

# What makes women tick?

**DAVID HILL**

GUEST COLUMNIST

What makes women tick? Now, lest you think that I'm some great authority on women, let me state that I'm not. My last few relationships are ample evidence of that, but they are stories for another time. However, my experiences with a recent conference have left me with a few insights on this subject.

I had the distinct honor and pleasure of sharing a suite with six women who are in the same graduate program that I'm in. The communication student in me could not help but sit back and watch and listen most of the time.

What I've learned is hardly earth-shattering, but it might come in handy. Let me state that much of what you will read here is a generalization based on these six women and the other five or six who we did things with, and thus it is not the gospel truth.

**Observation #1:** Women use different communication patterns than men do.

I can hear some of you saying "No kidding, Sherlock." As one member of the group explained, "Four women can carry on two separate conversations, and all four of them will know everything that is being said."

Several times, I found myself deep in a conversation with one of them, and I would suddenly have to backtrack 15 minutes or more to figure out what she was talking about. Among themselves, however, they could keep track of several seemingly irrelevant tangents at once to maintain the conversation.

Think of it as conversational multi-tasking. These women could share and sort an astonishing amount of information. Although it may seem chaotic, it is a very efficient means of information exchange.

**Observation #2:** Women talk about us as much as we talk about them, if not more so. A number of women in the group — especially one who will be referred to as "Scam Queen" — could be heard to make any number of ... oh, let's call them "appraising" comments about several men who walked past our group.

The main difference between the way men and women make these comments is that women don't appear to have the chromosome that makes men yell these comments out at in-

opportune moments.

**Observation #3:** If women forget a man is listening, he can learn things he never would have known about otherwise. I'm not going to go into detail, as even I'm too smart for that.

Let's just say that I now know more about the mechanics and logistics of breast implants — and other, more delicate subjects — than I ever wanted to know.

More than once, the conversation would suddenly get quiet and someone would say "Oh Ummm ... we're not making you uncomfortable, are we Dave?" I've just filed it all under "Things Man Was Not Meant To Know."

**Observation #4:** It's absolutely amazing what can happen when you speak with a woman as a person and not a stereotype. There is one member of our group who has always been viewed as something of an outsider. She's one of the few people in our program who isn't from A&M, and she often feels somewhat left out.

This woman is also very attractive and has had to deal with the stereotypes of the "dumb blonde" type. I was lucky enough to spend some time with her, during which I learned that she is an engaging conversationalist and an acute observer of human nature and behavior.

However, before this time I had always spoken with her on a surface level. She would respond on a surface level. I would leave after a shallow conversation.

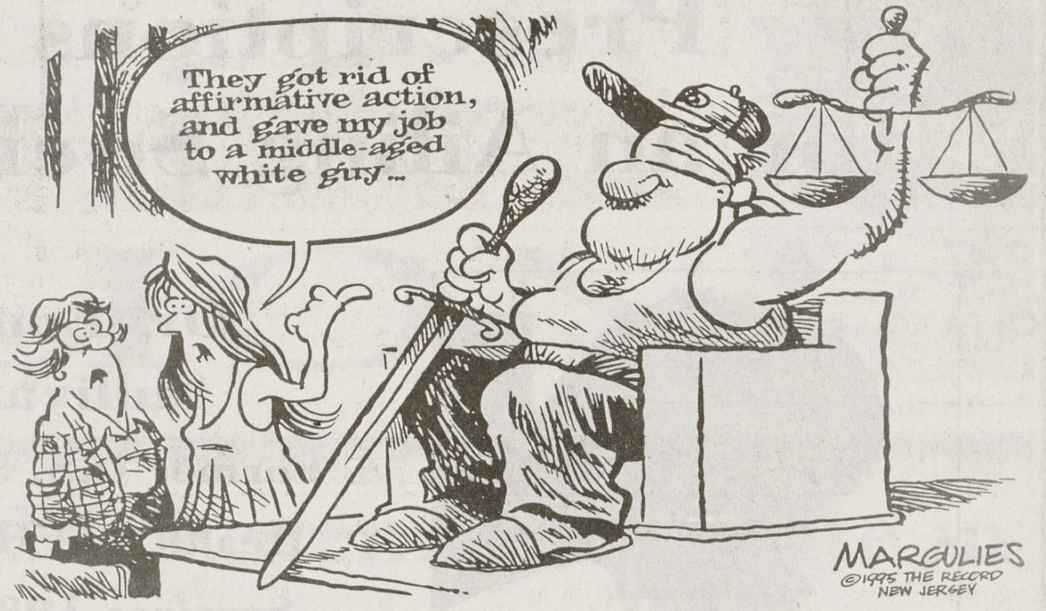
When I spoke with her as an equal, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that she's got a lot more to offer than a pretty face. As I said, she's got a lot of good insights, and she's probably a good bit smarter than I am.

