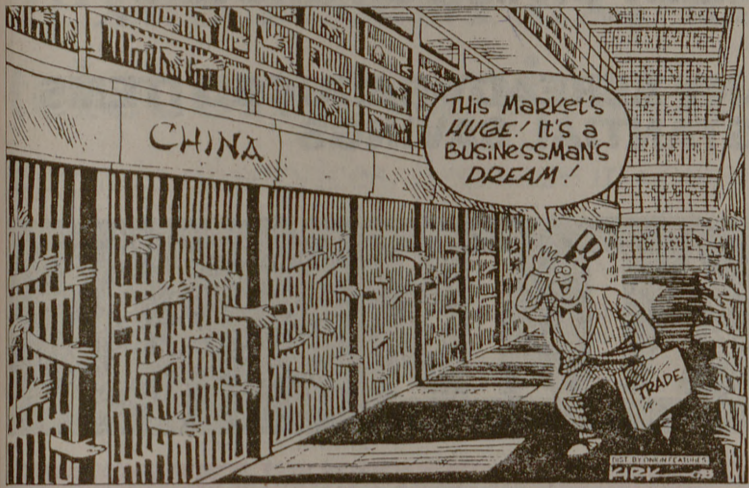


THE BATTALION Editorial Board

CHRIS WHITLEY, editor in chief

JULI PHILLIPS, managing editor
 DAVE THOMAS, night news editor
 BELINDA BLANCARTE, night news editor
 MACK HARRISON, opinion editor
 KYLE BURNETT, photo editor

MARK EVANS, city editor
 ANAS BEN-MUSA, AggieLife editor
 MICHAEL PLUMER, sports editor
 WILLIAM HARRISON, sports editor



FRANK STANFORD
Columnist

Rejection doesn't just happen to guys In the dating game, what goes around comes around

Because of a recent slew of letters to The Battalion regarding women stringing men along with ambiguous rejections, I decided to look into the matter a little further and try to understand it.

First of all, I underestimated the interest in Aggie mating rituals. As evidenced by the letters to "Mail Call," dating problems must be of much more importance to students than the news concerning the Health Care Plan, Somalia, Haiti and even the five day waiting period for hand guns. And from the tone of some of the letters we received, it might be a good idea to extend the waiting period to the length of a semester.

Clearly the most significant mating ritual on campus is the yell practice/football game. It can be quite a dating dilemma because so much kissing is involved. Although yell practice began when all Aggies were male, its popularity undoubtedly took off when some brilliant yell leader came up with the dirty joke/lights-off idea. Tradition is such a perfect excuse to plant a long kiss on someone you hardly know.

Football games are even better because if your date from the yell practice slobber-fest shows up again, you are almost assured of continued lip-locking — especially in these last few years of Aggie football butt-kicking.

Kicking butt and locking lips is as much of a part of A&M as loathing liberals and wear-

ing cowboy boots, but is definitely still geared toward male students.

The dilemma part is mostly for females however, because somewhere there's an unwritten law that states: "Men ask; women decide." And even though this law is less powerful than it used to be, it still puts women at an unfair disadvantage.

I could be wrong, but when some guy asks a girl to Midnight Yell and the following game, she has to immediately decide what she's going to do if this animal tries to kiss her. My advice to men is: if a positive answer is slow in coming, or you feel "strung along," ask someone else. You're doing her and yourself a favor.

Secondly, one must wonder why there seems to be a surge in male concern over dating problems. Guys writing letters about their feelings — especially to a newspaper — has never been terribly common.

So are Aggie men becoming more sensitive? Are Aggie women especially vicious nowadays? Although it may sound ridiculous at first, there may be some validity to these questions.

Regarding male sensitivity and female thoughtlessness, I can't help but think, "What goes around comes around." It's easier for me to empathize with men just because I've been given ambiguous rejections myself, but I think most everyone will agree that women in general are predisposed — for whatever reason — to expect consideration from men who continually jerk them around.

As for male sensitivity, women have been demanding it for years and may slowly be getting it as a result. Sensitivity, however, leaves men wide open to be walked on and many guys just aren't as familiar with it as

women are. It's time to get used to it, I guess.

Finally, it would be nice to know if this anger towards women's treatment of men is isolated to A&M, only college students or is just a '90s thing.

I find it difficult to believe some new trend of ambiguous rejections, or "stringing along" as it is commonly known, is specific to any particular group of people. However, if young adults follow social trends more than other age groups — as they appear to — I would imagine that if guys feel "run around" by women at Texas A&M, they probably feel "run around" by women at Florida State and Winnepeque Community College as well.

If there really is any difference between the way women reject men now and the way they did 10 years ago, I would have to blame it on the socio-sexual revolutionary tactics brought upon us by the '90s.

MTV, Oprah Winfrey and Hillary Clinton have all played major parts in helping women feel that they can look, act, say and become whatever they want without inhibition or concern for male approval. Along with this movement may be the right to reject men however the hell they want. This is kind of scary for most men.

