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## Women in a male world is nothing new The Citadel goes where Aggies have already tread

Everyone is scared of change — it steps on the toes of comfort. The first few years of anything new subjects society to the blisters and soreness of adjustment.



JENNY MAGEE  
Columnist

The same is true of women's attempt to make a place for themselves outside of the home. It seems that today in 1994 the idea that women do not belong in certain places would seem passe. But the recent controversy over Shannon Faulkner's successful fight to gain admission to The Citadel, a state-funded all-male military academy, brought the battle over "male territory" back into the limelight. Some argue that years of tradition were tossed away with Faulkner's enrollment. Others argue that no educational institution should be able to deny admission because of gender.

In a day-to-day misery of name-calling and seclusion. Maybe some of the women who came to A&M in 1963 were seeking to take advantage of A&M's educational facilities. Perhaps they had no intention of disrupting the "circle of malehood."

Dr. Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for undergraduate programs and services at A&M, was among the first women allowed to enroll in 1963.

Sheppard says that unlike Shannon Faulkner, she did not attend A&M to be a trailblazer. Sheppard transferred from UT to A&M because A&M offered the type of applied mathematics program that she was interested in. In 1963 computer science was a new field, and Sheppard said A&M had the best facilities to fulfill her educational goals. Sheppard said that she found the faculty and students to be most kind.

Things have changed greatly since 1963. According to Sheppard, the role of women at A&M today is comparable with that of most major campuses.

"Women are full participants in the A&M campus. I think that it is better for everyone," she said.

My friend Henry remembers when the first girl was admitted in 1971 to the Allen Academy in Bryan, then a private military academy. Henry said that he can't remember anyone feeling any resentment toward the girl; actually all the boys were downright thrilled she was there.

These are two isolated success stories, and they also happened a fairly long time ago. So now, 20 or 30 years later, why are we having arguments about Shannon Faulkner at-

tending The Citadel?

"I agree with both sides of the argument," Henry said. "But The Citadel is still the Old South. The 'gentleman's code' is still very much alive there. Men, especially in the military, grew up being taught to treat women with dignity and respect, which means that they can't treat a woman like just one of the guys."

Change is often slower than ketchup from a restaurant bottle. People like the security in traditions. All in all, tradition is a positive thing, but in the Citadel controversy, people argued that many years of tradition were at risk because a girl is going to attend the school.

First, we must question what kind of tradition we are trying to hold on to. It is certainly not a tradition that would be held dear to the heart of Shannon Faulkner and other women who would like to attend The Citadel.

The Citadel is an educational institution, and as such it should prepare its students for life in the real world. The real world isn't all-male; the military itself isn't all male.

Change is never easy. And even when things do change, the past is permanent. The all-male history of The Citadel did not fade into oblivion when Shannon Faulkner walked through the door. Just like the all-male years of A&M will forever remain part of its history. Eventually, no matter how comfortable those old tennis shoes are, you have to buy a new pair.

Jenny Magee is a sophomore journalism and English major



## EDITORIAL Rise and be heard Aggies need a student regent

Students need to speak up to have a real impact on the Board of Regents. Although student leaders met with the board recently about improving communication between students and the regents, the whole student body will have to speak up before we can expect any real results.

The goal of student representation on the Board of Regents did not seem unreachable in June of 1991 when both Houses of the Texas legislature added an amendment to a bill that would give students a non-voting seat on the board. The House bill's co-author, Rep. Steve Ogden of Bryan, was optimistic about ending the battle for a student representation that has lasted for over 20 years.

"Voting (rights) is ultimately not out of the question," he said.

But when the final wording of the bill came out, the "student regent" would neither be allowed to speak unless scheduled on the agenda, nor attend closed meetings — in

addition to being denied a vote.

This watered-down student regent bill patronized students by offering little more than that of a titled audience member. If this campus wants more than that, we will have to speak up and demand it.

Student leaders suggest occasional forums or elected student liaisons as ways to improve communication. Perhaps if these leaders were not the only ones looking to change the student body's relationship with the board, we would not have to settle for less than a student regent with full voting rights — or at least one with full speaking and attendance privileges.

Apathy will get us nowhere, but a student regent could give us an official voice and move us closer to obtaining some of the changes we've all been wanting.

The Board of Regents' decisions affect all of us. It's time we speak up and become a force in those decisions.

## Bryan's downtown district is on the road to renovation

While walking the old sidewalks of downtown Bryan, one gets the sense it was once the center of a thriving community. As in most small southern towns, there are abandoned hotels, movie theaters and banks hovering over old streets — remnants of a time and an economy long gone.



ROY L. CLAY  
Columnist

With the advent of the motels, multiple-screen theaters and shopping malls, downtown is no longer the hub of daily life in towns and small cities across the country. Except for the antique shops and small pharmacies that continued to eke out a living in the abandoned streets, life in the town square virtually died.

Today there are movements all over the country to revitalize these forgotten

areas. The people of Bryan have begun the Main Street Project, which is concerned with bringing business and cultural interests back to the historic buildings and shops left vacant and dilapidated in the downtown area.

Over the last few years, night clubs and a coffee house have opened their doors downtown and appear to be thriving. Shops which had always been located in this area of town are seeing their business improve. Kathleen McAllister, who runs an antique store on 26th Street, says people are returning downtown to shop.

