

# Finals schedule is fair to everyone

This semester's schedule for final exams and commencement ceremonies, which recently was approved by the registrar's office, does a good job of balancing the needs of students with the needs of professors and administrators.

Although the schedule does not provide for a complete "dead week," there are three "dead days" — a considerable improvement over last semester's schedule.

Other concessions by the administration include a reading day, no weekend tests and time for students who are blocked to take care of their problems and still graduate.

People who are griping about the schedule should realize that not everyone at A&M has the same needs and that this schedule was designed to satisfy as many people as possible.

Devising the exam and commencement schedule was certainly not an easy job. Those who worked toward reaching this compromise deserve to be commended for a job well done.

The Battalion Editorial Board

# Biting the heads off live parakeets, and other religious feats

Question: What do you get when you combine body building and evangelism?

Answer: A group of 300-pound hulks called the Power Team who go around preaching the gospel and tearing phone books in half.

Unfortunately, this isn't a joke.

The Power Team is a group of muscle-bound guys who decided to merge preaching with feats of strength — kind of like Jim and Tammy on steroids.

They smash bricks, break out of police handcuffs and blow up hot water bottles. They also try to win teen-agers over to Jesus Christ — and sell a few Power Team sweatshirts (\$18 apiece) at the same time.

The idea behind the group is that it will attract teen-agers who otherwise wouldn't be concerned about receiving the word of God.

Teen-agers today, the reasoning goes, aren't interested in going to a church and hearing some moth-eaten preacher talk about God and hell and heaven and the devil. They're interested in other things — things that are cool and rad and awesome.

And muscle-bound jocks who bust slabs of 8-inch-thick ice with their bare hands are totally, totally awesome (thanks be to God).

So far, the Power Group is doing well. They've been touring all over the country, preaching to kids, bending steel bars and generally just having a grand ol' time.

But I suspect they're not communicating with all the kids they could. In fact, they're probably reaching a lot more teen-age girls than guys.

Most 16-year-old girls are going to rush right out to see these hulks and their on-stage, evangelical antics. Teen-age boys, however, won't be quite so excited about watching a performance (oops, I mean sermon) by the Power Group.

So in the name of fairness, I think another group should be formed that would attract more teen-age boys. After all, 10 or 20 years down the road we don't want all of the men in our society to be ill-mannered, heathen atheists while the women are bible-toting, religious zealots.

The name of this group could be the Baptist Beauties (or the Luscious Lu-



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theran Ladies, etc.). Their sermon could consist of a striptease act to organ music followed by the reading of scripture. And after the sermon is over, they could sell autographed posters of themselves in swimsuits to all the teen-age boys who are desperately seeking an encounter with God.

I can see the billboard for their show now, framed with pulsating lightbulbs, with large black letters on a bright white background: *Come right in! See the fabulous Baptist Beauties as they search for the meaning of life and bare their souls (and bodies) to Jesus Christ (and you).* Tickets available at window — only \$7.50. All faiths welcome.

Of course, groups practicing different religions would have different names, such as the Hebrew Honeys, Buddha's Beauties or Mohammed's Hot Mammams. But the concept would be the same.

