

Internship perks differ drastically

A&M's smaller colleges provide little support for their Capitol Hill interns.

It's 4:30 a.m. somewhere in the Midwest, and a political science major interning at a dairy center wakes to milk cows.

Meanwhile, at 6:30 a.m., in Washington, D.C., an agriculture major prepares to attend a hearing on welfare cuts in food stamps for a Texas congressman.

Why would ag majors work for a congressman? Because, through a program developed by the College of Agriculture, they have the opportunity to accept a congressional internship.

Why would political science majors be milking cows at dawn? They wouldn't — the scenario is completely fictitious. However, political science majors don't have the opportunity to intern on Capitol Hill through their department.

Ag majors can. In addition, they are able to intensely study their area of interest. They learn first-hand the operations and procedures of preparing students to handle "the real world" by emphasizing the importance of pursuing career interest through internships.

The problem lies not within the development of this particular program, but with the inadequate career advancement opportunities available from the College of Liberal Arts.

Comparing congressional internships from the two colleges shows the political science department is underdeveloped and antiquated.

Ag students apply for congressional internships through their college; political science students must pursue internships on their own, sending their resumes directly to congressional offices.

Ag interns are paid a stipend as high as \$2,000 by sponsors; political science students have no sponsors, hence no money. Interning ag students are also paid as much as \$500 a month by their congressional office; most political science students are paid nothing by

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their offices. Ag students receive a maximum of six credits for the internship; political science students receive three.

Current policies imply the Department of Political Science does not consider a Capitol Hill experience worthwhile.

Internships seem to interrupt the focus to swiftly graduate students. The department indirectly discourages internships by requiring students to pay full tuition and Student Service fees for those hours they receive — even though there is no professor and the paid services are a thousand miles away.

These academic and financial difficulties are merely obstacles for aspiring politicians, though. The real harm is the failure of Texas A&M to recognize the additional chance to educate these ambitious students. Their political interests and curiosity are blossoming during congressional internships, and A&M's inability to envision the advantages of investing in this is an injustice to students.

Continuous learning is a given while interning. At least twice a week, interns have the opportunity to see speakers such as Hillary Clinton, George Stephanopoulos, Newt Gingrich and major network news correspondents.

Interns may also attend briefings and hearings for legislative assistants, or campaign training by the party of their choice.

But no matter how diligent the student, it is impossible to watch enough C-SPAN or read enough newsletters to understand exactly what is happening. The system never becomes completely clear because Capitol Hill staffers are assumed to know the detailed information needed by the average intern.

Without a classroom oriented program, interns lack direction for furthering individual studies. Giving students a structured agenda would create a favorable framework exploring all the political arena has to offer.

If A&M chose to begin by creating intern-

ships similar to those of the College of Agriculture, sponsors would be abundant. Contacting A&M supporters such as former President George Bush, Gov. George W. Bush, Sen. Phil Gramm, Rep. Chet Edwards, Rep. Greg Laughlin, Rep. Joe Skeen, Clayton Williams and the former students in the Texas Legislature would only be the beginning.

Then, contacting schools that have existing programs, such as Stanford, USC, Pepperdine and Boston University would be the next step.

It is time that A&M focus on more than just 'A'griculture and 'M'echanical, and quit short-changing other departments.

From here, classes could be developed that study pertinent areas. These include the administrative versus the legislative side of Capitol Hill, committees and the committee process, current legislative events and Congressional lobbying and interest groups.

Our University should take advantage of the abundant possibilities. Not only should liberal arts departments encourage Capitol Hill internships, but investments should be made to establish Washington, D.C. classroom facilities for congressional studies.

It is time that Texas A&M focus on more than just "A"griculture and "M"echanical, and quit shortchanging other departments.

Attention, beginning with liberal arts majors, is well overdue. For some reason, not credible to A&M, the word on Capitol Hill is that in 20 years the Texas delegation will consist mainly of Aggies.

How nice it would be if our political science department would actually contribute to this success.

Erin Fitzgerald is a junior English and political science major



Ironies riddle UN conference in China

The Chinese government just isn't known for its humanitarian ways.

But strangely enough, Beijing is the city where the United Nations chose to hold its human rights conference for women.

This is the case, because the organizers of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women could not care less whether human rights are being trampled on as long as their radical and liberal ideas are furthered.

Few governments have less regard for human life than China's.

An example of this, is told by Harry Wu, an American citizen who was arrested in China and charged with espionage and treason. Because he traveled around the world protesting the abuses of human life in a Chinese prison and upon release will be expelled from the country.

Wu previously spent 19 years in China's forced labor camps. He claims to have witnessed the Chinese government often executes young prisoners and "harvest" their organs which are sold on the black market to Westerners who need organ transplants.

It is a lucrative business for the Chinese government. But I guess it is OK to have the Conference in China as long as they aren't killing many women prisoners?

The Chinese government also has little regard for the rights of women.

Because of over-population, families are allowed only one child. The San Francisco Examiner reported that the Chinese government monitors women's menstrual cy-

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cles so that women who have unapproved pregnancies can be dragged into medical clinics for forced abortions. So much for the so-called "right to choose."

If that isn't an oppressive enough attitude toward women, consider that this Chinese law has caused couples to abort female babies because the majority prefer male children.

Many couples abort female babies in order to wait until they conceive a son. This does not sound like a great place to have a conference that is supposed to further the rights of women.

