

Theater wars

Moviegoers should appreciate the movie, not the theater

Last week, a nasty rumor was circulating on student tongues across the entire Texas A&M campus. The rumor was so dark and disturbing that it threatened life as we know it.

Columnist



Stephen Llano
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Shrouded in the pre-spring break activity was the account that at Oak Mall would be showing *Return of the Jedi* instead of *Holly* on 16. This rumor was met with disappointment and despair from anyone who felt this "disturbance of the Force."

When I heard it, I was somewhat different. *Return of the Jedi*, being the best movie in the Star Wars Trilogy, would be great matter which venue showed it.

People stared at me as if I was telling them that the entire Star Wars storyline was based on the Uncle Owen.

Of course, this is all a moot point now because Hollywood 16 is playing the film on two screens—the rumor turned out to be a lie. But why the big stink about the film possibly being shown in another theater?

No one should be surprised. It's no mystery why in recent years, people have become accustomed to a certain level of comfort and aesthetic quality with every product or service they purchase. But recently, it seems, people

are evaluating the pretty packaging instead of the core issue involved. During President Bush's term, Americans were concerned with the quality of education in this country. Bush's response was the Goals 2000 program, a package of objectives that United States' schools should meet by the year 2000.

The program was met with happiness and applause at first, even though there were no real enforcement provisions. The resulting phenomenon, tokenism, results when people think something has been done about a problem while it continues to fester.

Of course The Star Wars Trilogy isn't really that significant, but entertainment does act as a barometer for public sentiment. The reaction to the rumor proves that the epic George Lucas created isn't any good unless it is shown in a brand new theater.

When *Star Wars* was first released, there wasn't any arena seating or DTS sound stuff they have in theaters today. Theaters came complete with sticky floors, creaky seats and the faint smell of stale popcorn in the air.

One would think true *Star Wars* fans would want the full retro experience of sinking in their chairs and hearing their feet peel off the floor

like Scotch tape during the credits. Plus, within the whole scope of the controversy, people seem to have forgotten all the great things the trilogy has taught us:

- Affirmative Action Works: In *Star Wars*, Darth Vader is subservient to this old white guy. In *Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader is in charge. Obviously, it's because he's black (or the fact that his old boss blew up with the Death Star).

- The American Rural Hero Prevails: Luke starts out as a whiny farm boy from the desert and ends up saving the universe from evil. Nothing is more American than that (except perhaps Willie Nelson's Farm Aid concerts).

- Laughter is the Best Medicine: Even when the heroes are being shot at with lasers or about to be destroyed by alien creatures, they still have time to deliver a few funny lines. This obviously shows that humor is a great stress reliever when you are about to be killed.

If I were Han Solo, being shot at by Stormtroopers, the only thing I'd be thinking about is where I could get a fresh pair of pants.

Great messages like these lose to the comfort of chairs or the look of a theater. Maybe if people paid more attention to substance instead of the packaging, movie theaters, and many other things in the country, would improve.



Mandatory kinesiology classes are unnecessary for students

Staying up all night cramming for a chemistry test is not fun — staying up all night trying to do 46 push-ups in a minute is just wrong.

Asst. AggieLife Editor



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Texas A&M requires students to take four semesters of kinesiology classes. Some people cannot endure the physical strain of exercise, and others would rather spend these hours taking classes they will use in the future. Aerobic walking credits will not be on many resumes after graduation.

Maintaining health and fitness is not the problem. The problem is that students waste time taking kinesiology classes when they could be using their time more productively.

Kinesiology classes should not be required, but optional for kinesiology majors or for students who enjoy exercising and would like to take a class as an elective.

To earn an "A" in aerobic dance, one must do 46 push-ups in one minute and 44 sit-ups in one minute. Now, that is just not going to happen for some people. I am more worried about my aerobics final than my calculus final because when I go down for that first push-up, it is going to take more than a minute to come back up.

And I have a hard time believing that it is going to impress the editor of *The Washington Post* that I could do more pelvic thrusts than anyone in my class.

Maybe this would not be a problem if the requirements for the courses were reasonable. Students who broke school records for the swim team in high school are forced to take intermediate swimming pass/fail because it is next to impossible to earn an "A."

Here we have a prestigious university required to alter their photography classes to graduate, there would be an uproar. Students would protest, arguing the requirement does not make sense and does nothing to further education in their chosen field of interest.

The students who cannot lift as many weights as others in the class are left out and made into laughingstocks.

Many students face the same predicament. They never played a sport in high school, did not work out and are physically weak.

The University is forcing students to go back in time and relive the so-called glory days of high school. The students who cannot lift as many weights as others in the class are left out and made into laughingstocks.

The aerobics instructor cautions students to work at their own pace, but all the students look around to make sure they are keeping up with each other.

If agricultural economics majors were

required to take not one, but four, kinesiology classes to graduate, there would be an uproar. Students would protest, arguing the requirement does not make sense and does nothing to further education in their chosen field of interest.

