• March 29, 199

down FRIDAY March 29, 1996

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heir last 10 nder to short. 4-1 when Norb red on a wild pit ser Darren Oliv e third. Snop drove in Mou a single as Oli up four runs a walks in four

ich got Kurt Sti

nd out to third fo

#### Is the recent affirmative action decision a step forward? **Race relations Affirmative action** turn toward future meets races' needs

Instead of going mon Buford c to Cancun over ead to 4-2 with Lspring break, I single in the sixt went water skiing. gers threatened Now the real fun of en Buford start water skiing isn't in the skiing, but th a double off t 111. He scored o in the water. For those of you from ngton's single. Ortiz flied out the water-rich

Midland-Odessa area, water skiing involves a boat.

Now this wouldn't seem like that a boat doesn't drive like a car. There are no orakes. In other

ch on )uinn was named h

ust 1994, was u nt pressure fro g of the season struggled despit d lineup. Stan Smyl an len Hanlon wi main as assista aches.

"Hopefully Ri ey will stay wi ir organization e go forward uinn said. rarely shows em d the bench. h ed most of the set l sports report tly being unable e Canucks. ed as a player 13 seasons in WHA, with t

Iaple Leafs and including six otain. ed the Canucks 2 record during shortened 1994%

of Orillia, 0 In the '60s, when affirmative ead coach of r two seasons the Canucks or ne of only the

layers, includi Kenzie and Go ave his jersey (N

require playing still remain, institutional otential. lost a couple

at we should have ve've also won so ings, not affirmative ones. so it kind of can Apologists for race-based syssaid. "We know" ayed up to or the University of Texas Law et and that's kind School - claim race should only because it's get way point of the know we've stil e need race as an issue at all? ull ahead of us so nat way. uces people of different color, -game series will at 7:00 p.m. and " aturday with a do tive action. at 2:00 p.m.The scores, GPA, etc. — is color the onclude with a 2 reason for the difference? on Sunday. gies will be ho Fuesday when t Nope. No one today really befor intelligence. arkats of Sam H in a 7:00 p.m. ga So what's happening here? remain home f Simply, affirmative action prone weekend se llas Baptist. ties from middle class schools

h

n.

Food

- cocktail

oor

DAVID TAYLOR COLUMNIST

such a big deal unless you realize

words, stopping takes a plan or two: the boat will lways drift. Affirmative action was the plan meant to stop runaway racism in the workplace. The idea was like

putting a boat's en gine in reverse. But the time has come to go forward again. Last week's de-

cision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals is simply the next step in race relations. The court reject ed what it called "racial social engineering." Instead, it ordered that race-based programs must be narrowly defined to address a specific history of dis-

crimination within an organization or institution, not by society at large.

action programs were instituted society as a whole was racist. Only a few years prior, 'separate but equal' still ruled the South. The North was only abit better

In short, it was necessary to re verse the engine. Affirmative acon was administered nationwide. Although many rednecks

racism is uncommon. Racebased remedies today do little except promote negative feel-

tems — like the admissions policy be a factor when all else is equal. But if all else is equal, why do If our educational system probut of equal qualifications, then we definitely don't need affirma If things are not equal — SAT lieves color makes any difference grams at colleges benefit minoriwho are just as qualified as their

Every minority I have worked with on this campus deserves to be here. I would even venture to say most were more qualified to be at Texas

A&M than me. However, if race is not the issue, what is?

white counter-

parts.

The real problem is economics.

hen the 5th U.S. Circuit Court struck down AJA the University of Texas Law School's admission policy last week, it was hailed as a step forward, a trium against F Affi ve Ac. Nothing could a further from the truth.

Student. who are rejoicing because this ruling ends affirma-

that. If you end affirmative action for racial minorities, you'd sure better end it for these folks. If "who's qualified" were determined solely by numbers, college applications would be

> be reduced to a few lines. You just fill out your name, your grades, and your SAT score. Wouldn't that be a great way to make admissions decisions — the "most qualified" folks would be in the house, right? No. College applications are lengthy to ensure a heterogeneous student body. You are a little naive if you think that people get into colleges (and even get scholarships) by number comparisons alone. You are extremely naive if you think that people get jobs this way.

