

SUMMER SESSIONS '94  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Barbara

June 20 - July 29  
MAIN SESSION



A Note from UCSB Summer Sessions:

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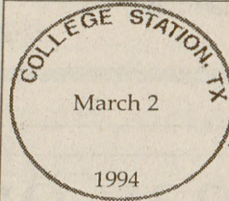
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MAIL CALL

Columnist's word usage challenged:

In response to Roy Clay's column on verbal harassment, we would like to correct the misuse of the Spanish word "huerra." While it is unfortunate that the University employees are harassing female Aggies, the word "huerra" is not necessarily a come on line that denotes a sexual interest in a woman by Hispanic men as described in the column. It is a very common word that is used in Latin America to describe a white-skinned Hispanic. Many Hispanic families usually use "huerra" or "huerro" as a nickname for their children. We suggest that in the future you should be aware of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis so that you do not interpret unjustly any words or expressions from another language or culture.

Oscar Gonzalez  
Class of '95

Jesus "Chuy" Sanchez  
Class of '95

Wednesday, Feb. 23, Roy Clay found it necessary to criticize the Hispanic community just to prove a point in his article. Even though we all feel for Jennifer and other sexually harassed victims, men in the Hispanic community will not tolerate being blamed for the actions of a few people involved in an isolated incident.

Clay writes about a girl named Jennifer who was harassed by University employees because they called her guera. Clay's first mistake was in his Spanish spelling, he misspelled guera as "huerra." Secondly, he misinterpreted the definition of the word guera. He defines guera as meaning "blonde or white-skinned" girl which is

used by men of Hispanic origin to denote sexual interest in a woman. He adds that basically it is a "come-on line." Guera is not used as a come-on line. Where Clay gets his information is a mystery in itself. Guera does mean fair-skinned person. At times it is used as a nickname for fair-skinned females. For instance, I call my sister guera - am I being sexual? Another possible meaning is during conversation that involves two people of Hispanic origin, and they refer to an American person or a fair-skinned person as "guera." Never does the meaning imply sexual interest in a woman. His third mistake was generalizing or implying that Hispanic men go around harassing women here on campus and in the community. In his column he only lists Hispanic men - we all know that all men, regardless of their skin color, might regretfully engage in verbal sexual harassment.

A disturbing thought also occurs that any editor would allow Clay to print his article with so many careless flaws. Are we supposed to assume his editor feels the same way? For that matter, does The Battalion, which we help support, represent bigotry? Again, we all feel for Jennifer, sexual harassment is a crime. However, does the generalization of a particular ethnic group to prove a point help solve sexual harassment? It would be beneficial for The Battalion's readers that Clay study and indulge in the beauty of the Spanish language rather than falsely interpret it. Maybe Clay should take advantage of multicultural classes that might be offered in the near future.

Ruben Reyna  
Class of '94

Clay claims that the use of "Huerra" by Hispanic men automatically "[denotes] sexual in-

terest in a woman." Obviously Clay has been greatly misled and is very ignorant of Hispanic culture.

First of all, he misspells the very word. It is spelled "guera," with a lower-case "g," since it is being used as an adjective and not as a proper noun when it can be used as a nickname. The "u" has two dots above it, because in the Spanish language it denotes that the letter is pronounced and not silent. Just because someone uses "guera" in reference to a person, it does not mean that they have to have a sexual interest in that person. If Clay had taken the time to research his article a little more, he would have found that guera is usually reserved to describe a person's appearance and not used exclusively to express their libido, as he would have everyone believe. It is not a come-on line.

Secondly, in my 20-some years as a Hispanic from Mexico, I have never used "guera" to express my sexual interest in a woman. I have several friends in Mexico that are blonde and white-skinned (yes, there are such people) and I occasionally refer to them as "guera" or "guero" (the word can also be applied to men), but it in no way means that I am coming on to them. It is used as a nickname.

So the next time Clay decides to use a word that is not native to his language, I suggest he either not use it or inform himself fully before he uses it improperly. Perhaps the editors can use the space for something that is better-researched, like maybe a crossword puzzle.

Javier Gonzalez-Maese  
Class of '94

Editor's note: Roy Clay consulted five Spanish speakers, including an individual from the modern languages lab, on the usages of the word in question.

Aggies can think for themselves

I would like to comment on Humberto Jorge's latest tirade against The Battalion (Feb. 18). In his remarks he criticized The Battalion for presenting a false perception of Oliver North by making it appear that North was cleared of all wrongdoing in the Iran Contra affair.

