

Local blood drives need student donors, volunteers

I always hold my breath as they push the needle into my arm. It's not very painful 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.

CHRIS S. COBB
Columnist



the 210 units 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 spring, with over 40,000 students in

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 Sbisra or the MSC.

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

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 t-shirt 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

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

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, wagging a finger at me, "I NEVER knew I wanted to be a writer." She smiled then, while I sorted through my confusion.

JULIA STAVENHAGEN
Columnist



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 actually make money at it."

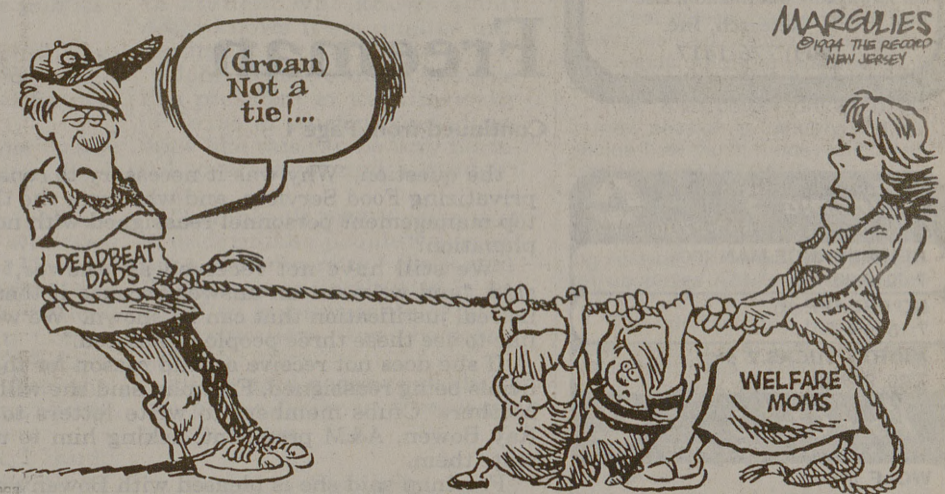
I mumbled something about getting lucky, but I knew she was right.

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.

Julia Stavenhagen is a graduate anthropology student

Fathers' Day Gift Giving



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

The projected cost of the project was \$120 million. It would have provided A&M with a much-needed power source that, according to estimates, would have provided for the future utility needs of the campus through the year 2012.

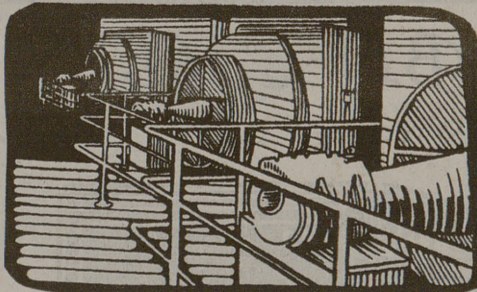
According to Richard Lindsay, vice chancellor for finance and operations for the A&M system, negotiations were called off because of the University was unable to secure an agreement for the purchase of back-up power or the sale of excess power.

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 currently supplies 76 percent of its own power and buys the rest from Brazos Electric Cooperative in Waco. Recent high demands 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 century.



MAIL CALL

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 Buddhism.

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

live with you. 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, nonconformity and diversity of opinions is like Saddam Hussein talking about human rights.

Kani Sathasivam
Graduate Student

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