sions decisions,

and I don't hear

anyone complaining about

If you are a white female rejoicer, I am particularly puzzled about you. White females have benefited substantially from affirmative

action. If you think the need for that is over, take a look at the statistics. Equally qualified women earn thousands less than men in the work force, the gap depending on which industry you are considering. Women and racial minorities have to work twice as hard in their careers to be seen as competent as their male counterparts. So what? Well, if this court decision is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, white men will be flocking to the court-house saying, "Hey, I am more qualified than that woman over there, end this gender-based affirmative action!" The possibilities are endless and make me want to throw up. I would like to see affirmative action end, but that can only take place when the racism and sexism in this country is eradicated. We have not yet reached that point, and stopping affirmative action programs is not the solution. I don't want to get a job just because I am black and female (unlikely), but I sure as hell don't want to NOT get a job because of that fact (very likely). Injustice still exists, so affirmative action programs should exist as well

#### THE BATTALION Established in 1893

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorials board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff. Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors. Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns. Editorials Board **Sterling Hayman** Editor in Chief **Stacy Stanton** Managing Editor Michael Landauer **Opinion** Editor Jason Brown

Assistant Opinion Editor

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### **EDITORIALS TURNING OUT** Strong presence at the polls should continue through run-offs.

With the results of the to represent effectively the student body elections in, the most notable outcome is not for whom the students voted, but that so many voted. More than 10,000 students cast ballots, the highest ever in the history of Texas A&M and the highest of any university in Texas

Texas A&M students have shown they understand the importance of selecting their representatives. With the mandate given by close to 25 percent of the student body, these elected officials can truly claim to speak for the rest of the students. The administration should note the results and keep their significance in mind when dealing with the elected representatives next year.

All the students who voted deserve credit for caring enough to take action. The Election Commission deserves even more credit for all its work in promoting the election and ensuring its fairness.

The candidates who won merit congratulations for their hard work and dedication, but their work is just now beginning. With the high voter turnout, their obligation students is especially crucial. They should take this responsibility seriously.

Those who were not elected also deserve credit for participating and should not let this election discourage them. Students make valuable contributions daily in many areas of the University that do not require the vote of a single person. There are many opportunities for these students to channel their energy and con-cern for the University.

Still, the job for the stu-dent body is not over yet. The April 4 runoff is as meaningful as Wednesday and Thursday's election, because the most important position — that of student body president — is not yet filled. With the field narrowed down to Carl Baggett and Ryan Shopp, students should study the two candidates and their platforms to make an informed decision about who would best represent them.

If the quality of the runoff is similar to that of yesterday and Wednesday's election, the student body will be in good hands next year.

#### **THINKING BIG** Big Event should not be the only time of year for community service.

Everything is bigger in Texas. In that spirit, Aggies will fan out into the community this weekend to take part in the largest single-day community service project in the United States.

The program has earned recognition for its success from a wide variety of people, including students, community members, and even George and Barbara Bush.

However, it could be seen as nothing more than a token effort if community service is not seen as a year-round goal.

The Big Event Committee works year-round taking requests for work to be per-formed for this weekend. The members of the committee deserve credit for their commitment, and they should be proud of the results they will see this weekend.

Economic opportunity is not necessarily a function of race, ei ther. In fact, more white Ameri-cans live in poverty than any oth er race. The perception is skewed The United States has a long by the fact that a greater percent history of affirmative action for age of minorities live in poverty white people. It is called the

than whites This poverty leads to educational deprivation for all races — in other words, substandard schools.

Affirmative action programs, as presently designed, do nothing to fix the underlying problem of economics. Here is the place for the next step.

Unfortunately, no governmentmandated program will solve the economic problems of South Dallas or Houston's Third Ward. But that's where the real problem is, and it's time to deal with it. The court made the right decision regarding this admissions policy, but racial problems still exist. The solution, however, lies in economic opportunity for poor neighborhoods — such as Jack Kemp's "Enterprise Zones" designed to promote business in inner cities It's time to take the next step in realizing the ultimate goal of civil rights policy — the "dream" that someday the only color that will matter will be in a man's blood.

tive action are lying to themselves. It might mark the end of affirmative action for racial mi-norities, but not for whites.

good ol' boy network - having

strings. At the university level,

it might take the form of your

parents being Old Ags. On the

employment level, well ... are

you familiar with the phrase, "it's not what you know, it's who you know"? Usually, the

people with the power to make

important decisions, admis-

sions-wise or hiring-wise, are

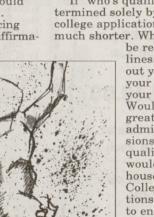
connections or pulling a few



THE BATTALION

OPINION

# much shorter. Why, they could



David Taylor is a senior management major

white, and the people who know them are white. Thus, white affirmative action and

white set-asides. Look at the implications of the ruling. Texas A&M has stopped awarding race-based scholarships like the President's Achievement Award. Race relations will just improve so much, won't they? Now the admissions policy will be fair, right? Whites won't be punished for being born into the majority. Well, it's true that no one has a choice into what race he or she is born. By the same token, I can't help the fact that I wasn't born into some long string of Ag alumni, or with superior athletic talent. Still, these people are given preferred treatment in admis-

