

# STATE & LOCAL

## Reverse discrimination claims lack support from faculty

By Kim Horton

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University professors and faculty members say complaints of reverse discrimination lack consideration for the history and purpose of affirmative action, and do not reflect current statistical data.

Mark Fossett, an associate sociology professor, said reverse discrimination is a politically loaded term with little scientific value.

"The notion being conveyed is that 10 years ago a man would have received favor," Fossett said. "Therefore, it was bad luck to be a woman, but now it is bad luck to be a man."

Fossett said people who are not selected over a minority to receive a promotion sometimes blame it on discrimination to feel better about the situation.

Occasionally, minorities try to hide their ethnic identities through name changes and acting more like white people, Fossett said. Data proves that minorities who do this receive benefits.

"If reverse discrimination was widespread, then white males would try to act like ethnic minorities to benefit," Fossett said.

Controlled experiments show that one

equally qualified minority looking for a job was turned down and later the same day a white male was hired.

"Most discrimination is to the disadvantage of minorities," Fossett said. "If you want to be in the advantageous group, then be a white male."

Michelle Tomarelli, a psychology professor, said affirmative action was created in hopes of erasing these inequalities.

"You have to handicap horses who have an unfair advantage to make it a good race," Tomarelli said.

However, people are leaning so far backwards to avoid discriminating that they discriminate against the majority, she said.

"Encouraged to hire minorities through affirmative action, businesses sometimes hire a less qualified person," Tomarelli said.

Tomarelli said data-backed information proves that an inferiority complex can develop due to affirmative action.

"It allows people to discount what you do," he said. "If you get a promotion, some say it was because you were a minority."

Students do not recognize the capping of enrollment on the basis of nationality as a form of discrimination, Fossett said.

**"If reverse discrimination was widespread, then white males would try to act like ethnic minorities to benefit."**

— Mark Fossett, associate sociology professor

"If we did not discriminate on the basis of national origin," Fossett said, "then 70 percent to 80 percent of U.S. applicants could be displaced by applicants from other countries."

The government establishes quotas to increase the percentage of minorities in various positions in the workplace. Fossett said white males felt that this would work against them.

"White males have had tremendous benefits in the past, and this hurts them by taking this away," Fossett said. "Employment data shows no evidence that white males are being injured by this."

Some companies had very few women and minorities, Tomarelli said. For this reason, certain percentage requirements must be met for companies to receive fed-

eral grants and funds.

"In order to hire and promote minorities, they will have to bypass more qualified people to meet federal guidelines," Tomarelli said. "It's a supply and demand issue."

People tend to go out of their way to hire minorities, he said.

"There are some departments at Texas A&M where minorities are getting raises over more qualified non-minority faculty to encourage them to stay," she said.

Daniel Orozco, an assistant director of Placement Services, said white males feel they are at a disadvantage in the hiring process.

"You hear people say that if you're a pale male, then you're not considered," Orozco said.

Because of the greater number of white males at Texas A&M, it seems more difficult for them, he said.

"If students can sell themselves, they'll find a job."

Race, gender, or ethnicity can sometimes sway things if all other factors are equal, he said.

"In a few instances, the white female's chances are better in competing against a white male," he said.

Karen Severn, pre-law adviser in the Of-

fice of Professional School Advising, said qualified students seldom have problems in not being admitted into professional schools, regardless of ethnicity or gender.

"Before they even apply, some students said that they would not get in because they are white males," Severn said. "I've never heard such complaints after the application process."

These schools tend to admit minority students proportional to the number in the applicant pool, she said.

"If U.T. law school admits 500 people, and 10 percent of the applicants are black, then close to 10 percent admitted will also be black," Severn said.

Tomarelli said, "As we end discrimination in college admissions, education, and experience, then we can end reverse discrimination. You have to tough it out and tolerate it for a while until no fair advantages remain."

"It's still easier for white males to get jobs. If they don't get the job, then some feel the need to blame someone else. It's scapegoating."

True equality is a philosophical ideal, she said.

"Until men can have babies and women are big enough to hit back, there will be discrimination," Tomarelli said.

## Midland residents protest hiring of abortion doctor

The Associated Press

MIDLAND — Residents in this Republican-rooted city take pride in pointing out they have kept Midland free of topless bars and adult bookstores.

Now, they have added abortion to their black list.

Through billboards, ads and rallies, thousands are trying to prevent Planned Parenthood of West Texas from hiring a doctor to perform abortions at its Midland clinic.

"It's a Baby, Y'all," proclaim signs plastered on storefront windows downtown.

"It's Our Body, Y'all," retort-

ed signs carried by abortion rights supporters assembled on the fringes of an August prayer gathering.

Planned Parenthood officials say routine services have rarely been disrupted by the anti-abortion campaign. However, a contractor renovating the clinic has quit the job under pressure from his church, and it took 12 telephone calls to find a plumber.

Only one doctor performs abortions in the 30 West Texas counties the agency serves, and health problems frequently cause him to take weeks of leave from his practice in neighboring Odessa, agency officials said.

## E-Walk

Continued from Page 1

publicize the fact that we want it clean," she said.

The council, along with the junior and senior classes, have posted flyers encouraging students to refrain from throwing things.

Similar efforts to bring back the solemnness of Elephant Walk last year paid off, Megliola said.

"I think each year we will see improvement," she said.

If students are successful in improving Elephant Walk, there will no longer be the threat of having the tradition eliminated, King said.

"Elephant Walk is a tradition we could save," he said.

The senior class will meet at Kyle Field at 1 p.m. on Tuesday to begin the walk while the juniors will meet at the Bonfire site.

## Juniors

Continued from Page 1

Field, we will go to Kyle Field to avoid the seniors."

The junior class will meet at Bonfire site at 1 p.m. and the junior yell leaders will lead the Class of '95 in a yell practice with senior pull-outs.

After the junior yell practice, the Class of '95 will walk to Kyle Field where Frank W. Cox, Class of '65 and author of *I Bled Maroon*, will speak to the juniors.

After the speech, the juniors will form a giant '95 for a picture for the class scrapbook.

Dr. Bill Kibler, interim assis-

tant vice president for student services, spoke to the junior class at a general class meeting on Nov. 10 about its responsibilities to the University and to its class during Elephant Walk.

"We need to preserve 'E walk' as a tradition just for seniors," Kibler said.

"It was getting to the point of being a free-for-all, with more students in the health center instead of participating," he said.

"We will begin working with the senior and junior classes every year to make you aware of what is responsible."

Kibler asked the junior class to leave the seniors alone and to not "grode" them as they walked through campus.

Several juniors at the meeting opposed the idea of being asked to stop "groding" cold turkey.

"I am not too positive the changes will work," said John Tiekens, a junior speech communications major from Henderson.

"Too many people will be worried about their one chance to grode out the seniors and won't care how old Aqs and parents feel."

Jones said the junior class is not promoting the idea of groding out the senior class.

"This is a class council activity that we promote," he said. "If someone gets hurt, this is our activity that someone got hurt at."

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