

## A&M's Forgotten Savior

They wanted to close it down. A&M was in the red and in trouble, and the legislature wanted to scrap the whole shabang. Our friends in Austin were all set to incorporate the School of Agriculture into the t.u. system and simply board up the rest. Then, along came one man...



**DAVID TAYLOR**  
COLUMNIST

The ever-supportive legislature was willing to do neither.

Anyway, with no money and no way to get more, A&M was halfway down the road to oblivion — or to Austin, whichever way you want to look at it.

But in 1912, Cushing took over as chairman of TAMC's Board of Directors — now called the Board of Regents, and still without student representation ... but that's for another column.

Cushing personally guaranteed notes of credit, using his own assets as collateral. This bought enough time for the school to both regain stability and to begin a fund-raising campaign.

In short, Cushing personally saved Texas A&M.

But wait, there's more ...

When Old Main burned down, A&M's library went with it. In other words, TAMC went without a library for several years while the directors searched for money to build a new one.

Enter Cushing.

Cushing's father had been a rare book dealer, and Cushing had expanded his own collection to include a huge number of books. In 1924, when Cushing died, he willed his entire collection to the College.

In 1927, when the directors were finally able to build a new library, only one name would really fit.

Unfortunately, none of Cushing's descendants has attended A&M — or if they have, the archives don't know about it.

That means few people have been around to really keep Cushing's memory alive.

But this is Texas A&M, and we remember our own.

When we bring our parents to College Station, we always show them Ross, Old Main and the 12th Man. We tell them about respect for traditions and for each other.

Next time, add Cushing to the tour. It's time to remember another man who saved the school.

David Taylor is a senior management major

Governor Ross? Sure, we all know that story — I hear that representative still doesn't know what hit him. Yeah, Ross was important.

General Rudder? Yep, he is probably most responsible for what the University is today.

But Ross' boots would go unpolished and Rudder might have been forced to attend one of the remedial military institutions if not for a man named Cushing.

I know; around here, the words "Cushing" and "dusty maze" are synonyms. The only time I ever ventured into Cushing was to buy a Coke in that fourth floor dead end — of course, every hall in the Cushing Library was a dead end.

Col. Edward Benjamin Cushing's story, however, needs to be told.

The seal of Texas A&M University says 1876 across the bottom. Cushing was already here. He was Class of '80 — I hear there were a lot fewer traditions back then.

In the 1890s, Gov. Ross had indeed saved A&M on the floor of the Texas Legislature, but it seemed to be worth nothing by the time Cushing came back in the 1910's.

A&M, you see, was in debt to the tune of \$87,000. That's about \$1,000,000 today.

That may not sound like much, but consider the few options open to the school.

Normally, when a public institution has debt, the legislature either increases funding or finds someone to finance more credit. I guess they hadn't yet heard of the "General Use Fee."



## It takes more than hate to make history

Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X...



**ERIN FITZGERALD**  
COLUMNIST

are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Even if Farrakhan had used the quote in the proper context, there's still a problem — he doesn't believe in Christianity.

Yes, this man, who changed his last name because of his devotion to the Islam religion, only uses Biblical quotes as hateful ammunition against another race. Astoundingly, his message blatantly contradicts all the love and peace that Islam espouses.

So if Farrakhan is a malicious, anti-Semitic liar whose ideas are outdated, why all the popularity?

Simple — he's an entertainer. Just like Rush Limbaugh, Farrakhan has the ability to woo audiences by endorsing their outlandish ideas. Only, Farrakhan is dangerous, posing the possibility of an all-out race war.

In this day and age, it takes a smooth talker to cause people to regress to such ideas. As a young, aspiring singer, Farrakhan's nickname was "the Charmer." Like the snake that he is, Farrakhan has charmed thousands of followers who are spellbound from the poison of his speeches.

Sucking the venom of his deadly words out of the minds of thousands requires recognition of Farrakhan as a performer. Although he may not get \$1 billion from any Middle Eastern country, he wouldn't make a bad living as a celebrity impressionist.

