Inintelligible professors shouldn't lecture Decision's ramifications

lear, concise speech and fluency in English: I often doubt if this is a factor in select-

Jing our teaching faculty at A&M. If it were, we wouldn't have a problem with Columnist

r this weeker will travel for maining mate

misunderstanding our professors — an all too familiar scene at A&M. Stories abound around campus of the classes where no one understands the professor. This shouldn't be a problem at a world class university. Sean McAlister Searching through the nior accounting schedule books, one

shouldn't have to wor-

ry about weeding out hard-to-pronounce names of some ofessors. Students pay good money for irreducation, and every course should agood one.

hese foreign professors may be outnding researchers. They may also have standing knowledge of the curriculum. problem is that they can't communicate their students. Communication plays a role in learning, we all should know that. those who don't, they should try taking rfavorite subject and teaching it to their nds using sign language. Those fluent in ing won't have a problem, but for the brity, not an ounce of knowledge would s from teacher to student.

A&M's faculty has a responsibility to ch the student body the curriculum of ch chosen major. That, at times, can be ky since some classes are inherently diffi-Trying to teach a young college student neering, chemistry or accounting can be enging, even for the most talented of ssors. Throw in the hindrance of speakhe English language and the difficulty of ask multiplies.

come may say the faculty should be represen-ted the student body. But however culturally resentative of the A&M population they are, ore important that the professors have the



ability to clearly articulate our national language. After all, the English language is the foundation for all communication in the United States.

The factors from which teaching faculty are selected surely involve education, accomplishments and experience, just like any other job. But prospective professors should have to teach a mock class and be evaluated as a communicator. The directors in charge of selection must be aware of impediments in speech and communication and not let these important qualities slip by

Let these otherwise qualified faculty members do research and create curriculum; no one argues their value in that area. But leave the teaching to those who communicate clearly, and establish a separation between research and lecture.

In the meantime, students still have to worry whether or not they will be able to understand their professors.

Nothing will change and students will continue to struggle through lectures mingled with strange accents and mispronounced words. And students will continue to complain about "the teacher who couldn't speak English.

The time has come to stop torturing students. Professors, please learn to communicate well or don't lecture at all.

go beyond right & wrong

Opinion Editor

Heather Pace

Sophomore

The line between life and death has been redrawn, and in the wrong place.

The question of whether or not a fetus is a human has been hotly contested for years. Thursday, a court in Corpus Christi has answered this question by conviction Frank Cuellar for the death of Krys-

tal Zuniga. Zuniga's mother, Jeannie Coronado, was seven-and-one-half months pregnant when an intoxicated Cuellar rammed into her car.

An emergency Caesarean section was performed, but massive head injuries caused the death of Zuniga 43 hours later.

The jury decided, after only an hour, that Cuellar was guilty of manslaughter because Zuniga was considered to be a human being at the time of the accident

The dilemma is that this decision conflicts with the Texas Penal Code, which defines a person as "a human being who has been born and is alive.

The fetus did not have legal status, yet the jury ignored the state's definition of a human, and wrongly convicted Cuellar for killing a person. Although Cuellar deserves harsh punishment for drunken driving, he should not be punished for manslaughter because, according to Texas law, he did not kill a person.

But the ramifications of a glorified drunken-driving case go far and above a small Corpus

The line between an infant, which the court considered Zuniga to be, and a fetus must be drawn distinctly.

Such lines are set for driving, voting and drinking. Yet, for the most important line of all, the one separating a living being to a dependent entity, nothing exists.

Moreover, it is ridiculous that Cuellar was convicted of manslaughter when women commit the same acts in the form of abortion.

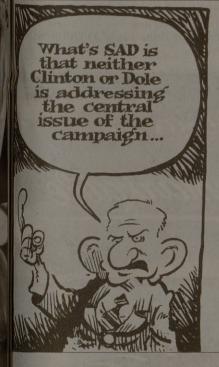
However, the ramifications of the Cuellar case could lead to an infringement upon a woman's right to have an abortion because the case considers a fetus to be alive.

This is the case because prolifers will most certainly use this case to their advantage and argue that if a fetus is considered a legal entity, then abortion is murder.

Pro-choice critics, though, would argue that the woman did not make the choice to lose her infant, but that it was made for her by Cuellar's action. But Cuellar's actions, although awful, were incorrectly labeled as manslaughter.

It took the jury an hour to find Cuellar guilty. It remains a mystery how a jury could make a decision of this magnitude so quickly.

The consequence is that a man has been wrongfully convicted of a crime he did not commit. Drunken driving — yes. Manslaughter — no. It is time America draws the line once and for all.





ouchers further education woes

merica's public education system sucks. In an attempt to make it suck less, some states are considering usducation vouchers to subsidize private ling for low-income students. ey may mean well, but advocates of ation vouchers ignore the fact that a her system does not help school chilas a whole. In addition, the system alprivate schools to discriminate against ents and it subsidizes religion. ponents of school vouchers argue

education — like any other good or

ce — is subject to competition. Furnore, students keep public school personnel emed, so proponents argue that giving low-income nts access to private schools will force public ols to clean house to keep their students. Since ic schools would have to offer a safer environand a comparable level of education to private

ols, every student will benefit. plying this "trickle-down" economic theory to edon would be beneficial if it provided a timetable of ementation. However, while the effects of compeare trickling down to the have-nots, many public ol students become pregnant,

out or are killed on school nds. Clearly, government must a more proactive response to edon's problems.

or those fortunate students who ceive vouchers, the future is relabrighter. Compared with public ols, private schools have lower out, teen-age pregnancy and viorates, and send a higher proporof students to college. Voucher nts would get the education they

and deserve to prosper in today's world. wever, whenever choice is involved, discriminaecomes a factor. For example, if someone goes grocery store and buys toothpaste, the buyer se his or her preferences to buy one brand of paste over another.