First, I agree with Jorge's statement in this regard. On at least a couple of occasions, both before and after North's visit, The Battalion printed stories that included the phrase: "North was cleared of all charges stemming from the affair." In fact, North was convicted of numerous crimes, including a felony, but a federal appeals court threw out his case on a technicality (something that Republicans always seem to complain about when it comes to the law).

The problem that I have with Jorge's comments comes after this point. He had to take his opinion a step further (and a few notches down) when he called the 2,500 Aggies who saw North at Rudder "ignorant boys and girls who were manipulated by the vicious staffers at The Battalion." As if these Aggies saw articles in the paper and said to themselves: "It's OK to see Ollie now, he was innocent after all!" They knew better.

Being a Democrat from California, I have had to adjust to many different surroundings and points of view since coming to A&M, but I have never re-

sorted to putting down the school or my adopted classmates. Simply put, the problem as I see it is not that 2,500 ignorant Aggies were duped into going to see North because they thought he was innocent. The problem is that 2,500 intelligent Aggies who knew that North's deeds were in violation of our Constitution didn't seem to care.

Keith J. Volmer  
Graduate student

Top 10 professor qualifications:

Top 10 Requirements to be a Texas A&M professor:

10. Must be from another country.
9. Must speak in any language other than English.
8. Must talk extremely fast.
7. Don't write anything on the blackboard.
6. So off in your own world while students wonder what the hell's going on.
5. Act like you know everything.
4. When questioned, change the subject.
3. Explain everything mathematically, using integrals and differential equations.
2. Favorite saying, "This is easy!"
1. Give a two-hour test with only 50 minutes to take it.

Aaron Tuttle  
Class of '94

Softball players 'unAggie-like'

In my four years here at TAMU, I've experienced the Spirit of Aggieland in various ways. One of these ways is through the spirit of competition in the sport of softball. What happened Sunday, Feb. 27, at my intramural softball game, has all but wiped out the happy experiences I've had here at TAMU.

Throughout the game, the opposing team, whose male members consisted of individuals belonging to the Corps of Cadets, behaved in a manner unbecoming of a Cadet. They were rude to my teammates as well as myself.

During my turn to bat, I could hear them making racial remarks at me and the rest of my teammates. It got so out of hand that the Intramural Official had to bench one of them. With all the bad press that the Corps has had in the last two years, this was the last thing that I expected from this university's "most respected" organization.

I have friends who are in the Corps, and they are not like the ones I played with today, but when they gathered together like this and acted like that, it makes me wonder if TAMU should do away with this nationally notorious organization. To top it all off, some of the Cadets refused to shake my hand after we defeated them 10-6. This is not only unsportsmanlike, but also unAggie-like. I am an Aggie and will always remain one, but at the moment, I was ashamed to be associated with these "Ags." They were unfit to call themselves "Ags," let alone Cadets.

Muy "Spice" Seng  
Class of '94

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CURRENT ISSUES AND FUTURE TRENDS

March 2, 1994 - Rudder Theatre

1-2 p.m. Current Issues and Future Trends

Dr. Margaret N. Maxey, director, Clint W. Murchison, Sr., Chair of Free Enterprise and professor of bioethics, University of Texas at Austin

2:30-4 p.m. Energy Development vs. the Environment

Moderator: Dr. Ronald L. McMahan, president, Resource Data International

Panelists: Mr. Thomas Baker, TU Electric  
Ms. Barbara Grannell, founder, Western States Public Land Coalition  
Dr. John F. Griffiths, professor of meteorology, Texas A&M, and Texas state climatologist  
Dr. Ken Kramer, director, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

4:15-5:15 p.m. Energy Security and U.S. Dependence on Foreign Energy Sources

Mr. Richard L. Lawson, president, National Coal Association

7:30-8:30 p.m. The Challenges

Mr. Michel T. Halbouty, CEO and chairman of the board, Halbouty Energy Company



Reception follows



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The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor 1995 AGGIELAND

The editor of the 1995 Aggieland yearbook will serve from August 1994 through August 1995.

Qualifications for the position are:

- Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office.
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible position on the Aggieland or comparable college yearbook.
- Have demonstrated ability in writing through university coursework or equivalent experience.
- Have completed or be registered in JOUR 210 (Graphics) or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications Manager's office, room 230 Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Monday, March 21, 1994. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994.