In other human rights atrocities, World magazine, a Christian fundamentalist publication, reports that some people prefer these aborted fetuses as a dinner-time delicacy.

Maybe the delegates to this conference can enjoy a little Chinese cuisine.

I've heard that liberal, radical feminists "eat their young," but I always thought that was a figure of speech.

And if holding such a conference in China isn't outlandish enough, the conference, which will begin Aug. 30, features an agenda as crazy as its organizers.

For example, noted loony feminist Bella Abzug is determined to change the definition of gender from strictly "male and female" to "male, female, homosexual, bisexual, transsexual or hermaphrodite," because the current terms are "too constraining."

You can have the option of calling yourself male or female, but if neither one applies to you, then choose another.

What happens when babies are born and

the doctor either sees a certain anatomical part or he doesn't?

In this modern day, I guess he would yell "Congratulations, it's a male or possibly a homosexual or bisexual or — if you know a good surgeon — possibly a transsexual!"

I can hear it now: "Did you hear Jenny had her baby?" "Really, what did she have?" "Don't be such a vertical thinker — we won't know until little Pat develops a sexual preference."

And if holding a human rights conference in China isn't outlandish enough, the agenda is as radical as its organizers.

Most of the women who will attend this conference are not radicals. Unfortunately, most of the freaks come from the United States and the rest of the Western World.

Many conference participants come from other countries and genuinely need help. The women from Third World countries need to know about how to maintain clean water, they need to learn about nutrition, and they need medical supplies.

Instead, they get condoms by the truckload. Way to help women, feminists!

By the way, American taxes, American time and, of course, America's first lady Hillary Clinton will probably be going to this conference.

It seems the lunatics are running the insane asylum.

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EDITORIAL

THINKING GREEN

The University should help the campus recycling program expand.

This summer, four people, with the help of conscientious students in Northside residence halls, advanced environmental conservation at Texas A&M. They are now asking for, and deserve, help from the rest of the campus.

The summer residence hall pilot recycling program was an unqualified success, as Northside residents recycled over 2 tons of paper and 200 pounds of aluminum.

Obviously, the students on the Northside were eager to participate in this worthy program, and all those involved should be congratulated for their efforts.

Now it is time for the program to spread to the rest of campus.

But in order for the success to continue, more people need to contribute.

First, the program needs additional funding, since its grant has expired. The University administration should seriously consider appropriating funds to pay for more workers and bins so the program can continue on Northside and expand to

Southside. The administration should realize that the money spent would be a good investment.

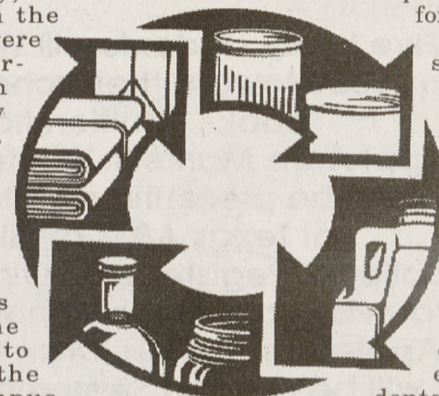
The faculty should also be willing to get involved. A recycling advisory board would make operating the program easier, especially if the program continues to expand.

Finally, the students should show their dedication to the project. The benefits of recycling are widely known, and it requires little effort.

Also, they should remember to be careful when recycling. Much of the materials in the recycling bins this summer was contaminated, so students should re-

member what can and cannot be recycled. Clearly, the small group of people that made the program a success this summer cannot be expected to improve the project without the help of others.

Assistance in funding, administration and participation is essential if the project is to continue.



MAIL CALL

The Battalion Mail Call policy

The Battalion encourages letters to Mail Call and will print as many as space allows.

In order to conserve space, letters must be 300 words or less in length and include the author's name, class (or city of residence) and telephone number.

Telephone numbers will not be printed in The Battalion.

Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The person dropping off the letter must show a valid student I.D. or driver's license.

Mail letters to The Battalion — Mail Call, 013 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-1111.

Fax letters to (409) 845-2647. Fax letters must include a driver's license or I.D. number.

The Battalion e-mail address is Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu. E-mail letters must originate from an account belonging to the person who signs the letter and include a driver's license or I.D. number.

We regret that not all letters can be published. For queries on letters, call The Battalion Opinion Editor at (409) 845-3313.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style, clarity, accuracy, spelling and punctuation. The Battalion will not publish letters that include requests that they not be edited.

The Battalion reserves the right to not publish letters on

the basis of excessive length or factual inaccuracy.

Letters which are libelous or abusive to individuals or groups in the community will be rejected.

The Battalion will not print unsigned letters, or letters which request that the author's name not be used. No more than one letter from any given individual will be published within a 30-day period.

To be considered for publication in the next day's issue of The Battalion, letters should be delivered to the Battalion office by 2 p.m.

The Battalion will not publish letters soliciting witnesses to specific crimes or accidents, or other materials related to potential or pending legal proceedings.

Consumer complaints will not be published but will receive the attention of the appropriate news editors.

The Battalion will not accept letters from political candidates who have filed to run for any office, nor will it run letters from political campaigns or letters which oppose or endorse candidates. Letters discussing election issues, however, are acceptable.

Letters of appreciation, public announcements and other notices will be published on individual merit and timeliness. "Thank you" letters and lost and found notices may be published in the Classified or display advertising sections.