"In the last year I have seen more people downtown than I have in a long time," she said. "It's not just the young people who go to the clubs but the older people, too. A lot of out-of-town people are coming here to shop."

The city itself has also contributed to the renovation process. Currently, there is a project to relocate all the unsightly power lines from the many poles dotting downtown street corners to underground ducts. They are also raising the height of the street lights to improve night visibility.

But there is one renovation project which marks the progress of the entire downtown restoration endeavor. The Carnegie Library, built in 1903 with an endowment from the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, is considered to be the most important building in the downtown area.

After using the building as office space for over 20 years, the city passed a resolution last April to return the Carnegie Li-

### One renovation project marks the progress of the entire downtown Bryan restoration endeavor — the renovation of the Carnegie Library.

brary to the direction of the Bryan Public Library. The Carnegie Library Restoration Committee was authorized, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library, to raise funds to restore the old building.

Clara Mounce, the City Librarian for

Bryan, says the restoration of the old library will cost about \$500,000, a small sum compared to the cost of restoring most buildings of the same age.

Mounce is happy with the physical state of the Carnegie Library. An architecture firm hired to study the building informed the city that damage to the building was minimal and the interior was in excellent condition.

"The interior is to be completely restored," Mounce said. "Once it's done, the first floor may well look like it did when the library opened its doors in 1903."

The function of the renovated Carnegie Library will be somewhat along the lines as that of the Main Street Project: to preserve a part of Brazos County's history. However, the renamed Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History will fill a somewhat broader role. It is hoped the Carnegie Center will serve as a centralized research source for anyone who wishes to study Texas or local history from historically valuable documents which are available through the public library.

The refurbished building will house

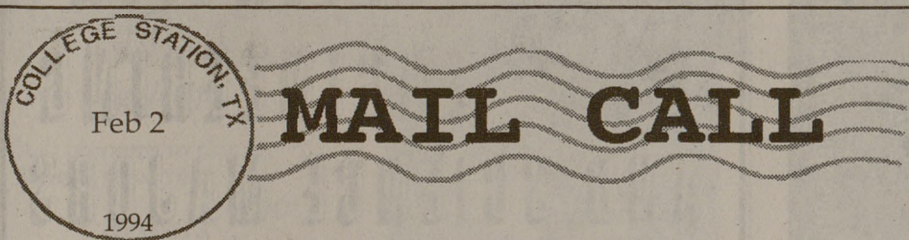
rare documents, books, maps, photos and multiple reference sources that are currently overloading the Bryan Library. If this renovation is successful, the Carnegie building will be a jewel in Bryan's downtown project and an important place of research.

But the Carnegie Library is only an example of the kind of work being done in the downtown area. Bookstores and restaurants have recently occupied buildings that were doing nothing but decaying. They appeal to many shoppers who are tired of going to the mall with its overpriced fashions and fast food courts.

People are able to stroll the streets and survey the town's history through its architecture while they shop. You meet people who work in their own stores rather than dealing with clerks who work for a national chain.

The next time you want to do something, go to downtown Bryan. You're more likely to find something there that interests you than you would at the mall.

Roy L. Clay is a senior history major



### Feb 2 1994 Mattox should spend more time on campus

After reading the article in Friday's Battalion outlining Jim Mattox's stand on crime, I became quite saddened to note that few of today's office-seekers spend quality time with students our age.

Last week when I attended a meet-

ing of the Aggie Democrats, I truly enjoyed listening to the three student representatives coordinating on-campus campaigns for the Democratic Senatorial candidates. Yet, I am quite amazed at the coldness and insensitivity of one of those candidates — the liberal former Attorney General, Jim Mattox.

To begin with, Mr. Mattox's representative did not stay to hear what the Fisher or Andrews coordinators had to say. He rudely left after he spoke and

was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

After reading the Friday article and placing a call to the Mattox campaign in Austin, I became aware that Mr. Mattox had been in College Station for a brief press-conference at the airport. Why didn't he come to A&M?

His opponent Richard Fisher was! And when he was here, I felt I met a caring, sensitive individual who listened to my concerns. Richard Fisher has focused on the needs of the successor generation and proposed moderate reforms promoting economic growth where necessary.

Mr. Mattox, a personal appearance on your behalf would have been appreciated by the students of Texas A&M. However, your lack thereof revealed your low interest in what is a potential-

ly powerful voting group; many more negligent mistakes of this sort may lead to political failure.

Adair Holloway  
Class of '97

### Where's the dunk?

Texas A&M basketball games are, at the most, not exciting. Sometimes I would rather be watching a tennis match with Kenny G as background music.

SMU should never have played as close a game as they did. One of the reasons why I think it was so close (aside from poor free throw shooting) is the fact that the Aggies do not dunk the basketball. If Tony Barone refuses to al-

low his players to dunk, I can respect a coach's decision. But if he does not discourage the dunk, then "Let there be dunks."

The slam-dunk is one of the most exciting plays in a basketball game. The dunk gets the crowd all pumped up.

Speaking as a former collegiate athlete, the dunk can act as the spark that some players need to perform to, or above, their potential. Three-pointers are nice, but I have seen enough basketball games to know that dunks provide the sense of authority that good basketball teams need. I think the dunk can be the spark that the Aggies need to route future opponents and gain momentum going into the postseason.

Darren Siefer  
Class of '93