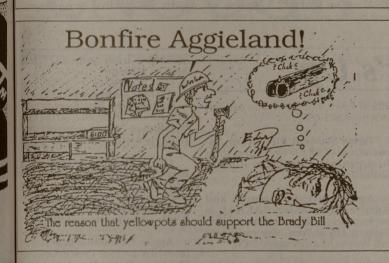
THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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EDITORIAI NAFTA now

Treaty good for city, state, nation

The North American Free ade Agreement offers the nited States a chance to solidenter the world economy of ne next century. Americans nust look past short-term roblems and acknowledge he enormous long-term benefits of the treaty.

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Texas and Bryan-College Station will undoubtedly enjoy sin said. any economic benefits from like that. MAFTA. The agriculture instry will see expanded marstart all ets for grain crops, cattle, and nemicals like fertilizers and esticides. Import/exportased businesses and manucturers will incur fewer costs rom tariffs.

Major cities such as Houson, Dallas, and Sam Antonio Il become centers for comercial travel in and out of the S. This movement will raise e demand for transportation nd equipment.

The basic premise of NAF-A eliminates tariffs, expands tansportation and distribution ervices and establishes free rade among Canada, Mexico and the United States.

If Congress ratifies NAFTA, heend of mutual trade restricons will create a consumer ople. American businesses,

long suffering from competi-tion and deficit trading with Japan, will gain a substantial advantage throughout North

Opposition to NAFTA, led by such activists as Ralph Nader, Jesse Jackson, and Ross Perot, dwells on Mexico's low environmental standards and cheap labor force.

Politicos in Congress focus on this small range of prob-lems and ignore the broad scope of benefits offered by

These activists fail to recognize strides made by treaty negotiators to encourage upgrades of Mexican environmental regulations. Furthermore, the movement of jobs out of the U.S. is expected to be limited to unskilled labor that might as easily move to Asia or Central America.

NAFTA offers Americans the opportunity to create an alliance that will balance the economic power of the European Economic Community and the Pacific Rim countries.

Americans must enter the global economy and make the small sacrifices required for the profits from NAFTA if they exmarketplace of 380 million pect to compete with the rest of the world.

THE BATTALION

The wrong kind of love can hurt you Women must recognize, get out of violent relationships

This summer I wrote a column on domestic violence. Since then I've come in contact with several young women here at Texas A&M who are currently in abusive relationships or who have been in this type of relationship in the past.

I understand there are many more young women that I didn't meet, who aren't getting help, who aren't getting out of these types of relationships

Contrary to what many people might believe, mine is not a campaign to smear black men. I am fully aware that there are civil, respectful black men in society

TRACEY

JONES

Columnist

But there are also black men who were never taught how to treat a woman or for some other reason choose to ignore the boundaries of decency.

Anna (not her real name) is a young black woman who was in an abusive relationship. Anna was with her boyfriend for roughly a year. During the course of the relationship, her boyfriend not only hit her but forced sex on her as well.

She told me that one night after a party, he began pressuring her more than usual to have sex with him. At this point, they'd only known each other about three months. He continuously asked why she wouldn't have sex with him, taking it as a personal rejection rather than an act in which she just did not

He ended up pushing Anna against a car with his forearm pressed against her throat, dictating that she was going to sleep with him. This was just before he hit her in the mouth with a balled fist.

Another time she refused to have sex, he subsequently raped her. The episode was so brutal that it tore part of her vaginal tissue. As a result, Anna experienced extreme pain when urinating. Worst of all, she could not walk and for about two weeks, she missed her classes

After seeing a doctor, she was told not to engage in any sexual behavior for the next six weeks so the tissue could heal itself. Although the doctor blatantly stated that she knew Anna had been sexually assaulted and could report it to the authorities, Anna refused help

Why? Why wouldn't she report him? Why

Anna said she loved him because that was the only love she knew at the time. She had never been exposed to love that didn't

Anna was sure he loved her. Moreover, she was very much afraid she wouldn't find anvone else. He bought her gifts, was atten-

tive and funny — at first.

