

# Final analysis

Comprehensive exams offer lifesavers in sea of raging test rapids

Despite the beautiful and bountiful air of springtime brings, Texas A&M students are plagued by an overhanging cloud of injustice commonly referred to as finals. The mere idea of these approaching pests imposes a stress on the cranium similar to brain freeze but ten times worse.

Columnist



**Kate Shropshire**  
Freshman biomedical science major

agrees with putting the comprehensive final to good use.

"We are all required to give comprehensive finals," she said. "We all need to cover the same [information]."

Kalich said the necessity of comprehensive fi-

nals is the result of two major factors.

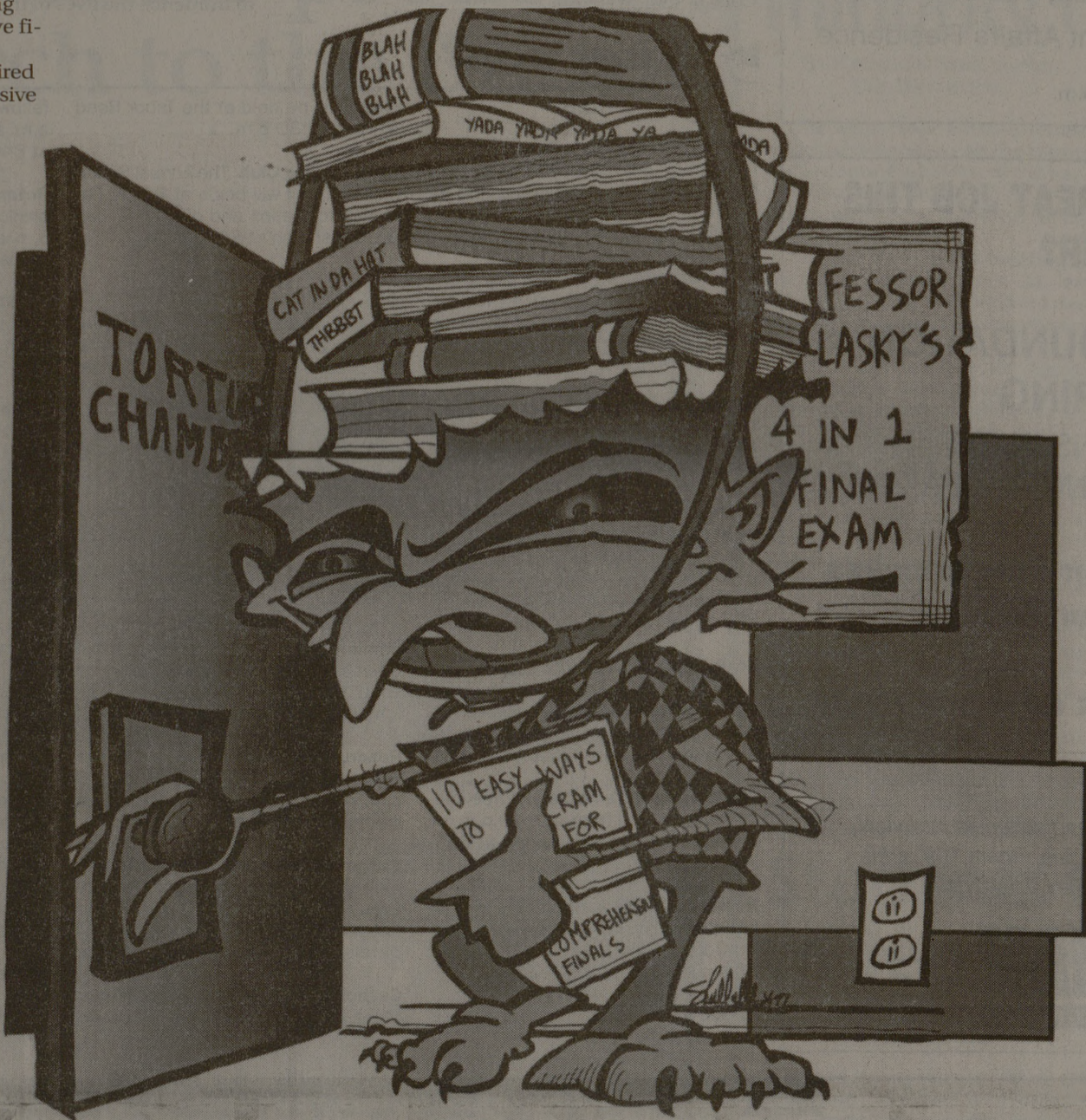
"Comprehensive finals for all Math 141 and Math 142 classes are important because we need to make sure [students] learn everything they need to in this course," she said.

"I'm for a comprehensive final because students need to study all the stuff together and I also think the final should count the same as a test," Kalich said.

"Yet a fourth test final would be easier, and if I were a student I would probably hope for that."

In addition to the advantages posed to students, the apparent value of a comprehensive final is influenced by the subject pursued.

Keith Lea, a freshman English



major, recognizes different kinds of courses call for different kinds of finals.

"It really depends on the subject," he said. "Math and science classes need a comprehensive final because everything builds on everything else. In English, each individual work that [a student reads] does not really have an effect on each other and that is what papers are for."

Lea also is aware of the facilitation of total understanding which can be found in comprehensive finals.

"I'd like to have a fourth test final for everything, but I know it is better to have comprehensive ones so I will retain the material," he said.

There are those students who believe finals would be more effective if applied in a much more creative way.

