

Knights in Shining Maroon

Chivalry remains a timeless and appreciated practice on campus

By KENDRA KINGSLEY
THE BATTALION

Whoever coined the phrase "mind your manners" knew what he was talking about. In the South, chivalry is as true to culture as fried chicken and high school football games. While this behavior has regressed since the era of feminist and gender-equality based reform, its practice at Texas A&M remains a widely accepted and appreciated behavioral custom.

Lisa Ramirez, a sophomore biomedical science major, said social progression and chivalry can peacefully exist on the same campus.

"I think I'm pretty independent, but I'm definitely not offended when men show respect for women," Ramirez said. "There are a lot of things I can do for myself — like opening car doors, but I think it shows respect when a guy does it for you."

While staunch supporters of feminism may take offense to such treatment, Ramirez said that recognizing good etiquette is crucial.

"If a guy gives up a seat on the bus for you, it seems like you are saying that you're above him if you don't accept his offer," she said. "When a man goes out of his way to be considerate, it's important for a woman to show that she's grateful by thanking him. Otherwise, that same woman may one day find herself needing a man's help. By then it may be too late."

Not all followers of gallantry expect reciprocation for their actions, however. Bhavesh Patel, a junior finance major, said his own behavior stems from personal expectations.

"A lot of girls feel like they have to say 'thank you' for anything extra a guy does to show respect," Patel said. "I just feel like it's my responsibility to be a gentleman — I don't expect anything in return."

Although opening doors and offering bus seats are perhaps the most recognizable signs of debonair behavior occurring on campus, Patel said

even simple gestures can produce the same results.

"I try to show respect by being attentive," he said. "Women really notice if you give eye contact because it shows that you are paying attention to what they have to say. It's a simple way to show you respect them."

Yet such behavior is foreign to many students, especially those from different regional cultures. Anna Baldassare, a native New Yorker and sophomore general studies major, said she experienced a

"A lot of times I would get on the bus in New York, and pregnant or older ladies would be forced to stand because men wouldn't give up their seats. That never happens here."

— Anna Baldassare
sophomore general studies major

major culture shock when stepping onto A&M's campus for the first time.

"It's very different here," she said. "Guys in New York don't open doors for you, and dates are almost always dutch. It's very rare that men [in New York] go out of their way to show respect for women."

Baldassare said one of the most distinguishable differences between the two cultures lies in her bus riding experiences.

"A lot of times I would get on the bus in New York, and pregnant or older ladies would be forced to stand because men wouldn't give up their seats," she said. "That never happens here."

This convenience, a rare phenomenon in many states, has become common practice at A&M. Jarrod Carroll, a sophomore international studies major, said such etiquette is a natural product of southern roots.

"It really bothers me when guys don't give up their seats on buses, so I think I've become more conscious of noticing when girls are standing so that I can at least offer my own seat," Carroll said. "I don't really think about showing my respect for women; it's just become a habit."

