

So little time, so many lists

Obsessive list-making shouldn't manipulate one's entire life

Lists are an integral part of my life. I make them for everything. Things to do today. Things to do over the summer. Things to do during the course of my lifetime. Things to do when absolutely nothing else can be done.

JENNY MAGEE
COLUMNIST



things-to-do with unflinching precision. Basically, to be totally honest, I am just killing trees. Every day, without so much as a thought, I jot down my oh-so important itinerary in hopes of giving a little order to this

moral pressures every day. Lucky for us, societal expectations change through the course of time. A few short decades ago, all the single, twentysomething girls on this campus would have been considered washed-up, old maids. And attending a coed university would certainly not have been on our things-to-do list.

Often more constraining than society's expectations are our own personal expectations.

Many people, even those who shun list making, have a mental timeline for their lives.

They want to graduate by age 22, be making \$75,000 a year and be married by 28, have two kids and a summer home by 33, and the list continues, clean, clear and rational.

The only problem with our mental things-to-do timelines is life. My father likes to remind me often of an old saying, "Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans."

We are all bound by limitations of time, circumstance and control.

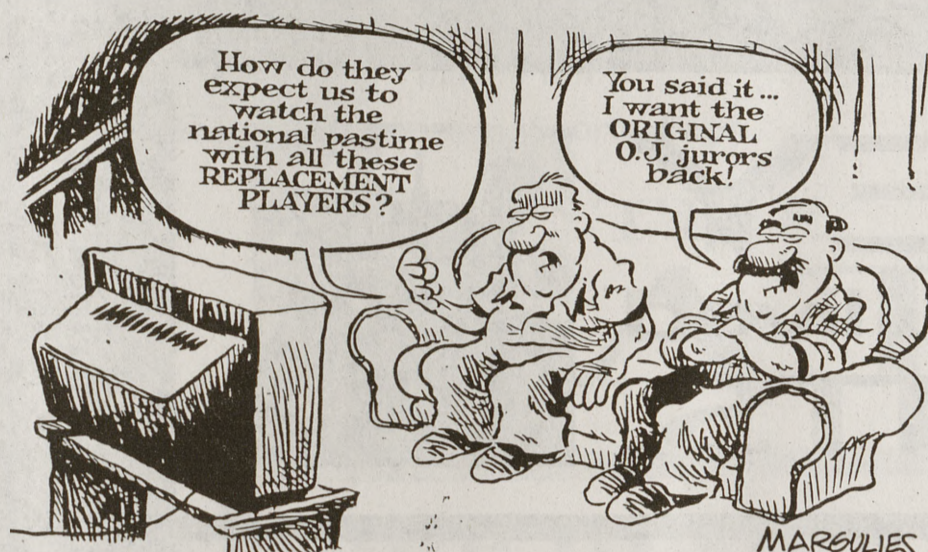
How many times have our worst experiences blossomed into the best possible results in retrospect?

Oftentimes, the reason why that moment, when the world crumbles like cookies around us, is so awful is because the event that became reality contradicted our personal thing-to-do list.

It's funny but it seems the one thing I can't remember to do when I face the cookie crumbs should be number one on my list.

1. Accept current situation and make the best of it.

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MARGULIES
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THE BATTALION

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EDITORIAL

VOTE AGAIN, AGS

It is just as important to make educated votes in the A&M run-off elections.

With the end of regular student government elections last week, many students might think there is nothing left to do except wait until the elections are held again next year. However, the job of political participation is not quite over yet.

Polls open tomorrow in the run-off election, which is just as important as the main election.

In fact, since the field of candidates now is much smaller, we must pay closer attention to the qualifications and platforms of those who are still in the pool.

The stake is the same. We are still electing the leaders for our student body.

Traditionally, fewer people show up for a runoff than for the election itself. Hopefully, that trend will not continue this year. This year's primary election had 2,000 more voters participate than last year.

Even with the increase, only 24 percent of the student body participated in the election. Although there is still

a long way to go, we can see an increase in interest and participation in the elections. First-time student election voters should keep in mind the importance of the run-off election.

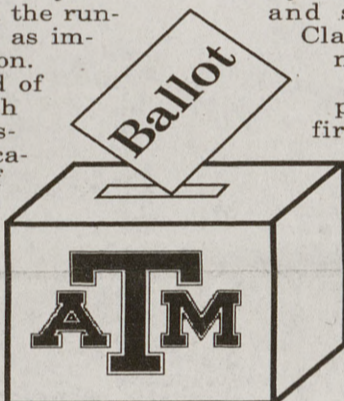
On April 6, the races for Student Body President, RHA President and several offices in the Classes of '96, '97 and '98 finally will be decided.

These races are as pressing as they were the first time. The issues and the candidates should be weighed as seriously as before.

In particular, students should consider carefully the goals, plans and qualifications of Carl Baggett and Toby Boenig.

