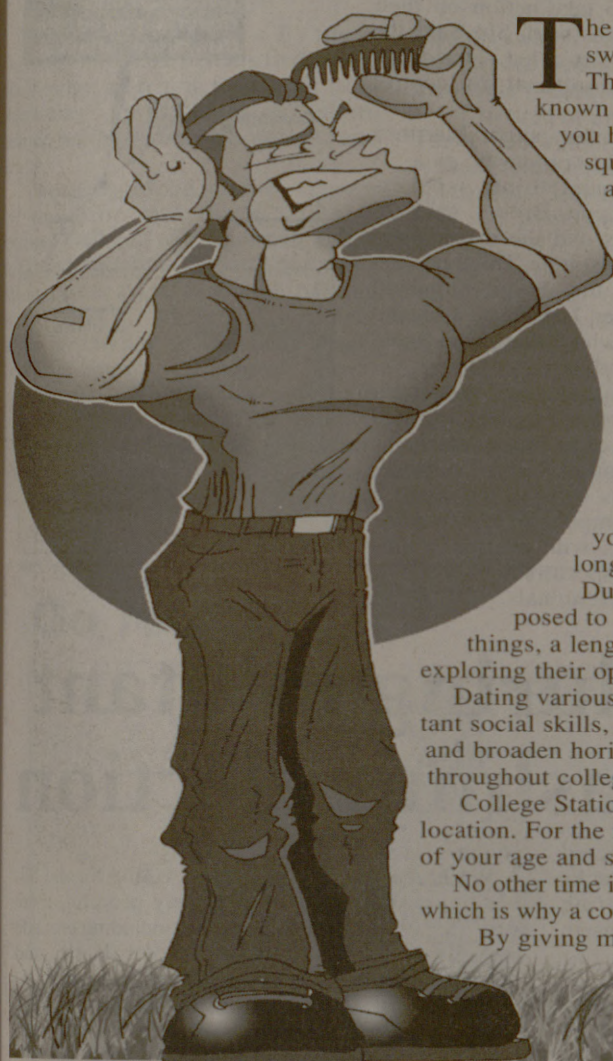


Get rid of emotional baggage

College is a time to branch out and explore opportunities in the dating field



The high school sweetheart: They have known you since you had braces, a squeaky voice and skinny legs.



SARA FOLEY

They were with you when you applied to college and when you got your acceptance letter into A&M. The problem is, they are still there.

You walk to class together and meet for lunch. They accompany you to date parties and Ring Dance and will one day walk down the aisle with you.

You still laugh at the same jokes, talk to the same people and visit home together.

In fact, you haven't changed a bit since you went on that first date with them so long ago. Therein lies the problem.

During the years when students are supposed to mature the most and experience new things, a lengthy relationship inhibits people from exploring their options and confines them from developing.

Dating various people during college helps form important social skills, define exactly what is desired in a spouse and broaden horizons in a way that dating one person throughout college could not supply.

College Station seems to be any single person's ideal location. For the most part, everyone is within a few years of your age and single.

No other time in life will present so many opportunities, which is why a constant restrictive relationship is ridiculous.

By giving more people a chance, keeping an open

mind and refraining from becoming too serious too soon, you can bring new people into your life and with that, new ideas and interests. Being single should mean being focused on attaining personal goals and socializing with friends and meeting new people instead of desperately searching for a soul mate.

Some students get so panicked at the thought of being alone that they rush into relationships for the sake of security. This can lead to staying trapped in a relationship that was never intended to last. When students settle for someone and the relationship ends, they often realize that all they really miss is having a companion, rather than missing the actual person.

