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Local blood drives need student donors, volunteers

Talways hold my breath as they push the needle into my arm. It's not very Lpainful but my eyes tear up a little anyway. Once the needle is in, it feels like someone is pinching me underneath the skin. Five or so minutes later, the task is

finished and I'm on my way.

June 10, I donated blood for the 10th time. I've donated more than a gallon of blood since I was in high school

Unfortunately, I was one of only 227 people who took the time to donate when Blood Care held their three-day blood drive here on campus.

"Only 210 units were projected to be collected, but 300 were hoped for," said Patti Moody, donor recruiter for Blood Care. This number is up from the past two summers when Blood Care collected

In the summer of 1992, 180 units were collected over five days. The summer of 1993, when the blood drive lasted three days, 202 units were collected. The number of donations has improved when compared to previous years, but still is still disappointing when compared to the number of people attending summer school.

According to Don Carter, registrar for Texas A&M, there is a combined total of 17,424 students enrolled in the first five-week session and the 10-week summer school session. When compared to

CHRIS S. COBB

Columnist

JULIA

STAVENHAGEN *



collected, this turn out is very poor. In fact, it is only about 1.15 percent of the students attending summer school during these two sessions. Last 40,000 students in

attendance, only 1,235 units were collected - 3.1 percent of the total student population. This proportion is unbelievably low.

One main problem is the organization of the blood drives. "Only five to 10 people help organize the blood drives," said Patti Moody. 'This is not near enough people. The more people that get involved in planning the blood drives, the more people will donate

Student organizations should become involved. There are approximately 650 student groups on campus, including fraternities and sororities. If even one person from each organization got involved in promoting and participating in blood drives, there would be many more students aware of campus blood donations.

Despite all of Moody's efforts - door hangers in the dorms, notices on pizza boxes and direct

mailings - Moody says many of the students she talks don't even know there is a blood drive until they see Blood Care vehicles parked by Sbisa or

Blood Care services 70 hospitals and medical facilities, which require 450 units of blood every day. In 1993 there was not one month that Blood Care had a large enough blood supply.

Many people do not give blood because they are afraid. Needles are scary, especially when they are

Last spring, with over 40,000 students at A&M, 1,235 blood units were collected. Only 3.1 percent of the student population donated.

nine inches long and shoved deep into the person's head. NOT REALLY! This is, of course, not how blood donations are taken. The needle isn't very big and is inserted into the arm. The sensation of the needle in the arm is as if someone is lightly pinching

underneath the skin, as I described before.

Some people do not donate blood because they fear contracting AIDS. This concern is completely unfounded. The needles used for donations are used only once. After the donation, they are

disposed of and cannot be used again. Another reason people do not donate blood is they do not think they will feel well after making a donation. From my personal experience, if you eat before donating and eat a nutritious meal afterwards, you should feel fine. However, some slight fatigue should be expected afterward.

Is this not worth the sacrifice? On a national level, only five percent of the American population ever gives blood, while 70 percent of us will need a transfusion sometime during our lives. Thirty-five percent of blood donations are used for cancer and heart disease patients. The blood is also used for those with injuries, liver and kidney diseases, gastrointestinal tract diseases and other needs.

Blood Care will return in the fall semester from November 7 through the 11. If interested in volunteering, please call Patti Moody at 1-800-366-2834, extension 8549.

If the only reason you're giving blood is to get a tshirt to avoid doing laundry for another day, we all still need your donation. Think of the life you may be saving in the process. If you are not donating blood, think of the life you could have helped save ...

Chris S. Cobb is a senior English major.

Writing takes off as right career

'Sylvia Plan' advises choosing jobs based on personal interest, talent

Sylvia regarded me as though I had three heads. "What? Are you kidding?" She laughed. I had just asked her how long she had known she wanted to be a writer. This was not the response I expected. "Honey," she began, waggling a finger at me, "I NEVER knew I wanted to be a writer." She smiled then, while I sorted through my confusion.

Columnist Do you remember the major you started out with in college? Chances are, it isn't the same one you have now. What made you change?

Perhaps it was that organic chemistry grade that never got above a D, no matter how many times you took the class. Or maybe you discovered that every history class you took bored you to tears — even though you were a history major. A friend of mine spent hundreds of dollars on the Franklin Mint's Civil War chess set, convincing himself he was a Civil

War history buff. Then he spent an abysmal semester trying to figure out why history suddenly seemed horribly "wrong."
Around finals, he sat staring miserably at his chess set only to realize that it wasn't the Civil War angle that attracted him to blow his savings, but the strategy of the game itself. Chess echoed principle military tactics of great war battles. Basking in a dawning light, he changed his major to military science.

His academic career suddenly thrived.

Sometimes graduation with a degree does not guarantee which path will become your career life. When Jeffrey, who was a business major, found it impossible to get a job in his major field after graduation, he found employment at the Houston Jiffy Lube to pay the rent. After a "semester" or two, mechanical ability began to surface, and he took a hairpin turn on life's highway. He now has an interesting

and well-paying job as a mechanic. For some, this turn becomes a dead man's curve. After career alternatives are exhausted, the pioneering spirit begins to fade. This is where Sylvia found herself. Failed careers in nursing, cosmetology and art left her hopeless and broke. She moved to a bigger city without finding job success. Every night, she would write in a journal to console herself and examine her situation. Having written every day for years to stave off a feeling of loneliness, she became very good at the imaginative craft without really knowing it.
"I couldn't see the forest for the trees," she says. While

enrolling in a vocational class at an employment agency, she

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saw a flier asking for submissions to the town's literary magazine. She submitted a story and was published immediately.

