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MAIL CALL

Reverse discrimination alive and well today

I would like to rebut an article headlined "Reverse discrimination claims lack support from faculty" printed in the Nov. 22 Battalion. The major interviewee was associate professor Mark Fossett. He claims that reverse discrimination does not have data which supports this claim; further, "If reverse discrimination was widespread, then white males would try to act like ethnic minorities to benefit."

First, let's explore the idea that no data is available. Look at any university or law school. Also, examine the mean exam scores and GPRs of the incoming students by group. Most of the time, white males will have higher means in both categories. As a result, administrators routinely admit students who are not qualified to satisfy some kind of quota.

For example, the article suggested that if 500 people are to be admitted into t.u.'s law school and ten percent of the applicants are black then close to 50 of the incoming law students will be black regardless of qualifications. What happens to those students who are below the mean of their perspective category, yet place above the other means? They tend not to be admitted. Hence, reverse discrimination is at work.

Second, "...white males...act like ethnic minorities..." Groups have been organizing around the nation where white men complain about reverse discrimination. These organizations usually are not taken seriously. Sometimes the members are called racists. Other times people just do not listen because they fear being tagged "a racist" when that is not the issue.

I believe affirmative action is the main culprit of discrimination. Not only does affirmative action hinder white males, it also hurts minorities.

People may think that the only reason a minority received a promotion was to create a racial balance in the management level even though that person may well be qualified and has earned the status. This stigma will hang over us until affirmative action and quotas are discontinued.

David W. Britt
Graduate student

Body functions in MSC insulting to dead Ags

The old Ag who complained about people sleeping in the MSC was right! It's an insult to dead Ags to sleep in the MSC! WAKE UP, AGS!

And something else. Peeing in the MSC is

worse! What if YOU were a dead Ag? How would you feel knowing someone peed in your MEMORIAL? HOLD YOUR WATER, AGS!

Dave Pruett
Graduate student

Environmental policies are necessary, not PC

On Nov. 15, The Battalion published a column by Eliot Williams in which he equated environmentalism with "political correctness." The article attempted to show that environmental policies are destroying our individual rights. In fact, this served only as a source of ignorance and misinformation.

First, Mr. Williams tries to demonstrate a connection between multiculturalism and environmentalism. Thinking that being pro-environment is liberal is a common misconception. The result is that the process of necessary enforcement and reform of environmental policy has been slowed. Mr. Williams fails to show any connection between the "P.C." movement and environmental regulation.

Secondly, Mr. Williams presents extreme examples of enforcement. These types of examples exist with most regulations, but they are not the "average" example. Mr. Williams fails to remark on the advantages of the clean water act or the benefits of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Do mistakes in the Justice Department mean that we shouldn't have any regulation?

In truth, what Mr. Williams is complaining about is the problems of the judiciary activism and the lack of restraint courts show when interpreting new policies. The problem is not one of over-regulation, and environmental policies are not Republican/Democrat or conservative/liberal disagreements.

Mr. Williams fails to show how environmentalism is the next P.C. issue, and the situations he describes are inaccurate, extremist scare tactics. The analogy to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon or multicultural problems is, at best, limited.

If U.S. environmental problems scare you, take a look at Eastern Europe or Russia. Limited policies and lack of concern in those countries led to large scale degradation of air, soil, water and other natural resources. They have very little to pass on to their children in terms of economic sustainability. The U.S. must be progressive on environmental issues, or we will follow in the footsteps of these other disadvantaged countries.

Russell Singleton
Class of '95

Accompanied by 18 signatures

Students square off on the issue of gun control

I would like to refute the argument made by Mr. Webb regarding a citizen's right to carry a firearm. Mr. Webb would have us believe that the primary reason for this "right" is to protect the citizenry from a military coup or a foreign invasion.

These arguments are archaic and invalid. The right to bear arms was written into the Constitution in the 18th century. The world of today is far deadlier. In the face of a M1-A Abrams tank or an Apache helicopter, sawed off shotguns and .38 caliber handguns are of little use. Furthermore, paranoid end-of-the-world gun nuts can rest assured that the US military has more than enough firepower to prevent any possible foreign invasion without need for further assistance.

Stricter gun control will make prosecuting criminals who use guns easier. Gun control will also reduce the number of "passion crimes" which are done on an impulsive urge. Guns do kill people. Visit a trauma ward in any major city and you, too, will understand this statement.

