

## SEXISM AT A&M

### Students often encounter discrimination based on gender

By Amy Uptmor  
THE BATTALION

It is easy for people to believe that things they do not see do not exist — like sexism. Although it exists virtually everywhere, many A&M students said that sexism is strong here and that unless people open their eyes and admit that sexism is a problem, it will never go away.

Lara Zuehlke, a junior journalism major, said one of the places at A&M that sexism is particularly obvious is in the dorms. Offensive t-shirts, grody yells and brainwashed group mentalities have made entire dorms look bad, even though all the residents are not responsible for such actions.

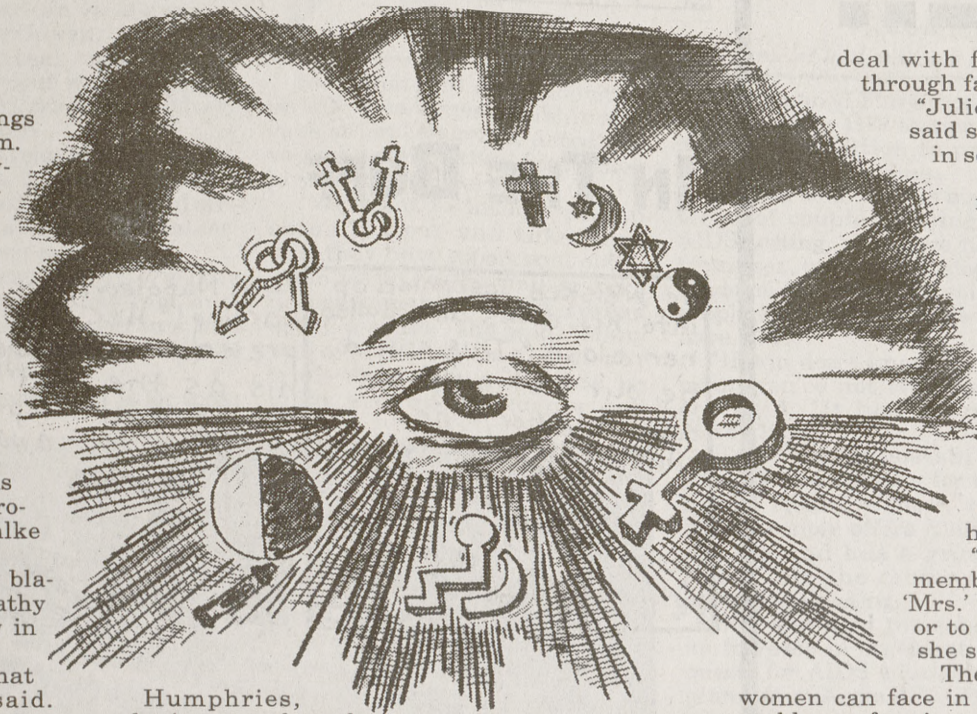
"It isn't that every person on this campus is sexist, but the dorm-group mentality promotes sexism when in big groups," Zuehlke said.

Zuehlke said that even worse than the blatant sexism seen around campus is the apathy many students, particularly women, show in response to such behavior.

"A lot of women here are so passive that they won't make an issue of it," she said. "They're too concerned with getting dates to say anything."

Chad Humphries, a sophomore English major, said sexism bothers him because it is traditionally associated with men. He said its presence at A&M makes men look bad.

"As a male, it upsets me to see other males promoting this sexist behavior," he said.



Humphries, who is a member of the National Organization for Women, said that such gender groups help promote awareness about the problem of sexism.

"I see sexism running rampant across this campus, and no one seems to care," he said.

Many A&M students are aware of sexism because it is something that they have had to

deal with first-hand, in some cases through faculty and staff.

"Julie," a junior biology major, said she has encountered sexism in several classes.

"I was sitting in the front row of my psychology class, wearing a short skirt and patterned hosiery, and my professor made the comment that he wouldn't be able to lecture because he would be looking at my legs," she said. "And he did."

She said that women majoring in male-dominated departments, such as engineering and sciences, have an especially hard time.

"I was asked by a faculty member if I was here to get an 'Mrs.' degree (to find a husband) or to actually get a real degree," she said.

There are many obstacles that women can face in addition to the traditional problems of sexism.

Susan Schulz, a freshman international studies major, said she was referred to as "sir" by a professor in front of a large class because she had short hair.

Schulz said there is a traditional look that is acceptable for girls at A&M, and those who deviate from that look run into trouble.

"Girls just shouldn't have short hair on this campus," she said.

Steps are taken at A&M to alleviate sexism. Students said that Aggie males are known as some of the most chivalrous men around, but that sometimes, such behavior does as much damage as it does good.

Melanie Smith, a junior English major, said women should think about what chivalry can often mean.

"Chivalry can be condescending," she said. "By acknowledging it, women are taking a back seat as far as their potential is concerned."

Sexism can be viewed as a two-way street, and Smith said that women should think about the way they treat men if sexism offends them.

"I'm opposed to reverse sexism," she said. "When women turn around and do to men what they complain about, that's not right."

