

## Lots of Miss Daisys need drivers

Back in their day, they walked uphill 10 miles in the snow to borrow a cup of flour for their mom just so she could bake enough bread to feed the family. They worked 75 hours a week and still didn't have enough money to buy soap, so they made their own.

But they also fought World War II and won it, so maybe we shouldn't be so hard on our elderly. We certainly should do more than tolerate them; we should respect them. They deserve that.



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OPINION EDITOR

wall was at fault. Walls are always making lane changes without signaling and so forth.

Fortunately she wasn't hurt. Unfortunately, she still hasn't gotten the point. She said she'll just place further limits on the times when she can drive. You see, this time the sun temporarily blinded her.

So while Grandma rushes out to do her errands between the hours of noon and 12:05 p.m., other elderly people are learning their limits as they crash into those pesky walls.

Yeah, we've heard it all before. Young drivers are to blame for all our traffic woes. But young drivers are more able to overcome their difficulties and become better drivers. Once age starts to affect how you don't improve much.

People talk all the time about raising the minimum driving age, but we should consider a maximum driving age as well. With practice, I'm sure 12-year-olds could drive a car. But I have my doubts about our abilities as we grow older.

Growing old is not fun, or so my parents tell me. But when they reach the point where they can no longer drive safely, they want us to stop them.

A few years ago there was a

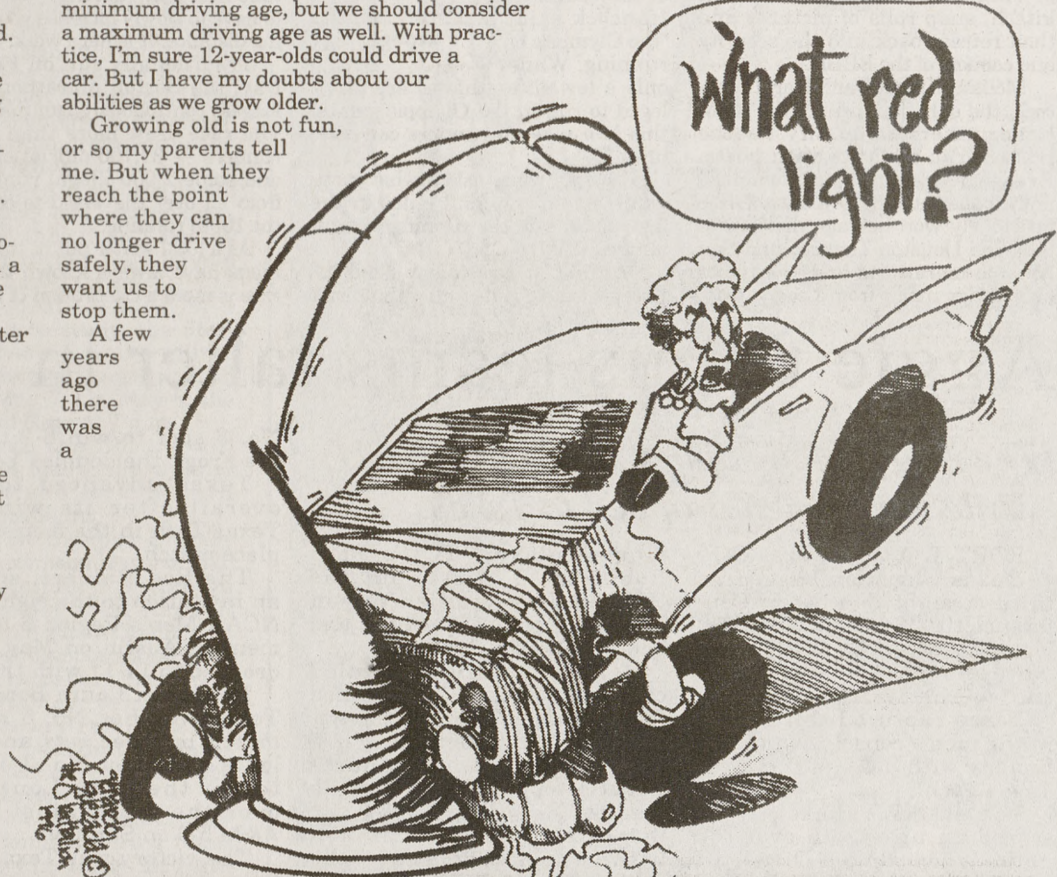
front page story about a cute pair of old ladies who accidentally drove onto an airport runway and collided with a plane as it was landing. They were on their way to an eye exam.

