

Reversing the trends

Texas A&M pre-law students have tried the University and found it guilty ... guilty of not adequately providing for their pre-professional needs.

A single counselor in the general studies program is responsible for keeping all the University's pre-law students up-to-date.

That's a big job. Even though the University keeps no statistics on the number of students planning on law careers, surely it's too much for one person to handle at a University this size.

The absence of a law school in the Texas A&M University System is no reason to ignore the needs of the undergraduates planning further studies at other universities.

The current system of pre-law advising is vague and unorganized. The students spend more time trying to figure out how to be advised than being advised.

The situation, however, is still salvagable. The University has a foundation to build from, but the program needs more coordination before it can truly be called a program.

The first step is commitment from the administration. University officials need to reexamine their priorities and realize that a pre-law program would benefit the University as well as a sizeable number of its top students. It never hurts for a state university to have lawyers — potential state legislators — as alums.

Secondly, the administration needs to put its full support behind efforts to improve. An effective system — one which has been established at the University of Texas — would be a network of designated pre-law advisers across the colleges and departments. Students expressing an interest in law would be sent to these advisers in their departments.

It would be the pre-law coordinator's responsibility to keep in close touch with the pre-law advisers, making sure all of them were passing on accurate information to students.

With a system like this, the pre-law problem could be settled out of court.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Journalists hindered by popular stereotype

Some fields of study are more acceptable than others.

Unfortunately, I have found, journalism majors tend to fall in the category of not-so-acceptable.

Being a journalism major, I get all types of reactions from all kinds of people when I tell them I'm studying journalism. And the reactions never cease to amaze me.

Once when I went home I told a woman in my church that I was majoring in journalism and working as a reporter for Texas A&M's newspaper. Boy, was that a mistake. She asked me if I was going to be another obnoxious, nosy reporter — like that's the only kind of reporter there is.

At the time, I figured her only problem was that she just has old-fashioned ideas about journalism. Surely, I thought, no one my age would be so narrow-minded as to think all journalists have bad intentions.

I was in for a big surprise. It was during a class last semester that I first realized the truth. Not only do people my age not think highly of the press, but they also don't trust journalists' motives.

The Grenada invasion was being discussed, and the professor asked the class what they thought about the press not being allowed to go there initially.

People in the class overwhelmingly said they were glad that the press wasn't allowed to go to Grenada. My classmates said they felt

that the press would make a sensationalistic story out of it and make the United States look bad.

Is that what we really want? For the United States to "look good"?

It's interesting to me that every day people criticize the govern-

ments dedicated not only to being factually correct, but also to being ethically correct.

Although I can't speak for all journalists, I can say that this journalist wants to report the news. Sure, it's nice to see my name in print, but it's even nicer to know that you have informed people of something they wouldn't know otherwise.

I'm not quite sure where my classmates think they'll get news if journalists are banned from the information. Not to imply that I think the government would necessarily lie to the public. It's just that the government has a different perspective on its actions than the average person does.

That's where journalists come in. The press is the government's watchdog, informing citizens about what the government is doing — good or bad.

The press is often criticized for reporting only bad news. But those making the accusations should realize that they, too, have their eyes open only to the negative aspects of journalism.

If the press is no longer able to get information, then the nation will have a much more serious problem than if Americans continue to be the most over-informed people in the world.

Melissa Adair is a senior journalism major and assistant city editor for The Battalion.



melissa adair

ment, the President and the laws of the United States without ever batting an eye. Yet when journalists try to find out what the government is doing and how it is being done they are accused of trying to purposefully make the United States look bad.

Granted, not all journalists are ethical and not all have the right intentions. But then again, not all businessmen are ethical. All professions have their bad apples.

Perhaps what bothers me the most is that I see so many extremely dedicated journalism students here at Texas A&M — stu-

Sexy names become liabilities for women in business careers

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

As if there wasn't enough sex discrimination in the business world, a recent Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute study says that women with sexy names have less chance of being selected for managerial jobs than those with non-sexy first names.

The study, conducted by Deborah Linville, a former graduate student in industrial/organizational psychology, is titled, "Prejudice Toward Women Applicants Based on Their First Names," and claims that men more often than women hold the traditional "sex role" stereotype about managers.

That stereotype: managers should possess masculine characteristics, such as motivation and decisiveness, and that first names create expectations about people.

Linville asked seniors and graduate students at RPI, a popular training ground for Fortune 500 company managers, to rate the "perceived sexiness" of 250 female names on a scale from 1 (non-sexy) to 7 (sexy).

She did not define the word "sexy" but left that up to the students.

They considered some first names sexier than others. For example, among the highest-rated sexy names were Dawn (4.8), Jennifer (4.8), Cheryl (4.9), and Michelle (4.8). The least sexy were Ethel, who only got a 1.0, Mildred

(1.5) and Esther (1.8).