### DISCRIMINATION AT A&M

This article is the first in a series that will run through Friday exploring different kinds of discrimination that affect the students of A&M.

## Assassins narrowly misses the mark

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

*Assassins* is your typical Sylvester Stallone film — hard-nosed good guy against hard-nosed bad guy with a woman thrown in the middle. It's like *Demolition Man* set in modern times. Oddly, though, *Assassins* works



Antonio Banderas is pitted against Sylvester Stallone in *Assassins*.

well enough to make it enjoyable for the audience.

Stallone stars as Robert Rath, a top assassin who cut his teeth on the espionage-filled cold war. Rath is the best in his field, but the years of being a hired killer have taken their toll on him.

As Rath edges toward retirement, a new gun invades Rath's turf. Miguel Bain (Antonio Banderas) is young, brash and cocky — and he wants to be number one with a bullet.

The rivalry reaches a head when Rath gets a \$2 million contract to take a new "mark" — a hacker (Julianne Moore) with some expensive secrets to sell to some international clients.

Rath begins stalking his target only to realize that Bain has been hired for the same contract. The duel gets intense and Bain and Rath find themselves on different sides of a mysterious battle.

Bain wants the mark, a woman called "Electra," and the information she holds. Rath wants to save Electra and find a way out of his deadly business.

The two assassins duke it out trying to outsmart each other as they approach the final confrontation.

*Assassins'* plot is decent but predictable. It trots from one scene to

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
*Assassins*  
Starring Sylvester Stallone and Antonio Banderas  
Directed by Richard Donner  
Rated R  
Playing at Post Oak Mall  
\*\*\* (out of five)

the next with the reliability of a Timex watch.

The storyline goes off on a few tangents, such as the token romance between Rath and Electra, which probably should have been thrown out.

Screenwriters Andy Wachowski, Larry Wachowski and Brian Koppelman also grasp at straws when trying to weave in Rath's history as an assassin to his struggle with Bain.

The acting is the film's biggest asset and its lone saving grace. The "old dog versus new dog" chemistry between the characters is sincere and real.

The film is also a symbolic passing of the baton from Stallone, the long-time action star, to Banderas, the up-and-comer.

The chemistry between the two actors moves *Assassins'* aim close to the bulls-eye. Although it misses the mark, *Assassins* scores some points.

## Hispanic groups aim to educate with socially conscious movie

By Katharine Deaton  
THE BATTALION

The Hispanic Business Student Association is teaming up with Hispanic service fraternity Omega Delta Phi to present *Burning Season* as both groups wind down Hispanic Heritage Month.

*Burning Season* will be shown tonight for free in Rudder 601 at 8:30 p.m.

The movie, starring the late Raul Julia, is a portrayal of the struggle against the destruction of the rain forests of South America. Adrian Ramirez, senior food science and technology and poultry science major and Omega Delta Phi vice president, said,

"Julia heads the struggle against deforestation by corporations," Ramirez said.

Daniel Bertrand, president of Omega Delta Phi and a senior environmental design major, said several factors influenced the groups to show this film.

"We thought we'd do something educational as well as entertaining," Bertrand said. "There were not very many Hispanic films out there. We decided to try to make it educational because we showed *Mi Familia* earlier, and that was primarily entertaining."

José Rios, HBSA president and a senior

marketing major, said *Burning Season* also relates to one of today's most pressing issues — the environment.

"We're showing it because it's a socially-conscious movie," Rios said.

The groups hope to educate the students not only in Hispanic heritage, but also in environmental issues with the showing, Bertrand said.

"It's twofold," Bertrand said. "Besides educating people about Hispanic Heritage Month and the culture, we hope to make people aware of deforestation in South America as well as other environmental issues."

Ramirez said Julia's performance also influenced their decision to show the film.

"He's trying to convey the importance of the issue," Ramirez said. "It shows the importance of the subject matter for him to be in the film."

Ramirez said he hopes *Burning Season* will take Hispanic Heritage Month in a new direction.

"Hispanic Heritage Month deals with heritage and what got us here," Ramirez said, "but we also need to look towards the future, and forests are part of our future. Cures for cancer and other diseases could be in the forest, and we need to preserve as much as we can. I figured that would be a good direction."

MSC COMMITTEE for the AWARENESS of MEXICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE and BALLET FOLKLORICO CELESTIAL presents:

# FALL FAJITA COOKOUT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13, 1995  
5PM - 8PM  
HENSEL PARK AREA 2

students \$5 non-students \$6 children 4-12 \$3

For more info, contact Omar Barrios at 696-8480 or 845-1515

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.



## IT'S THE HOTTEST GIFT IN TEXAS!

Let your bonfire buddy proudly display his burning desire all year long. On sale for \$32.95, these silk ties are going fast, so order yours today.



Have your credit card ready and call

1-800-954-TIES

WITHINGTON DESIGNS®

P.O. Box 4428 · McAllen, Texas 78502  
Aggie Owned and Operated - B.T.H.O.R!

