

FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 6 • Friday, October 3, 2003

Beyond race

International students help redefine Texas A&M's concept of diversity

When one thinks of diversity, the first thought that often comes to mind is related to race or skin color, a misconception that must be changed once and for all by the Texas A&M student body.

Diversity encompasses much more than just skin color. It relates to everything from gender, age and minority groups to the potential for intellectual growth achieved in a higher education system. When Vision 2020 brought a clearer definition of diversity to the University, many argued that if A&M implemented this idea, the University would lose the sense of uniqueness upon which it was founded. But what many fail to understand is that diversity is not a new concept, nor should it be.

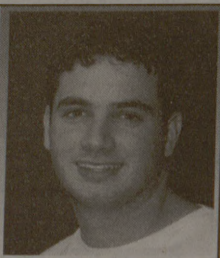
Let's not forget that one of the greatest presidents to ever lead this University, General Earl Rudder, was also criticized during his term when he approved women's admittance into A&M. Decades later, his decision has proven to be one of the University's greatest changes. It was certainly a challenge for Rudder to promote diversity then, and it remains a challenge for our current president, Robert M. Gates, to do the same now. It is up to us, the students of A&M, to help Gates make the vision of a diverse student body a reality.

More than 3,700 international students attend A&M, and how many times has their presence been acknowledged? How often has anyone stopped to ask why they would leave

Student Leader Views



Julio Jana



their home countries and their beloved ones to come to a whole new world? How often has an effort been made to understand a different point of view on the world? There are many things one could do to increase his intellectual potential and awareness of world issues.

On behalf of the International Student Association, I urge you to join us in promoting international awareness during the third week of November by wearing a piece of clothing or jewelry of international origin. Our goal is for you to educate others about the significance of your article of clothing as well as the culture from which it originates.

International students are here for many reasons, but I believe we all share the same willingness to expose our international point of view. We do this by sharing our customs while at the same time assimilating into the traditions found at A&M without violating the unique image the University has held for so long.

We are all fortunate to be able to exchange our experiences. Let's hold on to that feeling of being part of one big family.

Together, we can make A&M not just one of the top 10 universities in the country, but the best university in the world.

International Student Association President
Julio Jana is a senior agricultural economics major.

"It is up to us, the students of A&M, to help Gates make the vision of a diverse student body a reality."

MAIL CALL

Religion should be taught in schools

In response to a Sept. 24 mail call:

For nearly two weeks now I've read the debates between designer theory and evolutionary theory, and it occurs to me that the real debate is between science and religion. On that note, there is a fundamental concept many people miss: Science is not religion.

Science is the study of the world and universe around us, and it gets its foundation from constant observation and testing. Science doesn't mention a god or gods because we have no observational reference to ethereal concepts. Does that mean that science supercedes religion? Hardly, but comparing the two is akin to relating apples to oranges.

Teaching designer theory in schools as science is, therefore, the dumbest thing I've ever heard. Should it be taught anyway? I think so, but

not as science. I never understood why religion isn't taught in school. "Separation of church and state" is a declaration that those in charge won't let their own beliefs interfere with their duty to take care of their constituents. However, I think if people were educated in the religious and social concepts of different cultures we wouldn't see the violence between religions that we see now.

Thomas Critz
Class of 2005

Atoning for the actions of others

I recently wrote a letter to The Battalion concerning a theft of Aggie folding chairs after the Utah game at the RV lot.

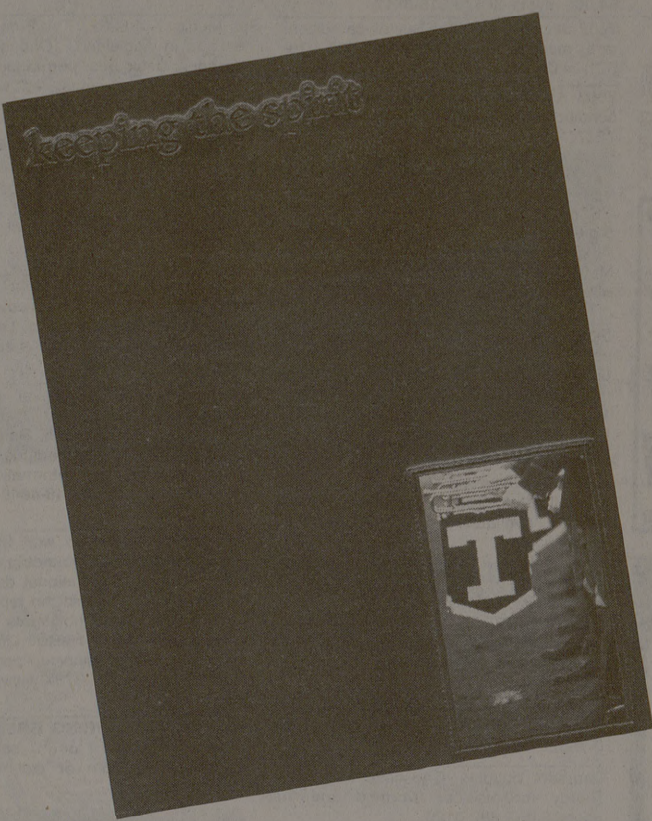
On Saturday after the Pitt game, a gray-haired gentleman from Virginia said to me "You must be Raúl, who wrote to The Battalion about

the chairs." He told me that Friday afternoon, a young man named Chris had approached him and asked if he had two Aggie chairs stolen during the Utah weekend. He responded "no," however he had read the letter, too. Chris, an Aggie, had come to the RV lot with two Aggie chairs that he was going to give to me to replace the ones stolen!

