board has decided.

Earlier this month, four girls on the Hempstead High School cheerleading squad were kicked off for being pregnant. One was allowed back on, however, after having an abortion.

School Board President Betty Vines contends that the girls were banned for health reasons. But according to Newsweek magazine, no medical authorities were consulted and one expert, Dr. Brian Kirshon, cited "no medical reason" to prevent a healthy pregnant girl from cheerleading.

If medical reasons are such an issue, then why was the ban extended to apply to student government and other extracurriculars? Surely being student council president isn't medically dangerous for an expectant mother.

The school board recently decided to consider possible

changes in the policy after being informed that a federal statute prohibits that type of discrimination.

Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments forbids discrimination against students who are expecting a child or are parents in all schools that receive federal funding.

It is also interesting to note that the school board did not ban the expectant fathers from student organizations until recently. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that the three currently banned cheerleaders are black, and the one let back on the squad is white.

Obviously, whatever the Hempstead School Board decides, they need to keep these hypocrisies in mind.

"We won't change our opinions," Vines said, "but we will look at the issues and the legal aspects of our policy."

It's sad to think that the only reason students might not have to deal with administrative discrimination in the future is that the school board is bowing to threats of losing money.

Rumors abound in food court debate

After all the controversy, students get to have it their way

Last year as a Student Senator representing the off-campus constituency, I first heard about the possibility of fast food chains coming to A&M. After listening to a proposal from the office of finance and administration, senators debated the idea of putting a food court under Sbsisa that would feature fast food.



MELISSA MEGLIOLA
Columnist

Who would run the food court? Would such a food court threaten the rest of Food Services? Would private vendors take away student jobs? The senate eventually passed a resolution supporting the project under the stipulation that they be consulted before a final contract was signed. A year of confusion and speculation surrounded the possibility of privatizing Food Services.

The administration is now planning an on-campus food court run by Food Services that will feature recognizable vendors. Students might just get what they want.

The food court, which the administration hopes to develop by this spring, is being developed despite persistent concerns by many students about the possibility of a private company eventually taking over Texas A&M Food Services. The recent reassignment of former Food Services Director Lloyd Smith added to the rumors. Some suggested that Finance and Administration had plans to annex food services. Other students believed

the food court was simply the first step in privatizing all of food services.

However, Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration, said the food court would not be managed by ARA, an outside company, finally clearing up the confusion.

"Early in September, ARA was notified that they do not have the contract," said Smith, disputing rumors about the arrival of a private company. "ARA is completely out of the picture."

The plan for the food court includes a convenience store, yogurt stand and four other vendors.

A group of student leaders from Student Government, the MSC, RHA and Off-Campus Aggies advised the administration on what franchises the students wanted. Right now, Food Services is looking at vendors for hamburgers, chicken, deli sandwiches and pizza.

The administration should have been more open with the campus throughout negotiation. Earlier communication would have prevented the spread of rumors and unnecessary concern.

Addressing students' concerns about price increases, Dr. Richard Floyd, assistant vice president of finance and administration and interim director of Food Services, said costs on campus would be the same as off-campus prices for the same vendor.

"Food Services will also insure that the quality and quantity of food is consistent with that of the off-campus vendors," he said.

Last fall, the administration sent out requests for proposals for the food court. Smith said he sent requests to large national management companies, but also solicited proposals from local businesses. The University ran advertisements in August and September is-

ues of the Bryan-College Station Eagle to notify local businesses of the plans. This did not prove to be adequate. Local business owners circulated a petition trying to persuade the administration to consider smaller businesses.

Two private food companies, ARA and Marriott, submitted viable plans. After further consideration, the ARA proposal was accepted as the best option for a private company. The administration then compared the ARA proposal to that of our own Food Services and decided that in-house management would be the best option. However, it did not immediately inform students of this decision.

Because Food Services will manage the food court, student workers will be employed by the University and not the individual vendor. Managers will go through some training with specific chains in order to be able to train workers on procedures specific to each vendor.

Last year, RHA did a survey of 212 students, a sample too small to be representative of the campus. Eighty-four percent of the respondent were favorable to the idea of branded foods in the basement of Sbsisa and 83 percent of the surveyed students said that they would be more likely to purchase Aggie Bucks if they could use them at name brand facilities on campus.

After all the confusion, the administration will go back to the senate with a proposal for an on campus dining facility run by food services that will employ students and accept Aggie bucks. The administration seems to be giving us exactly what we want.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major



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Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors.

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

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Hat etiquette for women traditionally different than for men

The controversy over whether women ought to remove their hats as a sign of respect has its roots in the fashion world's rejection of women's hats for the last thirty years.

Because hats have not been essential parts of female outfits for longer than most Aggies have been alive, few people have learned the hat etiquette that was second-nature to their forebearers.

Fiona Clark, author of "Hats" (1982), tells us that "the etiquette of hat wearing for men hinges largely on the removal of the hat, for women on its retention."

A gentleman's hat constitutes part of his outdoor gear. Society regards his hat as primarily protective. When he re-

GUEST COLUMN

K. E. KROHN

moves it to pledge allegiance, to sit in company for a meal, or upon entering the MSC, he presents an unprotected head, signifying trust and humility.

Tipping a hat echoes the older fashion of doffing it: another presentation of the unprotected head. Surely even ardent guardians of Aggie traditions will not insist that women should tip their hats to older ladies, professors, and others deserving of deference.

