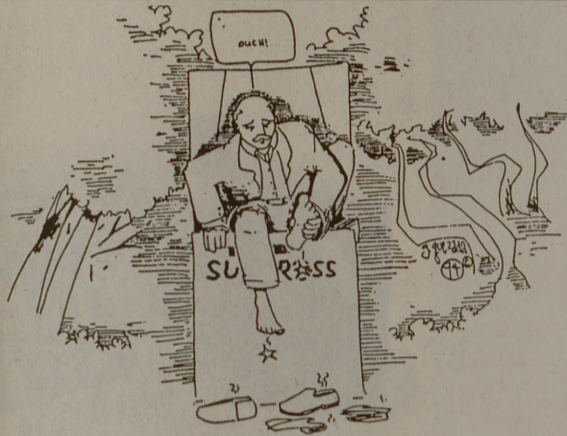


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AND LATE AT NIGHT WHEN NOBODY IS OUT....

EDITORIAL

Excuses, excuses

Margraves tries to blame media

When Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves resigned Wednesday, he was trying to lift the burden of scandal off the shoulders of the school he loves. We should all appreciate such a sacrifice. Such a decision shows the amount of respect and love Margraves has for the school from which he graduated in 1963. However, blaming the media for his demise is a sad and inconvenient excuse. Margraves' name became attached to negative headlines last fall when an anonymous letter sent to Gov. Ann Richards accused Margraves and other top Texas A&M officials of profiting illegally from business deals made by the University. Richards then gave the letter to the Texas Rangers, who have been investigating Margraves with the FBI since then. The media did not create these events. Margraves told the press last week, "I hope you members of the media will step back, take a breath, and reexamine the issues." To this we say Margraves should listen to his own advice. The media will continue to cover any story where the chairman of the Board of Regents of a major

state-funded school is being investigated. It does not require much reflection on behalf of the press to decide to take this course of action. But Margraves needs to "reexamine the issues" himself. Margraves did good things while he was the chairman of the Board of Regents, but he created the appearance of impropriety at the highest levels of the administration. We appreciate his resignation as a gesture to try and help cleanse the University's image, but the problem was there before the media got involved. The Texas Rangers, the FBI and the governor would all agree it was an anonymous tip, not the media, that prompted this investigation. Blaming his resignation on the media makes Margraves appear to be paranoid and looking for excuses. We appreciate the work he has done. All we want is a future for this school without further embarrassments. We should hope for a future without resignations, questionable deals or headlines covering both. We should also hope for a future without excuses.

Discover one man's sea of tranquility

Friends, family, contentment key to success in life

LYNN BOOHER

Columnist



Many people view success as something equaling money and power. In our society, we are taught from childhood to "do our best" in everything, from sports to school to the ultimate career path we choose. Those who choose a career that doesn't pay well are often scorned. People have lost sight of what is truly important in life.

I know a man named Herb who has spent his life interested in the kinds of things money can't buy. He loves history, and often reads books on World War II or the Civil War late into the night.

He has traced his family genealogy back hundreds of years, journeying to libraries all over the South, interviewing relatives across the country, and subscribing to various historical magazines. He has even written a book. In his spare time, Herb remodels his house and sometimes works with Habitat for Humanity. In addition to everything else he does, Herb has a full-time job.

Why, then, does he get social pressure to be more "successful?" Because some people don't think he's living up to his potential — doing his best. Webster defines success as "a favorable or satisfactory outcome or result." That's pretty ambiguous.

Someone once said no man is unsuccessful if he has friends. I like that definition. Why are we on this earth if not to make a difference in other peoples' lives and make everyone's existence more bearable?

Anyone who has true friends would agree they are worth far more than any amount of money. Herb has many friends. He has made a difference in many people's

lives. Perhaps more important than his friendships is his deep commitment to his family. Herb has been married for 23 years and has two children. It is obvious to everyone who meets him that he cares about his family very much.

From the time his daughters were babies, he took care never to make them feel like lesser people because they were not sons. He played with them, read to them, taught them how to play sports and how to drive a stick shift, and he was always patient, even when driving one of them all over town in search of some necessary part for a junior high project due the next day.

He is a dedicated scholar, someone who I'd wager knows more about certain wars than many history professors. But he never feels compelled to enter the rat race and "use his brains" to make a lot of money.

Why is this a problem? His family isn't having to stretch every dollar to pay the bills. Why is it no one seems to think he's using his brain now, doing what he loves — learning and teaching things to others through his writing and his stories? Would life be better if Herb were work-

ing late nights at the office, maybe even weekends, with business deals and making money his top priority? I wonder what would happen to his family life and all the things that get taken for granted, like just having him there to share, listen, console — all of the things he does so well.

If Herb were transformed into an aggressive businessman, the kind, sensitive, dreamy part of his personality so loved by everyone who knows him would be suppressed. The Herb we know and care about would be replaced by someone totally foreign, and probably not as nice.