Thanks, Chris — I am glad to see that at least one Aggie respected the traditions of Texas A&M and was willing to atone for the misdeeds of another.

I am sorry I did not get to meet you. Of course, I would not have accepted your offer, as much as it was appreciated. I have already replaced the lost chairs, but I was really hoping that the thief would have felt bad enough to return to the scene and return the chairs — no questions asked, as I had promised.

Raúl G. Villaronga
Class of 1999



It's time to get your copy.

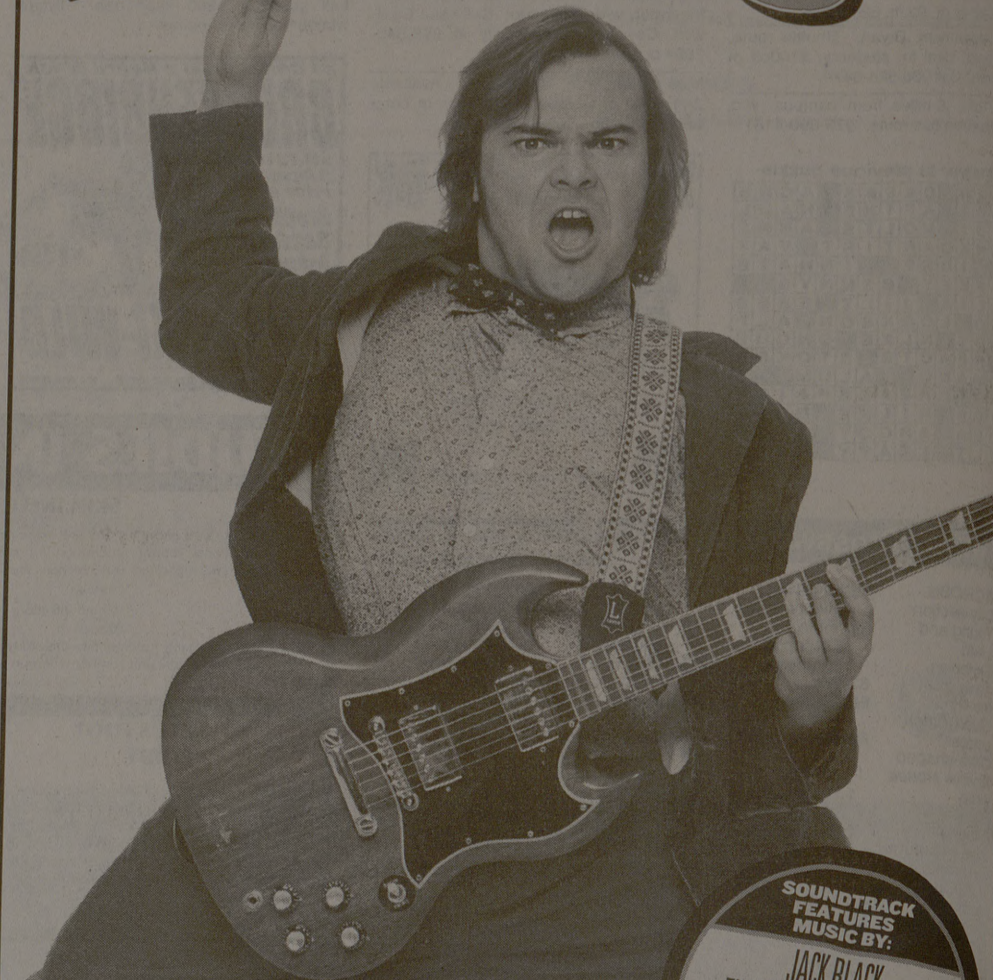
PICKING UP your 2003 Aggieland yearbook is easy. If you ordered a book, look for the distribution table in front of the Reed McDonald Building. (Go to the Reed McDonald basement in case of inclement weather.) Please bring your Student ID. If you did not order last year's Texas A&M University yearbook

(the 2002-2003 school year), you may purchase one for \$40 plus tax in Room 015 Reed McDonald. Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Cash, check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express, Aggie Bucks accepted.

2003 Aggieland

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TAKE NOTES. OCTOBER 3.

Clothing

Texas A&M example through

While the University's own support of students from Latin America aren't aware that are manufactured

If A&M is truly a moral principle and must play an active role that continue to promote

The Memorial Stadium A&M logos made. According to the American Industrial Organization, other countries through university logos under

BJ&B, the company Domingo in the Dominican Republic work of up to 56 hours average baseball workers earn around \$1.50 in licensing the pay at these factories to provide wages to provide the manager's own standard

A&M's Athletics Department made in repress of Asia. According to shoe factory in Vietnam they were forced to conclude that work the age of 25, working in deplorable work conditions for their families.

Reasons for

In response to St

I am not offering as an explanation team win or lose Saturday really did third deck, there is deck, nothing to blame

Many of the Aggies at halftime were just to cool down and do and half. Two of them leave at the beginning because they were that the medics in you that they had a

Yes, Aggies do however, it is also to point fingers at the situation. For those who were losing, they are those of you who treat, thank you for Aggie tradition.

Bus drivers leave games

I would like to speak to drivers who attend games. We are not "two-percent" leave the game when in the fourth quarter arrive at our buses and when the final cannot

I am sure every would be upset if they after yell practice and

While I understand approximately 100 people toward the end of the fact when you are leaving the game.

Aggies are c

After reading Monday further sickened Pittsburgh. The man was how much energy bashing other Aggie school and environmental

Monday's articles should be exerted drifting apart. I stayed game, but only because to yell my loudest that see the point in which at my fellow students to a few "red asses"