Paul Castro
Class of '94

In Brian Stucker's Nov. 12 letter in The Battalion, he asks the question "if the five day waiting period saved just one life, wouldn't it be worth it?" I say it would. On the other hand, what if the waiting period costs a life? I can cite several specific incidents where, had there been a waiting period, the victim would have been seriously injured or killed. In other words, the waiting period can work either way.

Mr. Stucker also mentions banning guns entirely. To those of us who own and use firearms in a lawful manner, this idea sounds as ludicrous as banning tire irons or baseball bats.

What about banning just the guns that don't have a "sporting purpose?" Well, it would depend on what you define as a sporting purpose. It seems ironic that the only people I've ever heard try to define a "sporting purpose" are those who don't own, use or even know the first thing about firearms.

From watching the news for several years, I can understand why people would be inclined to think that guns are evil. Most people do not see the other side. They do not see the hundreds of shooting matches and competitions that take place each year. With the way the media reports the news (murder, robbery, murder, death, weather, sports, murder), the vast majority of people do not hear about the thousands of times lives have been saved by the mere presence of a firearm. I have literally hundreds of newspaper accounts of ordinary citizens defending their life or property from criminals with firearms.

Crime is a problem. But until people realize it is not the gun, but the criminal that causes the problem, this country's crime problems are far from being solved.

Mark Bell
Class of '97

"Community bicycle support overwhelming," says Hard

Aggies, TBC and Freebirds help bike plan pass unanimous vote

By Kevin Cochran

With over 3000 Aggie signatures and support from the Texas Bicycle Coalition, Freebirds World Burrito, the Mayor of College Station, and city planners, the Bikeway Master Plan passed the City Council vote 7-0 on October 28. Ed Hard, the foremost bikeway planner for the City of College Station, said the "community bicycle support at the hearing was overwhelming." The standing room only City Council session was the most attended in recent memory.

November 6, the City of College Station formally applied for \$1.2 million in federal funding for bikeways. This transaction should occur over the next six to twelve months. However, funding is not guaranteed due to the competitiveness of the application process. In response to the chance of non-funding, Hard said, "continued bicycle support is therefore important for bikeway enhancements according to the Bikeway Master Plan."

The Texas Bicycle Coalition and Freebirds World Burrito will keep you informed on the status of the federal funding process and on other bikeway developments. If future petitions are necessary to insure action on bicycle issues, the Aggie grass roots movement will be used again to rally support.

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1.53	I/J	SI2	5800 ⁰⁰	1.64	J	SI1	6600 ⁰⁰
.85	I	SI2	1950 ⁰⁰	1.23	IJ	SI2/I1	3145 ⁰⁰
.71	E	SI	2586 ⁰⁰	1.12	D	SI2	4500 ⁰⁰
.58	H	VS2	1375 ⁰⁰	1.03	G	VSI/VVS2	5300 ⁰⁰

Marquise Cut				Antique Old Mine Cut			
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1.39	H	SI2	\$4955 ⁰⁰	1.00	G	I1	1475 ⁰⁰
1.14	H	SI2	4590 ⁰⁰	.95	I	I1	2275 ⁰⁰
.90	F	SI2	3250 ⁰⁰	.92	I	SI1/II	3208 ⁰⁰
.83	D	SI2	3900 ⁰⁰	.75	E	VSI/VVS2	3475 ⁰⁰
.75	G	VSI/VVS2	3500 ⁰⁰	.72	D	SI1	2700 ⁰⁰
.71	F	SI2	2750 ⁰⁰	.72	G	SI1/II	2300 ⁰⁰
.61	F	SI1/VS2	2080 ⁰⁰	.71	H	SI2/I1	1750 ⁰⁰
.58	F	SI1/II	1700 ⁰⁰	.70	H	SI1	2100 ⁰⁰
.54	H	SI2	1590 ⁰⁰	.60	H	SI2	1950 ⁰⁰
.46	H	SI1/II	1354 ⁰⁰	.58	G	SI2	1275 ⁰⁰
.46	H	SI2	965 ⁰⁰	.55	I	I1	850 ⁰⁰
.40	G	SI1	780 ⁰⁰	.52	H	SI2	950 ⁰⁰
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