

McElroy, who accounted for A&M's 70 yards and scored the Aggie and touchdown, to score 14-0. In the 11th, UT placekicker on made the almost mistake when, at only touchdown, he to McElroy. Three yards later, the d a first-and-goal at one-yard line, and s after that, the Ag their 24 point lead 7.

atched Leeland and ell) right before the was still very sun they kicked to him. R.C. Slocum said big play. We got a good turnover, t easy out there. t admitting that every team was hyped up, annual clash with inted at concern for focus in relation to ng two games. tier for players and get up for Texas. id. "But we have with a tough road ouisville, plus, we home game versus g TCU team. t two games will be to get the players or."

now only trail 21- gain, knowing e that's not such ps back in the s looking up high Woodson is hold- they don't call it. g over to Slaugh- figures is all over THE HELL ARE S LOOKING AT? at they're doing, inside linebackerarked in the lane onds now with no OT has it stolen rkley, he takes off ay... What? He's How the hell are alling this? Oh st a bunch of Barkley gets an o other way, and I P. might as well ame..."

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OPINION

This life was made for dancing Generations celebrate beauty of human relationships

JENNY MAGEE
Opinion Editor

From the moment they took the dance floor, I couldn't watch anyone else. Together they embodied the music - this jubilant, carefree rhythm. They sauntered across the dance floor with an awkward bouncing grace. Her green silk dress whirled outward, creating a vacuum of space around them and this moment they were sharing. She held him closer and closer.



"No you're not. I'm the best dancer that there ever was 'cause my daddy taught me," he said as he ripped the little red bow-tie from his collar. "Who cares! I'll race you to the other side of the room." "Hey, sis, come dance with me. You remember when I taught you in the basement before the senior prom. Oh, come on, no one cares. You won't look stupid. We're all getting older. I never get to talk to you anymore. The kids are fine. Of course they miss Marjorie. No, I haven't spoken to her. I guess I'm paying the lawyer good money to do something. I guess it would be kinda of ironic if we learned to communicate now..."

The music and her movement captivated the unconscious urgency of the moment. This youth, this pure undaunted joy was making a memory. For I am sure, in some later year she will tell her son about the dance they shared at his aunt's wedding. As the song faded to a conclusion, the happy couple left the floor to go about the more pressing matters of cleaning a dirty face and changing a dirty diaper. But, they left me sitting at my table to watch the others take the floor. And the music played on, and these people who had left their hectic schedules, unpaid bills and countless worries in some other place to celebrate the marriage of a loved one, took a moment out of life to dance.

Come dance with me, son. I gave you my daughter; you owe me at least one dance. You know, I'm joking. I wish you both all the happiness in the world. There is so much I could tell you to spare you so much needless pain, but you both will learn. But, you will take care of her right? It was only yesterday when she...

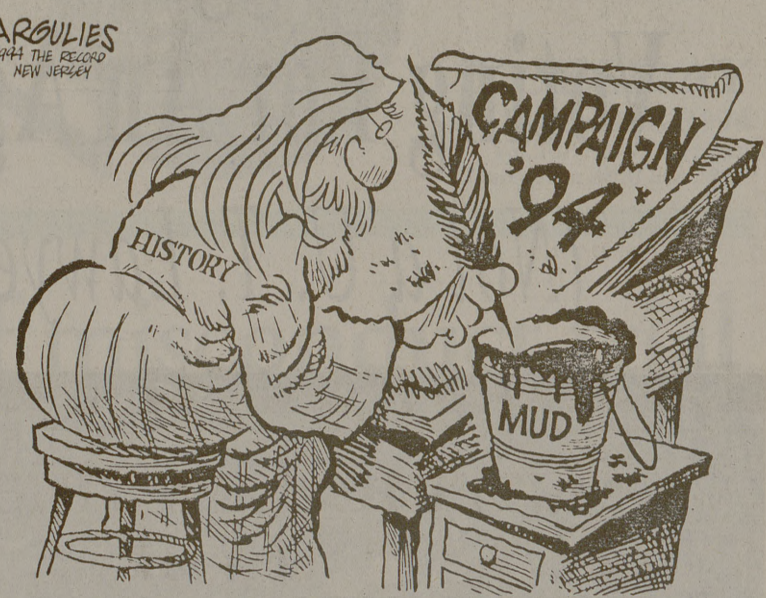
He walked up to her and asked, "Could I have this dance? I've been watching you from the other side of the room. Normally I wouldn't ask. I mean I don't even know your name. But, today, right now... this feeling may pass. They walked hand-in-hand onto the floor. They had been sitting silently at their table since they had arrived at the reception, not really certain of how to be social anymore. Surely it hadn't been that long ago when they had worried about honeymoon plans, wondered if more people liked chocolate or vanilla cake and decided they really did have to invite cousin Vernon after all.