Well, that's it in a nutshell. My four insights into the communication styles of women. As I said before, these are based on a specific group and may not hold true in every situation.

Each woman, like each man, is an individual. Let's face it, men, if we could predict everything they were going to say or do, all the fun would be gone.

Granted, our blood pressures would be lower, but it would not be nearly as interesting.

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Established in 1893

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## EDITORIAL

# LOWER COSTS

Legislation designed to reduce insurance rates for students would be beneficial.

A bill in the Texas legislature may provide a reward for high school, college and vocational school students who maintain good grades. This reward will take the form of lower automobile insurance rates.

This bill, sponsored by Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, would allow insurance companies to offer discounts on automobile insurance to students who are in the top 20 percent of their class or who maintain a B average.

Similar plans have already been implemented by State Farm and Farmers Insurance Company in other states. They have offered discounts ranging from 5 to 10 percent for students who maintain good grades.

These companies support a discount in Texas, although under this bill the amount of the discount would have to be decided by the state insurance commissioner.

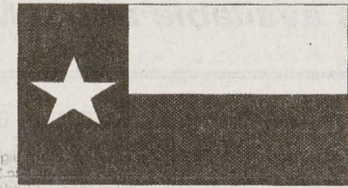
Goolsby stated that the bill will give students "the opportunity to excel and to reward themselves for

their hard work." The bill is currently in a subcommittee where it will be studied more closely.

This bill is beneficial for several reasons. First, it will help lower expenses for a population that typically has high insurance rates. It will also prompt students to excel in their scholastics. As it is not uncommon for parents to help pay for students' insurance, it will also give them a reason to stay involved with their children's academic progress.

If passed, this bill will have a major impact on college students. It offers a financial boost to recognize and reward scholastic excellence. Undoubtedly, this group often has trouble with expenses as it is.

Although opponents might be argued that students should strive for academic excellence regardless of outside rewards, the fact remains that auto insurance rates are very high for everyone under the age of 25. This bill would help alleviate some of this financial drain.



# A&M transportation needs numerous improvements

One might think that students living off-campus have so many options to get to class that there would be no reason to ever be late.

While it's true that there are numerous transportation options, those of us who live off-campus know that none are reliable enough to consistently get anyone to class on time.

Option one — the TAMU bus system. I'm not putting down the buses, but they're not all they're cracked up to be.

Every morning, I arrive at the bus stop 35 to 40 minutes before my class starts. Five or so minutes later, full bus number one passes me by. In another 10 minutes, full bus number two passes me by.

By now, at least two buses going "the other way" — the dreaded counter-clockwise route — have passed me by. When the third "other bus" pulls up, several of us who have reached our breaking point hop on, only to see the bus we wanted fly past us, almost empty. Meanwhile, we are embarking on a tour of suburban College Station on the "other bus."

Option two — driving to campus. This is a nightmare, to say the least. The closest lot to my first class is Zachry lot — home of one of the less famous of the Aggie traditions: the Fightin' Texas Aggie Parking Ritual — this is definitely not followed by a whoop, guys.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the parking ritual, let me give you a brief summary. You must arrive approximately 30 minutes before your class, pick a row in the lot, park at the end of it and wait for people to give up a space.

Unless you arrive at 7 a.m., there will be at least three cars lined up at the end of each row, on both ends. So if you go with this option, be sure you have a good tape in your car — you'll probably listen to all of it.

West campus used to be the last resort of parking until the Wehner building came along. Now, every business student and their brother parks in Fish Lot. I hear the Fightin' Texas Aggie Parking Ritual is practiced out there now, too.

**AMY UPTMOR**  
COLUMNIST



There are a few renegade students who park illegally, in hopes that PITTS won't catch them.

I do know one guy that successfully moved his car from various 30-minute parking spots all day without getting ticketed. His noble victory in the

never-ending battle between students and PITTS officers will go down in the annals of Aggie legends.

I thought I had mastered the art of driving to school when a friend of mine gave me her Northside parking garage spot. That was great for about three days, until it was found out that she did not live on campus anymore and my control card was invalidated.

The third transportation option is the one that I fear the most — riding a bike. Besides the fact that I live pretty far from campus, I've seen too many bicyclists wipe out on George Bush Drive amidst morning traffic to ever consider this option.

