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Monday • August 1, 1994

Opinion
Julia Stavenhagen
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- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

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- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have complete all of your degree requirements prior to July 29, 1994, you may request a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies and present it to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Wednesday, August 3, 1994, to complete the application for eligibility verification (requires several days to process).
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on approximately October 5, 1994, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, Visa or Mastercard no later than August 5, 1994.

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The approximate date of the ring delivery is October 5, 1994.

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THE BATTALION

RWANDA: A WELFARE NATION

Officials expect Rwanda to remain a nation on the Dole for years

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — In a shell-pocked garden cafe, a waitress serves sizzling kebabs and warm Dutch beer to patrons shaded by large blue umbrellas. Few in Kigali are fooled by such images of normalcy.

Just blocks away, scores of returning refugees, surrounded by the pitiful bundles of their last possessions, huddle over smoky campfires, cooking their meager rations.

Even they are among the lucky in Rwanda. They are survivors, fortunate to have escaped the butchery of up to 500,000 men, women and children. They are better off than the millions who fled only to find new horrors of hunger, disease and death in neighboring countries.

American and other foreign troops coming here to rush food and medicine to the sick and starving will find a country looted, bankrupt, shattered by civil war and torn apart by genocide. It has no money, little to eat, a scattered, frightened populace and no chance of rebuilding alone.

Rwanda is a nation on the dole. It believes it will remain one for years.

"The economic situation in Rwanda is a catastrophe," said Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu.

"There is no money in the central bank or in private banks because the so-called self-proclaimed government has taken all the money," he said, referring to the government recently driven into exile by the Rwandan Patriotic Front. "To find a solution, we have to appeal to the outside world."

That means going, hat in hand, to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Union and individual countries, such as the United States, for help.

"We need money, and for

that we need credit," Twagiramungu said.

Rwanda has little to offer as collateral other than plans and promises. Infrastructure is in pieces. War destroyed factories, schools, hospitals and bridges. Foreign help is needed to restore electricity, running water and telephone service.

Despite the huge international relief effort, Twagiramungu said people are dying of hunger all over Rwanda. Food crops are withering and dying in abandoned fields. Without continued massive aid, relief workers fear famine.

No one knows how long it will take for this tiny country to feed itself. No one knows how long millions of refugees and displaced people will stay away from their homes and farms, living on handouts.

Most of Rwanda's foreign exchange came from exporting 30,000 tons of coffee a year. But this year, because of the war and the people's panicked flight, there will be no exports.

"The country is poor. We have no natural resources, only exports of tea and coffee," Twagiramungu said. "The harvest was supposed to be in April and May, but the peasants could not pick the (coffee) beans because of the war. It is finished."

With the crops dead and factories destroyed, Rwanda needs people to rebuild. To lure them home and attract more aid, the new government has to instill confidence in its commitment to reconciliation and rebuilding.

"We have to assure not only the American people but the whole world that we are not going to get into the trap of revenge, retribution and reprisals. We are here to build our nation," Twagiramungu said Sunday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said Sun-

Seeds of conflict

Seeds of the ethnic violence that has caused 500,000 deaths in Rwanda since April were planted centuries ago. The tiny nation was born as a kingdom in the 13th century, ruled by the Tutsis, a political minority descended from herdsmen. Although the Tutsis maintained a tight rein on the kingship, they existed fairly peacefully with the majority Hutus.

After a 29-year period of indirect German rule, a League of Nations mandate united Rwanda with neighboring Burundi under Belgian rule. With the introduction of democratic government and the publication of the Bahutu Manifesto, the Tutsis lost control. In 1962, the country regained independence, and ethnic strife has simmered ever since, exploding in periodic coup attempts and massacres. Before his death in a mysterious plane crash in April, Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana had established a fragile truce with the Tutsis.



- RWANDA:**
- Size: 10,169 square miles
 - Population: 7.5 million
 - 90 percent Hutu; 9 percent Tutsi; 1 percent pygmy
 - Economy: About 93 percent is based on agriculture, primarily coffee, sweet potatoes, bananas and beans.
- BURUNDI:**
- Size: 10,759 square miles
 - Population: 5.5 million; 84 percent Hutu; 15 percent Tutsi
 - Economy: About 93 percent is based on agriculture, primarily coffee, beans, cassava, corn, peanuts, also nickel.
- AP/Wm. J. Castello, Eileen G.