And right now, I am sitting here watching the formality of a wedding become real, watching faces redden with each glass of champagne, belts being loosened and shoes being tossed to the edge of the dance floor. But, in other places where this music can't be heard, a bullet is blasting through a body. A woman is being beaten because the macaroni and cheese dinner burned. Somebody is dying of AIDS. Somebody went to bed with an empty stomach. But today, right here we are dancing. The same hands that can wound and murder can also hold and caress.

Then they looked at each other in the eyes, for the first time in many years, and smiled slowly, silently before they got up and walked to the floor. His pants hung loosely from his waist; a faded navy blue against her bright teal dress. At first, they barely moved and barely touched. The music didn't sound so familiar, but then they remembered the way they fit, how she stepped a little farther back so he would miss her toes.

The same feet that run through life without a moment's rest can also move slowly in time with the rhythm. And we can dance. And hold me a little closer - just one more song. I don't quite remember how... In my day, I could really cut the rug, but it has been so long. One day, I'll teach you; one day you'll want to learn. And we can dance.

Jenny Magee is a junior journalism and English major



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EDITORIAL

DOESN'T ADD UP

Aggie Bucks monopolize financial source

Texas A&M should expand the Aggie Buck system to off-campus businesses or get rid of the entire system completely.

to use Aggie Bucks off campus, there should be some form of regulation. Students should be allowed to use the debit card system only if they use it responsibly. There should be parameters and guidelines for the use of Aggie Bucks off-campus. Parents and students paying for them should have confidence that their money is being spent in a responsible manner.

The Aggie Buck debit system for the University makes A&M a financial dictator by taking away money from other local businesses which in turn, prevents the city from flourishing economically.

In addition, to use the Aggie Bucks off-campus, a system should be created to expand the uses of the debit card system to other areas. At Florida State University, for example, the students' financial aid can be credited to their debit cards. Creating such a program at a campus as large as A&M, would help prevent unnecessary frustration and paperwork.

If students were allowed to use Aggie Bucks off-campus, it would help the economy and stimulate growth of the city as a whole. If the Aggie Buck system is expanded to off-campus businesses, it would not hurt the places on campus that accept them already. There is a larger concentration of students on campus than off, and students tend to shop at stores such as the MSC out of sheer convenience.

If the Aggie Buck system is expanded to other areas, students, the University and the city would benefit as a result. By keeping the same system, A&M will continue to create a monopoly and thus prevent other businesses from flourishing.

Besides, the University does not depend on Aggie Buck funds to support it economically. Rather, the financial stability of the University is based on tuition and other fees. However, if students are allowed



MAIL CALL

Bonfire Part 2 built the hell outta Aggie spirit

In this year of challenge for Texas A&M, a wonderful thing occurred. Bonfire 1994 Part Deux. If there is a positive note - other than the fact that Bonfire was rebuilt in slightly over a week and subsequently torched - it lies in the unity Aggies displayed to complete this endeavor.

One did not hear the cries of "No women in the perimeter!" Nor did we have reports of non-conformist individuals being accosted at the Bonfire site. Yes, there were reports of some offensive music being played earlier in the construction of Bonfire '94 Part I; however, when I visited the rebuilding, all I heard was Marty Robbins. You know, I can't remember the last time "El Paso" offended anyone. Bonfire '94 Part Two seems to have brought out the best in individuals in a time of crisis. "Handles" were dropped and some of the more demeaning rituals ceased. Aggies from all walks of life, a group of current and former students came together to accomplish a task. I must say that a certain amount of chicanery still took place. It is still good to know that staking naked (or partially naked) did not go out of style and that the primal nature of stacking logs and shouting vulgarities was indeed intact at Bonfire '94 Part II. But, as Stewart Smalley would say "That's OK." Unless of course you're a tree-hugger and then in that case nothing is OK. How many times have we witnessed over the course of history, in times of challenge, the coming together of individuals to do what is necessary

without all of the nonsense associated with the political and ideological hang-ups that often intrude on our day-to-day lives? What would it be like if in "real life," as we go about "our" business, we could cut out all the b.s., do our jobs, listen to Marty Robbins and occasionally moon someone?

