

**ONE STAR LOWDOWN**

# Crimes of the Heart

*Zamora case exhibits consequences of immature devotion, acting on revenge*

It's fair in love and war. At least, that's what the old adage says. But, as Diane Zamora recently discovered, the repercussions for acts of passion can have devastating consequences.



**MANDY CATER**  
opinion editor

Diane Zamora had everything going for her: she was a young, Naval Academy midshipman with a promising future. But Zamora, like so many who go astray, had one fatal flaw. That weakness has now cost her everything — and could have cost her her life. Zamora would find out the hard way jealousy and revenge often come at a high cost.

Zamora fell prey to circumstances not unlike any other young woman — she fell in love young and she fell hard. Her then boyfriend, an Air Force Academy cadet named David Graham, was the center of her world.

The two became engaged and seemed like a perfect couple. Except, that is, for a dark secret the two kept hidden.

See, Graham apparently had a bit of a wandering eye. One night, this wandering led him into the arms of another pretty young girl, Adrienne Jones. Graham and the young woman apparently had an affair one that would have tragic circumstances.

Graham kept the affair secret for months, not wanting to disrupt his relationship with Zamora. Eventually, though, his guilt must have gotten the better of him, and he told his lover of the fling. Unfortunately for all involved, though, Zamora did not take the news too well.

According to the prosecutors, this is the point where things went awry.

Zamora's reactions would lead to devastating consequences for the three young people. Prosecution arguments say Zamora wanted Graham to prove his

love for her in an extremely violent manner. Reports say Graham went to Jones' home, picked her up and drove her to a secluded area nearby. Unknown to Jones, Zamora was hiding in the car, as well, ready to get even with what she considered an attack on her relationship.

Some time that night, 16-year-old Jones was killed — beaten with a weight and later shot.

If prosecutors are correct, Zamora and Graham simply cleaned up and walked away, somehow believing the act strengthened their ties to one another. They go off to their respective military institutions and pretend nothing happened. Then finally, Zamora cannot keep her secret any longer and she confesses to fellow cadets.

This tragedy is not only saddening, but frankly, pathetic. Here is a young woman with a promising future. She has a high school boyfriend and thinks she's in love with him... just like almost every high school girl feels at one point or another. She's not around one night and he wants to sow some wild oats, so he picks up a pretty, young thing, sweet talks her and sleeps with her.

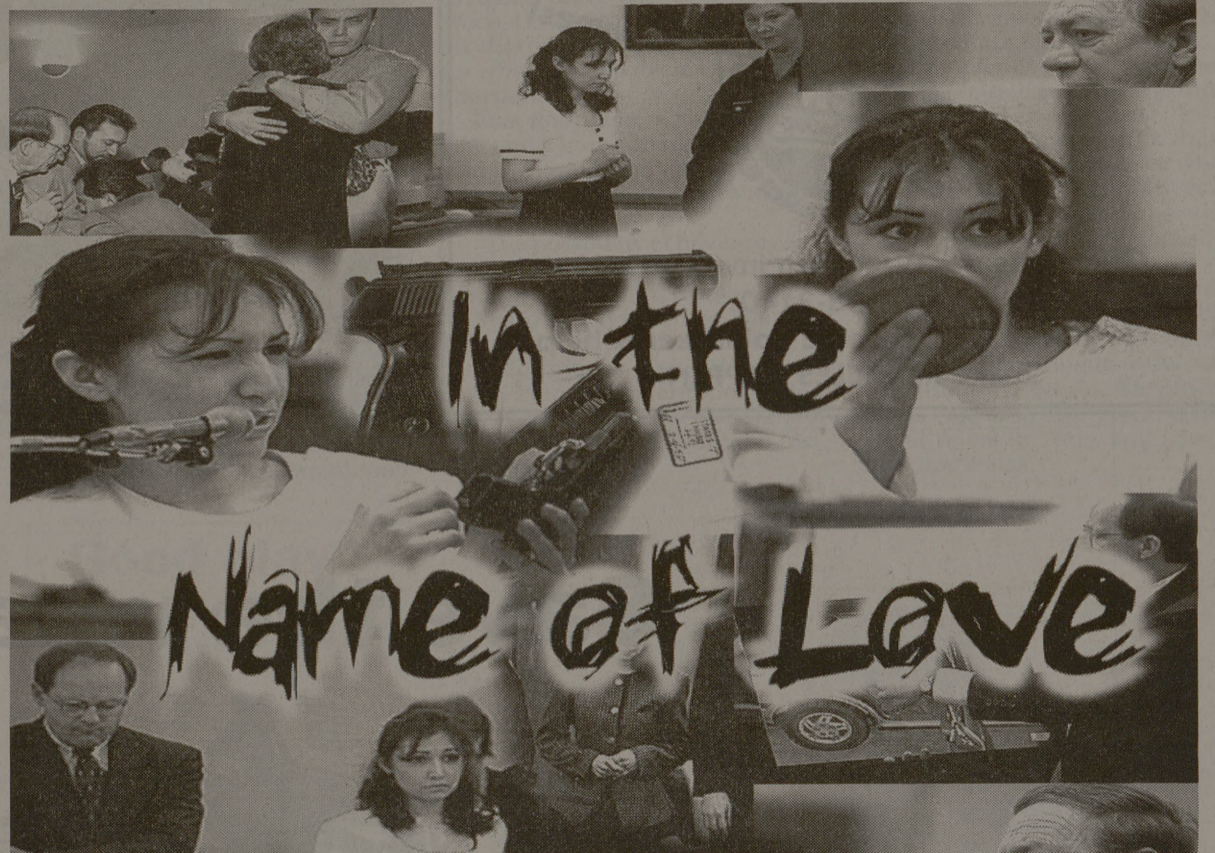
This is not a case where anyone should have died. Nobody should have gone to prison. One straying young guy simply deserved a swift kick out the door, and the entire situation could have been resolved.