She then asked another group of students to play boss and rate job applicants with these seven names. The non-sexy applicants were chosen for employment and promotion over the sexy ones by a much larger margin of men than women, which made Linville conclude that men, when choosing women for jobs, are prejudiced by the sexiness of their first names.

In case anyone is interested, here are some of the other first names that RPI men perceived as sexy: Alicia, Adrienne, Andrea, Candace, Christine, Gail, Heather, Holly, Jaqueline, Julia, Kathy, Maria, Marilyn, Melanie, Renee, Susan, Tamara, and Tina. Christine got a 5.08, the highest. There were no 7s.

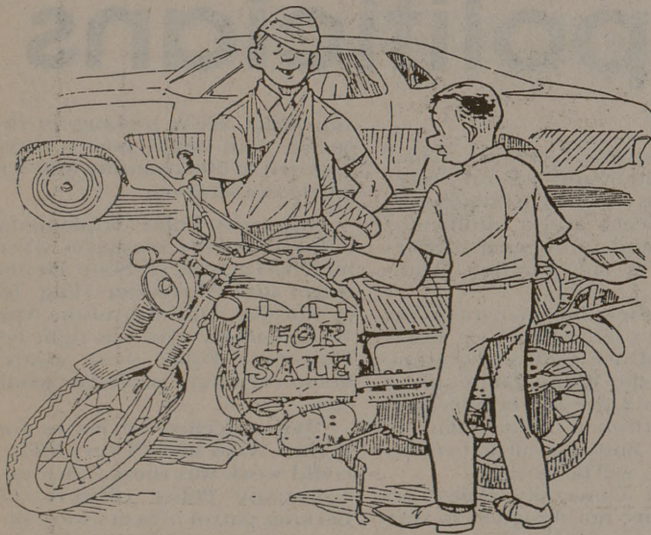
If Linville's conclusions are correct, these women will have a tough time making it in a man's world.

Here are a few of the names which were perceived as non-sexy: Alma, Cornelia, Doris, Edna, Elvira, Florence, Magdalena, Myrtle, Rosalind, Silvana, and Zelda.

These women will have no problem rising to the top on the corporate ladder.

So what are we to make of all this? There is nothing much one can do at this stage of the game unless a woman wants to change her first name, but if the prejudice continues in the business world, new parents may think twice when it comes to naming their daughters.

Slouch by Jim Earle



"There's no real reason. I just decided that I'd like to sell it."

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Pre-law Society not hiding

Editor: I am writing in response to a three-part article published last week in The Battalion concerning pre-law students here at Texas A&M.

Kathy Wiesepepe is correct in her assertion that the dilemmas pre-law advisors do need to manage their activities between themselves. It is imperative that students from different colleges at this university be able to come together and exchange ideas and information concerning a career in law.

It would also be nice if Texas A&M had an academic pre-law program, such as the pre-medical pre-vet programs. However, it is quite obvious that those programs were set up as a result of the University's medical and veterinary schools. Until the University creates a law school it is unrealistic to hope for a pre-law program.

Last week's articles left

reader's forum

reader with a feeling that the pre-law students were wandering around about the campus, and that Mr. Rundell's "gut feeling" was not worry since there aren't many of us in first place.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of people like Hillary Jessup, the Texas A&M Pre-law Society is one of the largest pre-law societies in the state. I found out at the state pre-law convention in Austin, the second largest pre-law society in the state.

It would be absurd to think that Dr. Jessup could go around personally interviewing all 37,000 people going to law school. However, those who are, they need only go to the Student's Organization guide for a description of the society and a phone number to call. Stop by our desk upstairs in the Villillion Building. We are not trying to hide from anyone, and we always welcome new members.

It is extremely easy for students to criticize and poke holes in any organization. If The Battalion, and Kathy Wiesepepe, are really interested in the plight of the pre-law students here, we invite you to come up with some constructive ideas that would help. We are always willing to listen.

David Fisher, President
Texas A&M Pre-law Society

Letters

Out of the ashes

Editor: A piece of sculpture entitled "Out of the Ashes" sits in Temple Emanuel in New York City. Designed in the shape of a mound of dirt, there are faces, hands, arms and legs appearing periodically from bottom to top. At the top of the mound is the Israeli flag.

Sunday and Monday of the week the world mourned those from Nazi Germany who died in what has become known as the Holocaust. Let us remember the tragic event in history, brought about by over a thousand years of hatred, prejudice, and bigotry.

Stephen Weiss, Class of '85

Frat issue is dead

Editor: I was amused at Davis-Gary's "No-Frats" antics at this past weekend's Sigma Phi Epsilon "Fite-Nite." Their senseless rebellion seemed almost comical until they started fights with some Greeks that required police attention.

The Corps, dorms, Greeks, and any other organization have equal rights to exist.

The issue is dead. Fraternities are established and will continue to exist.

Craig Ghalston, Class of '87