Then he became "comfortable." Comfortable meant hitting her, ignoring her feelings, forcing sex upon her and being unfaithful.

Isn't love the other way around? Women such as Anna aren't getting the help they need and deserve. This is due in part to government cutbacks, but also to certain crippling attitudes.

For instance, a woman residing in a deprived, estranged neighborhood relies heavily on community networks for support and sustenance. Therefore, any problems she encounters are seen as belonging solely to that group and should be handled by group members only.

This mind set is also true in cases of domestic violence. Women in this environment may feel disloyal not only to their mate, but also to their community and their race

should they seek outside assistance. Strangely enough, black women who are battered sometimes do not even separate this type of abuse from racial injustices inflicted upon all blacks - particularly upon black

Because of the tremendous disempower-ment that some black men are made to feel, they in turn disempower their mates by beat-

The true nature of the violence for black women seems to be masked behind other forms of abuse and is not seen for what it really is. And it is abuse — plain and simple. It is nothing that is deserved or should be endured out of some deluded sense of loyalty. Abuse is abuse no matter who it is from, and women should not feel as if they have no

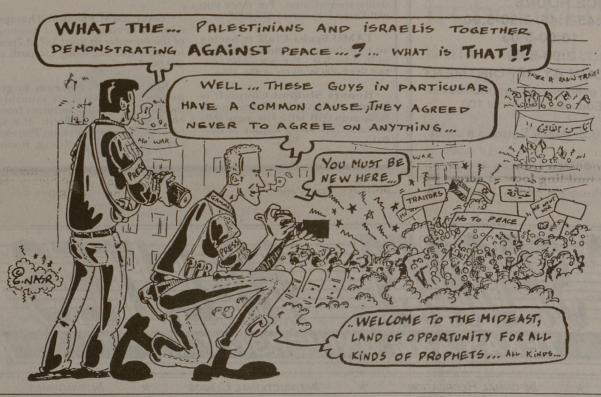
other choice but to "grin and bear it."

It is not wrong or disloyal or selfish to remove oneself from an unhealthy situation. It is a right, not a privilege. It is wrong to stay in a relationship in which you are constantly being physically, emotionally or verbally

abused. It is not what is good for you.

He is not the whole world; he is not all you have. You have yourself - and that is more than enough.

Tracey jones is a senior psychology major



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The Battalion encourage letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit letters and guest columns for length, style, and accuracy.

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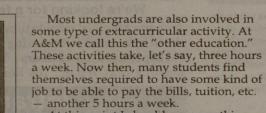
class time leaves students no chances to learn on their own

It's time to revise the Core Curriculum. Texas A&M University is ust one of many stitutions of gher education the world; untunately, the idents A&M ms out are not Why is this? We

ervwhere — we

ELIOT A&M suffer from WILLIAMS problem faced by Columnist lege students

end so much me in class, we don't have time to learn. Let me explain myself. I spend about hours per week in class, including lecwes and labs. Outside class, I find my-If doing homework about four hours a ght, which translates to a total of 44 urs a week I spend on school-related ork. This is probably fairly close to the pical workload of an undergraduate dent here at A&M.



At this point I should say something about sleep. I, for one, often find myself going without it — but, for the purpose of this column, let's say the typical student sleeps 7 hours a night — add 35 hours per week. Most students manage to find time for eating, going to the bathroom and other life-sustaining activities. I shall assume that these take 2 hours a day, which will be 10 hours a week. Assuming that the weekends are spent sleeping, watching sports, sunbathing, or whatever, I will ignore that they exist.

Okay. There are 120 hours in a work week. Subtracting everything I have outlined above, that leaves 23 hours a week – or approximately four and a half hours a day unaccounted. In reality these precious moments of free time are consumed by doing such important things as watching

David Letterman or "Beavis & Butt-head." I'm also sure everyone follows "The Simpsons" as religiously as my friends and I.

We also use this time to talk to friends, make plans for the weekend and nap. Don't mistake me, I think that these activities are as important as school. Without

A&M is suffering from a very obvious problem. The University is trying to teach us too much. It has no reward system for self-learning; it is in fact discouraged.

them we would all go insane. My point is that our whole week is spent doing structured, school related activities.