It sounds funny, but imagine being that pilot. Imagine being that kid who ran into my Grandma. Growing old is hard, but dealing with accidents is even harder.

Since we don't have a maximum driving age, maybe older people should be required to take a driving test every year. It would give them something to do, and it just might keep the roads a little safer.

I'm not saying we should keep all old people off the roads without giving them a chance to prove their ability to drive. But we should at least expect them to stay off the runways.

Michael Landauer is a junior journalism major



But when I listen to Grandpa Simpson-like rambling from my Grandma, I have to question some of her logic.

"Kids today have too much freedom." Some of her ramblings she sincerely believes. For example, she really thought that my brother playing pee-wee football caused my mom's ulcer.

But Grandma's logic took a turn for the worse during her last visit.

"Kids don't know how to drive," she said. "They cause too many accidents."

In particular, Grandma couldn't believe that a teen-age kid got away with running into her car just because she made a left turn into his lane without seeing him coming. Damn kids. The next thing you know, they'll be making right turns on red lights.

The real injustice came out.

"I drive as slow as I want, and other people can go around me," she explained. "I'm a good driver, too. Last time I got my license renewed, they didn't even check my eyes."

Wait a minute. Back up, Grandma. Better yet, get out of the car, and let me back up.

So the government of Connecticut has enough faith in Grandma's driving record not to check her eyes? If they had, they would have found that she's practically blind. She said she knows her limits — she doesn't drive at night. But the government didn't place that restriction on her.

And it gets better. Her license doesn't have to be renewed until 2001. Her eye problems probably will all be cleared up by then. That nasty cataract will certainly go away in good time.

At this point we kinda let her have it. We told her that maybe she shouldn't be driving. We told her the teen-ager was not at fault and the state should have given her an eye exam. Old people don't really like being told these things, so she stubbornly changed the subject and promised to keep driving.

Then, she ran into a brick wall. I wasn't there, but I'm sure the brick

## New student body president promises more accessibility

Howdy! My name is Carl Baggett, the 1996-97 student body president. Next year offers many opportunities for Texas A&M University.



**CARL BAGGETT**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

the student body president coming to the students. Every week during a designated time period, I will be available in the MSC to discuss issues and concerns facing the students.

We will be entering the Big 12 Conference and welcoming the first class of the new century, the Class of 2000. Student Government would like to be at the forefront of these new opportunities, ensuring the representation of each and every student. To be able to effectively represent the student body, Student Government must have a way to hear the needs of every student.

I also believe very strongly in an open door policy; please feel free to stop by any time you want to talk.

The last point I would like to address is the need for students at this University to be educated and knowledgeable of the issues that directly affect them. For example, students must understand the long term effects of the Hop-

## Currently, not enough students know where the office of the student body president is, much less converse with the president on a daily basis.

One of the goals of my Executive Council will be to make sure that this becomes a reality. Representatives from the IFC, Corps of Cadets, MSC, RHA, BAC, as well as some campuswide representatives will keep me in touch with the needs of the entire student body. Another personal goal I have is accessibility. Currently, not enough students know where the office of the student body president is, much less converse with the president on a daily basis. Next year, this problem will be averted by

wood case and how we as a student body must create an environment where all potential Aggies are welcome and needed to ensure a diverse Aggieland.

