

Here for school - not an M.R.S. degree Students major in education out of love for teaching

Everyone has a favorite teacher — somebody who at one time reached out to us, encouraged us and helped us want to learn. My friend Leslie remembers cheating on a standardized exam in third grade. When she got her test back, her teacher, Mrs. Taylor, revealed that she knew Leslie had not ranked in the 75th percentile on her own merit. After class, she forced Leslie to retake the exam on which she then scored in the 98th percentile.



MELISSA MEGLIOLA
Columnist

Here at A&M, we're all Aggies. But how many of us have not looked at an elementary education major and silently thought "M.R.S. degree"?

A few weeks ago, another friend of mine, Susan, went to go see an advisor. Susan is an excellent student who came to A&M on a full scholarship. She now balances extracurricular involvement with very good grades. She loves children and will make a wonderful elementary school teacher. Needing little academic advice, she made the appointment only at the request of this advisor who wanted to talk to her about scholarship and grant opportunities.

Susan says that at first the meeting was going very well. They discussed programs that could send her to places like Stanford and Oxford. Both were optimistic about her chances for acceptance until the advisor noticed the major listed on the computer screen. "What is this about interdisciplinary studies?" the advisor asked.

Susan enthusiastically shared her lifelong dream of becoming a science teacher. The response was not pleasant. The advisor suggested that her interest in science would make her an excellent medical school candidate. Susan shook her head, no. Surely, she would want to do something to help people, the advisor continued.

"I want to excite children about science," Susan responded. "If two children that I teach grow up to be doctors, I've already doubled my impact."

The advisor was not impressed. "At least you could earn a Ph.D. and design curriculum," the advisor pleaded.

Susan, who at this point was fighting tears yet unwilling to lose her composure, simply reiterated her desire to be in the classroom. The debate continued for close to thirty minutes.

Finally, out of desperation, she was dismissed to think about her priorities and make a more intelligent decision. What a shame it would be for all of her talent and intellect to be wasted.

Almost every week a different magazine reports on the demise of our education system, dropping literacy rates or a decline in SAT scores. If we are ever going to compete with the Europeans and the Japanese in education, Americans must acknowledge teaching as a legitimate and worthy profession.

"What we need," said Debbie Garringer, principal of Sam Houston Elementary, "are teachers with a love for a subject that can turn kids on and get them excited about learning."

Teachers with backgrounds in math and science are in especially "hot demand." Even with jobs scarce and good teachers needed nationwide, the education major is too often considered simply an easy way out.

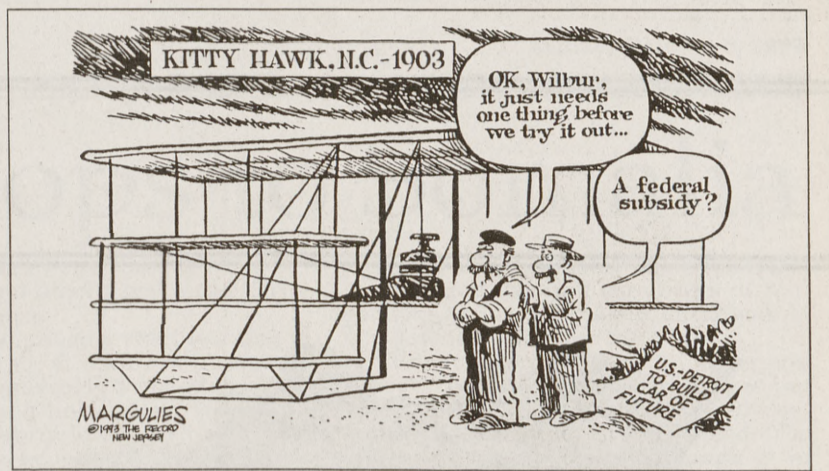
"People assume I don't have to study because I am majoring in education," claims Michelle, a senior here at A&M.

"That simply is not true," disputes Dr. Carol Stuessy, associate professor of curriculum and instruction. "Our curriculum gets more demanding all the time. It takes a higher level of knowledge to be able to teach someone else what you know."

Students who choose to teach must give up a lot to try to ensure that our children get a good education.