Needless to say, some Aggie females may not even blink at the thought of piercing some poor sap's aorta with a spiked heel. But if it happens, and the pain is deep enough, that same guy might think twice about being a jerk the next time he gets a chance.

Yes, gentlemen: The idea of spiteful, thoughtless, pissed-off women rising to dish out what they've been taking is scary indeed.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy student

EDITORIAL Aggie Rings New requirements unfair

Doesn't it seem strange that transfer students and some seniors will have to wait an extra semester to order their Aggie ring?

Now transfer students must have 60 credit hours at the University to order their ring, instead of 30 hours. Seniors can no longer order their rings until they have completed 95 hours.

Porter Garner, associate director for alumni programs, said the new policy is intended to make getting the ring more challenging for transfer students.

"We're not trying to penalize anybody, we wanted to make sure that the ring represents more than a two-semester experience at A&M," Garner said.

Transfer students are not lesser Aggies just because some are able to graduate with only 30 credit hours from A&M.

Perhaps soon-to-be seniors aren't too pleased about the policy change that requires them to have already completed 95 hours before ordering their ring. Very few students start their fourth year at A&M with 95 hours under their belts.

It's unfair to make students wait until they have a diploma from A&M to order their ring. They are being penalized by not having an Aggie ring to wear

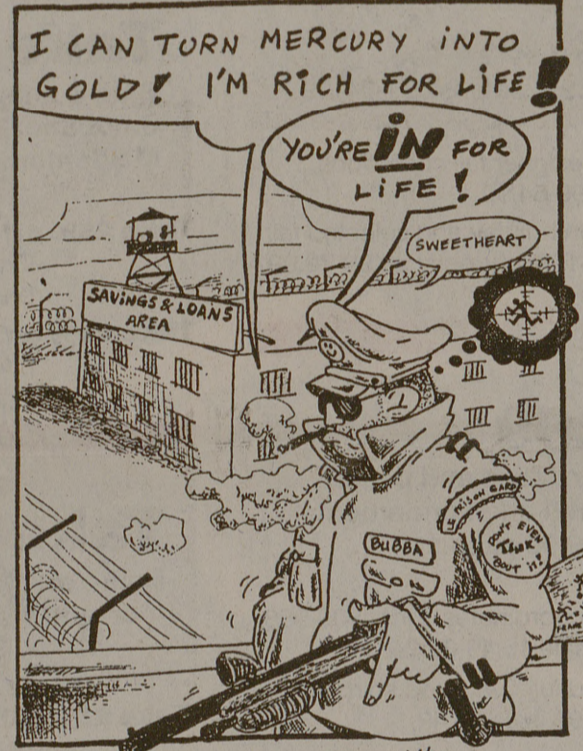
with pride their senior year, to wear to Elephant Walk or Ring Dance or even to dunk in a pitcher of beer.

The former policy allowed seniors to order a ring the semester in which they were going to complete those hours. Now many seniors will have to spend the entire fall semester — including football games, Bonfire and Elephant Walk — without their ring. These students, who have already dedicated at least three years to A&M, are being punished for an absurd reason.

Carolyn Swanzy, director of the Aggie Ring Program, said the changes were made to reduce confusion about when students can place an order. She said the Board felt the loan policy established by the financial aid office — completion of 95 hours before securing a loan — should be consistent with the ordering policy.

This reason for the change is hardly an intelligent one. Were students to receive their ring immediately after ordering it instead of some six weeks later, this rule might be considered valid.

The Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students should change the policy back to how it used to be. Seniors should be able to wear their rings their entire senior year.



Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff.

Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors. The Battalion encourages 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.

Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

Address letters to:
The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Mail stop 1111
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843
Fax: (409) 845-2647

Which side is right about multiculturalism? Neither one

I've been pretty disappointed in the entire controversy over "multiculturalism" here at Texas A&M. We seem to be stuck on an ignorant level of public debate.

You are either for multiculturalism and support such programs, etc., or you oppose the whole thing. We hear, "Faculty Senate votes for multiculturalism," or "College Republicans oppose multiculturalism."

These statements are not accurate, and in fact, they contribute to misunderstanding and confusion. Everybody supports "multiculturalism." No reasonable person opposes the ideals of tolerance, respect and racial harmony, but many do oppose such ideas and programs as a multicultural curriculum (whatever that means) and scholarships based solely on race or gender.

Proponents of the multicultural agenda seem to think that you must support their ideas if you want to support their ideals. These "multiculturalists" can easily put their ideas into action because they only need to say that their opponents oppose their ideals.

They don't seem to be able to admit the fact that such their cherished ideas may not be the best way to achieve these ideals; they may in fact be counterproductive.

On the other hand, "opponents of multiculturalism," as they are called, are equally simplistic in their arguments. They seem prepared to reject anything that might

question the superiority of white, Christian, heterosexual males in western culture.

Western civilization may be superior, but how are we supposed to make that judgement if we don't study others? A declaration of the superiority of western

If you support the requirement, you are trying to indoctrinate everyone with liberal, politically correct ideas. If you oppose it, you are an intolerant bigot.

culture must rest upon a critical evaluation of it. Such an evaluation requires that it is compared to others. Otherwise, asserting the moral superiority of the west is simply prejudice.

