

# Clue in — women tired of negative stereotypes

**"I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat,"** said Rebecca West, in 1913.



**ERIN HILL**  
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

most cater to men during Women's Week. Women shouldn't have to soften their message, or package their agenda, or couch their concerns in gentle terms, just to get people to listen. People should listen because women make up half of the human population.

Women are people, equal to men. They aren't charity cases, and they aren't problems to be solved at a panel discussion.

So listen up. Some did come to the panel, mostly guys. This was also interesting. It seems that the marketing ploy worked. Men spoke, men listened — the women's movement was analyzed, assessed, and then they probably moved on.

Some good stuff did happen at the panel discussion, and intelligent comments were made, especially those that encouraged men to break down gender barriers and avoid traditional stereotypes.

But the "Don't look at this as a battle between the sexes. There is a lot to be gained when we look beyond the stereotypes that we are taught," comment by panelist Dr. Gary Brooks, a psychologist with the Temple Veterans Administration, was a little tough to swallow.

Hmm ... This isn't a war, not necessarily, and yet there are battles being fought. It isn't 'us' against

'them' — it is 'acceptable' versus 'unacceptable.' Some conditions, some traditions, some behaviors and many attitudes are simply unacceptable. They need to be eliminated, not excused.

To simply push the fight aside, and say that battles shouldn't be fought, demeans the actions of all the men and women who are working towards equality.

But thinking of men and women as two sides in a terrible war isn't the best way to achieve that equality. Instead, let's think of humans being on one side; outdated traditions and remnants of sexism are on the other.

We needn't fight against each other, if all will join the fight against sexism.

Unfortunately, some less than intelligent comments were made too. Observations that should have been obvious several decades ago were presented as revelations, such as this brilliant assessment: "There are many shades in the women's movement," said Michael Osterburh, area coordinator for Residence Life and Housing.

He revealed to the audience that not all women are one extreme or the other. Not all women are traditionalists, not all women are feminists.

Oh ... But perhaps he was right to mention that women are as varied in temperament, talent and tendencies as men. Let's hope we've got that straight from now on.

The confusion experienced by men in their

dealings with women was also discussed, much to the delight — I'm sure — of the mostly male audience.

It was said: "We see a confusion of roles. Guys don't know if they should hold the door open or pick up the check," said Dr. Brian Williams, of A&M's Student Counseling Center, at the A&M Women's Week panel discussion.

"Conflicting messages from women are forcing men to think about what they really want," he said.

Do women really want the door held open? Is this the big issue that the women's movement has worked so hard for long to bring to public light?

I don't think so, but the answer is: If he gets there first, then yes, he should hold it open.

Conflicting messages? I couldn't reply any better than Susan Faludi, Pulitzer prize-winning author of Backlash does:

**"Feminism's agenda is basic: It asks that women ... be free to define themselves — instead of having their identity defined for them, time and again, by their culture ... Feminism remains a pretty simple concept, despite repeated efforts to dress it up in grease paint and turn its proponents into gargoyles."**

Any questions?

*Erin Hill is a senior English major*

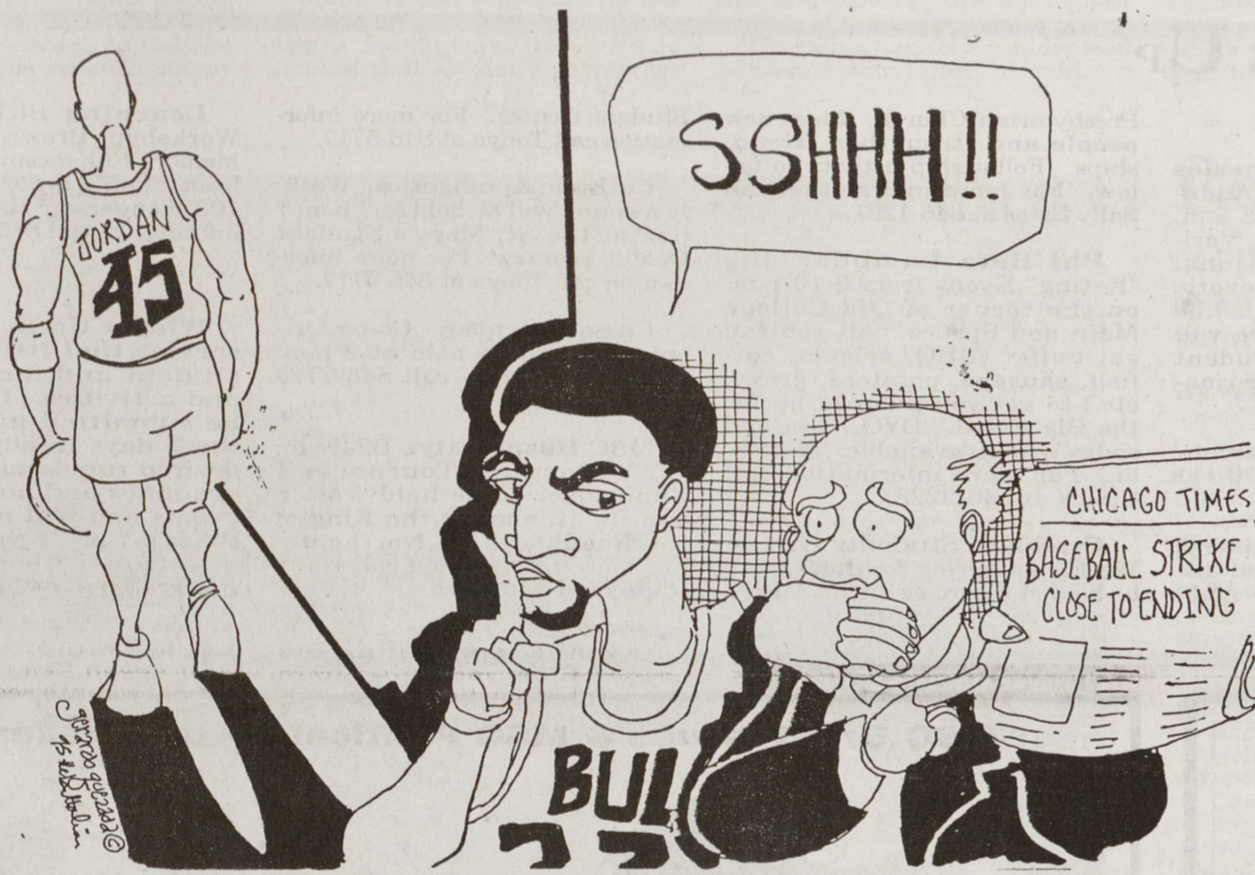
It's Women's Week at A&M, and they've thrown a variety of activities together in honor of the occasion. Things like fashion shows, health issue lectures and panel discussions.