They are forced to accept pay comparable to that of your average fast food worker. Don't make them defend their intelligence as well.

Melissa Megliola is a senior industrial engineering major



COLLEGE STATION, TX
OCT 6
1993
MAIL CALL

Battalion ignores India earthquake

I am writing to vent my outrage at the ignorance and insensitivity of The Battalion staff. On Thursday, Sept. 30, a major earthquake hit the Maharashtra region in India, and the death toll is 30,000 and climbing.

While every major newspaper in America found this information to be front page material, The Battalion apparently did not believe this tragedy was newsworthy.

Furthermore, when a member of the India Association contacted The Battalion, the staff was not even aware of the situation — while the Bryan-College Station Eagle contacted the I.A. and asked about relief efforts and community participation.

It's ironic. During the 100th anniversary of The Battalion's serving Texas A&M, they blew one of the most newsworthy items of the year.

The Indian community at Texas A&M is one of the largest international groups on campus. To trivialize the deaths of tens of thousands of our fellow humans by giving precedence to the pros and cons of NAFTA and other such items on Oct. 1, by ignoring this story displays the complete lack of respect The Battalion has for minority issues, however tragic.

So, while The Battalion, the only source of news for many students, continues to print stories ranging from A&M officials' opinion of U of H athletics to the ATF, I have come to realize the worthlessness of this paper! To call yourself a major college newspaper is a JOKE!

To contribute to relief efforts please contact or send checks to:
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund
Indian Consul General
540 Arguello Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94118

or
American Red Cross
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, D.C. 20013
(Please specify "India Earthquake Operations" on check)

Sushrut Parikh
Class of '93
Accompanied by three signatures

Somalia not worth American lives

What I saw on CNN last night enraged me. I saw the body of a dead U.S. soldier being beaten and dragged through the streets by Somalis.

Then I asked myself, why is this being allowed to happen? Our troops are putting it on the line every day over there and for what — not a damned thing!

The mission in Somalia was to "restore hope." Well, we tried that, but it seems that the Somalis do not want it this way.

Not another drop of American blood should be shed on Somali soil. Let our troops go in and do what they're trained to do — kick ass!

If they are not going to be allowed to go in and do the job right, then pull our men out. The whole country of Somalia is not worth one American life.

Darren Jones
Class of '94

Letter distorts truth about protester

It never ceases to amaze me how self-described liberals such as Eileen Murphy (Mail Call, Sept. 30) often distort the truth to further their political agenda, then duck behind the Bill of Rights when questioned. I also find it ironic that she would choose a forum such as the Oliver North speech to protest against a man who was willing to give his life so that she could enjoy the First Amendment. With that said, as one of the "conscientious Aggies" accused by Ms. Murphy of "whisking away" the protester, I find it necessary to inform the students of Texas A&M of what actually transpired.

First of all, as citizens of the United States, we do not enjoy the free speech that Ms. Murphy speaks of. Should she wish to contest this, I suggest she meet me at Easterwood Airport, where she can attempt to board an airplane while declaring that she is armed. However, this is not a debate on what is covered by the U. S. Constitution, rather her inability to state the facts.

Ms. Murphy, Rudder Auditorium has stipulations that forbid any signs or posters inside the building. When notified of such, your "hero" challenged ushers to summon security. Furthermore, had the sign actually protested instead of listing profanities that had common letters with North's name, he might have had an argument. But do you think displaying a sign laced with profanity is an effective and peaceful protest weapon, especially in front of children? Realizing that they didn't want a confrontation, several College Republicans even suggested he stay so that he could embarrass himself.

After stating that he felt threatened, we elected to stand with the gentleman to ensure his protection and make certain truth-stretchers like Ms. Murphy wouldn't call black when they saw white. We remained with him until he left, of his own free will and under his own power, some thirty minutes later. I can also assure you that not once did I hear one physical threat, only opinions and rebuttals, both covered by the First Amendment.

So I advise Ms. Murphy that if she cannot play by the rules, she should not hide behind them. If those with opinions express them, they should be willing to hear them in return. Concerning the ushers forcing the man to leave, I would like to remind Ms. Murphy that yes, you are entitled to free speech, but lying is another matter.