I am looking forward to a great year. We have so many opportunities and expectations. I have no doubt that as a student body we will continue to strive for excellence.

Together we can and will make a positive impact on Texas A&M University.

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## Schools reacted too quickly to Hopwood

And I bet you thought those government bureaucrats were slow.

Last Thursday, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board voted to open previously minority-targeted scholarships to all economically disadvantaged groups. According to The Eagle, the Coordinating Board reached this little compromise because there was bitter division amongst the ranks. Apparently, some Board members thought that the commissioner, Kenneth Ashworth, had gone "too far" and acted "prematurely" by deciding to suspend minority-recruiting scholarships in compliance with the recent Hopwood decision.

What? Could it be that someone else has noticed the speed with which the people in power have been rushing to comply with Hopwood, a case whose ink isn't even dry? Why, the battle



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has just begun, but they are proceeding to apply it anyway, even though it is unclear whether immediate, drastic action is necessary.

"Oh, how we hate this, but — snifle — we must comply with the law."

Oh, really? It absolutely amazes me that the Hopwood decision was made public on Tuesday, March 19, and the Texas A&M chancellor placed a suspension on admissions and scholarships two days later.

What lightning speed! What tenacity he displayed in complying with "the law"! The real question is — would it have been so terrible to just wait and leave the present admissions standards and scholarships alone here at the University until the legal haze really became clear? Why, weeks after Texas A&M's 10-day suspension on

these areas, the Texas attorney general said he "believed" that a university accepting public money fell under the ruling. Notice he did not say "definitely." Furthermore, the state has said that the decision has called the permissibility of affirmative action programs into question.

The key word here is "question." If there is a question mark, and if people obviously seem confused about the thing, then why are they hopping to apply the Hopwood decision?

Are they just acting on the side of caution? I find that hard to believe when I consider another landmark case (and one that was won in the Supreme Court), *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Why, the government had to literally send troops for black students to be allowed to cross the threshold of all-white schools, which was their lawful right.

And do you think that people are complying with this law even today, over 40 years — not days — later? Take a hard look at the

newspapers and you will find story after story of states being told by courts that they are not complying with that law. My home state of Louisiana is a prime example — it is locked in a desegregation battle that seems to never cease. Desegregation of schools is by no means complete and has been addressed at snail's pace, even though it is the stone-hard law.

So, I find it a bit strange that many cannot handle *Brown*, but, boy can they handle Hopwood. It seems as if they can handle exactly what they want to handle.

If the Hopwood case is struck down in the highest court in the land, let's just wait and see whether administrators and public officials will hop to remove their recent changes in the same Speedy Gonzales manner that they have shown us they are capable of in the past few weeks.

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## GRECIAN FORMULA Leave it to Dad to create the ideal frat

Ooh, it's tempting. Writing an anti-fraternity/sorority column has been almost as tantalizing as making fun of Sen. Bob Dole.



**ROB CLARK**  
COLUMNIST

had and went about their business. And business was good. By the time my father left St. Mary's, Yippy Ki Yo was the biggest fraternity on campus. The large number of members meant they could have official fraternity T-shirts, and they were members of the university's fraternity council.

The reason the organization was so successful was that it included everything that is good about Greek organizations and eliminated the bad. By including everyone who wanted to join, the usual petty immaturity of rival Greek organizations was never even a consideration.

And it provided a good opportunity for freshmen — people to immediately associate with to help alleviate the often traumatic transitions from high school to college.

And the widespread "Rent a friend, join a frat" sentiment that runs rampant at A&M among non-Greeks was irrelevant with the Yippy Ki Yos, since \$1 doesn't exactly get you far when it comes to friend rentals.

It's doubtful that such an organization would be accepted at A&M. The mighty powers that be in the twisted Greek realm of kegers and T-shirts would strike down any such attempt.

In a way though, many A&M organizations could be considered of the same ilk as the Greeks. The Corps of Cadets, athletic teams and even The Battalion staff have many characteristics similar to the demented, cult-like madness of the frats and sororities.