So when do we have time to teach ourselves anything? Everything we learn comes either directly from our professor's mouth or from the overpriced textbook that is recited to us in lecture.

Granted, I came to A&M to learn from the faculty, but I can't seem to find time

Students aren't given a chance to read anything outside of class nor is this type of activity encouraged. How many professors have you heard say: "This homework is due Wednesday, but if you would rather read about chaos theory, I

won't count off if you don't turn it in."? Of course professors don't encourage this kind of activity - why should they? Their job is to teach you what the course description says - nothing else

This problem isn't necessarily the professors' fault The University is structured to get as mar:y students through the curriculum as possible — a curriculum that grows each year. There is no time to worry about how we as students develop our interests. The school has decided, somewhat unknowingly, that students should be thought of as androids

The Undergraduate Catalog reads: "The Core Curriculum emphasizes competence in the process of learning...and it will continue our tradition of providing thorough preparation in the student's selected discipline or profession.

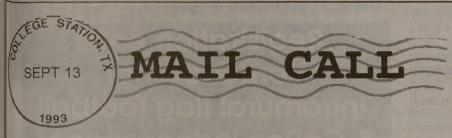
Sounds great, but do we really need a

Core Curriculum to "emphasize the process of learning?" Does the University truly believe that students can be taught their "moral responsibilities" in a classroom? The Core Curriculum is the University's way of making sure we have to pay more tuition, not to learn our "interrelations with the economies and cultures

A&M is suffering from a very obvious problem. The University is trying to teach us too much. It has no reward system for self-learning; it is in fact discouraged. Reading things I find interesting means I must ignore my homework. Grades are how the school rewards us for learning they are also how it discourages us from teaching ourselves.

If A&M really wants to become a world-class university, it should praise its students for teaching themselves and not pat itself on the back for the Core Curriculum's emphasis on "increased knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage.

Eliot Williams is a sophomore electrical engi-



Little League ban of China team childish

We are a group of Chinese students Studying in the United States. Besides working hard to receive a quality education, we care deeply about our homeland. It is the recent decision from the authorities of Little League Baseball in Williamsport, Pennsylvania of banning our Chinese-Taipei team from Taiwan, the Republic of China that prompts us to write this letter.

In recent years, we have seen too many outside wrongdoings in the world of sports that have devastated the purity and integrity of the game. It is regrettable that now dirty politics has had a hand in little league baseball.

U.S. Little League officials have allegedly found "rule violations" in several foreign jurisdictions based on pointless technicalities, resulting in the banishment of several Asian and Latin American teams. Consequently, the U.S. Little League had effectively eliminated almost all competitive teams from all over the world. In addition, with clever strategy of some "puppet regimes," it has formed an "All-American Little League World Series" this year.

Needless to say, after the dust settles, the United States will sit beautifully on top of the world — just the way it is meant to be. And should something evil happen and the good boys wearing red,

white and blue fail to win again, there will always be rule violations to be discovered against the opponent, and the power is always there to strip a team of a title or banish them from ever coming again.

If in fact the sole purpose of little league baseball was to make American boys champions, then the U.S. Little League people have overwhelmingly succeeded. But if the objective of the Little League was to provide youths of the world an opportunity in healthy outdoor activities and in turn, make friends and bring the world a little closer together, as we assume it was, then U.S. Little League officials have taken a giant step backwards.

We sincerely wish that we have seen the last of this hostile, "sour grapes" attitude from the U.S. Little League authori-

ties, and we demand this constant, racially motivated marking against inter-

national teams stopped. There will come a day when 12-yearold American kids mature mentally and by that day, the U.S. Little Leaguers will win the World Series on their own. Perhaps that day, the same mature kids will grow up to be mature adults who run Little League operations and understand that little league baseball is only a game. You do not sacrifice the joys of children to fulfill your own adult ego. Let the kids play! "If you can't beat them, ban That is indeed a childish act.

Eddie Chang '95 Chinese Student Association President

Accompanied by 116 signatures