W. Geoffrey Holle
Class of '93

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THE REAL MULTICULTURAL ISSUE

Costa Rican school says no to long hair

Can you imagine a university that discriminates against males on the basis of long hair, earrings and shorts? If you lived in Costa Rica, you wouldn't have to imagine. You would need only open up a local newspaper and see the reality.



JOHN SCROGGS
Columnist

The Universidad Internacional de las Americas (UIA) is currently under fire for what seems, by American standards, to be a complete violation of basic human rights. This university denies admission to male students who wear earrings, shorts, long hair or are suspected of being or exhibiting homosexual tendencies.

Most of these infractions are just fashion statements, yet UIA seems to believe that these choices of appearance are enough to deny admission and expel students over. The witch hunt has even extended to professors and staff.

Of course, most students at A&M should be appalled about such discrimination anywhere in the world because when any person is denied basic human rights, it hurts us all. But more importantly, we, as students at A&M, should get involved in this issue because of an ad that appeared in a Costa Rican newspaper on August 11, 1993. The ad stated that UIA offers a master of business administration "according to the cooperation of Texas A&M University."

Numerous complaints have been lodged against the university. The Instituto Latinoamericano de Prevencion y Educacion en Salud (ILPES) has officially denounced UIA. They have criticized UIA's regulations against earrings, long hair, shorts and homosexuals and have called for the closing of the university on the grounds that UIA is in violation of basic human rights and human dignity.

In response, UIA made an official statement answering the complaints against the policy. "We consider that one of the primary functions of the University is to preserve the moral and ethical values of the society..."

Later in the statement, UIA mentions that they could not imagine any male graduate of their school with an earring or long hair being able to find suitable employment.

Whatever the claim to fame may be for UIA, this university doesn't seem to realize that appearances are not true indications of a person's moral character.

Yuri Lorenza Jimenez pointed out in an article that the reply from the university is unacceptable, "because it recognizes that the use of earrings or long hair are elements that determine the ethical and moral value of an individual."

Students at A&M should get involved in this issue because of an ad that appeared in a Costa Rican newspaper on August 11, 1993. The ad stated that UIA offers a master of business administration "according to the cooperation of Texas A&M University."

In addition she states that "those who suffer in this college are young men who wear earrings, long hair, or shorts, along with discrimination suffered by those suspected of homosexuality." (italics mine)

Celin Arce, a legal advisor from the Ministry of Education, has said that the restrictive regulations are quite unconstitutional. The same article states that "different sectors have spoken on this subject, among those are the Catholic Church and public universities, which concede that homosexuals should be respected in their right to an education."

Yet, UIA maintains that since it is a private

college, it can dictate its own requirements and norms to determine who attends.

This type of blatant discrimination and injustice should not be tolerated anywhere in the world. It is unfair and, quite plainly, ridiculous.

How is it possible that the administration of Texas A&M could associate with another university that stands so obviously against what we profess to believe? It is beyond comprehension that A&M would be a part of — and therefore condone — such repressive, repulsive and repugnant behavior.

The only explanation is that the officials of A&M are unaware of the heated controversy in which UIA is involved. I have phoned several departments, including the Registrar's Office, International Admissions Office and the International Programs Office, all of which were as yet unaware of any connection between Texas A&M and UIA. One office did mention the fact that the program offered by UIA in conjunction with A&M may still be in the development stages.

If Texas A&M University is to remain true to its promise of being a leader in the fight for universal human rights and become a powerful force in the world market of higher education, the administration must take a strong stand on this issue. It is imperative that we show the world our dedication to the fight for dignity and freedom.

The administration of A&M should issue a statement that reaffirms the belief that it is unequivocally wrong to deny an education to anyone on the basis of the manner in which they dress or their sexual orientation.

Immediately following this statement, the administration should withdraw any and all alliances and associations with any university that disagrees with this stance. This would obviously include any support or assistance given to the Universidad Internacional de las Americas. Only then will we be honoring our promise to defend and fight for human rights.

John Scroggs is a senior English and philosophy major