Graham was a cheater, plain and simple. Zamora, like so many people who are disappointed by their significant others, chose to ignore the possibility their relationship was not as strong as she believed.

Instead of walking away and having some pride, she lashed out against someone who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Jones was not to blame here, Graham was. He was the person who claimed to be committed to Zamora, and he broke that commitment by sleeping with someone else. Jones did not weaken the strength of the bond between Graham and Zamora, Graham did.

Now, a beautiful 16-year-old girl is dead. Zamora was convicted of the murder and is not eligible for parole for 40 years. Graham goes on trial later this year.

The irony in this situation is Zamora and Graham



are each trying to sell the other down the river, passing the blame in hopes of getting away with murder.

The lesson here is this — love can be temporal and situational, especially at such a young age. If someone cheats with somebody else, let that somebody else have them. If somebody asks you to kill someone to prove your love for them, your relationship has a few issues with trust and probably is not very stable.

The bottom line is this: a lover's quarrel is not worth killing for. It is not worth going to prison and ruining any chance at having a normal life and family for. Because when the gavel goes down, and the bars are closed, you'll be alone and that "love" is not going to count for much.

*Mandy Cater is a senior psychology major.*

**PERSPECTIVES**

## Woman famous for abortion case visits with change of heart

One of the most significant Americans of the twentieth century will be in the Theater tonight. This person's actions created and death decisions for millions of Americans. Yet, despite her importance, this person is not a politician, or a businessperson or even a religious figure. In fact, the vast majority of Americans do not know her real name. They only know her by her pseudonym, Jane Roe.



**JOHN LEMONS**  
columnist

History identifies Norma McCorvey as Jane Roe, the centerpiece of the 1973 Supreme Court appeal that legalized abortion in the United States. McCorvey is bringing a message to Texas A&M University: Americans would do well to heed. It is

a message that states it is never too late to have a change of heart. If Americans listen well enough, the name Roe may cease to be synonymous with death to become an inspiration for change.

McCorvey is one of those rare people whose legacy molds an entire nation. Fortunately, she is one of those even rarer people who get a chance to remake their legacy for the better.

McCorvey never got the abortion she sought through the courts. She gave that baby up for adoption, because the courts progressed slower than her pregnancy. She did, however, work in abortion clinics. That changed in August 1995, when she converted to Christianity, quit her job as marketing director at a Dallas abortion clinic and began working for Operation Rescue, a pro-life group. Today, McCorvey is touring the country speaking out against abortion and promoting her new book *Won by Love*.

Lauren Donohue, class of '97, is the Co-

ordinator of St. Mary's Catholic Church's Respect Life Commission, who is sponsoring McCorvey's talk. Donohue said McCorvey has a unique perspective on the abortion issue that needs to be heard.

"We are all looking for people and for stories that can motivate us," Donohue said. "Hearing the fact that Roe changed her mind and joined the pro-life movement is a very strong source of hope and motivation."

Indeed, the idea of people having a changed of heart for the better is a powerful message, especially in a place as resistant to change as A&M. Unfortunately, Aggies seem to be skeptical about the concept.

Consider the recent brouhaha surrounding Karla Faye Tucker. Tucker was executed earlier this month for murdering two people with a pick-ax in 1984. Tucker sought clemency for her death sentence on the grounds she had "found God" and was a different person.

What was truly tragic about the situation was not the debate over the justice or

injustice of the death penalty, but the reaction of Aggies toward Tucker's claim.

On the whole, Aggies were cynical toward Tucker's claim of a change of heart. Many speculated Tucker was lying about her conversion or she was just trying "to play the system."

This cold cynicism is disturbing. Surely, a dying woman deserves the benefit of the doubt. Certainly, Tucker's alleged making peace with God and apologizing to the families of her victims is preferable to a murderer who unrepentantly goes to the execution chamber. Although nothing can be done to bring back her murder victims, at least she recognized her wrong and made some small attempt to rectify it.

Likewise, for all of wickedness unleashed by *Roe vs. Wade*, at least Jane Roe is making some attempt to rectify it. Certainly, this is preferable to a Jane Roe who crusades for the abortion industry.

