

A&M should expand sex education classes

University needs to implement mandatory policy, include more sections for interested students

We all have heard the stats: 20 percent of college women will be sexually assaulted this year; more than one-half of white women and almost three-fourths of black women will be sexually active before they reach 18; 1 percent of the entire enrollment of the University of Texas, more than 400 people, have tested positive for AIDS.

We also have heard, and some believe, the myths surrounding sexual relations in college: When a woman says "no," she means "yes"; women who act provocatively want to have sex; a condom will always prevent pregnancy; you can't get a sexually transmitted disease from a friend; when a woman regrets sex that occurred the night before, it is rape; only the female is responsible for contraception.

These and many other myths could be corrected if everyone took a sex education class.

Unfortunately, only two classes are offered by A&M which could be termed "sex education" classes. One is Health 342, human sexuality, and the other is psychology 349, Psychology of human sexual behavior. Consistently, few sections are offered, and they fill up rather quickly.

Some form of sex education should be required by the University. Many students have been sexually active before coming to A&M, but it is never too late to learn new things. Methods of contraception, contraceptive reliability, sexually transmitted diseases, anatomy and human sexual behavior all could be covered.

Most religious doctrines say intercourse is only for procreation, not for pleasure. No formal education was necessary because the dominant male didn't care how the female felt. And if something went wrong, like a pregnancy, it was completely the woman's fault. Women were not supposed to enjoy intercourse.

With the advent of the women's movement though, people began to view sex differently. In most religions, sex prior to marriage still is frowned upon. Sex in marriage is not only for creation of families, but it is also an expression of love.

Without experience, couples are expected instantly to know how to please their partner and how to prevent conception and infections as

soon as they jump into the wedding bed. Some churches have recognized this incongruity and have begun to offer sex education. Unfortunately, not every church does this, even though the benefits are clear.

Students who say they could never support a sex education class also should attend. They will add a much-needed element of abstinence and restraint to class discussions.

Students are required to learn about computers, humanities and social sciences. They also should be required to better their sexual knowledge.

Not many people will remember what they learn in their anthropology class in five years (apologies to the anthropology students and profs), but many people will engage in sexual relations, marital or otherwise, in the near future. The lack of informative, mandatory sex education is rather distressing. The elective sex education classes are not offered often enough.



David Nash

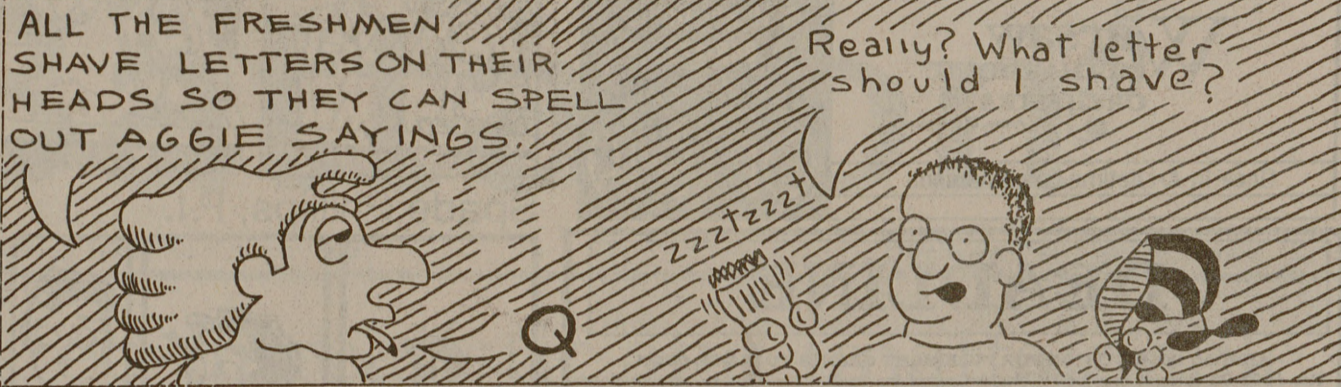
Nash is a junior biochemistry major.

EDUCATION

"Many students have been sexually active before coming to A&M, but it is never too late to learn new things."

Fortunately, students and organizations have tried to fill the void. Tuesday night, the Health Education Center discussed contraceptive options in the A-1 Lounge near Fowler. On Monday, Sept. 23, there will be a discussion about date rape in the A-1 Lounge at 8:00 pm. Look around campus and read the flyers advertising similar discussions. Attend these lectures and learn what the University is reluctant to teach. You might learn something really useful.