From that day on, the right doors just began to open up. My working life started out as a big hallway with every door to the craziest things open on both sides. I kept going into each only to find a dead end. As all of them closed on me, I discovered my hall had one big neon-red door at the end with a giant sign on it that said 'writer.' I never could have noticed it

until the other doors were shut, though."

Sylvia got a job as a columnist at the newspaper in her town. She says it is the most fulfilling job she's ever had. She never considered writing as a way to support herself, although it was what came most easily to her. As is the case in many small towns, Sylvia's community did not consider writing as a viable career. When she moved to a larger city, she took that attitude with her, where it was a contributing factor to her dismissal of writing jobs for career choices.

I asked her why she felt writing was going to stay her favorite career. "It is natural to me, like breathing. I could have avoided a lot of grief if I had looked to what I loved from the start, but it took me 20 years to figure out I could

I mumbled something about getting lucky, but I knew

There are people who know exactly what they want before they graduate from high school — kids who know from age 12 that they want to be nuclear engineers. There are also those parents who have already decided what their children will do. Then there are those of us who choose our career paths in the manner of chasing a wild squirrel through the underbrush; sometimes grabbing the wrong squirrel. It is simple to get a job you need, but don't like. Many people are too frightened of poverty to consider letting go of the squirrel they have and continuing the search for the right one.

Being poor is no big deal, but being poor stinks if you're miserable day after day while working at a hideous job. Happiness or wealth. It is within everyone's power to choose which is top priority, but I try to avoid the "Sylvia Plan" and look to my heart before it's too late to change.

GAY AND 1

CAN SWIM!

Julia Stavenhagen is a graduate anthropology student

AND YOUR

POINT 15%

Fathers' Day Gift Giving MARGULIES (Groan) Not a tie!...

THE BATTALION **Editorial Board**

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EDITORIAL

POWER PLANT FAILURE

A&M System still must meet future needs

When the Texas A&M System discontinued negotiations to build a new cogeneration power plant on west campus, the University avoided a potentially risky economic and financial obligation.

This loss still is unfortunate, as it will deprive A&M of a much needed upgrading of its power generation fa-

cilities. The new cogeneration facility would have provided for all of A&M's power needs and then

The projected cost of the project was \$120 million. It would have provided A&M with a muchneeded power source that, ac-

cording to estimates, would have provided for the future utility needs of the campus through the year 2012.

According to Richard Lindsay, vice chancellor for finance and operations for the A&M system, negotiations were called off because of the University was unable to secure an agreement for the purchase of back-up power or the sale of excess power.

Tenneco Power Generation Co.; which was to build the facility, also failed to find a bond issuer to provide funding. Despite the disappointing outcome of project negotiations, terminating the plan allows the school to acquire and evaluate studies on the University's future power needs.

The System should keep in mind

the flaws in the failed project while it evaluates the findings and reviews ideas to meet the University's needs. Texas A&M cur rently supplies 70

percent of its own power and buys the rest from Brazos Electric Cooperative in Waco. Recent high de-

mands on this area's power supply forced the company to ask A&M to reduce temporarily its electricity consumption in an effort to prevent electricity blackouts.

Hopefully, a new proposal will soon be developed that can provide a plan for building the facilities Texas A&M will depend on well into the next cen-



06NKR

THANK STEW!

Religions reach same goal in different ways

In regard to Brian Schneider's June 15 letter to Mail Call: I would like to correct some concepts pertaining to

First, Buddha was born around 563 B.C. and died in 483 B.C. That was

about 550 years earlier than Jesus. Apparently, it is a mistake to say that "Jesus taught compassion way before Buddha was born."

It's a misunderstanding to say that the teaching of salvation in Buddhism is by self-effort only. It's clearly written in the teaching of salvation: one is monks and nuns: one is the sutras, disciplines, and treatises; the other is "self-effort". The first two teach you what you should do while the last one

is asking you to perform.

I believe that all Christians agree that to accept God is not the same as to believe in God. They ask for your performance of the virtues in the Bible. After you believe, the "seed" of enlightenment, or the Holy Spirit in terms of Christians' terminology, will

Finally, the "definition" of Christianity and Buddhism of hell and heaven is almost the same. Schneider said, "Hell is a place replete with eternal suffering, eternal damnation, eternal fire, continual anguish, and constant darkness, while heaven is a place without any suffering, anguish, or darkness." Buddhism has a similar but more detailed description.

I believe that all religions have the same highest target but with different ways to reach it. Who can tell you which way is the best? Believe me, nobody will say their religion is the second best.

> Ho-Chyuan Chen Graduate Student

Anti-Limbaugh column falls to left-wing flaws

I was reading the June 16 guest column written by J. Sterling Hayman on the and was struck by the irony of it all. Here was someone writing about "ignoring opposing views" and "free-thinking independence," and yet his column was replete with distortions and misrepresentations. This individual even goes so far as to link Rush Limbaugh with the swastika. What a joke! I could just as easily link Hayman with the "hammer and sickle" symbol, which represents far greater suffering and death than does the swastika.

Picking apart Hayman's column line by line, as easy as that would be, would be a colossal waste of time. Suffice it to say that someone from the political left talking about open-mindedness, noncomformity and diversity of opinions is like Saddam Hussein talking about human rights.

> Kani Sathasivam Graduate Student

style and accuracy.

or's name, class and one number.

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