Speaking of the panel discussion. A bunch of men were asked to talk about the women's movement. That was interesting. A men's panel discussion as the high point of Women's Week.

I suppose men might have something to say about this topic, but why would they be the featured speakers during a time of celebration for women on this campus?

Perhaps the men's panel discussion was held so that men would be encouraged to participate in Women's Week. Perhaps it was thought, and rightly so, that some men would rather hear other men talk about women and their situations, than actually listen to women discuss those issues.

In any case, it seems disappointing that we



## Arlen Spector leaves much to be desired for Republicans

**JIM STALEY**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Senator Arlen Spector of Pennsylvania has announced he will seek the Republican nomination for the President of the United States.

His announcement, although not unanticipated, presents puzzling questions on why he thinks he has a chance.

If the 1994 elections made any statement, it is that America wants more conservative leadership in Washington.

Both houses of Congress have become dramatically more conservative. And since the elections, President Clinton has tried to paint himself once again as a "New Democrat" by proposing tax cuts.

Senator Spector, who has been in politics for three decades, has distinguished himself through his voting record as probably the most liberal Republican vying for the nomination. He has a history of breaking ranks with Republicans.

In the 1980's when President Reagan nominated Judge Robert Bork for the supreme court, Senator Spector was one of the few Republicans who helped Democrats kill the nomination.

Why? Because Judge Bork disagreed with Roe v. Wade.

More recently, Senator Spector aided the Democrats in breaking the Republican filibuster on the 1994 crime bill.

As a former district attorney, he is a strong supporter of social programs, such as midnight basketball, which were part of the legislation.

Senator Spector is one of the few candidates that is pro-choice. He is an outspoken advocate of removing the pro-life plank in the Republican party platform.

With his voting record, why does he think he has a chance?

If there was any year that you would think moderate or liberal Republicans would not run for President, this is it.

In primaries, voters in both parties are decidedly more polarized. Moderates tend to stay home and wait for the general election.

But Senator Spector has an even more intriguing history many people are not aware of.

In 1990, in anticipation of a tough senatorial primary challenge from a conservative Republican, Senator Spector chose to be the chief Republican in charge of interrogating Anita Hill during the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings.

Although this effort helped him survive the primary, it almost cost him his seat in the general election. An unknown Pennsylvania housewife who was incensed by how Spector treated Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegations, garnered 49 percent of the vote.

After the fact, Senator Spector has spoken of his regret about the affair and has insinuated that if he

had to do it again, he would have voted against Justice Thomas.

But more importantly, in 1964 a young assistant district attorney named Arlen Spector was chosen to be a staff member on the Warren Commission, which was charged with investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Given the Commission's foregone conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, Spector's job was to determine how this could have happened.

The result of Spector's investigation was the "magic bullet theory."

You remember — the bullet that caused seven wounds (two in Kennedy and five in Governor John Connally) and came out intact and in pristine condition.

It was also the bullet that zigzagged and paused in mid air.

This theory is the very foundation of the Warren Report. Only three shells were fired from the Oswald rifle, and two are accounted for — one missed and one was the fatal head shot.

Once you conclude that one bullet could not have caused all seven

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wounds, you must conclude there was a fourth shot.