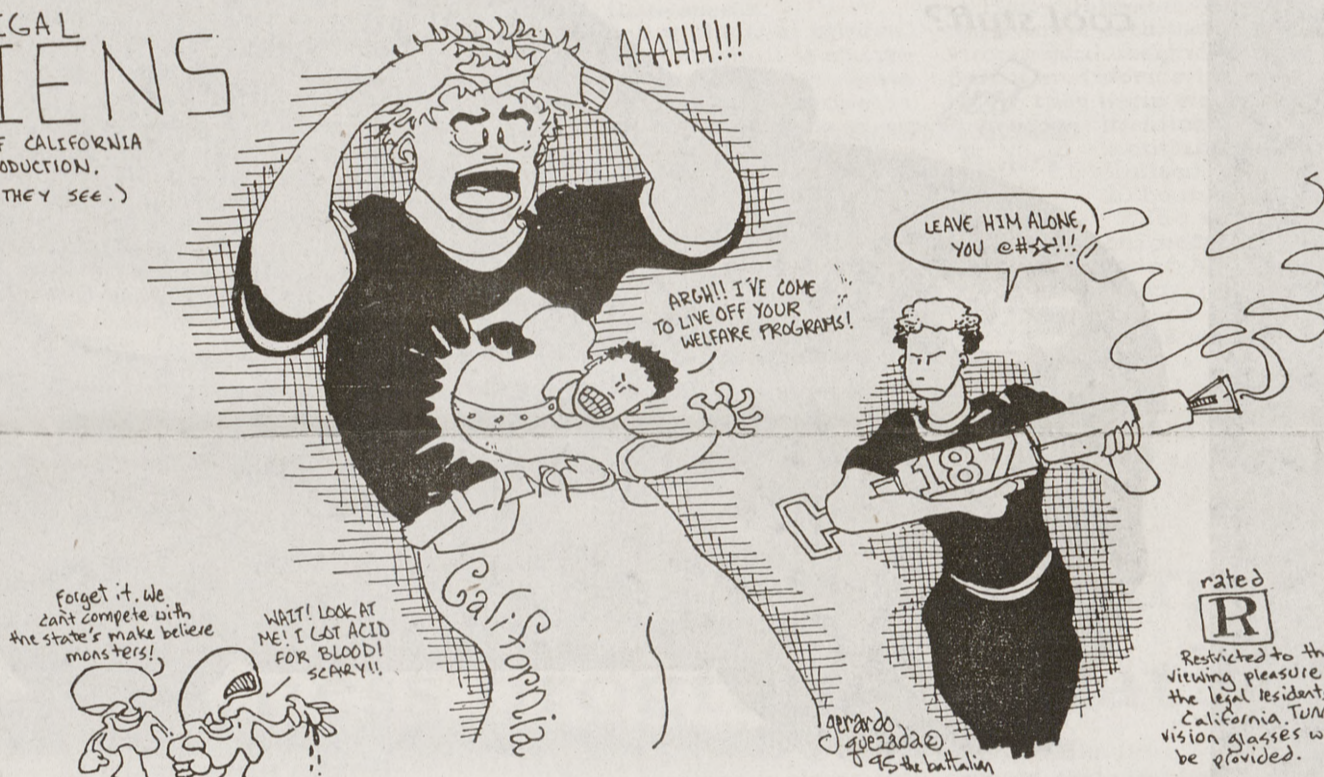
One of these two people will be our Student Body President next year.

It is not unreasonable to hope that the student body president is elected by the student body as a whole, not by a few students — possibly a tiny percentage — who just happen to show up.



ILLEGAL ALIENS

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(WHAT THEY THINK THEY SEE.)



Squads left, Squads right! Corps block voting is alright

Without a doubt, yell leaders are the foremost representatives of Texas A&M University's undying spirit and traditions.

Be they huddled behind the goalpost at the north-end of Kyle Field coaxing a point- after attempt through the uprights, or taking turns telling motivational stories about "Ole Rock" at Midnight Yell, or addressing the public at any number of speaking engagements throughout the school year, yell leaders are forever cast in the spotlight as the champions of Aggie spirit and tradition.

Each spring, the student body elects three seniors-to-be and two juniors-to-be to serve as yell leaders for the upcoming school year.

A whole slew of energetic, red ass Aggies enter the race, but only five emerge as yell leaders, the most recognizable and visible representatives of Texas A&M University.

Unlike officer elections, yell leader elections do not allow for runoffs. Should there be? Opinions differ on this matter, as a bill introduced this past year in the Student Senate indicates. The bill, which missed being passed by two votes, called for

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runoffs in yell leader elections. Although the bill is dead, the argument continues.

One proponent of yell leader runoffs believes that the current means of electing the most recognizable and visible representatives of Aggieland is unfair to non-reg candidates. The well-known practice of block voting by the Corps

almost always assures that the five "Corps-endorsed" candidates will win, although such has not been the case on two occasions in the last four years.