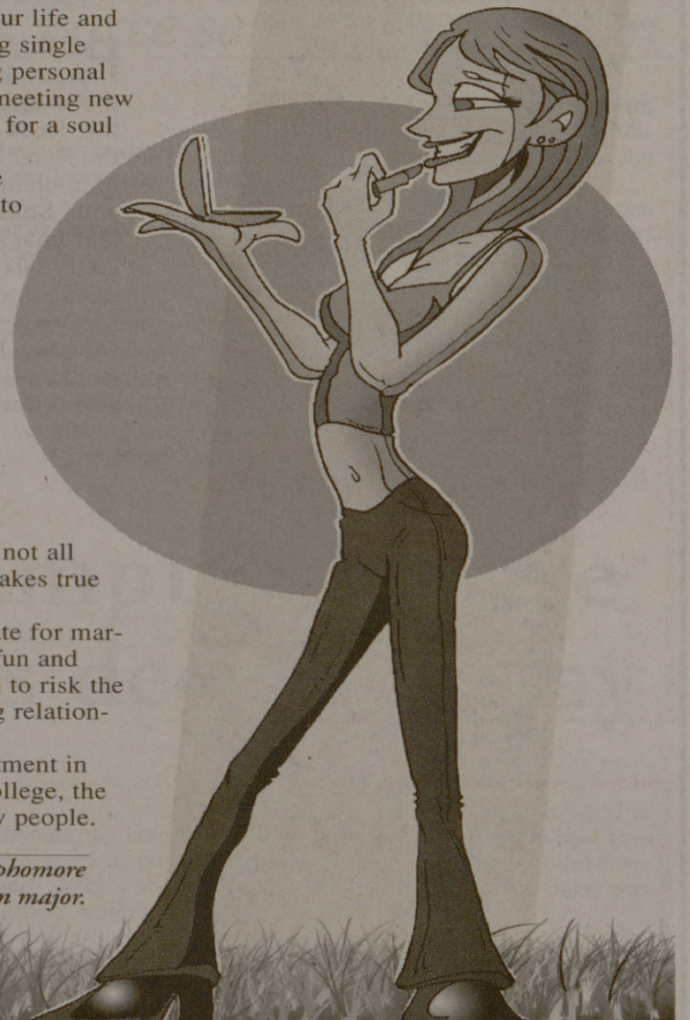
Dating should be a good experience — a time in a student's life before marriage with the chance to see who is out there.

While all dates are not exciting, and not all people deserve a second date, it only makes true love all the more important.

Although in later years one might date for marriage, now is a time to date simply for fun and meeting new people. There is no reason to risk the emotional damage of getting into a long relationship now.

While some people may find contentment in dating one person exclusively during college, the rest of us should open our minds to new people.

Sara Foley is a sophomore journalism major.



RUIREN DELUNNA THE BATTALION

Institutionalized racism continues at A&M

Sociology professor's book will continue tradition of racist ideology on campus

The first year of college is a unique learning experience for an Aggie freshman, and nothing sets Texas A&M apart like our traditions. New students will likely learn of the 12th Man for the first time and of Bonfire's tragic past, yet critical future.



MATTHEW MADDOX

Sadly, many new Aggies will also learn of A&M's latest "tradition" that administrators surprisingly refuse to give up despite not being "forever safe." A&M's tradition of focusing on race is a terrible mentality to teach a new generation. Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva's book *White Supremacy & Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era* is the latest evolution in this ritual that should have collapsed with the 1960s.

Dr. Bonilla-Silva is a professor in the sociology department at A&M. He teaches Sociology 317, a course which requires students to read his book. Most of Dr. Bonilla-Silva's book is devoted to selling his idea that there is an "elusive phenomenon," a white conspiracy that works in the shadows to "keep blacks in their place."

Bonilla-Silva's book says whites "develop a set of social practices and an ideology to maintain the advantages that they receive based on their racial classification, that is, they develop a structure to reproduce their systematic advantages."

From this, Bonilla-Silva derives an aberration called "color-blind racism." He is attacking Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophy of judging people based on the content of their character rather than on the color of their skin. Bonilla-Silva further harms racial harmony with his characterization of whites as "the enemy" because they oppose giving up their "wages of whiteness." This outlook is indicative of the mindset white stu-

dents face at A&M.

Any student who has heard an administrator speak or has read the school newspaper knows that those in charge of A&M worship at a pagan altar called "diversity." Since administrators will go to the trouble of making the disclaimer that diversity is not a race issue, let us review how the administration has proposed to "increase diversity" in its Vision 2020 report.

The full report calls for the use of the League of United Latin American Citizens and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in recruitment, while at the same time insisting on "enhanced" recruitment activities for students and high schools "representative" of the state's demographics (page 76). This is followed by "Sponsor high school (with large minority enrollments) visits to university activities" and "Establish Texas A&M University 'university relations' centers at selected high schools and community colleges with large percentages of minority students" (page 89). Prospective student centers in the lower Rio Grande Valley and South Oak Cliff are under development for this objective.

Prescribed on page 85 is the need for "...specialized student groups—such as ethnic residential theme houses, support centers, and academic departments." In this theme, implied segregation is the operating mode for University-sponsored groups such as the African American Student Coalition, the Hispanic Business Student Association, MEDALS, ExCel, and the minority open house known as Nu House.

Even more recent examples of Texas A&M race talk have been diversity training initiatives in the Student Senate and at *The Battalion*.

If placing value on a person's skin color is academically irrelevant and is racist by definition, where does the administration's brand of "diversity" fit into higher education? I am

sure that I am not the only white student to question his own worth in the eyes of administrators when one criticizes A&M for not being "diverse." By stating in Vision 2020 that we cannot be a top university without a change in the "diversity" of the students attending here, administrators reduce the value of each student to their appearance.