Matt Smith, a freshman business major, promotes a unique solution to this final dilemma.

"I think finals should be optional and not cumulative," Smith said. "If you already have an (A) then you shouldn't have to take the final."

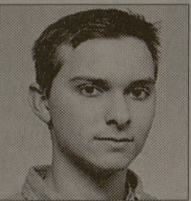
Even though comprehensive finals are prone to putting students on the rack, in the long run they manifest their worth.

In the wake of the brain hemorrhages caused by finals, students should try to be patient in their pursuits as they repeat the dogma, "No pain, no gain."

# Clinton health-care plan proves worthy, needs re-evaluation

Health-care reform. The words conjure up memories of the failed Clinton health-care plan that failed and the political fistfights that occurred. The real issue, however, was lost in media sensationalism: 43 million Americans do not have health-care coverage, and many more are on the pink slip or job switch away from losing their health care.

Columnist



**Jon Apgar**  
Junior journalism major

others to fend for themselves. Everyone moans about how terrible Clinton's Health Security Act was and how it would have socialized health care.

Once someone wades through all the propaganda and misinformation by conservative interest groups and actually looks at his plan for reform, it's not so bad.

The solution to the health care problem is found in four areas: universal coverage, managed competition, employer mandates and health alliances.

Universal coverage would give everyone coverage while spreading the risk among as many people as possible, making insurance work more efficiently.

Managed competition would force an employer to offer a choice of health care plans to employees so that the employee

decides who will care for his or her family and can shop around for lower premiums. Moreover, employees under the Clinton health care plan would have had the option to stay with their own doctor if they chose.

Employer mandates would require employers to pay a portion of their employees' insurance premiums. Small businesses, who pay more money for less coverage, would get the same deal as big businesses would.

Finally, health alliances are needed where small businesses and individual consumers band together to negotiate for high-quality health care at lower prices. This way the small businesses and working citizens can have the same

negotiating power of large corporations.

These areas were outlined in Clinton's health-care reform plan. However, conservative interest groups launched a campaign of misinformation, claiming that the health-care plan would be a giant socialist government takeover.

The focus of the reform plan shifted from health care to politics. Politicians, and eventually the public, lost sight of the fact that under our present system, millions of people are without coverage.

Instead, the issue became a grand political battleground that divided Republicans and Democrats. As a result, very little was accomplished (except millions still did not have coverage).

Congress needs to work on health-care reform again. This time, however, it needs to remain non-partisan. The people without coverage should be the main concern.

The health-care plan outlined by Clinton should be re-evaluated. It has many good points to it and would help many lower-class individuals get the coverage they desperately need.

And the interest groups should butt out. They ruined health-care reform the first time by calling it socialistic and liberal.

Well, it is a liberal reform plan. It would work to help those who are sick but cannot go to a doctor because they are not covered.

Those darn soft-hearted liberals are at it again. Always worrying about helping the less fortunate instead of things like tax cuts for the rich and owning assault weapons. Shame on them.

**The solution to the health care problem is found in four areas: universal coverage, managed competition, employer mandates and health alliances.**



# Students must listen to opinions

Got a little story for ya Aggs. Texas A&M could be a utopia if a few truths would be accepted by the student body.

If everyone would accept and appreciate how all ways of thought can peacefully coincide, much strife would be eliminated. Sure, not everyone will agree, but there is room for many paths on a campus this large.

How dare students be egotistical enough to think there might be some things that can't be reconciled, that some things are diametrically opposed.

Should you disagree with someone, hide behind high-minded thinking and false courtesy in your interactions with them. They are probably trying to do the same thing to you, anyway, and you come out looking more stoic in the end. If possible, see if you can twist their words to mean something else, something you have a good argument against, even if that's not really what they wanted to say.

Bigots deserve to be treated like this anyway. Besides, if students are true to themselves, everything will turn out OK. If we are committed to truth and justice, we all can achieve greatness. If you believe in yourself then your dreams never die and life can be glorious. In fact, life is what you make of it. You must create your own reality, your own glory. You can have it all. Never compromise anything, especially not your dreams.

If students just take enough multicultural education classes, our understanding of others would increase and there would be less bigotry and misunderstanding. Even though you may have friends of

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**Courtney Phillips**  
Junior psychology major

different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, you are probably just a redneck and don't really know anything.

Multiculturalism classes are not forcing beliefs on anyone — these things are of utmost importance and everyone should learn them. This is not a matter of choice. If everyone would just submit to this, then they'd understand and appreciate it. And whatever you do, don't ever say anything is wrong — you might offend someone (unless of course they are one of the aforementioned bigots, in which case you should go to town and have fun with it).

At this world-class university, students must live up to the Aggie T-shirt that says, "What do you call an A&M graduate? — Boss."

To compete on a national level, we must stay on the cutting edge of science and technology. Everything must be based on empirical knowledge.

And should you happen to die in an empirical scientific experiment gone awry, don't worry. Your spirit will live on forever in the hearts of Aggies. They'll answer "here" for you when you're gone. Forget the fact they may have lied to you, cheated you or stolen from you while you were here. We're all Aggies first.

And should you be fortunate enough to live to graduate, cherish the bonds of friendship. The esprit de Corps of Cadets, your fraternity or sorority or organization will live on forever, uniting its members in mutual respect and love. Those days of drunken revelry and carefree college fun will comfort you in your old age.

Gig'em and God bless. If ignorance is bliss, blindness must be ecstasy.