The recent passage of the multiculturalism curriculum requirement has been hailed as "the first step toward the future for Texas A&M" and criticized as "indoctrination to liberal ideas" and "political correctness."

Both of these attitudes are symptomatic of the shallowness of the current debate. If you support the requirement, you are trying to indoctrinate everyone with liberal, politically correct ideas. If you oppose it, you are an intolerant bigot.

Given the nature of the actual requirement, both claims are implausible. t.u. defeated PC., but they rejected a required single class that probably would have been dominated by liberal thought.

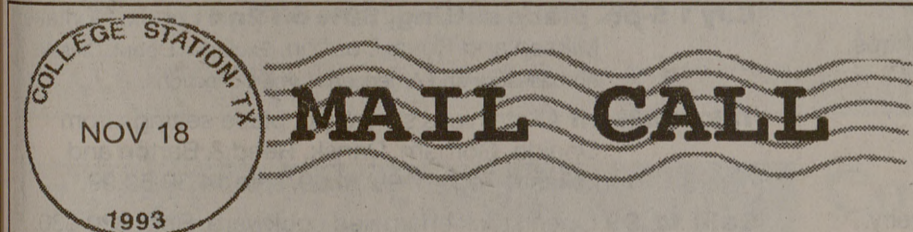
Our requirement may be satisfied by two out of over 100 courses offered, many of which most of us would probably take anyway. This structure can truly serve as model for other universities.

It meets the demand that people receive a broad education in which their thought must transcend their own lifestyle and culture, yet avoids blatant liberal bias by allowing such a wide range of choices.

The common perception of our campus is that Aggies are against "multiculturalism." This is not true, many simply oppose multicultural programs and requirements which may not achieve the ends for which they were designed.

I think, rather, that Aggies are above multiculturalism. Other universities might feel the need to teach their students how to treat each other. We, however, already respect each other no matter what gender, race, or religion; we don't need special programs to teach us how.

Jim Paulikowski is a sophomore chemical engineering major



United Way works ...

United Way is a national organization that believes in strengthening communities by asking the residents to lend a helping hand to fund service projects in their community, such as the Boys and Girls Club, Red Cross, Cancer Society and many more. The United Way office has asked Aggies to support it, too.

As every year approximately 40,000 Aggies adopt Bryan-College Station as their home, supporting the United Way would be our way of thanking our community. The target given A&M students

by the United Way office is \$10,000 for the 1993-94 academic year. This is only 25 cents per Aggie!

You should support the United Way by coming up with programs through your organizations to raise money, or you can participate in other United Way programs. In fact, today is "United Way Night" at the Texas hall of Fame, presented by the Aggie Wranglers. Come on, Ags! Lend a helping hand to the United Way. This is a fine opportunity to show others we care and what Aggie Spirit is all about.

Ranjan Natarajan
Graduate student

Rice fan apologizes for students' actions

As a staff member at Rice University and an avid fan of Rice Owls football, I wish to offer my deepest and most humble apologies to the afore-mentioned groups for the actions of the Rice students during the half-time of the recent Rice-A&M football game in Houston.

As the Aggie Band was putting on yet another fabulous performance, many of the Rice students decided to 'poke fun' at the band by doing the Nazi 'Heil' salute in unison. I hope that the Aggie Band members and the cadets will see fit to accept my apology.

I was disgusted because I am aware of and deeply respect and admire the long, distinguished service record of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

I know Aggies have served this country with the utmost honor in every war

since the Spanish-American War in 1898. I know thousands of Aggies went to war during World War II against the regime and the dictator for which that salute glorifies. I also know that a good number of them did not come back. I know that because I have visited the Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M.

It is my sincere hope that you understand that not all Rice fans condoned the students' behavior. I plan to do all I can to see they are made aware of what they did and try to see to it that nothing like this happens again. I would not have blamed Aggies for wanting to 'bust some heads,' but I admire the restraint shown instead.

Finally, I want the band to know that I am a big fan of the Texas Aggie Band and look forward to the next chance to seeing them perform. To me, they are the best. Thank you for hearing me out.

Mitchell R. Istre
Office of Computing Services
Rice University

Ring requirement

I disagree with the new 60 credit hour at A&M requirement for Aggie Rings. This will affect almost all transfer students. I transferred 60 credit hours to A&M and my major only requires 128 to graduate. That leaves me with 68 hours left. By the time I reach my senior year with 95 credit hours I will have had only 35 hours at Texas A&M. Basically, I will have to graduate and then get my ring. Since contingency orders are no longer accepted that will affect many more students.

If I meet University requirements for being a senior, why can't I order a senior ring? It is my understanding that it is a senior ring and not a graduation ring. I realize the ring requirement needs to be more stringent, but let's compromise and make the new rule 45 hours at A&M and not 60 hours. Transfer students are Aggies too!

Willard Johnson
Class of '95