Bonilla-Silva's book goes even further with, "Treason to whiteness is loyalty to humanity." This is taken directly from the rhetoric of infamous Harvard professor Noel Ignatiev who recently published in his magazine *Race Traitor* that he plans to "keep bashing the dead white males, and the live ones, and the females, too, until the social construct known as 'the white race' is destroyed." One can't help but wonder if these two instructors have found the game plan of the A&M administration.

The closing chapter of Bonilla-Silva's book revolves around the message that the next generation, not yet exposed to racism, must be recruited to fight on Dr. Bonilla-Silva's side. Perhaps I am just what University of Virginia professor Eric Lott spoke of at a 2002 race forum here on campus when he said, "When you're white, you don't have to think too much about race ... that is the diseased white mind."

However, it is an evil idea that innocent generations, born far after slavery, Jim Crow, and the riots of the 1960s, be used as fuel for fire of social destruction. Racism will continue as long as new generations of all colors are chained to the institutionalized forms of racism and racial propaganda from charlatans such as Bonilla-Silva. A&M must act now to end this tradition for all future Aggies.

Matthew Maddox is a junior management major.

MAIL CALL

Not all disabilities are obvious

In response to George Deutsch's Sept. 27 column:

I am one of the 432 students registered with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities and I took this article as a huge slap in the face. I play by the rules, and I have a state-issued handicap placard that I use to park on campus. Without it I would not be physically able to walk to class. I do not have my disability tattooed on my forehead for everyone to see. In fact, my disability is not noticeable to anyone on campus at all. I had a below the knee amputation of my left leg and I have to wear a prosthetic limb to get around.

For George Deutsch to say that the students parking on campus with placards are pretending to be disabled, and that we all hop out of our cars and jog to class is despicable and ignorant. I have enough problems in my life without having students and faculty stare at me with skepticism and detest whenever I park in a handicapped space on campus or around town.

Jaclyn Wettstein
Class of 2002

The "average" legitimately handicapped person faces more undue stress, ridicule and torment than the average person with no handicap.

After getting out of the critical care unit of the hospital, I had to be escorted to the front doors of a store until my parents could find a wheelchair. At the time, we had no handicapped tags and had parked in a handicapped space. A rude and criticizing letter was left on our front windshield.

This illustrates the fallacy of assumption. Careful consideration should be enforced when confronted with an unknown situation. Things aren't always as they seem. Many handicapped individuals have tried hard to not appear handicapped. They do not want to appear different and are sometimes embarrassed and ashamed if they do.

Frank Dewey
Class of 2002

Coaches should "uncover" for singing of Aggie War Hymn

Only one thing took away from the glory of the outstanding win against Louisiana Tech last Saturday night. As we all know, the band plays the Aggie War Hymn between the first and second quarters and again between the third and fourth quarters. It is understood that when on the student side of Kyle Field, you get off the wood, and that no matter where you are, you uncover.

Being with my parents in the Zone allowed me

my first ever true look at the coaching staff in action. While I commend them on a job well done, I am disappointed in their failure to remove their caps during the playing of the War Hymn.

I cannot believe that the end of a quarter could come as a surprise to them. Yet, what other reason could there be? I have yet to come up with a satisfactory answer.

Removal of your cap during the War Hymn is done as a measure of respect towards this fine University, and the football staff should act accordingly.

Michelle Bartkowski
Class of 2003

Gender is unrelated to one's ability to nurture or protect

In response to Mark Wood's Oct. 1 column

Wood appears to have extreme gender biases where women play the good housewife whose job it is to raise the children while men are the breadwinners who have total control over their families. I hate to break it to him, but this type of household rarely exists anymore. Today, there are many families where the man and the woman take equal part in both nurturing and providing for their children. In my family, my mother plays a

dominant role in decision-making, and my father is the one who taught me sensitivity and compassion. Are you telling me that my mother is masculine and my father is effeminate?

And what about single-parent families? Should widows or widowers lose their children because there is no longer both a man and a woman to act as parents to these children as you say is required? In many cases, the single parent takes on the role of both mother and father, and society usually respects these parents for being able to take on both roles.

It becomes quite apparent that gender roles are obscure, and there is no black and white answer concerning what makes a good mother or father.

Your assumption of assigned roles for men and women needs to be reevaluated or you will lose those willing to listen to your point of view.

Ashley Wagnon
Class of 2002

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 200 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number. The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be mailed to: 014 Reed McDonald, MS 1111, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mailcall@thebatt.com