THE BATTALION PINION



AMPUS CONNECTION

ore Curriculum is an unnecessary evil

MICKEY SALOMA columnist

I those years has ensured it l-class status.

wever, the University's curriculum is one of the useless requirements that ndergraduate must go gh in order to receive that e diploma.

cording to the Undergrad-Catalog, "The Core Curım emphasizes compein the process of learning, pacity to engage in rigornd analytical inquiry, and bility to communicate

and effectively. ll, if this is the purpose of ring this course load, maybe A&M isn't a worldinstitution after all. All ing Texas A&M students

ners, thinkers and strong

Maybe the Core Curriculum should further develop or fine tune these skills instead of assuming that all students lack

The idea to have some sort of a required course load is actually outstanding. A&M should want to produce graduates that are cultured, social and intelligent contributors to the work force.

However, prospective A&M students should already be head and shoulders above their peers in other universities in that realm. By the time most students reach college, they have a firm grasp on what they know and what their strengths and weaknesses are.

Furthermore, most people have a definite idea of the general direction of where their life will take them. For example, somebody that excels in mathematics is most likely inclined to study engineering than history.

The Core Curriculum fills students' degree requirements with many classes that lack any sort of merit. Students gain very little from these classes

English Composition and Rhetoric (English 104) is one of to offer. This class will guarantee

one lucky person an A, another lucky person a B, an unlucky person a D, and an even unluckier person an F. The rest of the class will receive C's.

This class has been called a weed-out class, yet in reality it weed all but two people out. Are there only 100 above-average writers from each class in Aggieland?

English 104 is a class that was created to give graduate students teaching experience. The grading is unfair and the skills learned are non-existent. Most people came to A&M as writers or non-writers, this class does nothing to develop students' writing skills.

Another bogus requirement is Political Science. The two introductory courses are a waste

This class teaches you how the government works, how laws are made and who is in charge of different parts of the government. The same lessons taught in episodes of "School House Rock.

Politics play a huge part in every citizens' life, but teaching somebody how the government works in two basic courses will not

I do not believe in politics,

and I spent two semesters taking two political science classes in which one professor taught his extreme conservative politics and in the other class, the pro-

fessor whined for an entire se-

mester about her loss in a state

I think that any class required which has nothing to do with your future career choice is ridiculous. I want to teach kindergarten and write children's books, thus I find it ridiculous that I have to pass any sort of science class.

Teaching about the anaphase stage of meiosis will never be in my lesson plan.

I have a general grasp in biology, enough to speak intelligently about the subject. Thus, since I have no use for it, I should not have to take it.

High school teaches most students a good basic understanding of many subjects.

The Core Curriculum is an attempt to produce cultured students, however some requirements do nothing more than prolong one's graduation with classes that are boring, not stimulating and just down right useless.

journalism major.

GENDERSCOPE

Testosterone shown to be contributing factor of mental decay

decline. They're now saying that a high level of

testosterone is the leading cause of mental decay. So, let's



Voss columnist

just take a look at some of the pastimes, phobias and ancestral longings of the modern male to discern just how the American man is declining.

For starters, there's pornography. That men will resort to paying for glossy spreads of plastic women with cheap make-up and big hair shows desperation and lack of taste.

The problem here is that men have begun to see women as things attached to breasts. Muted bimbos who are ready for sex.

What, then, is their greatest phobia, but a woman who speaks? Men have developed irrational fears of intelligent women.

Indeed, most experience paralyzing intimidation when met with a self-actualized woman. So, most guys just grab a cold beer.

With an unswerving devotion to beer, most heterosexual men prefer a long-term relationship with a longneck rather than a female.

Why? Because a beer doesn't want equality. A beer can't talk back. A beer never gains weight. A beer never forces you to go shopping. And, a beer will watch Van Damme movies with you.

Still further, we have professional wrestling. That men will pay to have this brainless garbage filtered into their television sets is no surprise. On their rapid digression back into the encino age, men have found the perfect pastime to make them appear devoid of any civilized qualities.

Exhibiting blatant barbarism at its best, pro wrestling is the modern male's connection to the swarthy beast they once were. As they grunt and yell back at the television set, men are only fulfilling their repressed longings for a "manly"

soap opera. So, what does all of this add up to? A visually stimulated male populous with an almost non-existent attention span and an intelligence level that is mildly on par with an ambidextrous monkey that can operate a remote with one hand and flip pages with the other.

All right, that's enough bashing for now. We all know that it's politically incorrect to be an Anglo-American male these days — but a little bashing is always nice; it's a good stress-reliever.

However, the sad part is that men continue to buy into this mediated self-image. Our advertising portrays men as beer-guzzling, brainless gigolos who run around on beaches

with perky young things in G-strings. In reality, most men are just normal beer-guzzling, lonely guys.

So stop it! Just stop it! Everyone needs to stop buying into this image of pseudo-masculinity.

Men have extremely important roles in society such as role-model, brother, friend, lover, father and generator of billions of dollars of revenue for the sports industry complex.

In recent years, these roles have been undervalued and belittled, especially in America.

The absence of fathers in our homes means greater risk of children living in poverty, of experiencing emotional and behavioral problems, of dropping out of school and of lowered educational achievements.

Our mass-media constantly portrays men as sexual predators, wifebeaters, rapists and child molesters. Problematic is the image of men that the media sends to our children: that men are violent and that men cheat.

All the while, the media ignores the violence that women commit. The NSW reported that 53.2 percent of all homicides involving victims under 10 years old were committed by women between 1968 and 1986.