Guarding the people, not the clinics

Volunteers accept risks of violence to escort abortion patients

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — They call themselves escorts, volunteers who act as human buffers to protect abortion patients from the shouts and screams of protesters opposed to abortion.

And now, following Friday's shotgun slayings of a doctor and his escort outside

an abortion clinic, they know and accept that their duties put them at risk of deadly violence.

"When you open your eyes in the morning, you almost have to be willing to say it might be the day you die," said Debbie Myers, coordinator of 20 escorts volunteering their services in the Pensacola area.

"We've all had to look inside ourselves after what happened. Everyone knew what the realities were. We've always talked about it. Escorting is not for everyone," she said.

An escort's primary mission is to accompany abortion patients, many of whom are bewildered and frightened, through throngs of

abortion protesters who gather outside clinics.

In trying to stop abortions, protesters use tactics like displaying pickled fetuses, bloody baby dolls, mimicking an infant cry, shouting that women have died during abortions or telling patients that they are murderers and are condemning themselves to hell, according to abortion rights groups.

But escorts say they are there for support, not as bodyguards.

"We don't guard clinics. We are there to see that the women get safely inside," Myers said. "It used to be we were human shields. We act as a human buffer. We try to minimize the emotional pain."

Rwanda hopes to keep from coming another African country surviving year to year on the international community's largesse.

"We must have a clear plan that is our duty as a government," he said. "But once we have a plan, they must help us."

For other students it's a chance to find if college is really for them.

Boyd said, "If students can't make grades in the summer, then we know it can't in the fall."

Summer school may be less crowded than the regular semesters, but it can pose problems of its own.

Schroeder said, "Because it moves so fast, there's so much to remember."

Boyd said 80 percent of last summer's provisional freshmen made their requirements and were accepted for the fall.

Castro said the orientation program might be repeated in the fall or next year.

"It might be something that might become a tradition," he said. "Who knows?"

WHAT'S UP

Monday

Student Counseling Service: Center for Career Planning is doing a Strong Interest Inventory Interpretation (requires completion of testing two working days in advance) from 1:30-3 p.m. in Henderson Hall. Call the Center for Career Planning at 845-4427 for more information.

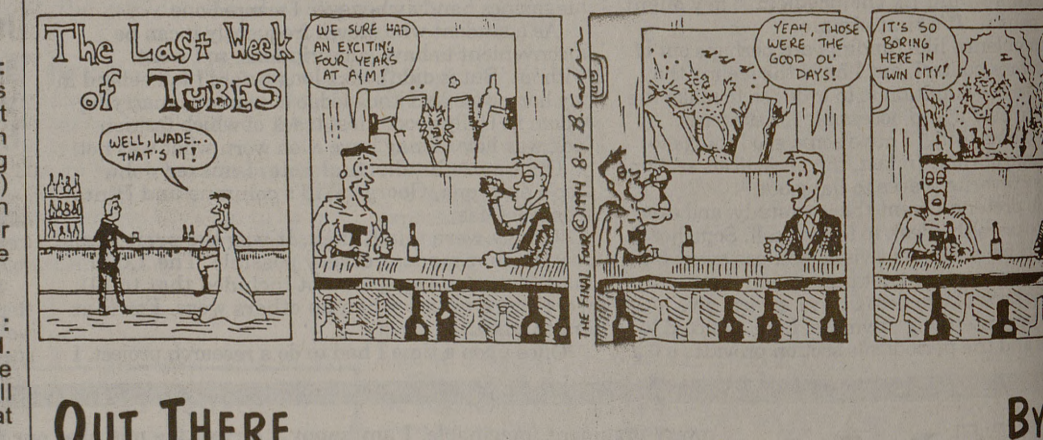
TAMU Women's Rugby: Practice every Mon. and Wed. in the Rugby Field next to the Polo Field at 6:30 p.m. Call Faye at 822-0651 or Janina at 696-0877 for more information.

TAMU Roadrunners: Meet in front of G. Rollie White at 8 p.m. Mon. through Thur. to run. New members welcome. Call Shea at 694-8000 for more information.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

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By Boomer Cardina



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