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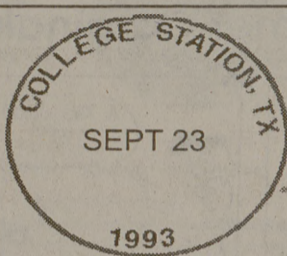
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## MAIL CALL

### Western civilization superior to all others

Permit me, please, to take a moment of time to examine the current controversy surrounding multicultural education. I am very much in favor of it. I think that all college students should have to take at least one or two courses regarding the study of non-western cultures.

Why? Because it is the best way to make them understand and appreciate the superiority of western civilization. Notice that I did not say "the superiority of white people." This is because whites are not inherently better than anybody else, they just have less pigment.

I'm not a racist; I'm a culturalist. The difference is that a racist dislikes other races; a culturalist dislikes other cultures. It is wrong to say "whites are better than blacks." It is not wrong to say "The culture that produced classical music, modern medicine and the concept of human rights is better than the culture that produced tribal wars, human sacrifice and dancing around the fire to appease the gods."

Have I just insulted all blacks, Orientals and other non-westerners? No. Have I said that immigrants to America are not as good as Americans? No. I have said that America is the greatest nation the world has ever known and that we owe it to having sprung from the greatest civilization the world has ever known.

Earlier, I said that I was in favor of multicultural education. Let me qualify that statement. I am in favor of true multicultural education. If we're going to study non-European cultures, let's also study Greece, Rome, the British Empire, etc. If we concentrate on the study of non-western civilization, we will lose sight of the wonderful culture which all Americans can claim as their own, regardless of minor things like skin color.

Roy McIntyre  
Class of '97

### Aggies don't exclude those who don't fit in

After reading through Joseph A. Bell's extremist ideology in "Conservatives lose right to free speech" in the Sept. 15 issue of The Battalion, I felt compelled to respond immediately.

Who, exactly, made him in charge of admissions qualifications? If he had it his way, only those who met his specific qualifications would gain admittance into this great institution. Who is he to say what all Aggies must be or must believe in?

Here in Aggieland, my friend, you can believe in whatever you want. The last time I checked, everyone was welcome at Texas A&M. In Mr. Bell's society, those who were somewhat different would be denied their basic rights. Personally, I think he is afraid and threatened by anything different.

Let me tell you something, Joe, you are going to leave A&M someday and enter the real world where there are also gays, atheists and others who are not the same as you. You'd better learn now to live with everyone, regardless of what they are or what they should stand for. Another thing, does it really matter that this school is primarily conservative? Does this fact mean that the minority who isn't conservative doesn't deserve to be here?

The A&M you want would be comprised of 40,000 clones, all possessing your extremely exclusive criteria. It is people like you

who make us non-conservative "freaks" feel like we shouldn't be here. Although I'm not a conservative, I've found my place here at A&M very well because I don't exclude those who happen to have a different belief (which in my case is a great number of people).

I believe you have the right to be an Aggie, whether I like what you say or stand for. Please, learn to tolerate the ideas and lifestyles of others even if you don't approve. How many times does it have to be said? "Nothing else matters. We are all Aggies!"

Corbin P. Wickman  
Class of '97

### Conservatives don't endorse racism, bigotry

Mr. Kraft, I emphatically object to being accused of being a bigot and a racist. I am a Republican and a conservative, and I also object to Texas A&M University trying to force me to take classes that I feel are aimed at taking potshots at my set of beliefs.

Whether you want to admit it or not makes no difference to me, but the main objective of required multiculturalism classes is to indoctrinate students in the liberal way of thinking and only serves as a vehicle for liberal professors to promote their political agenda.

As to who is racist, I believe you are, sir. It's called reverse discrimination, and from the sound of your letter, you actively endorse it.

If minorities want equality, then they should accept the fact that equality doesn't include special preferences. It means the elimination of the check box that says, "Would you like to try to qualify for African-American scholarships?" It means the end of Latin-American students getting into schools with lower SAT scores, while Asian-Americans and whites are expected to be in the top five percent range.