Republicans hoping to color their way to a win

I would like to congratulate the Republicans at A&M on using their time effectively in the waning hours before the Nov. 8 election. For all the Ags who don't have a Gov. Ann Richards bumper sticker or any other sticker supporting a Democratic candidate, the Republicans at this college are using their newly acquired kindergarten coloring skills to color over the bumper stickers for free! While I have been phone banking, the Republicans are coloring. I am sponsoring ad campaigns, the Republicans are coloring. I am part of a student organizational movement to educate students, the Republicans are coloring. It comforts me to know that the Republicans are using their time wisely. At least I know they are not wasting their time trying to get people to vote, they are too busy coloring! And by the way, it does not matter how many bumper stickers you destroy, the best candidate will still win. That candidate is Gov. Ann Richards. Gig 'em, and vote on Tuesday.

Family photo won't fit in same frame

Cookie cutter American family expands to encompass changing society

Read a newspaper, watch the news or listen to talk around campus. The world is a depressing place to live in, and society is falling apart at the core. Occupying a place of honor in the midst of all these depressing commentaries is the great "family" debate.

Everyone has an opinion on it. Dan Quayle thinks that the nuclear, traditional family is the only way to go. Murphy Brown has a child out of wedlock, by choice. Everyday in The Battalion, there are ads for semen donors and people who want to adopt unwanted children. Studies are popping up everywhere on both the merits and flaws of step-families, single-parent households, same sex parents and/or aliens from the planet Mars as parents.

conditional love, no one would need to worry about the lack of traditional family values. It all begins with how we treat children. If shown love, a cycle will develop that can be perpetrated. I have always known that no matter how scared, angry or selfish I feel, my mother will welcome me into her embrace. Every joy or sadness that we share binds us tighter and reinforces our love for each other. Because of this sounding board, I feel secure enough to try anything I want.

In the midst of all this moaning and groaning, families across America are finding that the secret to happiness and good relationships is not who is at the head of the family, but how the families share and can depend on each other. Any parents can find this happiness if they try hard enough. "Jana" has happily married parents and three well-adjusted younger brothers. She jokes that she has the perfect family, and they are. The children are all growing up and moving out, yet the family ties they share remain stronger than ever. "Liza" is a child of divorced parents who have been in and out of financial court with each other for 10 years. In spite of this, she and her mother share a bond that all of Liza's friends envy. In addition, her mother's husband has slowly become an irreplaceable part of the family. While not nearly as "perfect" as Jana's family, no one in Liza's family would trade places for any price. "Carrie" has lived with her mom since her parent's divorce nine years ago. She gets along great with her father, and her parents are able to main-

tain a friendly relationship. In spite of their divorce, she feels loved and secure with both of her parents. These three have nothing in common, except for the peace and love they feel within their families. Jana is the "family values" poster child - the daughter of the only non-dysfunctional family left on the planet. Liza has more traumas in her history than years in age, yet she is happy. Carrie is not a member of a "perfect" family, but she is able to maintain inner serenity through her parents' maturity.

When I meet people who are sad deep in their hearts, invariably I find they grew up feeling unloved. Married parents or not, wealthy or poor, insecurity and a lack of acceptance can undermine a child's maturation process. The power of childhood scars has always amazed me. I know people who are so crippled by their childhood experiences that they simply cannot get past it - even 10 years after the fact. If Dan Quayle and Candice Bergen had spent all of the energy and money they spent bickering on advertising ways to communicate and express emotions within a family, imagine how much good they could have done. All of their fighting and childishness amounts to nothing more than free publicity for both of them. No steps were taken toward solving what is really ailing the American family. If we as a society could concentrate on educating people on how to love and care for each other, instead of on petty disagreements, our world would be much improved.

The secret to solving the problems facing the American family in the coming century is simple. Instead of narrowing the acceptable family back down to the 1950's version of 1 man + 1 woman + 2.5 children = only good family, we should concentrate on teaching the myriad of families that do exist to treasure each other. The only way to have a happy family is for all of the members to feel completely accepted. If every single person in the world had a family they could go to for un-

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Elizabeth Preston is a junior English major

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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Address letters to: The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111 77843-1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647