Yet if, in ignorance of proper women's comportment, we ask a lady to follow gentlemen's hat etiquette, then we must also demand that she tip her hat to everyone of superior social or professional rank.

The argument that if women wish to be equal to men they should blindly adopt all male customs rests on faulty logic. That women do not wear athletic supporters does not mean that they are inferior to men, only different from them.

Women's traditions for covering their heads are far older than the Aggie men's tradition, and deserve respect. Ladies do not take their hats off at table or in church,

whereas gentlemen do. Until Vatican II, Catholic women were required to cover their heads in church.

Surely no one will expect Muslim women Aggies to uncover in the MSC. Will Orthodox Jewish Aggies be asked to take off their yarmulkes, or Sikh Aggies to remove their turbans? All of these head-

Surely no one will expect Muslim women to uncover in the MSC. Will Orthodox Jews be asked to take off their yarmulkes, or Sikhs to remove their turbans?

covering traditions predate the MSC by thousands of years.

Western society understands a lady's hat to be ornamental and part of her costume. Often made of fragile straw, silk or ribbon and decorated with feathers or artificial flowers, ladies' hats are vulnerable

to damage. As they were not designed for protection, removing them carries no connotations of respect, no symbolic weight.

A pragmatic argument against asking ladies to uncover concerns how women wear hats. Designed to draw attention to a pair of shining eyes or to bewitching curls, women's hats are often built on small bases, and must be carefully held in place. Women secure hats with sewn-in combs, hat pins (which go through hat and hair), and elastic bands pinned into the hair. Such arrangements make it easier to comprehend some of the lack of feminine enthusiasm for uncovering.

Modern women sometimes wear sporty headgear. Just as a lady in pants remains a lady, a woman's Panama hat becomes part of her ensemble. She is no more obliged to remove it for ceremonial occasions than to unpin her "Sunday best" hat with the sequins and veil.

Different rules apply to women in uniform. Uniform headgear increases its wearer's rank. A police officer, firefighter, or Corps member removes her hat in the same circumstances as her male counter-

part, to show deference. When she works undercover, or is off duty, she follows women's social rules. Professional or otherwise, no lady allows her headdress to obstruct the view of others, whether at a temple, church, classroom, theatre, cinema, or sporting event.

The impulse to show respect deserves encouragement. Anthropologist Sylvia Grider notes that when all Aggies were male Corps members, the sight of every student and teacher in the Memorial Student Center with his hat in his hand must have been deeply moving.

In 1993, however, we are no longer a homogeneous group with only one set of customs. We need to adopt a new way of showing respect that could include all Aggies, even the bare-headed. Imagine us greeting each other in the MSC with hands over our respective hearts, the gesture we use when saluting our flag.

K. E. Krohn is a graduate student fellow with the Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Study

COLLEGE STATION, TX
 OCT 21
MAIL CALL
 1993

If you want to go into space, better act now

A new rocket design will enable us to get into space often and cheaply — the DC-X Delta Clipper project, based on the concept of a single-stage-to-orbit rocket which lifts off and lands vertically.

The major point of this, is that by constraining weight during the whole

management program and with the help of new technologies, it is possible to build a rocket with the same advantages as planes. The project is different from the Space Shuttle because it is not designed to lift a huge payload at once, it has no wings (less weight associated with the structure) and many other fine points.

The reason of this letter is to warn everybody that this project (which is NOT a NASA project) will be killed in

Congress if you don't do anything for it. In order to provide more information, Friday at the Eta Kappa Nu TV center in Zachry I will show a videotape of the VIP briefing and launch that was held at White Sands three weeks ago. Petitions will be available. I will fax those petitions on Friday night.

For those of you already convinced, call your representatives in Congress and tell them you want the SX-2 project to continue. (DC-X is the 1/3 scale version, it was ahead of schedule and cost \$60 million, SX-2 is the 2/3 scale version.) The tape will show you the DC-X lifting off, then stopping in the air, mowing sideways and landing smoothly. If you want to have your kids or yourself going suborbital one day, this is the time to act.

Igor Carron
 Graduate student.

Physical Plant people care about University

I was recently hired as a student worker by the Physical Plant, and would like to respond to Shea Snyder's letter which appeared in Mail Call on Oct. 18.

I have only been here five weeks and I would like to let everyone know that the people here at Physical Plant definitely care about Texas A&M. Many employees here can tell you more about the traditions and history of A&M than most students.

I am not sure of your definition of an Aggie, but my favorite is that an Aggie is anyone who cares about Texas A&M, not just the students. This includes faculty, staff, parents and relatives of students (even the people who have to walk on the grass at the MSC to take care of the plants are Aggies as long as they care about A&M).

The men and women of the Physical Plant work their butts off for this university. They are the ones who clean up after us, keep this university looking nice, and keep our classrooms and buildings functional. Guess who cleans up the campus before and after football games, Elephant Walk, Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire, and other wonderful traditions.

These dedicated and hardworking men and women deserve our thanks. If you think about this letter and you see a campus employee (custodial, workmen or administrative) and you would like to thank them for the job they are doing, PLEASE do so. THANK YOU!

By the way Shea, light bulbs are changed by housing maintenance and not Physical Plant; or ask your RA or RD for light bulbs (they are supposed to be able to get them for you).

Mark A. Stewart
 Class of '94