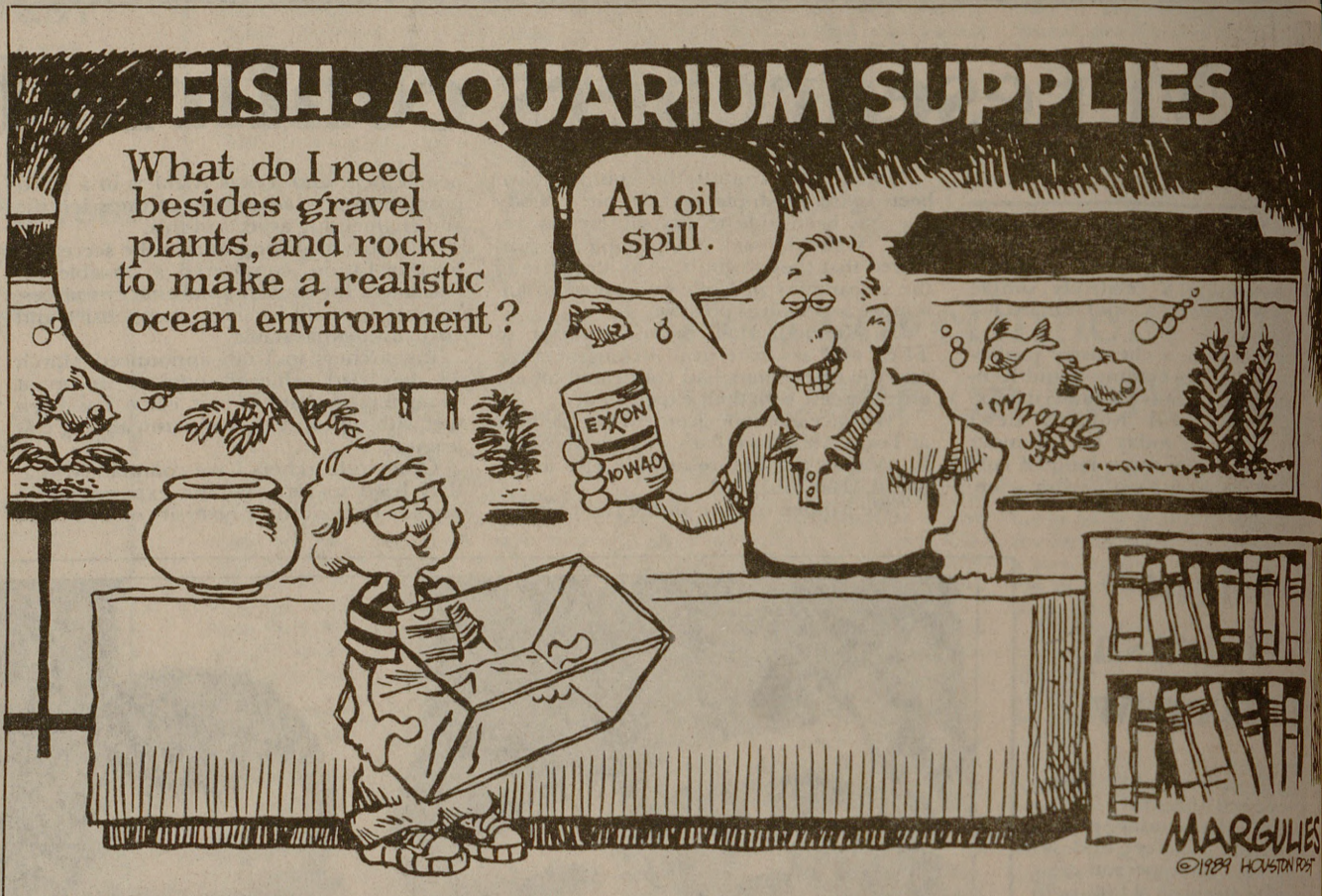
In fact, all of this has given me the idea to go out and start my own religious act. I'll travel to major cities and speak in large convention centers. I'll stand on stage and tell everyone that it's wrong for people to defraud others and that it's wrong to use religion as a marketing device. I'll stand there and tell them that if anybody's going to hell, it will be the people who misuse religion and try to make a profit by it. I'll go out there and tell them —

Nah. I won't do any of that stuff. It's too boring; nobody would buy it.

Instead I'll go around the country jumping motorcycles over buses, destroying stage props and biting the heads off live parakeets. And at the end of the show, when the audience is going wild, I'll say: "Oh yeah, by the way, God is really cool."

"And don't forget that sweatshirts are on sale in the lobby — for only \$18 apiece."

Dean Sueltenfuss is a junior journalism major and opinion page editor for The Battalion.



# Cadets should receive same treatment as other students

When the respect of a tradition grows to such proportions that it infringes upon the rights of others, it is time for that tradition to either change or end. The tradition I speak of is the Corps of Cadets.

Just the other day, I made my short walk to Duncan Dining Hall to eat dinner. I arrived there at about 6:45 p.m. I expected to be rushed through my meal a bit, but thought I at least would be able to eat something.

When I got to the door, the lady working there told me that Duncan closed to civilians at 6:10 because of cadets eating their dinner. I simply nodded my head and walked off.

One evening I was eating dinner, and the staff in Duncan announced that all civilians who were unable to finish their meal within 10 minutes needed to move to the two northernmost tables. The Corps was coming and the cadets needed their space to eat. I simply nodded my head and moved.

Another evening I was eating dinner and the cadets came in to eat dinner. All of a sudden, my meal was interrupted by a rash of "Howdy, Mr. Johnson, sir" yells from a large number of the cadets. I asked the person next to me what exactly was going on. He said that greetings were a part of the Corps. I simply nodded my head and continued eating.

I am tired of nodding my head. I respect Silver Taps. I take my hat off in the MSC. When the Corps comes marching, I step to the side. I give the Corps as much respect as can be expected from a non-reg.

The fact of the matter is that the Corps of Cadets is getting too much respect here at Texas A&M. The amount

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of respect they are receiving is beginning to infringe upon the rights of the other students here at Texas A&M. What occurs daily in Duncan could, in a court of law, be considered discrimination and segregation.

To my best recollection, when the Corps ate in the Commons Dining Hall on Saturdays and Sundays no one made them sit at certain tables or eat within certain time constraints. All I am asking for is that same respect. I am a student just as they are students, so give me the respect a student deserves.

In addition to all these "fringe benefits" the Corps receives, let us discuss a subject that has been plaguing fraternities for some time: hazing. The Corps makes the cadets run every morning, do company yells upon demand, dress alike, walk in line, and greet higher ranking members. This is what one can see on the outside. Who knows what occurs on the inside.

If a fraternity were to make pledges run every morning, it would be charged with hazing. If they made pledges do group yells and loud greetings, undoubtedly the University would question these practices. But the Corps is allowed these privileges because the higher brass here at A&M are "good Ags."

