

# If you can't take the heat . . .

## Students dissatisfied with the university they attend should go elsewhere



**B**ashing Aggieland. For some people, it is a hobby. What I do not understand is why

these people stay here. Or, why did they even chose to come here in the first place?

Many of the people who are unhappy here have the same complaints. "A&M does not have diversity. A&M is too conservative. Texas A&M is too country," and so on. It also seems that the same people that are complaining are people who have come here only because they did not get into the University of Texas, and people who are only concerned with their standard college education.

I am not a "Howdy-Whoop-Gig 'em" person. I am not going to tell these malcontents to go join the Howdy Club or some other organization to give their existence at this campus some meaning. If these students would quit complaining for a few minutes they would probably find what they are looking for.

As far as diversity goes, one will never have 40,000 of the same type of people in one place. Anyone who has been to an MSC Open House can see the diversity of A&M. Organizations ranging from the business oriented, to the zany, to the down right bizarre are here at A&M.

Additionally, when a person

strolls across this campus, they can see hippies playing hacky-sack in the front of the MSC, then later see members of the Corps of Cadets drilling with rifles. That alone shows the spectrum of diversity at this campus.

A&M has a diversity of its own, it is just a different brand of diversity. By the way, the same people that complain about the "frat boys, rednecks and cadets" at this campus would complain about "goths, punks and 311-esque kids," at any other school. (I am willing to bet that the "other school in Texas" has a greater abundance of these kinds of people.)

If these people are looking for diversity on Northgate, chances are they are not going to find it. The "freaks," as they would be called, probably have better things to do with their time than be gawked at by a bunch of mostly middle-class suburban kids.

Also, this is the smallest campus of 40,000 one will ever attend. A person could play "six degrees of Joe" on this campus if they chose to.

This also is one of the friendlier campuses one could attend. As if there isn't the Howdy Club, dedicated to saying "Howdy" to everyone who even sets foot on this campus. If one makes eye contact with most people on this campus they will say, "Hi" (or howdy, or hola or some sort of greeting), or at the very least smile.

As far as being conservative and country, that should not come as a surprise to anyone going here or planning on going here. A&M does not hide its conservative na-

ture. This is a school that prides itself on tradition, a trait that is greatly associated with conservatism. One of the biggest departments on this campus is the agriculture school. Our mascot is a farmer ("Farmers Fight!") so the "rural" appeal of this school also should come as no surprise.

The school of business is another prominent department. The College Republicans is one of the larger organizations on campus. It should not be shocking that Old Navy is one of the popular brands on campus or that Hootie and the Blowfish would probably sell out if they ever come to College Station.

On a final note, if someone chose to go here for the wrong reasons: all their friends went here, this is where their parents went, they did not get into the University of Texas, now is the time for them to grow up and transfer to where they will be happy.

If someone is not happy here they really should look into transferring.

This is not an "I-bleed-maroon-so-love-Aggieland-or-leave-it" nationalistic mentality, just common sense.

There is no point in shelling out some serious cash to go to a school that does not meet their expectations.

This school is not for everyone. A&M does have a lot to offer, but a person can receive an education at any school.

Joe Schumacher is a senior journalism major.



**JOE SCHUMACHER**  
columnist

# Government should brush up on computer knowledge

Attorney General Janet Reno does not know a hard drive from a soft drive.

Further, it's safe to assume the rest of the Justice Department isn't an army of Dilberts either. That's why it's worrisome that the feds are so actively pursuing misguided trust-busting battles against Bill Gates and Microsoft.

"Misguided" is the operative word. The Justice Department is right to be watching Microsoft like a hawk. Any company that has gotten so far in this society with such an impotent-sounding name needs a little chaperoning, because they've probably cut at least a few deals with the devil.

But to better police the software giant, the department needs to hire some cops with more technical savvy, because the current ones can't really see what Microsoft is doing wrong.

That is why the Justice Department lost one of its cases last week. A federal appeals court reversed a decision that said it was illegal for Microsoft to force computer manufacturers to package its Web browser, Internet Explorer, with the Windows 95 operating system.

Shortly before the appellate court's reversal, the government tried to force Microsoft to package Netscape Communicator with each operating system.

That idea is just an embarrassment. That would be like trying to force RCA to sell each of its televisions with a remote made by Zenith.

Assuming a television would respond to either remote, and that the presence of one remote wouldn't prohibit the use of the other, RCA's packaging of its TV with its remote would not be anti-competitive.

Not only was the government proposal unnecessary, it was unfairly arbitrary because Netscape isn't Microsoft's only competitor in the browser market. Returning to the remote analogy, it would be unfair of the government to favor the distribution of Zenith remotes when Sony, Magnavox and GE also make remotes.

Similarly, there are tons of different web browsers available for Windows. Netscape's and Microsoft's (in that order) just happen to be the most popular. If Microsoft was unfairly trying to dominate the browser market, Netscape isn't the only company that would deserve reparations.

The Justice Department's successful campaigns against Microsoft have been few and far between. The feds did succeed in blocking Microsoft's purchase of Intuit, maker of the Quicken financial management software. The big fear was that Microsoft would find a way to dominate future commerce over the Internet by using ubiquitous Quicken-like software to siphon away fractions of each electronic transaction.

But the victory was pretty meaningless. Microsoft simply developed the software that it couldn't buy, but fear of global domination of e-commerce has yet to

develop. If the Justice Department paid attention to the netizens of America, they would realize that Microsoft's real sin is that it sometimes tries to deny other companies, such as Sun Microsystems, the chance to profit from new intellectual property.

If you want to hit Microsoft, hit 'em where it hurts: intellectual property issues. Any software company's profitability is directly related to its ability to keep users and other companies from using for free.

