

PRO CON

Do women have a place in The Citadel?

There's a new case of gender discrimination in South Carolina, and it's not unlike a similar situation we at A&M experienced just a few years ago. It appears that another one of those uppity females has decided she would like to attend a particular institution previously populated only by males.

Shannon Faulkner, an honor student, pulled a fast one last year and applied to The Citadel, an all-male military institution. She forgot to mention that she's female — so the college admissions forgot to reject her. Now she is attending classes at The Citadel until the courts decide if she can be involved with the military aspect of the school and live with the rest of the cadets.

I'll assume that most of the American population (at least those with two X chromosomes) are in favor of men and women being treated equally. However, many

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women will testify that the doors often remain hard to open in previously and currently male dominated fields.

When I was a cadet in the mid-80s, there was an enormous uproar over a similar case filed by Melanie Zentgraf, which forced A&M to allow women in the Aggie Band, the Ross Volunteers and the Fish Drill Team. Not only was this case a tremendous breach of tradition, but we also felt like our "club" was being violated. Now a few years later, not only do I welcome women into these same "clubs," but most of the cadets I know tend to accept them as well.

Although it's nice that these female cadets may be more positively acknowledged, the issue of equality and legality still looms like a storm cloud over The Citadel.

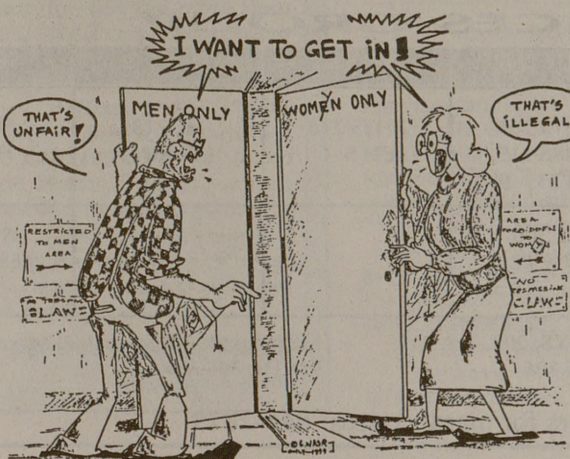
The U.S. government has decided that institutions receiving public monies will be required by law not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, creed or sex. As a result, and under much opposition, women were admitted to the traditionally all-male service academies. Guess what? It's no big deal anymore. Females have proven themselves to not only be effective soldiers, but a true boon to the militia.

The problem appears to lie in the unsurprising tendency of those in powerful positions to resist social change aimed in their direction. Historically, men have been reluctant to admit women into their organizations, whether executive, academic, military or social. The cadets and alumni of The Citadel have a similar attitude regarding Shannon Faulkner, but — unfortunately for them — their school receives some public funding that puts them under discrimination laws, plain and simple.

I can empathize with the cadets as I've had the same feelings before, but the fact is that the world's a-changin'. Ms. Faulkner deserves to be able to attend any institution that falls under anti-discrimination laws, and those opposed will just have to deal with it.

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The Citadel was founded Dec. 20, 1842 in order to provide young men with military-type training and create a group of citizen-soldiers for the state of South Carolina. The proud men of South Carolina fought in the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam. Citadel alumni have served whenever and wherever their state has needed them.

Now this old school of discipline and honor has been asked to surrender its way of life — an act which cadets and alumni have been specifically trained to repulse. From the dress gray uniforms that are fitted to the specific dimensions of each cadet to the rigid schedule they follow each day, cadet life is steeped in order and tradition. Now things are going to be changed by force and without thought to the effects that these changes may bring to the ancient gentleman's code that the cadets follow. The Citadel may be required to admit women.

Everyone is quite aware that, legally, the Citadel doesn't have a leg to stand on. Public money funds The Citadel, and the public deemed long ago, and rightly, that women and men should have the right to equal opportunities. The real question here, however, is whether these young men should have the right to have a place where they can go to mature in an environment that has been an asset to both the country and the state.