Farrakhan should wake up from his 30 year nap and smell the roses. To make any progress in today's society, everyone needs to realize the only race that needs to embrace and fight for each other is the human race.

When a man comes along with this endorsement, he might join the ranks of Washington, DuBois, King and Malcolm X. But Farrakhan certainly doesn't hold a candle to these leaders.

Erin Fitzgerald is a senior political science and English major

These are just a few of the greatest black leaders in history. Each of their contributions has positively impacted society.

Their influence enabled an entire race to receive the equality promised by our founding fathers.

Any addition to this list would require a renowned, accomplished person leading the tide of a cultural revolution.

But, how much water is left in the sea of injustice?

Louis Farrakhan seems to think it is overflowing.

Last Monday, he kicked off his national tour. As he makes his way across the United States, thousands will gather to hear the man preach the same things advocated 30 years ago.

Farrakhan, who organized the Million Man March, expresses notions similar to Malcolm X, only in the '60s these ideas were timely.

Leaps and bounds have been made since the civil rights movement, yet he hardly recognizes them. Farrakhan is simply a parasite feeding off of the image of Malcolm X.

But of course, he claims he is a misunderstood man, just like Malcolm X. In an interview on 60 Minutes, Farrakhan was accused of being anti-Semitic. After he was shown a clip of one of his speeches implying Jewish people are inhuman sea creatures controlling the government that worship in the synagogue of Satan, Farrakhan denied the charges.

Justifying his simile of Jewish people as octopuses, Farrakhan said it was the white man who has continually exploited and oppressed the darker-skinned man — and history wrote itself.

Farrakhan also claimed he was only quoting the Bible, which states the same in the Book of Revelation. His citing of this statement is correct, only he used it incorrectly. It actually reads: "I know the slander of those who say they



## MAIL CALL

### AOLP offers caring, understanding to fish

As a former executive for the Aggie Orientation Leader Program (AOLP), I had a little difficulty accepting Michael Landauer's column on April 17. Freshman come to TAMU scared and confused, wondering if they made the correct choice in schools. Do we, the AOLP show them the best side of A&M that we can?

Absolutely. Do we lie to them? Never.

All Orientation Leaders are told from the beginning that they are to tell the fish the truth. At the same time, however, we want the fish to be excit-

ed by their choice in school. We want the fish to maintain the Aggie spirit and uphold the Aggie Code of Honor. We are the first real contact that most freshmen receive at A&M, and through our actions, we seek to make them comfortable as a part of the Aggie family.

We have no need to "sell" them the University, however, because they are already here.

Our Orientation Leaders are not paid because we want them to be excited about what they are doing.

If they don't find enough motivation in the helping of fish and their families, we don't want them as part of the organization. Every student at this University went through a New Student Conference. The Ori-

entation Leaders give freely of their time and do a tremendous job making over 8,000 students feel more comfortable and prepared at A&M. I would like to congratulate this year's Orientation Leaders and wish them luck in having a fun and helpful summer. I would also like to thank all the past Orientation Leaders who dedicated their time and energy to help new students in need.

Paul Springer  
Class of '97

### Halbrook's column assumes too much

I'm sure Shannon Halbrook (column, April 11) is not the first person to believe that David Kaczynski was motivated by the \$1 million reward offer, and not his conscience, to tell the FBI that he believed his brother, Ted Kaczynski, was the infamous Unabomber.