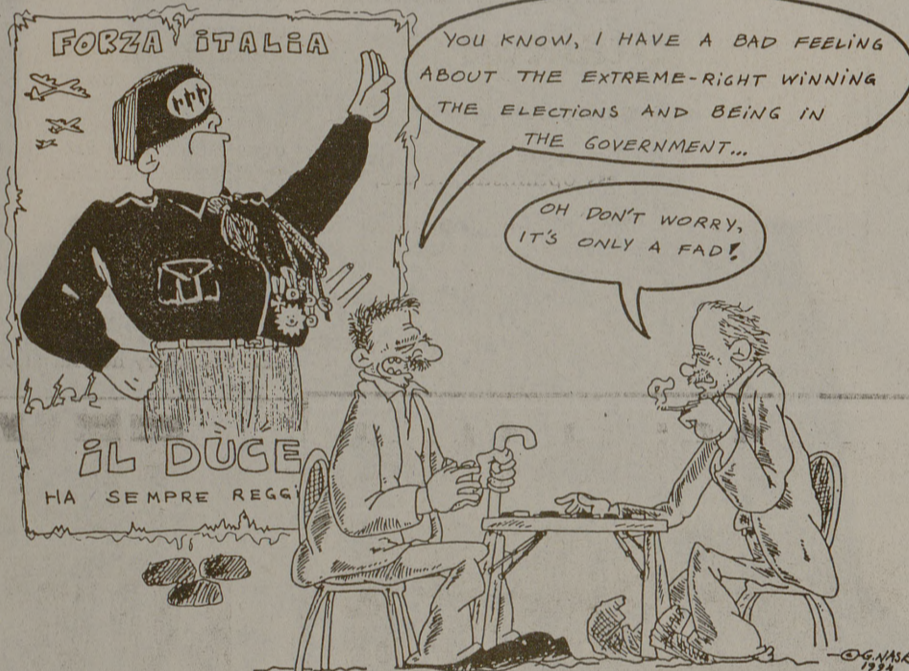
I often wonder if my family will see me as a failure if I don't make a certain income. It puts a lot of stress in my life. I'm even starting to think their way. As a child, I wanted to become an artist, but my mother always insisted art would have to be a pastime and that I'd have to have a real job to support myself.

In retrospect, I appreciate how she never let me think I would have to spend my life completely dependent on someone else, be it my parents as a child or my husband as an adult. But I have to wonder if her version of success is what's right for me.

Perhaps I'll have the courage, as Herb does, to defy the society that says, "You may be a good person, but if you're not earning your full potential income, you're a failure."

He keeps living and loving, no matter what they say. Herb is a man I love and respect immensely. He is also my father.

Lynn Booher is a sophomore English and psychology major



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Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

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Gainer Hall gets no respect

As most of you are aware by now, Gainer Hall has been returned to the Corps of Cadets for the 1994-95 school year. What most of Texas A&M students do not know, though, is the manner in which the situation was handled.

Residents of Gainer Hall are in NO WAY anti-Corps. We feel that it is a vital part of Texas A&M. Our anger does not lie here with the Corps of Cadets, but instead with the bureaucracy and the politics that played in making this very last-minute decision.

Up until Wednesday, the residents of Gainer Hall were led to believe, without a shadow of a doubt, that Gainer would be a female residence hall next year. From the beginning of fall semester members of the A&M hierarchy and the Trigon, told us that it was going to be EXTREMELY optimistic to even think that there was a possibility that Gainer would be returned to the Corps of Cadets this year. Even when residents filled out their housing contract renewals they were given no warning as to the impending situation; therefore, residents were unable to make other living arrangements, either on or off campus. So the decision on Wednesday to move the residents of Gainer to Kiest for next year came as a shock, especially since no one on staff, hall council, or the residents were contacted so they could present their views. Common courtesy and understanding should have dictated that we at least be notified before the school year came to a close.

We are thankful the hierarchy is trying to preserve the Gainer community by moving it into Kiest. What they failed to consider though are safety issues (since males are occupying the first floor it will be very difficult to determine which males really belong in Kiest). They just established the first co-ed, non-reg, Corps corridor (which will have different policies governing first floor from second, third, and fourth), and the fact that many Gainer residents or their parents will have a problem with this new living arrangement and, therefore, residents that would like to continue to be part of the community can no longer do so. It was as if the hierarchy didn't consider Gainer's opinion at all before they acted. It has not ended here though — the possibility remains that after a July 20 review, Gainer may yet again be reverted back to a female residence hall, and the Corps will take Kiest. We at Gainer are glad to be treated as numbers, not Aggies.

Our main goal is not necessarily to keep Gainer, the

building, because it is instead the spirit, the motivation, and the friendships formed between the residents here that really matters. Our goal is to make known the manner in which the situation was handled.

We blame not the Corps, but the bureaucracy for its lack of foresight and common courtesy. How would you feel if your outfit was disbanded and you were split up from some of your buddies, or if they decided just now to take your residence hall and split up the community you worked so hard to establish?