The attempt by Shannon Faulkner, the woman who filed a lawsuit to enter The Citadel, would be honorable if it was the only school in the country that offered the discipline and character-

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building that a cadet corps provides. Fortunately, all military academies provide a complete education for free, as well as guaranteed commissions in their respective armed forces. There are also cadet corps at Norwich, New Mexico Military Institute and Texas A&M that would eagerly accept female applicants of Faulkner's ability. She need not continue her struggle against a school that will never accept her membership, whether she gains admittance or not.

If allowed to enter The Citadel, Faulkner, and any other women who choose to follow her, will find that they have no one who will identify with them and no one to care for their needs. "Knobs," the name freshmen cadets are given, are not allowed leave school for any reason. These young women will be left alone, without support in a hostile environment, with the resentment of their fellow cadets constantly gnawing at their spirits.

Any court's decision to open The Citadel will simply close the minds of those people who might change with time. Citadel alumni served their country without question for over a century. Can the country not make an exception in law as a form of repayment for a debt that cannot be repaid?

Hero by any other name is Mrs. Dean

The true meaning of heroism often lost in today's world

"Hero" is a loosely-used description these days. Football stars, veteran police sergeants and research scientists stand out as heroic figures, and most people assume that they are real heroes.

Despite this presumption, achieving heroic acts or status does not make a hero of anyone. The scientists who developed DDT saved millions of lives by preventing the spread of malaria, but at the same time created a chemical plague that decimated American wildlife.

True heroes have to be more than a collection of impressive acts and wide publicity. So — what DOES make a hero? The combined opinions of two dictionary editors, one priest, three friends and a 6-year-old kindergartner define "hero" as a person who uses courageous action, personal sacrifice and noble purpose to achieve a goal that contributes to the common good.

That convoluted definition serves no purpose without an appropriate example, so here goes.

A lady named Gwen Dean lives in a modest white house on a quiet street in Breckenridge, Texas. Unbeknownst to her, she has been my hero for over 15 years.

Mrs. Dean has dedicated her life to fostering music education, especially for children and churches. She sets an example of ethics, integrity and generosity that brings out the best in other people.

In the early 1950s, Mrs. Dean, a young wife and mother, founded the Breckenridge Boys Choir. For 30 years she taught public-

school-aged boys and young men to "use their voices as musical instruments."

The odds against success were very high. Even the attempt took incredible nerve and faith. Breckenridge is a small town about two hours away from anywhere else. The halftime shows at the high school football games stand out as cultural events in many local people's lives. The idea of a boys choir flourishing in that environment seems impossible.

Initial doubts were absolutely wrong. Over the years the "BBC" performed for audiences all over the country. Mrs. Dean organized travel, funds and chaperones for nationwide singing trips that showed the outside world to hundreds of boys who had rarely been much further away from home than the Breckenridge city limits.

The choir's history of performances included complete theatrical musicals, virtually every variety of religious music and all

Heroes like Mrs. Dean are unfortunately rare. She never got rich or famous; she rarely received adequate thanks, and she experienced as many endless disappointments as rewards. Yet she persevered.

sorts of holiday shows and broadcasts. Through the years Mrs. Dean gave of her energies without reserve.

One truly great moment came when she took the BBC to sing at the White House for President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

Today Mrs. Dean has had to reduce the pace of her schedule. But she still teaches piano lessons in the front room of her home and spends countless hours practicing the organ music for each Sunday's Mass at Saint

Andrew's. She directs the church choir and teaches the members everything from music theory to the history of saints and composers.

Much of her spare time goes into a fundraising project to build a first-class pipe organ for the church. In under two years, the fund garnered \$150,000 — enough money to start construction of the instrument.

Not many seventy-ish women can do all that and battle leukemia at the same time. Whenever Mrs. Dean is worried or frustrated, she ends every letter and conversation with, "... and pray for music in West Texas." That's the epitome of her heroism. She constantly prays and works for the establishment and perpetuation of music in one of the places where it's hardest for artistic culture to survive.

Mrs. Dean has given her life's work to the accomplishment of her goal. She never got rich or famous; she rarely received adequate thanks, and she experienced as many endless disappointments as rewards. Yet she persevered through challenges that no one else cared enough to meet.

Heroes like Mrs. Dean are unfortunately rare. Although most humans quite willingly make great efforts for their families or their own benefit, far too few men and women actively contribute to the betterment of our society.