In the state law on hazing, there are no exceptions for "good Ags." The Corps is named right alongside fraternities, sororities, and clubs. There are no differences. No one should receive preferential treatment. Yet the Corps re-

ceives preferential treatment every day. So what am I asking for? I am asking this University to stop treating the Corps as the prelude to the Secular Coming of Christ. The Corps consists of students who pay their tuitions and attend classes just as non-regs do. As yes, the Corps is just as racially unbalanced as the rest of this University, not more so.

Cadets should be treated the same as non-regs are. I shouldn't have to get up from my meal because "Ol Sarge" wants to eat. He can sit in the empty chair next to me.

And most of all, the Corps should be disciplined by the same people who discipline me. It is my understanding that the Corps is now disciplined by the Commandant of the Corps and not the Department of Judicial Affairs. That is just another example of "separate, but supposedly equal."

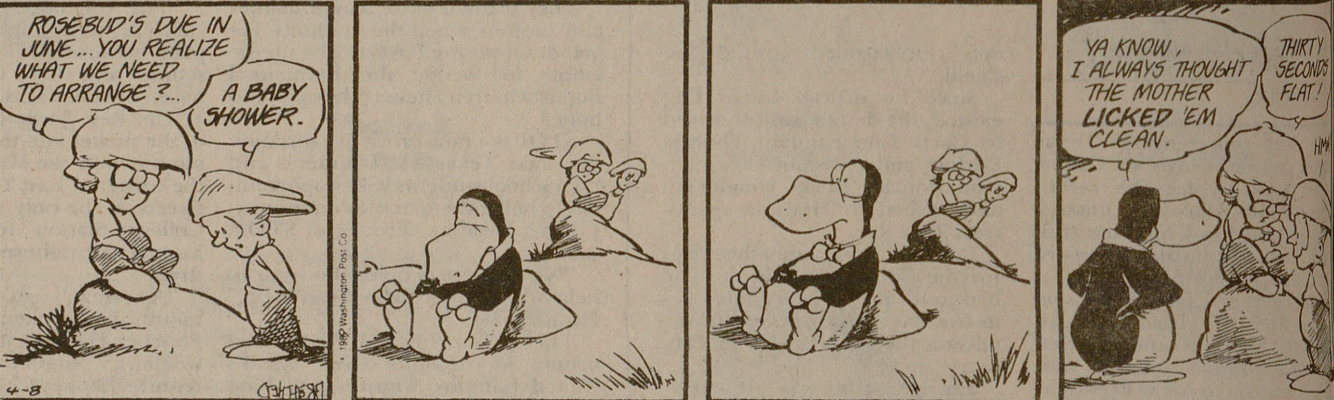
I will say this: the Corps is something that is good for some people. But if I do not put my name on the dotted line, then don't put me under the restriction of the Corps.

If this type of one-sided treatment continues, there just might be legislation taken on the grounds of segregation, discrimination, and infringement of one's civil rights. And, I just might be leading the pack.

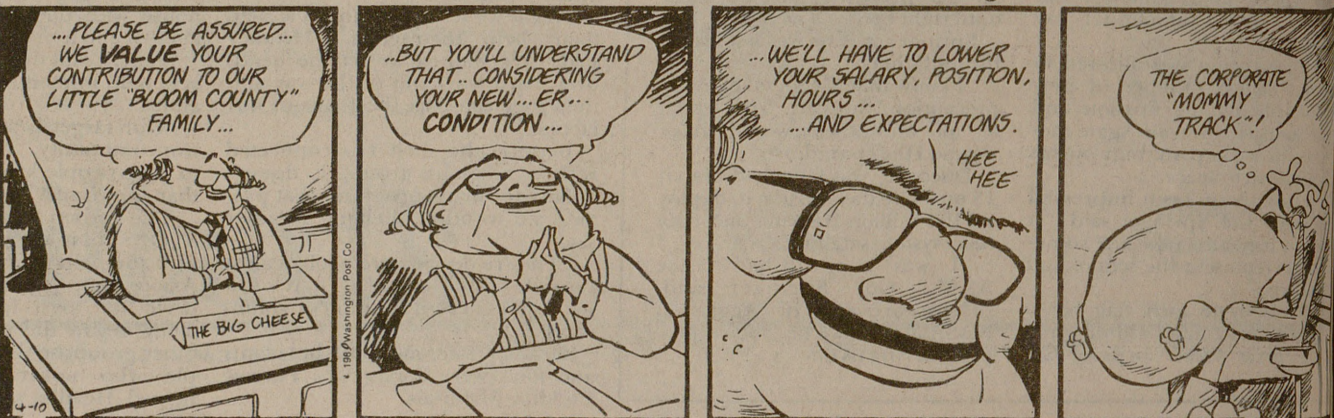
So, if one day you are dining in Duncan and you see a half-crazed Hispanic yelling about wanting to eat at 6:45, you can trust it's me. And when I demand to be served, pay careful to the way the people react. I just might need some witness.

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## BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed



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