The United States would do well to embrace the idea of a change of heart. There

are many issues on which it could stand to have its convictions altered. Americans' inclination for divorce, their frivolous treatment of sex and embracement of abortion are all issues warranting changes in perspective.

It is somewhat ironic Jane Roe is scheduled to speak out against abortion during the very same week this community learned of plans to build an abortion clinic here. Perhaps, Bryan-College Station should listen to McCorvey's story before they passively accept *Roe vs. Wade*'s results in their own backyards.

Twenty-five years after *Roe vs. Wade*, Jane Roe is changing her legacy. Norma McCorvey is showing Americans good can be salvaged from an evil situation if they are not too cynical to believe it.

If Americans are smart, they will take it to heart.

*John Lemons is an electrical engineering graduate student.*

**STUDENT LIFE**

## A&M offers students valuable network of people, resources

Once an Aggie, always an Aggie.



**LEN CALLAWAY**  
columnist

This expression speaks volumes about one of the ideals involved with belonging to the Texas A&M family. A&M, as an institution, has come to mean many different things to many different people, but most Aggies recall their days at A&M with fondness.

As students at A&M, we have collectively made the decision to take personal responsibility for our individual destinies and stand firm in our resolve to improve ourselves and our University.

In keeping with the spirit of improving our beloved school, Aggies often call attention to perceived or apparent shortcomings and areas or policies in need of improvement or reevaluation. As students, it is our responsibility to take an active interest in A&M while working to improve our environment, however, the majority of critical commentary is often rendered from an inherently negative and downtrodden perspective. At times, causes the multitude of positive A&M attributes to be lost or temporarily forgotten in a haze of rhetorical rhetoric.

Constructive criticism followed by a positive alternative is a healthy and necessary action in order for an organization or individual to improve and excel.

On the other hand, criticism simply for the sake of criticizing can only serve to demoralize the constant quest for improvement. There is after all, a difference between a critique and criticism.

Sometimes we all need to be reminded of the positive qualities A&M has to offer so we may remember why we critique in the first place. One would assume because our University is a cut above the rest, we criticize to ensure it stays that way.

The moment students were given the opportunity to become Aggies they were also given an extraordinary opportunity to secure and make use of an abundance of resources and people in hopes of achievement and accomplishment to come only through diligence and dedication to their personal cause.

A&M is one of the largest universities in the nation in land mass, touting some 5,200 acres as a main campus. A&M also boasts a diverse student body of 45,000-plus, making it one of the largest universities in enrollment as well. Our diverse student body allows for the opportunity to learn and benefit from the ideals and experiences of other people.

Students at A&M also have an immense system of specialized student organizations from which to choose in order to further their position and potential for tremendous success after graduation.

People such as Vice President of Student Affairs J. Malon Southerland and MSC Director Jim Reynolds are prime examples of resources students should use for their insight and personal attention. Each year these men spend extraordinary amounts of time focusing on ways to bring students and distin-

guished alumni together through events like the MBA/Law Symposium and the Former Students Leadership Conference.

These events focus on personal marketing, networking and the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of those who have gone before us. The alumni who take the time to participate are not compensated in any way other than the satisfaction they get from helping young people succeed.

A&M is located in one of the last true "college towns", and the list of benefits and possible relationships is simply too great to adequately discuss.

A&M has an excellent athletic program which helps to invite and promote spirit and camaraderie in the student body, while encouraging student athletes in their various endeavors.

A&M boasts an accomplished and attentive faculty who more often than not will do anything in their power to help students succeed in the classroom.

Perhaps the single greatest benefit or opportunity at A&M lies in the simple ideals upon which A&M's philosophy is based. Words like "honor," "integrity," "dedication" and "ethic" rest on the cornerstone upon which the A&M system has been built.

Students have the opportunity to experience a unique sense of organization and loyalty through our collective tendency toward friendliness and our dedication to one another.

A&M has been nurtured by generous alumni over the years, and as future alumni, it becomes incumbent upon today's Aggies to continue the pattern of generosity and interest displayed by so many of our

predecessors. Due to the Former Students Association, alumni interest and the sense of "Aggie Family", A&M is able to have one of the largest annual private endowments of any public university.

The dedication, hands on interest and guidance of alumni set the precedent long ago that Aggies have the ability and responsibility to contribute to and supervise A&M's growth and academic prowess.

The A&M experience, by nature, demands a proactive approach to education from its students. This cannot be overstated.

Each student surely has ideas and suggestions regarding changes that could vastly improve an already superior University. The important facts to keep in mind, however, are the positive aspects of A&M far outweigh any negative ones, and in order for positive change to continue, students must engage A&M's leaders with constructive criticism and positive alternatives in hopes of proliferating a healthy and earnest dialogue.

As President of Former Students Association Dr. Fred Palmer said, "As alumni our education has served us well, but the A&M experience overall has served us exceptionally well. Students have a tremendous legacy to fulfill and the resources are in place to all but guarantee success."

The greatest resource available to Aggies is simply the innumerable resources to be found in one another. Through positivity and thoughtfulness A&M's faculty, students and alumni can work together to achieve all of our respective and collective goals.

*Len Callaway is a junior journalism major.*