Heroic acts are fine and admirable. Everyone with the talents, skills or luck to pass for a winning touchdown, arrest a drunk driver or develop ground-breaking plant hybrids should be proud of their abilities.

Those unique people who can recognize others' talents, teach skills and provide encouragement for everyone else are the real "Heroes."

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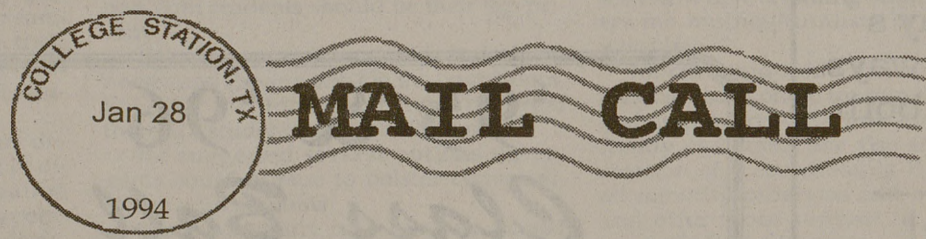
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UT students rustle up a bit of school rivalry

As a founding member of the Rustlers, I would like to take this opportunity to explain who the Rustlers are and what they mean.

The Rustlers is an organization dedicated to arousing spirit and pride in students at the University of Texas at Austin. This in part includes engaging in a friendly rivalry with other schools. Where other groups of spirited students at other schools have committed malicious acts in the name of spirit, the Rustlers set out to prove that a rivalry could be good natured, that no one has to cause any damage to person or property, and no one has to get hurt.

And in so keeping with this precept, we decided to take your mascot on an inter-university exchange program. She was well cared for and never in any danger. Many Aggies were worried that she would be harmed, but the Rustlers would never harm a poor animal the way another school's students might.

We do regret however that someone was hurt very deeply by this incident. It has come to our attention that Cpl. James Lively has been subjected to ridicule by his own classmates. People who called him a friend one month ago now treat him as a traitor, and for what? He had no part in what occurred, and anyone who passes judgment on him should consider that point. I would therefore like to formally apologize to Mr. Lively, but not for the actions of the Rustlers; rather, I would like

to apologize for all the Aggies in the world who blame him needlessly, for only an Aggie would turn against one of his own.

In the final analysis of the Reveille incident, it is our sincere hope that people at both the University of Texas and Texas A&M learn two very important lessons. First, we want the students to be proud of where they go to school and engage in a friendly rivalry based on good sportsmanship, and of course good humor. Second, we want people to realize that a college rivalry is not the end of the world, and life after graduation will indeed go on.

Calvin and the Texas Rustlers

Message of hatred does no good for anyone

It disappoints me to see how Quanell X can bring his hatred to A&M. He said that black students aren't attending all black schools, but instead are attending other schools because they are "trying to integrate with whites." I thought we were trying to break up the segregation of this world and come together as one.

Quanell X also stated that, "The white population is responsible for the wretched condition that black people are in, and they should apologize for what their ancestors have done." I don't owe anybody an apology. I'm not responsible for what our white

ancestors have done. You are only in control of your own actions and should take complete responsibility for them only.

White women are just like black women, some are blessed with great bodies and some aren't. I have yet to smell a white woman, or any woman for that matter, that smelled like a pig. As far as I'm concerned there is no skin color, only equality.

Clay Russell Class of '96

Don't complain 'til you walk in others' shoes

Mr. Steve Black, I would like to thank you for such a motivational and supportive club. Although my wife and I do not have any children, I find myself in your position. I have two part time jobs and go to A&M full time while taking a night course at Blinn. My wife and I took the night class together so we could see each other. She works full time during the day, and I work at night mostly. I could not possibly fathom what life would be like with a child right now. The stress is enough as it is. My hat's off to you, sir. I too find it rather astonishing when I hear of students mooching off their parents, sucking them dry, complaining of how hard their lives are. Or better yet, the students who complain of the lack of beer money because their parents don't send enough. Since the STRONG club was just recently established, with you as the founding father, I was wondering if I could appoint myself secretary. Due to our policy regarding club meetings, I would not mind in the least to take down minutes at these meetings. Thanks again for a bright part in my day. Here's to STRONG! Gig'em!

Corky McMillan Class of '94