It means that people are hired because of their abilities, not because their race was unjustly treated in the past. And it most certainly means the end of pushing multiculturalism courses that harp on wrongs and injustices committed by the the majority and then condemns them.

Publicly, I would like to say that I do not endorse racism or bigotry and neither do conservatives. What we endorse is the end of reverse discrimination and preferential treatment that so many minorities have come to enjoy as their birthright.

Joseph A. Bell  
Class of '97

### Multicultural backlash shows need for courses

Your recent article on the public forum for the discussion of an American Cultures and International requirement for the core curriculum reported that two officers of the young Conservatives of Texas lashed out against a more open and inclusive curriculum, bemoaning the fact that "only" 120 course choices with a hidden political agenda might be available and that there might not be "any classes about whites or males."

This asinine analysis only underscores the need for curricular reform in this area at Texas A&M. It is the responsibility of educators to expose students to the complexity and diversity of the society in which they live.

At the moment, when faced with unfamiliar ideas, some students at A&M can only respond with the unthinking fear and bigotry

of parochialism. They advocate repression of any ideas of others and doggedly insist that A&M remain an intellectual backwater.

Unable to deal with social change and committed to mediocrity, it seems that these opponents of multiculturalism at A&M can only shout, "Gag 'em, Aggies!"

If Texas A&M graduates are to be nationally respected and adequately prepared to move into the workforce of the 21st century, our students must develop a broader perspective and a more sophisticated approach to issues of gender, ethnicity and race.

Multicultural course requirements incorporated into the core curriculum seem an excellent way to encourage development of such a perspective.

Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui  
Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
Former Director of Women's Studies

### Objective thought, not indoctrination needed

I wonder if the majority of the Liberal Arts Council members saw the Sept. 12 Sunday Doonsbury cartoon. In it a university president laments the establishment of separate facilities—everything from dorms to graduation ceremonies—for black students. The president speaks of marching with M.L. King and then reads himself for the latest demand from black students—separate water fountains.

The development of a multicultural requirement in the College of Liberal Arts leads me to believe we are on the very road the university president in Doonsbury laments. It is the first crack that will open up the chasm of separate curricula for blacks, women and any other group of individuals who feel themselves trodden upon.

Higher education is about the pursuit of enlightenment, not about indoctrination. Unfortunately, indoctrination is what the multicultural requirement is all about.

Dr. Richard Stadelmann of Texas A&M has pointed out that in a course "Women in Politics," it was taught that "Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison does not support women's issues and is not, therefore, a real woman," and that "U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is an 'aberration' and is not really black." The course was taught here at A&M.

Some who oppose this requirement agree that an international studies requirement like that of Indiana University at Bloomington would be good thing. There, the student must take six hours of study concerned with one culture. Cultures and systems studied are truly diverse and global, including courses on France, Japan, and Latin America. None of the possible courses of study include "gender issues" courses which are so clearly doctrinaire.

Debate was and still should be a part of everyday life at a university. However, so confident are the proponents of multicultural education that they have found the ultimate truth, debate is not to be allowed. After two years of what was probably scheming rather than study, the university-funded travel to "study" other schools' multicultural requirements (sounds like Congress), the multicultural requirement was imposed during the summer when relatively few students were around to oppose it. And, those who passed the proposal impose the requirement on students who have no voice, the freshman and transfers of the future. The hypocrisy of this generation of faculty, many of whom took part in the protest of the '60s for a stronger student voice in education, is particularly galling.

If there is truly an objective argument that more diverse views need to be presented in the classrooms of today's university because of a past "Eurocentric" or male-dominated view, let us debate the issue openly and incorporate changes in the courses already taught. Let us look at issues analytically and resist creating tensions among groups in our society simply out of some revolutionary bent and an empty attempt to "feel" another's pain. Come, let us reason, together.

J. Byron Schlomach '84  
Assistant lecturer in economics

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