For example, three "corps-endorsed" candidates for senior yell leader finished first, second and third with 24.8 percent, 20.7 percent and 18.7 percent of the vote, respectively. Meet your three senior yell leaders for the 1995-96 school year: David Kemp, Michael Thornberry and Henry Hewes, all members of the Corps of Cadets.

Although none of the three has the majority of the vote or even close, which would be mathematically impossible given the number of candidates, they have nevertheless "won" the election and without a run-off that would include Ron Mo, who received 13.1 percent of the vote and finished

fourth, they do not have to worry about campaigning for the remaining 22.7 percent of the vote that was originally thrown behind three other non-reg candidates and one other Corps candidate.

If there was a run-off and Mo was able to garner half of the 22.7 percent of the vote that originally went to the four other candidates and Kemp, Thornberry and Hewes split the other half, the 1995-96 senior yell leaders would be Kemp (28.5), Thornberry (24.4) and Mo (24.4).

The implementation of yell leader runoffs would greatly change the way campaigns for its five positions are waged. Block voting by the Corps in the primary election might still guarantee that its candidates would be the initial top vote getters, but a run-off would almost guarantee that a non-reg would sneak up and snatch away one of the spots, at least in the senior run-off, a la Ron Mo.

So goes the argument for a run-off. But is there really a need to drag-out the campaign and election process for a group of individuals who are merely symbols of Aggie spirit and tradition? We are talking about yell leaders not the Student Body President.

Their job is to inspire the 12th Man on sun-drenched Saturday afternoons in the middle of

September at Kyle Field, not to set a legislative agenda for the student government.

Their job is to keep us laughing with stories about "Ole Rock" at bitter cold Midnight Yell practices in late November, not to act as a liaison to the state legislature or Board of Regents.

Their job is inform us when to tell "the bus driver" to sit down or when to give the referee a "horse laugh," not to lobby on behalf of student interests to important people that can do something about them.

Given the job description and duty of a yell leader as opposed to that of Student Body President or any other elected officer, a run-off would not serve the same kind of purpose as a run-off does for other offices. A yell leader is a symbol of Aggieland, a willing ambassador of its customs and its culture, no more and no less.

If non-reg want to insure that one of their own will wear the game whites of a yell leader on Saturday afternoons in the Fall, than they should form a coalition or coalitions of their own and block vote like the Corps, if of course it is that important to them who is telling them when to "give em' a horse laugh" or when to scream at that damn "bus driver."

Drew Diener is a junior English major



Silver Taps indicative of true Aggie spirit

Around election time, we tend to hear a lot about divisions in Aggieland. I remember being at Silver Taps last month, thinking about this very same subject. It's dark at Silver Taps, and from a distance you can't tell whether or not someone is wearing a uniform. All you know is that they are an Aggie.

So you stand beside them, and for a while, it doesn't matter who you are or who they are. For a few minutes, we're all just Texas Aggies. For a moment, it's just that simple. This division nonsense is our own fault, really. We all fall into the trap of thinking less of someone based on who they are, what they wear or what organizations they're in. It's very easy to stereotype. It's much harder to make an honest effort to understand your fellow Aggies.

The next time you're tempted to look down on a fellow Aggie, I challenge you to stop and think. Think about what's written on the back of the Sul Ross statue. Think about why we don't walk on the grass around the MSC and why we take our hats off when we go inside. Think about the stories of the Congressional Medal of Honor winners who have been Aggies. Think about why we

have Aggie Muster, and think about what the Aggie Ring stands for. Then think about the elections, and remember what it means to be a Texas Aggie. See you at the next Silver Taps.

Chris Williams
Class of '96

Candidates should not change rules of Corps

This letter is a response to all the letters that have been printed on the yell leaders.

As a student at A&M, where tradition seems to be the base of the school, it seems really out of place that everyone wants to change all the rules. When you run for Homecoming Queen and

don't get nominated, you don't declare yourself a candidate and walk on the football field at half time. So why would you do that for a yell leader position?

Even if a person thought he was the best candidate, and it was his love for this school that made him go astray, it just shows great arrogance for himself, and great unity of the Corps. I am glad to see that the best yell leader candidates won.

Emily Brown
Class of '97

Family of REPLANT founder gives thanks

The family of Scott Harris Hantman acknowledges the Texas A&M faculty,

REPLANT Committee 1995, members of Student Government/Senate, students, alumni and friends, for dedicating a tree on campus in his memory.

We are proud that our son and brother is honored for his creation of a reforestation program by officially declaring Scott Harris Hantman the Founder of REPLANT, in recognition of his environmental endeavors at A&M.

To the community of Somerville, the National Tree Trust, Texaco Corporation, Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Forest Service and to all who participated in REPLANT 1995, it was truly a labor of love.

We are proud to know that, with your support, this new tradition will continue for years to come.

Colonel (Ret.) and Mrs. Richard K. and Jordan Hantman