That's why it angers Bill Gates that Bill Clinton can't walk through China without slipping on a pirated copy of Windows. And that's why Sun Microsystems has a right to be upset with Microsoft.

Sun makes Java, a net-friendly language designed to run on any computer platform. Microsoft licensed Java from Sun, added a little of its own Sweet 'N' Low, and produced a subtly different cup of coffee, Microsoft Java.

That's the crime, right there. Microsoft was right to fear Java because the language has the potential to make Windows unnecessary in the years to come. But instead of playing nice and finding new ways to use Java, Microsoft is just going to try and steal its thunder.

In the meantime, Sun stands to lose profits, and computer users could be subjected to a Java war to see which of the two standards will win out.

If all this information is over the head of the typical reader, you can imagine what a tough time the Justice Department is having with it.

The computer revolution of the past 20 years needs Microsoft — warts and all — and America still needs Microsoft.

But it also needs to recognize where Microsoft's real skeletons are buried. By chasing after ridiculous product packaging cases, the nation's trust-busters have become oblivious to real anti-competition actions. Many don't even involve Microsoft.

They've given hardly a look-see to all manner of scary big bank mergers. They seem to think there's nothing wrong with the merging of titanic entertainment and publishing companies. And they're not the slightest bit concerned that my long distance company is passing out credit cards.

Microsoft creates tools that affect the flow of information, and that flow is changing the way we think about money and intellectual property. But Microsoft isn't the only company out there that's trying to control the driving forces of our economic emulsion, so the federal government better get wise and get efficient with its regulations.

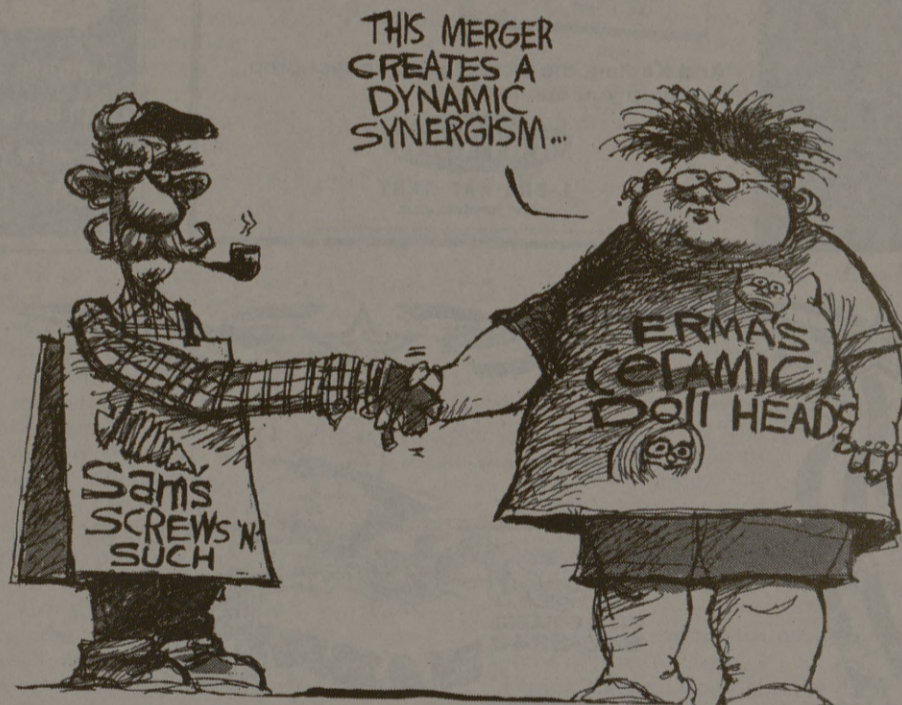
Otherwise 10 years from now we'll be paying a \$5 service fee to withdraw \$20 from the UniBank ATM so that we can buy an \$18 ticket to the latest flick from All-Is-One Studios, and the government still will be trying to understand the difference between Microsoft and Netscape.

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**JEREMY VALDEZ**  
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## MAIL CALL

### Fish Camp helps students develop

In response to Chris Martin's June 23, column, "Something's Fishy":

I am about the biggest die-hard Aggie that anyone could possibly be, and I am extremely proud to say so. Attending Texas A&M, for me, was the greatest experience of my life. I am not brainwashed about the environment or traditions that surround A&M in anyway. I do realize A&M may not be the place for every young person to attend school, but I do believe A&M helps develop young people in a way that other institutions cannot.

If that is brainwashing then so be it. At A&M, there are several different types of students. We have peo-

ple like myself who bleed maroon and will do so until the day they die. We have people that appreciate the Aggie experience for the opportunities it provides to the for their careers. Then we have people like Martin who obviously do not appreciate anything this school has to offer. God bless them all.

I am not gullible enough to believe A&M is perfect in every aspect. There are problems here at this institution just like everywhere else. However, no one is made to come here and no one is made to stay. As an institution of higher learning, A&M has a responsibility to provide the best educational experience possible to every student.

If a person can get the education they desire somewhere else and be more comfortable in that environment, that is their decision and their prerogative. Over the years, I have read some articles in *The Battalion* that have thoroughly disgusted me as a person and as an Aggie. I believe most of the time people just want to gain attention and cause trouble.

They go on some mission to prove they are "journalists" and know something the rest of us obviously don't. I put Martin in this category. I do not know Martin, nor do I have

the slightest inclination to make his acquaintance, so I will not speculate on his character. All I can say is I am glad he is a senior and will not have to put up with the brainwashing that occurs at A&M much longer. I hope that he can find a nice job with the National Enquirer or some other worthy magazine that will allow him to use his degree he earned at A&M.

Lastly, to all of the incoming Aggies out there, don't let people like Martin tarnish the love and admiration you either have or will develop for A&M.

Lennan H. Wall, III  
Class of '94

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