To top it all off, Wednesday night, approximately two hours after the decision to take back Gainer, Gainer Hall Council attended the RHA banquet. Gainer received seven honors in all, more than any other hall, and the ultimate irony is that Gainer was named the 1993-94 Residence Hall of the Year, which means Gainer had the very best living environment offered at Texas A&M. We guess that wasn't good enough.

Lisa Chaszar
Gainer Hall President, Class of '96

Kimberly Hicks
Gainer Hall Secretary, Class of '97

Accompanied by 40 signatures

Enforce current laws first

It is already a felony to carry any kind of gun on any school grounds. If students willingly violate the law, what makes anyone think they won't violate the 1,000 foot gun-free zone law? Many schools have residential housing within 1,000 feet of them. Is it right to prevent these homeowners from owning a sporting or home-defense firearm just to enact a basically redundant law?

To deter future violations, start prosecuting offenders of the existing law both as adults and to the fullest extent of the law instead of letting them off with a slap on the wrist. Maybe then they won't see our criminal justice system as the joke it currently is. In most cases laws already exist for a given offense. Passing more laws will not solve a thing. Enforcing existing laws will.

David R. Webb
Class of '93

Up to hair with feminism

I am writing this letter in response to Erin Hill's column entitled, "Is that your hair or is there a ferret on your head?" It seems Hill only takes time off her feminist soap box to educate the reader on the history of

her hair. When she is not discussing important topics like hair coloring and headband fashion, she is delivering fire and brimstone sermons on the horrible plight of women everywhere. Normally, I try to find the strength to overlook these columns, but I knew this one was too good to pass up.

Now I realize these are opinion columns which are supposed to be entertaining, but certainly there must be guidelines in the journalist handbook on topic selection. Hill should do her childhood reminiscing in her diary and save us the agony of reading another pointless article.

Chris Cravey
Class of '95

Donate to Food Roundup

We all read and hear about people starving in far-away places on a daily basis. So often, we simply think of how tragic this is and then go on about our daily business. Sadly, there are many people within our own community here in Bryan and College Station, that often wonder where their next meal is coming from. However, during these last weeks of school, Aggies will have the chance to help out these local residents by donating food items to the Aggie Food Roundup.

Food items may be placed in any of the appropriately marked boxes located within the dorms or may be dropped off at the Ryder truck parked near Rudder Fountain. All items will be donated to the two local food banks located in Bryan and College Station. So, as you clean out your dorm or apartment, please remember those who are less fortunate and donate any extra food items you might have to the Aggie Food Roundup. To simply have pity on the hungry is not enough. It is only by giving that we are able to stop their hunger.

Cody Rodgers
Class of '96

Criticism needs revision

This is a letter to the couple who sat in my section on the evening of April 26. I like to call myself a wait-person, although in most cases I only bring my patrons drinks. The couple in my section ordered two waters, never once looking at me or acknowledging my presence.

Sensing that these two particular customers were not exactly in the mood for any chit-chat, I didn't bother them with any frivolous conversation about the weather or the temperature of the soup. Twice I returned to refill their waters, and once I altered their ticket because they had decided on more food.

As they prepared to depart, I told them to have a

good evening, yet I received neither a reply nor an acknowledgement. From their aloof demeanor, I was not expecting a tip, but I was not expecting what I found either. A napkin, scribbled with "No tip for you, B-tch," was left prominently displayed on top of potato residue.

Anyone in the food service industry knows you cannot please all the people all the time. And while I am sure this couple had my best interest at heart, their constructive criticism of my wait techniques missed the mark.

If you did not like some aspect of your meal and it was some fault of mine, then perhaps a more specific example of how I could improve would be better. Scribbling a nasty note on a napkin is a waste of time and such a vague reference to me is of little practical use. Perhaps you should review your approach to critiquing the service industry, employing both more elaboration and a more dignified use of the English language.

By the way, why do you have the audacity to leave a nasty note, but omit the letter "i" from your profanity? I suppose you are too proper to write that five-letter word fully. Thanks, that means a lot that you held back on my account.

Christie Tate
Class of '95

Planning makes no sense

The Department of Planning and Construction needs a student in charge. They've destroyed the Academic Building, and they are preparing to do the same on Southside. The windows did need to be replaced; they were old and in poor condition. The deterioration was in large part due to poor maintenance. Wonder who planned that one?

According to the construction crew, the original contract called for replacement windows that would contain the smoked glass prevalent on campus, but would maintain the same appearance as the old windows. These windows were not any more difficult to install. Wonder what genius canceled that idea?

Apparently, they don't intend to stop with the destruction of this piece of AggieLand history, either. They plan to put a building on the two lane street between Heldenfels and Peterson and put a faculty parking lot where the Pavilion parking is. That ought to decrease traffic. NOT!

Students park on the outskirts of campus or ride the bus now. Is our esteemed faculty too good to ride the shuttle bus from a faculty parking garage on West Side? Or maybe they can ride the off-campus buses like the rest of us? Why can't Planning and Construction think of these obvious solutions?

Jim Hudson III
Class of '93