Aja Henderson is a junior political science major

## **Domestic violence hits young couples hard**

E very 18 seconds, a woman is beaten. Since the O. L. Si Since the O.J. Simpson trial brought the issue of KRISTINA domestic violence to the fore- BUFFIN front of news, a large amount of attention has been devoted STAFF WRITER to women who are battered by a spouse, boyfriend or an acquaintance.

What has not been given much attention is the fact many women who are battered are college students.

As we near the end of Women's Week, which draws attention to how far women have come and how much further they need to go to achieve equality, domestic abuse remains the key issue that continues to plague women.

Over the past year, I have become aware of how big the problem really is. Seeing students with blacks eyes and hearing stories of friends who are involved in abusive relationships have brought me back into reality, something I usually like to avoid.

Two weeks ago, a girl told me about how her ex-boyfriend threw her down a flight of stairs, separating her shoulder. She responded by breaking four of his ribs and

trying to make sure that he was not going to have children for long time

Although I was glad to know he did not escape without injury, I was nonetheless disturbed by the story. It is the '90s, and our generation has grown up being educated about how to avoid abusive relationships. However,

these acts of violence against women continue.

Oftentimes, women are too scared to report the abuse that they incur. We have all heard the excuses, "He apologized and brought me flowers," and "He just lost his temper and promised he would never do it again." But this does not change the fact that violence against anyone, whether male or female, is inexcusable

An apology does not mean that he will not do it again, and no matter how many times he says he loves you, punches do not equal love.

Abusive relationships do not only involve physical harm, but mental and psychological as well.

A friend of mine was involved in this type of relationship. Her boyfriend continually told her he needed her and that he couldn't

be without her. Although this was an unhealthy relationship, she continued to stay because she did not want to hurt him.

She is an intelligent woman who graduated from A&M with honors with a degree in psychology, and despite how many times she denied it, my friends and I believe that he did at least once lay a hand on her.

What my friend's situation illustrates is that no matter how smart someone may be, no matter how much college education someone has had, no one is immune to abusive relationships.

Critics do not understand how women continue to stay in these types of relationships, and no one has really come up with a good reason why. But what we do know is that unless society continues to educate the public that violence against women will be tolerated, it will only continue.

Women must realize they deserve better than what these types of relationships give them. It takes a lot of courage and determination, but in the end, ending abusive relationships will not only help the woman, but society, too.

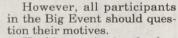
> Kristina Buffin is a junior international studies major

Although participants can easily give themselves a proverbial pat on the back after this weekend's long hours of work, they should not break their arms doing so.

Community service is needed more than just once a year. Big Event exists to show the Bryan-College Station community how much Aggies care, but a true caring attitude might be better displayed on more than an annual basis.

By focusing all efforts on a single day, people might over look the greater need. Although it seems unlikely, Big Event should inspire groups to take time out of each month to perform similar good deeds.

Big Event is a great program that matches the energy of the student body with the needs of the surrounding community.



The big question is, why does this work have to be done on one day? It almost seems inappropriate to attract attention to what should be good deeds done for their own sake. Some participating groups treat the weekend as a mere social event.

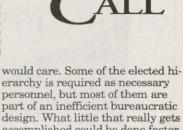
Perhaps the committee should refocus its efforts to match willing workers with projects throughout the year.

The emphasis should not be placed on the bigness of the event, but rather the idea behind it, and that can only be accomplished by focusing on more than one weekend. Although it is nice to see so much done in one weekend, workers should think about what could be done in an entire year.



#### New officers face tough responsibility

Congratulations to our newly elected officials. In taking your new offices, please remember one thing: Your positions are obligatory, meaning that the system has obliged you with these positions. The majority of us in the huddled masses, otherwise known as the student body, felt that most of these positions could drop off the face of the earth, and not a soul



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personnel, but most of them are part of an inefficient bureaucratic design. What little that really gets accomplished could be done faster with a much smaller system. I respect your hard work and desire to serve, but please don't forget who you represent and how waning power really is. If leadership does not appear hard, you're no leader.

> Chad A. Hesters Class of '96