The only difference is, of course, only the Greeks pay ridiculous amounts of money to join.

But inevitably, someone every semester beats me to the punch with a column that says "paying for friends is wrong." Columns detailing this stigma just rarely break any new ground.

But I heard a story recently from a wise old man (who happens to go by the name of "Dad") that gave the light of sensibility and reason to the frat rat/sb issue.

As a sophomore at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, my father was approached by a few fraternity members to go through rush. Politely, he declined. But their reaction wasn't quite as civil. He quickly became an outcast in their eyes, words and actions.

Despite being glad that he hadn't joined such a classy organization, he knew he had to do something.

Then he had the big idea. Along with a few friends, he started his own fraternity. The letters were YKY — but it wasn't Upsilon Kappa Upsilon. Instead they were the Yippy Ki Yos.

Silly? Perhaps, but sensible as well.

The Yippy Ki Yos were established with only two sets of ground rules. First, anyone could join. Second, membership only cost \$1.

The first rule was perhaps the most groundbreaking of the two. Anyone — male or female, black, white or Hispanic, big or small — whatever. All anyone had to be was a student willing to join.

As for the second rule, well, the price was right. This wasn't an organization that demanded annoying T-shirts every time they had a party. They used what resources they

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## MAIL CALL

### Quanell X hits sour notes in his race song

I am writing this letter in response to the speech given by Quanell X last Thursday night. The topics of his speech were "Black and White: Can the Dream be a Reality?" and "Unity Among African Americans." Unfortunately, I interpreted him as coming to the conclusion that blacks and whites won't ever be able to come together because they have too many differences that won't allow it to happen. He suggested that blacks should no longer depend on whites so much, but should come together to help each other as a race instead.

It really concerns me to see that he chooses to use the differences between the races as a reason

to keep them apart instead of bringing them together. It's hard for me to understand why it's so difficult for us to see the beauty in the different races instead of the negative things in them. Why do we close our minds with stereotypes instead of opening up our hearts to individuals?

Every person, no matter what his or her race, has something to offer the world. If one race chooses to cut itself off from another, its people will miss out on so much. It's like having access to a field full of so many different luscious fruits, ripe vegetables and wondrous animals, but limiting yourself to spot where only a few pretty flowers grow. What about all the potential friendships and eventful experiences that could occur? What about all those things we can learn from each

other and our differences?

He often brought up the topic of religion. I can't help but wonder if God had a good reason for placing such a diverse group of people and races on earth. But the world would be a boring place without all that diversity. It is difficult for me to see why He would put all those races of people here only for them to stay away from one another.

One of his main arguments was about how blacks had been suppressed for so long. But there's not much we can do to change what has already happened. All we can do is learn from the mistakes that were made in the past and move on in an attempt to make things better for tomorrow.

Just maybe one day the many differences with their notes ringing so sweet will fit together into perfectly interlocking puzzle, thus releasing the true magic of the long-awaited music box of peace and harmony.

to speak in Rudder Tower on the preservation of white culture and the evils imposed by interracial dating and marriage. He will also address the reverse discrimination practiced in affirmative action policies, such as race-based admission quotas. I now ask what would be the difference between Duke's message and what Quanell X had to say Thursday night at the MSC? I believe Texas A&M would immediately be condemned as a racist university that has no respect for minorities and a lack of sympathy for their feelings.

As I recall, Quanell X has radically changed his views if he is now for unification and peace among the races. Anyone familiar with him knows that is false. In fact, just a couple of years ago Quanell X visited A&M and compared white women to swine and repeatedly criticized the white race. If A&M has room for Quanell X and his rhetoric, then speakers such as David Duke should equally have the right to visit the campus and express their views.

DeSorrow Golden Class of '98

Picture this: Kappa Kappa Kappa has invited David Duke

Blake Knutson Class of '96