

High school reunions inspire contemplation

Remember high school? How it was socially acceptable to own Guess jeans in every color of the rainbow and how every student was classified as a nerd or a jock or a prep or a kicker?



APRIL TOWERY
lifestyles editor

Well, I remember high school, and I remember fitting quite nicely into the nerd category. I remember having a grand total of two close friends throughout my high school career. I remember crying after geometry class because someone called me "pizza face."

I remember the cheerleaders giggling about my freakishness when I walked by. I remember guys calling to talk to me ... about whether or not they had a chance of getting a date with my best friend. I remember thinking the misery would never end.

And now, it's kind of funny how the very people who made my life miserable have somehow decided they're my best friends.

Walking across campus the other day, I saw one of these infamous "too cool for you" guys from

my graduating class. I tried to avoid eye contact, but he saw me, so I courteously smiled and continued walking. Much to my surprise, he stopped, got off his bike and nearly tripped over himself as he ran to hug me.

Naturally, I got a little confused. Then I thought maybe he was confused and I should introduce myself, but he seemed to know who I was.

The more I thought about it, the more I decided this has become a pattern of strange behavior. Several of the "popular" people have come to Texas A&M and realized there is no popularity in college, so they might as well be nice to me.

The feelings I was experiencing took me back to high school, which really wasn't that long ago. I thought about everyone who viewed me as a nerd and how I always knew that I'd show them.

Then I thought about the hideous outfits I wore to school and decided to think about something else.

I guess I always had this idea that people would like me if I wore the most outrageous clothing combinations I could find. I also had quite a mission to prove to everyone that I wasn't a good little church girl. For some reason, that was a bad thing back then.

PLEASE SEE **REUNION** ON PAGE 3.

Candles in the Wind

Students find candles can be used for more than just a romantic dinner

By **BRANDI BALLARD**
Staff writer

Candles are used for decoration or to make a room smell fragrant. People give them as gifts or buy them for personal enjoyment. Whatever the reason for buying them, candles are increasing in popularity.

Larry and Dorothy Wiley, owners of Wicks N Sticks in Post Oak Mall, were awarded the 1996 Store of the Year in March.

"I think it's our large assortment of different candles that makes us so popular," Dorothy Wiley said. She said their best selling can-

dles are the Yankee and Root Jar Candles. Together, these candles are sold in over 50 different fragrances.

She thinks the reason they are so popular is because of their ability to burn so long and the scents they come in.

Dorothy Wiley said the Root Jar Candles are modeled after perfumes, such as Estee Lauder's Knowing.

She said some people buy candles to decorate their homes, so they come in looking for a certain color. Other people are looking for a certain fragrance, while still others look for gift candles.

"They even make candles to eliminate smells such as cigarette smoke or pet odors," Larry Wiley said.

Candles are also used as an aroma therapy. Aroma therapy is a holistic healing method that uses candles made from essential oils.

"We have aroma therapy candles that help you relax, revitalize, romanticize — and that is not all," Larry Wiley said.

Dorothy Wiley said popular smells come and go with the seasons. "The two most popular smells for fall are Spiced Pumpkin and Home Sweet Home," Dorothy Wiley said.

Candles come in every shape and size. Wicks 'N Sticks offers candles from novelty wax animals to upscale candles made of designer wax.



Erin Tarter, a senior nutrition science major, sorts candle accessories.

"The floating candles, such as the turtle, are extremely popular right now," Dorothy Wiley said.

She said another best seller is the wax potpourri chips.

"You can mix and match the create your own fragrance," Dorothy Wiley said. "Oil lamps are great for students who want something to burn. They are extremely economical to burn and come in eight colors."

Larry Wiley said everyone's students to grandmotherly chase candles. Few people buy many as Jessamyn Bouytinghouse, a senior journalism major. She has over 100 candles.

"Every time I go to a store, what I end up buying," Bouytinghouse said.

She said she does not know how it all got started.

"My mom always collected candles," Bouytinghouse said. "I would buy me candles for my birthday and Christmas. Today, what I always get my friends for is candles."

She said she has one or two every table in her house and on her back porch.

"Some nights we sit on the porch and light all of them," Bouytinghouse said.

PLEASE SEE **CANDLES** ON PAGE 3.

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