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**MAIL CALL**

**Early draft entrants don't hurt NCAA**

I'm writing in response to Tom Day's June 26 column on underclassmen entering the NBA draft. Day contends that the allowance of underclassmen to enter the draft is "killing the quality of play at both the collegiate and professional levels." This is just not the case.

Day pointed out that schools are hurt by a drop in television ratings and attendance at games. Why then did CBS pay hundreds of millions of dollars to keep sole rights of the NCAA tournament games? Why then has the NCAA abandoned regular basketball arenas in favor of larger capacity venues (domed stadiums) to host the Final Four? March Madness is a phenomenon that has exploded over the last decade and this is evidenced by more prime-time coverage of tournament games as well as loftier ticket prices at the sub-regional and regional sites. Also, I am quite sure that fan support at the Dean Dome (on the campus of UNC) did not diminish in the 1995-96 season after the departure of Stackhouse and Wallace (as Day suggested) just as it did not 10 years ago when another "underdeveloped and immature" underclassman left Chapel Hill. Twelve years later, that same underclassman is now the best basketball player on the planet.

Day also suggests the NBA

talent pool is diluted by the addition of underclassmen into the draft. It is hard for me to comprehend how the addition of past early-entry candidates like Jordan, Isaiah Thomas, Magic Johnson, Jason Kidd, Shaq and Penny Hardaway (all Dream Teamers, by the way) could weaken the talent pool of any draft. These young players add flair to the "Showtime" image that the NBA's top brass wants their league to exude. What does an underclassman have to lose in declaring of the draft? If he is chosen in the first round, he will sign a multi-million dollar guaranteed contract for 3 years; if he is not chosen he can go back to school (provided he didn't sign with an agent) and play the next season. It's a win-win situation.

Day also called for the NBA to take action to stop this influx of college underclassmen draftees would flood the league office with threats of antitrust violation suits and unfair competition claim so quick that it would make David Stern's head spin.

Like it or not, it's only the beginning for the parade of teenagers into the NBA.

Court justices." Halbrook seems to believe that an "affirmative action" plan for Congress, such as racially gerrymandered congressional districts, is needed so that minority voters are not disenfranchised.

Please. Minority voters are never left out of the political process; no one is being denied his or her right to vote. Halbrook's underlying premise is that white voters will not vote for minority candidates, yet how can he explain, for instance, U.S. Reps. Gary Franks of Connecticut and J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, both blacks who represent white-majority districts, or U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla of Texas? Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot they are Republicans, which means they are not really members of their racial "groups."

Now, Halbrook's claim that these "minority-majority" districts are needed for racial balance in the Congress is ludicrous. They are drawn for party balance, to keep the few seats that the Democratic Party still has — to keep minority voters in the "minority-majority" plantation, beholden to their liberal congressional masters who ensure that they are enslaved to government programs and not responsible to themselves. Halbrook should realize it is time for "progressives" (read: regressives) like himself to understand that a person's race alone does not determine his or her political ideology.

not understand that certain laws of this country were devised for the express purpose of preventing citizens from being jailed for excessive periods of time for simply being charged with a crime. Hopefully, then, in the future he will refrain from writing ridiculously fascist sentences such as "... I am fed up. A man charged with assault with a deadly weapon has been walking free for three years."

Kami Merrin  
 Graduate Student

**Opposition to course not close-minded**

Kudos to David Recht for presenting a well-thought and sensible argument against A&M's gay literature course. It is precisely these non-alarmist and thoughtful discussions about homosexuality and its place in society that we need in an open forum of public discussion. Simply because a person feels that homosexuality should not be socially acceptable or a basis for someone to be given special consideration does not make him a close-minded bigot.

Michael Spiller  
 Class of '93

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald. A valid student ID is required. Letters may also be mailed to:

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**Brian Martin Class of '97**

**Minority districting insults all voters**

This letter is the result of the June 27 column by Shannon Halbrook, "Politics blinds

**Matt M. Murphy Class of '96**

**Boldt forgets rules of legal system**

Please remind David Boldt that according to the philosophy espoused by our legal system one is innocent until proven guilty. Perhaps he does

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**Dogs**  
 Continued from Page 1

to achieve desirable characteristics, but at a price.

"Just like people, animals have genetic problems like their parents," Sins said. "When you get dogs so similar they have the same genes and you breed them over and over, those (bad) genes come out."

Sins said offspring of two non-related animals are usually genetically strong.

"People are always talking about how healthy their mutts are," she said.

Trinidad said many people are willing to pay unnecessarily high prices for purebred dogs.