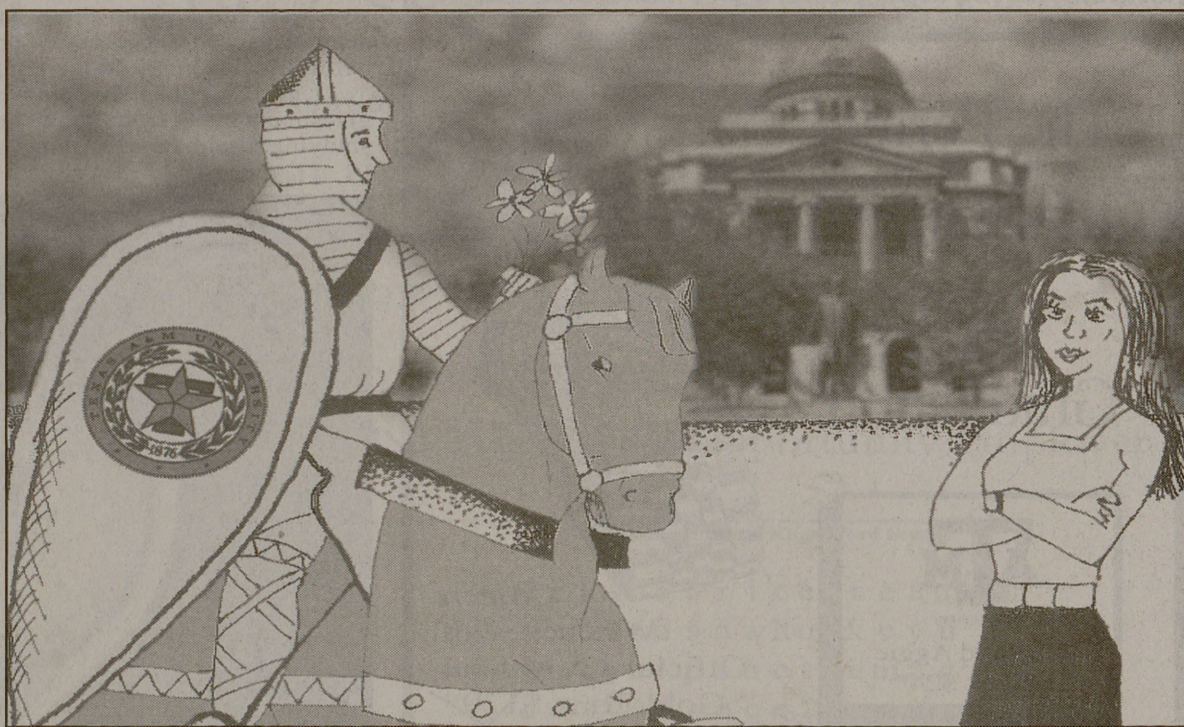
Such respect has not gone unnoticed. For Sukanya Subramanian, a first-year industrial engineering graduate student, a world of difference

exists between India, her home country, and A&M's campus.

"In India, men showing respect for women never happens the way it does here," Subramanian said. "There are people who are respectful to women, but it's a small handful."

In spite of the culture shock, Subramanian said the change is a welcome one.

"It makes you feel good when men at A&M recognize that you're a woman and open doors and give up their seats on the bus. I think people are more polite here [than in India], and I'm definitely getting used to it."



DIANA SUAREZ • THE BATTALION

recsports.tamu.edu
SPRING BREAK '02

Costa Rica

More than just a three hour tour...

PRESENTED BY
TAMU OUTDOORS

REGISTER THROUGH JAN. 2nd
TRAVEL MARCH 8th-15th

MAKE A DEPOSIT AND PAY LATER!

ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES LODGING, AIRFARE, TRANSPORTATION IN COSTA RICA, BIOLOGIST GUIDE, ALL BREAKFASTS, SIX LUNCHES, THREE DINNERS AND AN ADVENTUROUS 8 day/7 night ITINERARY.

REGISTER @ TAMU OUTDOORS, BEHIND THE REC CENTER, OR DROP BY FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL 845-4511.