Those of you dorm kids who are excited about living off campus next year have this constant nightmare to look forward to. Cherish your short walk from the dorms — it's an underrated blessing.

One would think that a University of this size would have this problem worked out by now.

There are many needed improvements that I'm willing to pay for. More buses and more parking garages would be a welcomed option on my fee statement if it would mean that I would be able to get to class on time.

I hear that a new parking garage is in the planning stages for West campus, and that's great for some of you. But I'm out of here in a year.

At least future generations of Aggies will possibly go their entire four (or more) years here without ever having to experience the transportation nightmare.

I hope, for their sake, that the Fightin' Texas Aggie Parking Ritual is a tradition that will die with my generation.

Amy Uptmor is a junior journalism major



## MAIL CALL

### Think about the history of injustice in America

On March 28, while reading The Battalion, I came across the story of O. G. McClain. O. G. McClain made good on a debt that was over 160 years old. On debt that his Great-grandfather had incurred. I found this a most interesting story. It demonstrated a strong sense of family honor and pride. I thought to myself, "if only America had half a much Honor as one O.G. McClain ..."

The reason I say this is simple. America has a large debt that hasn't been paid. In fact, it doesn't seem like it will ever pay it back. I'm not talking about the national debt, this one is a bit more personal. It is the debt that America owes the descendants of those slaughtered and victimized in the great expansion that was the building of America. O. G. McClain demonstrated a sense of responsibility that is lacking in America.

Now as I watch the news to see the "backlash" against affirmative action, I am reminded of what Martin Luther King Jr. said 30 years ago — that America had given the African Americans a check, and when they went to make due on it, it came back insufficient funds. Once again, America turns its head away from its responsibilities and its debt. It does not even acknowledge that the debts exist.

I think that until Americans face up to these debts, they cannot even begin to think of themselves as a moral and honorable. We need to recognize that the playing field isn't level and that the statute of limitations on the evils of the past has not yet come. I think El Malik El Shabazz — better known to most as Malcolm X — said it best when he said,

"If one stabs a person nine inches deep in the back, then pull it out six inches, it is not progress. There is no progress until we start the healing process."

So the next time you feel you are the victim of reverse racism and discrimination, I want you to imagine living in slavery and the Jim Crow period as an African American. Think, who picked the cotton and tobacco that economically fed America in its infancy.

Think about whose land that cotton was on. Think how the land found its way into European hands. Think of whose blood, sweat and tears went into building this country. Think, who never got their due for these duties.

Most of all fellow Texas A&M students ... I want you to just think.

D.J. Harris  
Class of '96

### Yell leader candidate was true A&M 'cadet'

I take it that Matt Barbour is a member of our Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. The Corps has some fine, outstanding qualities such as honor, integrity and leadership. Unfortunately, none of these were shown in the yell leader elections this year. I am highly disappointed in the Corps for shooting down the most motivated candidate for the office. Any person who attended the student body president forum on March 27, would have seen who the deserving candidate for the position was.

Barbour stated "Any cadet who wishes to run for any political position may do so" and that "one thing that will never change about the Corps is that we will always support our own."

Now we have two Jr. Yell Leaders, both from the corps, neither of whom has shown that they truly wanted the position. One candidate who lost proved his honor and integrity and leadership by standing for only what he saw within the ranks. This man embodies the essence of the Corps, but the Corps

went for name recognition and shot this man in the back. Not once did this, as Barbour so eloquently put it, "... selfish individual that pouts and whines ..." say anything derogatory about our beloved Corps, but every cadet I spoke to lambasted him as a troublemaker.

I believe that our beloved corps needs to re-examine its policies on supporting its own so that next time, it can bring forth qualified candidates and not coat-tail riders.

Clayton D. McKinnis  
Class of '96

### Explanation of action of Corps was pitiful

I hope Matt Barbour is not representative of the entire Corps. His sad attempt to explain the actions of a victim of Corps politics is pitiful.

Whether or not he admits it, the yell leader position is extremely political. Barbour states, "any cadet that wishes to run for any political position may do so." He then continues with, "I do not see how this kind of person could call himself an Aggie or expect others to do so." This person ran for a political position, which Barbour states is alright, and now is not an Aggie? I smell irony here.

If only more people would shake up the system. Maybe then, a cadet who does not receive the Corps endorsement will remain an Aggie in the eyes of his fellow cadets.

Tina Denena  
Class of '94

Accompanied by 2 signatures

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