H.L. Baxter Senior geography major

The overall quality of

not increased when a

education offered is

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dents has access to

better schools.

In the case of education vouchers, the student is the toothpaste and the private school the buyer. Schools will select those students they feel worthy of receiving their services. They will, inadvertently or advertently, discriminate against other students, even though those students have vouchers. The school may use anything to discriminate: sex, nationality, test-taking ability, prior grades, physical ability, race, etc. There is no guarantee that a student will attend a private school simply because he or she has a voucher. Of course, not all schools discriminate.

Schools affiliated with a church, for example, are not apt to discriminate because of race or nationali ty. However, sending young pupils to schools affiliated with Catholic or Protestant churches presents another major problem with the voucher system.

Seventy percent of private school students are enrolled in Catholic schools; the Catholic church is the primary provider of private schooling. In addition to learning math and English, there is a good chance voucher students will be subjected to theology and religion courses. In other words, the government would be subsidizing religion — a violation of the separation of

church and state.

Even if some parents are in favor of letting the school expose their children to religion, government should not finance the conversion of students to any religion.

Giving steaks to a select group and leaving others to starve is not the best way to end a famine.

In essence, this is what an education voucher system does. The problems of public education stem from a lack of financial incentive for teachers

and mismanagement of funds earmarked for education. The quick fix of education vouchers is not a useful tool to repair education's problems. The overall quality of education is not increased when a select group of students has access to better schools and state governments say "to hell with the rest."



I suggest Apgar stop using back issues of *Pravda* for "a little research" and face the truth.

There is an obvious and unapologetic liberal bias in the media.

> Donny Ferguson Class of '99

A.P. Beutel simply follows regulations

Regarding Anthony Semien's Oct. 17 Mail Call, "Beutel focuses on blocking, not aiding"

First, I would like to stress that the A.P. Beutel Health Center does not deny evaluation and treatment of any student who is currently enrolled at Texas A&M University.

Second, it is a requirement of the University that all students must have a completed Medical History form and an immunization record on file at the Health Center. The immunization requirements

are stated in the University Admissions packet each student receives prior to enrollment. It is the responsibility of the stu-

dent to turn in this information. Students who are not in compliance will be blocked from registration for the next semester.

As employees of the University. the nurses are responsible for enforcing these requirements.

The immunization and medical history requirements are enforced to protect the health and well-being of both the individual and total student population. Please take some responsibility and help us to help you.

> Joan Davis, R.N, Staff Nurse A.P. Beutel Health Center Class of '87

Homosexuality has no place in world

Regarding Ken Burchett's Oct. 21 Mail Call, "Choice not related to sexual preference Homosexuality is the result of

insecurity or an inferiority complex derived from a broken home or some other "messedup" environment. Although homosexuals are people, they represent a perversion that should not be tolerated.

If we give homosexuals equal rights, we would be condoning this perverted lifestyle. Homosexuality has no business or usefulness in our society. Homosexuals cannot reproduce with one another, which is the entire sec-

I'm not saying I'm perfect by

Apgar's views on

media appear ironic

Regarding Jon Apgar's Oct. 15

column,"Media stereotyping shows

one in eight children suffers a

testing is now trying to con-

severe birth defect from animal

vince Aggieland that the media

The same Apgar who believes

Given Apgar's reputation for ei-

ther not researching his topics, or

opinions as statistics, one should-

Apgar also stressed the impor-

cussing liberal bias. Would he care

to then explain why his arguments

Since Apgar again failed to do

his homework, I have kindly pro-

vided him the Media Crib Sheet.

porters refer to themselves as

reveals 83 percent of Washington

A Roper poll released early 1996

The media report 5.4 percent

school lunch funding increases as

cuts", despite OMB, CBO and infi-

nite other studies proving multi-

Sam Donaldson and Kokie

Roberts informed Newt Gingrich

on This Week that the media have

'no obligation" to give balanced

For every 11 stories ran on

Gingrich's ethics probe, which

proved nothing, only one story runs on Filegate, which may re-

sult in prosecutions and jail time.

67 percent of Americans notice a

"liberal slant in the media."

A September Gallup poll shows

"cuts", and 50 percent student

loan increases as "draconian

billion dollar increases

reporting.

liberal, which certainly isn't

Poll after poll shows 60-75

trying to pass off someone else's

n't be surprised his usual lack of

consistency with truth.

tance of "research" while dis-

were all opinion, no research?

percent of Washington re-

'split" as Apgar guessed.

reporters voted for Clinton.

Charlie Johanson

Class of '00

ular purpose of man.

irresponsibility

are not liberal.

Everyone deserves equal opportunity

Regarding Aja Henderson's Oct. 17 column, "Lack of scholarships keep minorities away'

Why is it that only minorities and athletes can receive scholarships and not a hard-working white male?

cause her fellow minorities can't get a free ride to Texas A&M.

I'm not naive enough to believe all minorities live in the slums and require incentives to attend college.

Most of my minority friends can afford to attend college, but then, they don't have to - they all received minority scholarships..

The sad thing is that all of my white friends are paying for college, and not all of them can afford it.

However, none of my white friends could obtain a scholarships. This is not because they had too much money or their performance in high school was not good enough, but because they are white.

They don't offer a scholarship for white Protestant males. I believe in measuring a per-

son based on who they are and not their race. I am also a firm believer in

giving scholarships to those in need and to those who truly deserve them, no matter what color they are.

> Jennifer McKee Class of '99

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Let-

leed McDonaid with a valid student as may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call

013 Reed McDonald

Texas A&M University

College Station, TX

77843-1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 ail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.