<p>HOLIDAY OPERATING SCHEDULE</p> <p>• Planning To Be Here For The Holidays?—Make the most of the Rec Center during your down time and check our web site or Member Services for the most up to date holiday break operating hours. Please exercise caution around the construction site in front of the Rec Center and Welbourn Road.</p>	<p>WINTER BREAK WITH GOLF</p> <p>• Give GREENS For The Holidays!—Visit our Pro Shop for top notch holiday gift ideas for the golfer on your holiday list. We are sure to have something for everyone interested in golf. We also have gift certificates available which will surprise any golf enthusiast.</p> <p>• It's a Great Time to PLAY!—Take a study break and relieve some stress with 18 holes of golf at the Texas A&M Golf Course. Student and twilight rates are available along with a full line of golfing apparel in the Pro Shop. Come by today. Open to the public! We are located on the southside of the A&M campus. Call the Pro Shop at 845-1723 & visit us online.</p>	<p>HOLIDAY GIFTS @ WALK OF CHAMPIONS</p> <p>• Great Gift Ideas!—Buy a brick as a holiday or graduation gift. Do not miss out on the lower price for current students. For more information or to print out an order form, please visit our web site at http://recsports.tamu.edu/WOC. James Welford is also available to assist you in your brick order at 862-1856 or via e-mail at champions@rec.tamu.edu. Current Rates—Current students and current or retired Texas A&M faculty and staff can add a 4-x-8 inch brick to the WOC for \$100 and a 8-x-8 inch brick for \$200. For former students of Texas A&M and others, cost is \$250 for a small brick and \$400 for a large brick.</p>														
<p>PRE-EXAM TIME WITH FITNESS & CLASSES</p> <p>• PRE-EXAM JAM—Join Rec Sports and the Brazos Valley Food Bank as we get "FIT to Feed Brazos Valley," THIS WEDNESDAY, December 5th at 6pm on the Rec Center courts. \$2 or 2 cans of food gets you a t-shirt and an hour and a half of fun and fitness! Bring a friend, your roommate!</p> <p>• Jump Start Your Fitness—Our newest fitness offering includes one personal training session, a complete fitness profile, nutrition consultation, and a free t-shirt and cookbook all included for only \$30. Please register at Member Services.</p> <p>• Personal Training Sessions—Beat the holiday gain! Check out our competitive rates starting at \$30 for two sessions for one person. We also offer partner rates. Drop by Member Services to sign up today or give a P.T. gift certificate.</p> <p>• Massage Therapy—One full hour of Swedish massage. \$35 for Rec Members, \$45 for affiliates w/out Rec Membership. Sign yourself up at Member Services or give one as a holiday gift!</p>	<p>NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE SOON!</p> <p>• Everything You Need To Know About Recreation...—Will soon be presented to you in a new, improved way. Our new web site has been designed to allow you to get to the information you need quickly and easily! You can find information about all six areas of Rec Sports including schedule of events, registration information, hours of operation, team standings and more!</p>	<p>EXPLORE WITH TAMU OUTDOORS</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Winter Break Event</th> <th>Registration</th> <th>Event Date</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Wilderness First Responder</td> <td>Now-Dec. 7</td> <td>Jan. 3—Jan. 11</td> </tr> </table> <p>Program cost is \$475 w/o lodging and \$525 w/lodging. Please visit TAMU Outdoors for more information about this trip.</p> <p>• CLIMB ON!—Convenient Rock Wall Hours—Visit us online to get the latest times for orientation classes that will have you scaling our wall in no time!</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Monday—Thursday</td> <td>2pm to 10pm</td> <td>Friday</td> <td>2pm to 8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>Noon to 6pm</td> <td>Sunday</td> <td>2pm to 10pm</td> </tr> </table> <p>• Sail/Scuba Bahamas—Register early for this extraordinary adventure. You will travel August 17–23rd, 2002, make a deposit now and pay the rest later! A typical day includes snorkeling, SCUBA diving, fishing, lobstering, sunbathing, beach combing or exploring a real shipwreck. All of this is topped off with nights of star-filled skies and warm Bahamian breezes. For more information or to sign up please visit TAMU</p>	Winter Break Event	Registration	Event Date	Wilderness First Responder	Now-Dec. 7	Jan. 3—Jan. 11	Monday—Thursday	2pm to 10pm	Friday	2pm to 8pm	Saturday	Noon to 6pm	Sunday	2pm to 10pm
Winter Break Event	Registration	Event Date														
Wilderness First Responder	Now-Dec. 7	Jan. 3—Jan. 11														
Monday—Thursday	2pm to 10pm	Friday	2pm to 8pm													
Saturday	Noon to 6pm	Sunday	2pm to 10pm													
<p>BEFORE THE SEMESTER IS OVER!</p> <p>• GET INVOLVED!—College Football Bowl Challenge—Register at Member Services for this FREE program December 3rd–11th.</p>	<p>JOB OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>• Instructional Class Instructors Needed For Spring 2002—We are looking for qualified people to teach in our instructional class program. If you have a specific expertise in yoga, dance or other life fitness classes, please submit a resume to Paula Opal, 227 Rec Center by December 19th. For additional questions please call 845-3076.</p>															