But Halbrook's contention that Ted Kaczynski is "being shafted" based on "flimsy" evidence and his brother's greed

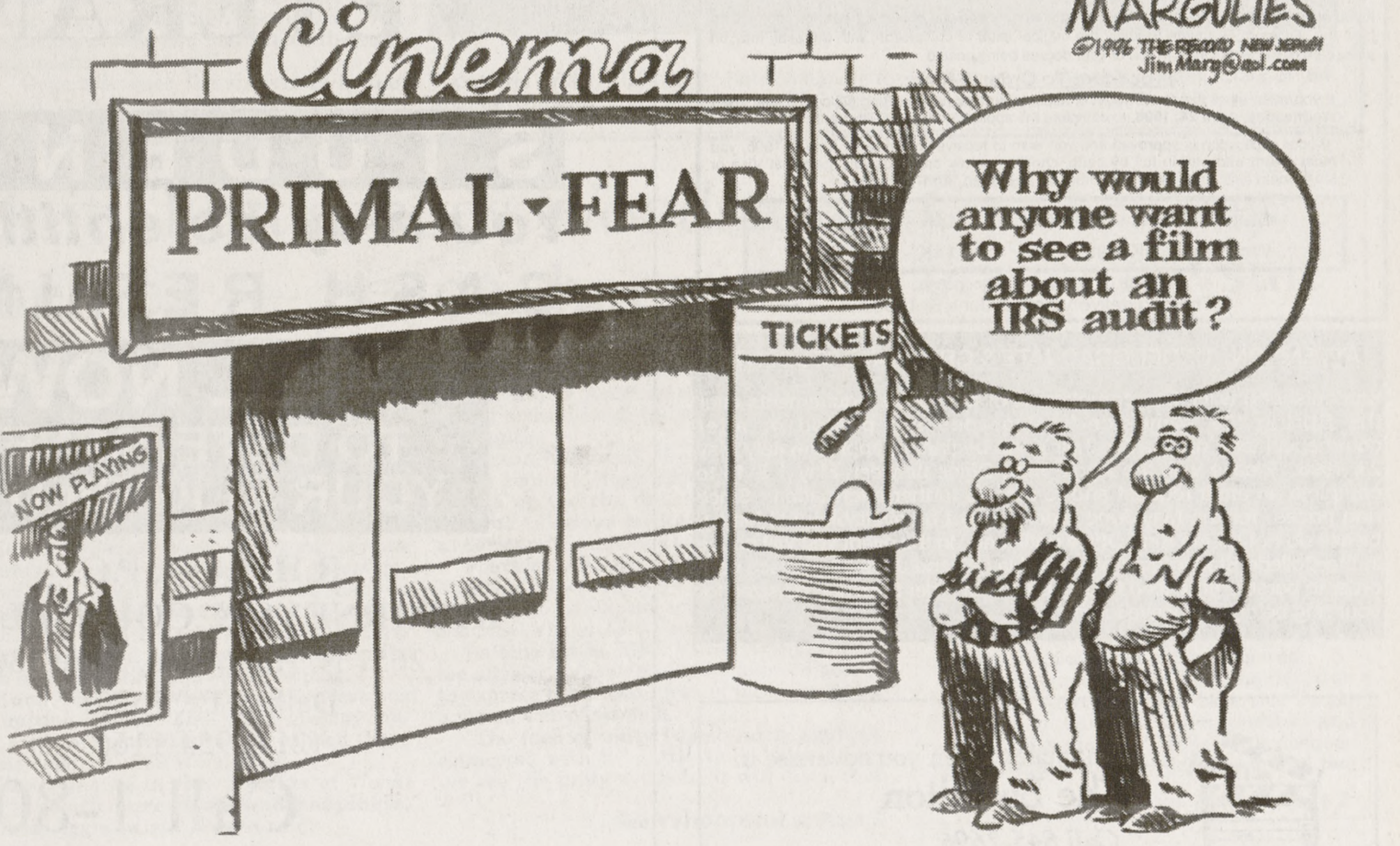
is ludicrous. Ted Kaczynski may well be innocent. So far he has been charged only with possessing bomb-making materials.

Fortunately, in our society a person is considered innocent until proven guilty.

Regardless of popular opinion or media coverage, only a jury of the defendant's peers can judge whether he is guilty or innocent and only after hearing evidence from the prosecution and defense.

Jim Hiney  
Class of '85

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