Cruel Tricks for Freshmen No. 6 by Bingo Barnes



A&M falls short on diversity of curriculum

Course listing needs updating

Texas A&M, no doubt, offers a cornucopia of courses. These range from reasonably menial to extremely challenging — from, say, flower arranging to quantum mechanics.

With such a selection, it would seem sure even the most radically difficult-to-please palate could be satiated at A&M.

This proves not to be the case as a new survey taken by Rolling Stone indicates. Sadly, we Aggies are missing out on quite a few, well, interesting classes.

A national newspaper excerpted a few samples of the classes currently offered at some of our fine institutions of higher learning around the country. These include:

- Supervised Reading (Cornell)
- Circus (New York University)
- Choosing a life (Northwestern)
- Psychology and Photography (that classic alliterative combination) (Tulane)
- Surfing (Pepperdine)
- History of Rock Music (Texas)

The Southwest Conference, A&M in particular, seems quite under-represented. Therefore, I have compiled a personal list of left out but useful courses.

Though Arkansas is not really a Southwest Conference school, any list of this sort should begin with them because, basically, they are the easiest to pick on.

Arkansas sorely lacks a planned parenthood course. Not to be confused with the worthwhile social organization, their course should deal with the trauma of hav-

ing to accept that one's father, grandfather and brother are actually the same person.

OK, I hit a little below the belt on that one, so let's move on to Rice, the self-proclaimed Harvard of the South.

Rice has long needed to offer sexual education in its curriculum. Students at most colleges usually have a difficult time handling the sexual freedom associated with being away from the tight reins held by parents. At Rice, an even more vexing problem has arisen. The male students cannot educate themselves sexually because the women there have generally not developed secondary sex characteristics. Maybe they have, but who's looking?

Moving across town to the University of Houston, it remains to be seen if they have even developed a curriculum.

Baylor also offers a course on the history of rock music but, as of now, the class meets once a month. The students can only take so much Stryper and Amy Grant.

Also, special thanks for the call from the professor from the School of Engineering which helped us through this very difficult ordeal.

(All of the Tyler family planned on attending the Silver Taps service Tuesday in honor of Marc.)

As a further tribute to his strong inspiration, a Marc Tyler football scholarship fund has been established at W. T. White High School in Dallas in honor of Marc.

The coaches will select a player who is strong academically and who has been the most inspirational player on the team — an award received by Marc during his senior year.

— The Tylers
Jan and Ginger
Michael and Mitchell
Martha and Mary



Matt McBarnett

McBarnett is a senior electrical engineering major.



Family shows gratitude for support of friends

Editor's Note: The following letter is from the parents of Marc Tyler, a junior engineering student at A&M, killed in a one car accident June 26. He was one of 10 honored during Tuesday's Silver Taps ceremony.

The family of Marc Tyler expresses its gratitude to the administration, faculty and students of Texas A&M for the outpouring of assistance and support bestowed upon us following the news of Marc's tragic death.

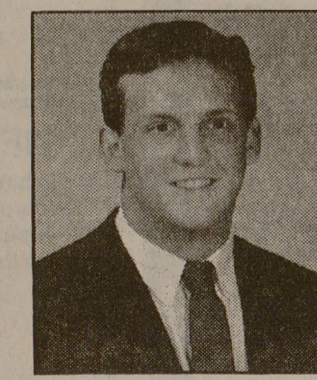
Shortly after receiving the news, we were blessed with telephone calls, food, flowers, notes, cards and visits from many of his student friends, faculty and his employer and employees at Rita's.

We were most pleased with the large number of Marc's classmates that drove long distances to be in attendance for his funeral service and burial. The funeral procession from the church to the grave site

was over two miles in length.

The funeral service was dedicated in celebration of Marc's short, but very quality life. We shall continue our lives remembering the good times with Marc and the very inspirational final tribute to his life.

Many thanks to Dr. Mobley for the expression of his sympathy, for the flowers from the faculty, staff and student staff of the Department of Engineering Technology, the student council, the Office for Student Services, Silver Taps, the bro-



thers of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

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Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters to the editor are welcome.

Written letters must be signed and include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published. The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee letters will appear.

Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.