But no one seems to notice that all students are required to take kinesiology classes that are, in effect, preventing them from graduating sooner.

In addition to being useless, kinesiology classes also are inconvenient. Students could be taking a class for their majors, but they are forced to arrange their entire schedule around a kinesiology class for four semesters.

Many of these classes are at the Student Recreation Center on West Campus or off campus, so students have to

factor in walking or driving time into their schedules.

One often cannot be enrolled in a class immediately before the kinesiology because 20 minutes is not enough time to arrive at the class on time.

And students can forget about scheduling a class after it because they will need time to shower or get back to campus.

Everyone has better things to do than spend 50 minutes stepping to the dance mix of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina." And everyone is paying Rec Center fees anyway, so it should be one's own decision whether he or she chooses to make use of the house of sweat.

Until the requirements are changed, I will continue to forego studying for classes that may actually benefit my future career so I can perfect that one push-up that actually comes back up.

Capitalistic dogma improves College Station community

Capitalism is going to destroy Mother Earth. At least toadlicking treehuggers who constitute the fringes of the environmentalist movement believe so.

Columnist



Donny Ferguson
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According to these sandalwood kooks, Gaia (the earth goddess some members of the "Green Gestapo" worship) will only be satisfied if we become the American way of life and eschew nature-communing substance farmers.

These anti-business rants of the extremist fringe amount to no more than a pile of organic fertilizer.

Bastions of capitalism such as Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, and the less-activist, more common-sense Freebirds World Burrito in College Station, have success-

fully combined the glories of capitalism with the tenets of conservation. They have proven that the only way to conserve environmental resources is to give people a monetary stake in it.

Ben & Jerry's, for example, donates a portion of purchases of their "Rainforest Crunch" to environmentalist groups.

While they obviously don't see the hypocrisy in donating time and money to groups with some members who have dedicated themselves to banning ice cream (the product of enslaved bovine-Americans), they have proven capitalism can be used to promote pro-environmental causes.

While Ben and Jerry are still working the kinks out of balancing business and ecology, Freebirds World Burrito has perfected the craft.

By combining a profit-oriented mind set with common-sense conservation, Freebirds has proven capitalism is the friend, not foe, of the Earth.

Fluorescent lights illuminate the restaurant, saving not only precious electricity but money as well. The restaurant's napkins are made of recycled paper.

When building the restaurant, bricks from Texas A&M's demolished DeWare Field House were used instead. Even after customers are finished eating, tortilla-munching patrons are urged to recycle the aluminum foil wrapper.

Compare these capitalist forms of ecological awareness with practices in socialist nations.

Communist Russia, a supposed utopia of environmentalism, was notorious for dumping toxic wastes at a level far surpassing any found in America.

Following suit, Sweden, a nation with more regulations and restrictions against business than Bubbas in a Houston phonebook, is being decimated by acid rain.

The problem lies within the nation's economic and government structure. Government bureaucrats in Moscow and Oslo could not care less about what happens to poor turnip farmers hundreds or thousands of miles away.

Capitalist businesses, on the other hand, have a vested interest in protecting the environment. Wealthy CEOs such as Bill Gates and Pete Dupont breathe the same air we do; Chevron can't drill for oil if rig operators are sick and Temple-Inland

can only exist as long as trees do. People are not going to ruin something if it costs them money.

Instead of wrecking loggers' chain saws and picketing factories, "Kumbaya" humming, guitar-strumming environmentalists should open their minds and realize capitalist nations are indeed the cleanest, most sophisticated nations on Earth.

Businesses such as Freebirds deserve respect for their ability to operate a highly profitable, ecologically conscience enterprise. They have proven capitalism is the best way to protect the environment, because it makes conservation profitable.

Prudent capitalism is the most effective way to save the environment, and the environmentalist movement can put that in a tortilla and eat it.



MAIL
 CALL

Grad students must wait for Aggie ring

I've recently become quite disturbed because I will not be able to get my Aggie ring before graduation.

As a graduate student at A&M, I consider myself a true patron of Aggie tradition and pride. However, because I'm a graduate student that doesn't matter.

I'm graduating this May, and have completed all of my requirements, including deadlines and fees, but unlike undergrads, I still will not be able to wear my ring at graduation ceremonies. Non-transfer under-

grads can order their ring after completing 95 credit hours having a 2.0 cumulative GPR at A&M, and be in good standing with the University.

Graduate students, on the other hand, must complete all degree requirements and either present an original Letter of Completion from the Office of Graduate Studies, or wait until the degree is posted after graduation, and be in good standing with the University.

But, graduate students must complete all their course work, not the 75 percent required of undergrads. They cannot get a Letter of Completion until after the semester for which they are

rent courses and not meeting the cumulative 3.0 GPR to graduate.

I guess the Aggie Ring Committee, Former Students Association and Board of Directors do not consider graduate students as trustworthy and capable of pride as the undergraduates at A&M.

Our time here is precious, and it should not be able unnecessarily biased or unfair.

Troy D. Sparks
 Graduate Student

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