Instead of feeding off of tired and offensive stereotypes, it's time we started being realistic in our approach to gender.

While we women see many faults in men, perhaps they are genetic, stuck on the Y chromosome, evolutionary relics that men will never lose.

Yet, we need not think that there is an irreconcilable gap between men and women. After all, our differences are socially constructed for the most part.

Regardless, many women still appear to be very fond of men. So, although men may be on the decline,

there's still hope for redemption. Otherwise, when all the quirks of human cloning are worked

through and sperm is no longer necessary, women are just going to pack up and move to a lesbian planet.

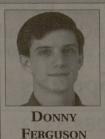
Until then, stop being such

Michelle Voss is sophomore English major.

LONE STAR LOWDOWN

Next governor must focus on education

eorge W. Bush may have an astronomical oval rating and a nocratic opponent puts the "goober" ibernatorial," but ne really be conred one of Texas tgovernors, or natop-notch prestial contender? e, he delivered on



columnist

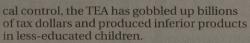
promise of proper xrelief, and with a Republican-controlled slature next January his second-term initiaswill cruise through the Capitol. But if Bush ats to be remembered as one of Texas' great ernors, he needs to adopt a new agenda for

new Texas century. The time has come for the governor to deschool choice and vouchers as well as aden "enterprise zones.

As blacks and Hispanics grow in numbers, Texas becomes more urbanized, educaand jobs will be at the forefront of the polmaking agenda, and Texas' next governor ould carry these issues into the next century.

Only the most naive parent or the most ical "teacher's" union lobbyist would deny fact Texas children need school choice and 100l vouchers. Since World War II, both the ling and control of local public schools has the individual communities and has been lowed up by massive state agencies,

nely the Texas Education Association. It is no coincidence the quality of educan in Texas has deteriorated while under estranglehold of the TEA. An avowed eneof intensive parental involvement and lo-



Texas deserves better. Bush already dropped the ball on education when he shifted local control from the popularly-elected State Board of Education to the bureaucratic indifference of the TEA. He can redeem himself by meeting the "edu-crats" head on with a choice-and-voucher program for parents and children.

He has the support of all Texans, namely the poor, women and minorities, demographic groups Republicans traditionally have not fared well with.

According to a poll of voting-age Hispanics by the Spanish-language network Univison, 84 percent of Hispanics support school vouchers and 81 percent approve of Bush's job performance. It's about time he tied the two together.

As Ben Chavis puts it, "Choice (in education) empowers and empowerment eliminates discrimination." The bulk of the 61 percent of Americans who support school choice are female, poor and either black or Hispanic. A Bush-sponsored choice-and-voucher education program would win the support of Texas' "new majority," citizens of color who

will soon outnumber whites. Though black, Hispanic and poor children will now have the same access to quality education as richer white children, the neighborhoods they grow up in are not nearly as safe, secure or promising as the outlying suburbs.

Urban decay and the economic exodus of business out of inner city areas of Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and other major cities have left behind a financial and social wasteland. Once reelected, Bush should pressure the Legislature to work with the Texas Department of Economic Development to expand

"enterprise zones."

Enterprise zones, or low-tax commercial areas in blighted neighborhoods, will attract businesses to the streets they once left. Cheaper taxes and the promise of lessened regulation and other incentives will draw business back into areas like Dallas' South Oak Cliff and Houston's Fifth Ward, bringing jobs, security and a renewed sense of pride to the poorest Texans.

If the next governor does not resolve the problem of inner-city blight by proposing expansion of the enterprise zones, Texas will pay the price in increased spending on unemployment benefits, health care and law enforcement.

As we head into the 21st century, our state is transforming from the ranch-and-cattle past into the sprawling urban future.

As Texas changes, so do Texans. It won't be long before whites are the minority and Hispanics and blacks move into the majority.

Bush should harness the wide-spread support for school choice and education vouchers and fight for a better education for young Texans. The future of our state rests not in oil rigs and cowboys, but in local schools and minority children. If Bush wants to be remembered as one of our great governors, he needs to champion education and urban renewal.

The future of Texas rests in the well-being of black, Hispanic and poor Texans. Unless we adopt a choice-and-voucher education program and expand enterprise zones, our state is headed for a bleak future. As a new century dawns, we need more than just a Governor of Texas, we need a Governor for Texas.

Donny Ferguson is a junior political

science major.



MAIL CALL

Capitalistic mindset opposes opinion

In response to Chris Huffines' April 27 column:

Apparently, Huffines' opinion of human decency is not very high at all. His column on April 27 was a protest against capitalism's ploy to use Princess Diana as a marketing tool for dolls and other toys.

He is outraged that America could sink to such low tactics for profit by exploiting a world figure, an advocate of the poor and those treated unjustly.

The irony is that he tells readers he's a "good capitalist" and believes in things such as child labor, sweatshops and "in general exploiting the lesser classes.'

He calls these things good bull, but affirms that the Diana dolls scheme is just going to low.

Huffines is trying to protect the image of a woman who devoted her life to philanthropic causes and helping her fellow man, and yet, simultaneously boldly proclaiming that it is OK to exploit millions of "lesser classes" for profit.

He thinks this is OK, and so do many others. That is what is wrong with America.

That mindset is what's causing the deterioration of society. Too many people think exactly like Huffines, with little respect for human dignity.

Somehow, I believe the princess would rather see these people's rights protected than her image.

Huffines is right about one thing, though. America does need to do some soul searching. Rachel Tristan

Class of '98

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