"Purebreds are very expensive, I think, because of the way people think," she said. "Would you buy

**Brian Martin Class of '97**

**something with the name 'purebred' or something with the name 'mutt'?"**

According to the "Purebred Puppy Net," an advertising media for breeders, rough collie puppies sell for prices between \$300 and \$600.

Sins said most owners are not concerned about the potential genetic weakness of their animals.

"It's not something you need to be worried about (genetically inherited diseases)," she said. "It's important to be educated about different breeds and where your dog is coming from."

Although Sins said she recognizes that many owners prefer unique breeds, physical traits occasionally receive too much emphasis.

"Breeds are important, but some people have gotten a little too carried away with specific measurements, sizes and weight," she said.

**Lead**  
 Continued from Page 1

and the Environmental Protection Agency."

The wells A&M draws its water from are not the source of the lead; therefore, the water supply is not contaminated.

Canty said the soft water in the piping is most likely the cause.

"Soft water is probably the reason this happened," Canty said.

"Soft water is more corrosive than hard water. A&M is going to use a chemical treatment that will lay down an insoluble barrier in all the plumbing to prevent lead from leaching out into the water."

Before 1986, lead solder was used in the construction of piping.

"The low level of dissolved lead found during required monitoring is from plumbing materials found in some of our older campus buildings," Sippial said.

"Although these construction materials were part of the normally accepted practice prior to 1986, it now is recognized that under certain conditions, the lead could tend to dissolve."

Dr. Donald E. Clark, a chemical and biological safety officer, said the Physical Plant will search for the best way to treat the water.

"At this particular time, we're testing the water and seeing how to treat it," Clark said. "We want to decrease the ability of the water to absorb the lead."

Treating the water chemically costs less than replacing the old piping.

A few years ago, Rice University also faced the same problem of lead in its water.

Robert Byrd, operations coordinator in the central plant at Rice, said the university, which receives its water from the City of Houston, sought out the sources of lead and removed them.

"We eliminated anything with lead in it — things like drinking fountains with piping with lead in it and copper piping that had lead soldering in it," Byrd said. "All of the drinking fountains with sealed storage tanks on them were replaced."

Canty said A&M has its own water system.

"A&M is a public drinking water system," Canty said. "They serve more than 15 connections or more than 25 individuals. They stand on their own. They treat it and distribute it to the University. They make sure it's okay."

**Bosnia**  
 Continued from Page 1

official in Bosnia.

"The document is signed and sealed by Mr. Karadzic," he said.

Bildt said there were no conditions attached and that it is now illegal for any Bosnian Serb official to take orders from Karadzic.

He acknowledged that Karadzic would still exert influence, but said it was a "losing battle." Forcing the Bosnian Serb leader to formally step aside was one in a series of steps to crack his power, Bildt said.

Sunday's move, Bildt said, "is an important step towards the cleansing of Republika Srpska from the association with the crimes for which Mr. Karadzic and others have been indicted by the international tribunal."

**Sunrayer**  
 Continued from Page 1

expect companies such as Frito-Lay to donate as well. Last year's budget of \$35,000 was enough, but we will be competing with schools who have million-dollar budgets."

Odeita Murray, a senior mechanical engineering technology major in charge of fundraising, said they are working hard to find donors.

"We are trying to contact any and everybody by sending out letters asking for monetary contributions or expertise," Murray said. "In turn for their support, the companies will get their names on the car or T-shirts. It's critical to get support or we won't be able to compete."

Waugaman said the team will have no problem winning as long as they can build the car.

"If we can build the car we'll be capable of winning," he said. "It's all a matter of getting the money and making the car."

Waugaman said this should be enough to bring victory to the team.

"As long as we can design and build a solar powered vehicle which can endure 1,200 miles of highway driving from Indianapolis to Colorado Springs at an average speed of 38 miles per hour, winning won't be a problem," Waugaman said.

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**Classes**  
 Continued from Page 1

find the classes they need to graduate at A&M," Hoyle said.

Students are not the only people who feel the repercussions of unavailable Spanish courses.

Cristina Boles, assistant professor of Spanish at Texas A&M and professor at Blinn College, said an absence of

job security forces her to teach at both schools.

"The lack of classes at A&M is a problem," Boles said. "I need a job with security, so I have my foot in the door at both places."

Boles said students ultimately suffer when professors teach at more than one school.

"If we taught at one place, we would be more effective teachers," she said. "Although it is the same class, both schools have different curricula and different policies ... It can be confusing."

Oberhelman said he has a suggestion for students who are disenchanted with the difficulty in obtaining Spanish credit, which for many is a required course.

"The students should appeal to the state legislature," Oberhelman said. "We need a representative who puts a strong emphasis on higher education, because our future is no longer oil and gas — it is technology and well-educated women and men."

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