And with a fourth shot, you necessarily need a second gunman.

Trivial facts such as these were ignored by Senator Spector in his frantic search for closure.

I am confident Senator Spector will not win the nomination.

Many conservatives will not vote for him because he is pro-choice.

Many Republicans will not support him because of his renegade voting record and his tendency to vote for big government spending programs.

His vote for a crime bill that included an assault weapons ban ensures a poor showing in the southern region.

But those are not the reasons why I could never support Senator Spector.

In certain circumstances I can forgive a Senator's past voting mistakes. I also do not hold abortion as a litmus test for Republican candidates.

But I cannot forgive someone for committing the biggest fraud in the history of America.

Because of Senator Spector's efforts to conclude the investigation into President Kennedy's death quickly and expeditiously, Americans have been denied a truthful explanation on what really occurred on November 22, 1963.

*Jim Staley is a senior management major*



### Legislators should not censor super-highway

I've uncovered something terrible on the Internet. It seems that Congress, including our own Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, has decided it's time to censor the net. A bill that began making its rounds on Feb. 1 of this year was handed back by the Senate Commerce Committee — of which Hutchison is a member — on Thursday of last week (March 23) as an addition to the Telecommunications Deregulation Act of 1995.

It proposes to make it illegal to "transmit" or "make available" any sort of "communication, request, proposal, image, or suggestion" that is, as the bill says, is "indecent."

This is a blatant attempt to censor the Internet. The bill actually amends 43 U.S.C. 223 to include telecommunications devices (like modems) rather than just telephones. And, in addition, doubles the fine from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and quadruples the jail time from six months to two years for violation should it become law.

To me this sounds like a dangerous blow to Freedom of Speech as protected by the Bill of Rights. Please contact your senators and ask them to stand up for your rights to say whatever you feel like on the net.

I know there are Ags out there that know how to use IRC, Mosaic and the WWW, e-mail and Usenet. All these things are in danger as we speak. Protect your rights as an Aggie and a citizen of the U.S. of A!

*Pete Sikierski*  
Class of '96

### Corps of Cadets does not play party politics

I am writing in response to Michael Landauer's column about "party politics" in the March 29 Battalion.

First of all, Landauer displayed poor journalism skills by writing a column

when he is completely clueless about his subject.

The Corps does not gather all candidates interested in running for office and pick and choose who is going to be in the elections.

Any cadet that wishes to run for any political position may do so.

One thing that will never change about the Corps is that we will always support our own.

Landauer sees this support as party politics, but I see it as a vote for the candidates we are most familiar with.

Non-reg friends of mine have told me that they vote the same way.

Cadets are encouraged to vote for other cadets, but they are NOT ordered to. When I was an underclassman, I voted for non-regs if I felt they were the best candidate.

Yell Leader is a position that should have nothing to do with politics.

The Yell Leaders are probably the most visible people on this campus and they should embody the Aggie spirit that is important to all of us on this campus.

A Yell Leader, cadet or non-reg, needs to be unselfish and think more his fellow Aggies than he does of himself.

Corps Yell Leader candidates are chosen by their peers for demonstrating these qualities. I have absolutely no respect for any selfish individual that pouts and whines when he is not chosen and decides he is so important that he needs to shake up the system and run anyway.

I do not see how this kind of person could call himself an Aggie or expect others to do so.

*Matt Barbour*  
Class of '95

### Aggie spirit intact despite controversy

With all the controversy that seems to be going on all the time here in Aggieland, I just wanted to assure everyone that the Aggie Spirit is alive and well.

On Wednesday, March 22, I left my checkbook on the bus.

When I realized it was missing, I was frantic.

I was worried that someone would use the checks before I could report them missing.

When I got home from class there

was a message that my checkbook had been found. Later that evening, the girl who had found them dropped the checkbook off at my apartment. I wasn't there when she came by, and I just wanted to thank her. You are an awesome Ag!

*Kathi Burnett*  
Class of '96

### Corps needs to change attitudes, behavior

I am writing regarding the situation of Yell Leader elections. Personally, I have to say that I am embarrassed with the attitudes and disloyalty that certain "leaders" in the Corps of Cadets have displayed this year.

Does this school not pride itself on being a family and being united?

I personally have a hard time respecting these people when they have disowned one of their own. How do they justify discouraging any member for standing up for what he/she believes in?

Aggies are supposed to be fair, and more than that the Corps of Cadets is said to be a family within themselves.

However, in this situation this "family concept" has not shown through.

Instead, they vandalized one's property and heckled behind their backs when they should be proud when one feels such a love and desire for this school to want to stand up for Texas A&M University as a Yell Leader. I have to wonder how these "leaders" feel right now?

Do they feel like Aggies? Because to me, their actions do not hold true the real meaning of an Aggie.

Texas A&M University prides itself on not tolerating those who lie, cheat nor steal.

I feel that these "leaders" need to take a serious look at themselves and re-evaluate their character.

*Hope Siegel*  
Class of '95

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