

A sound mind in a sound body

New kinesiology classes should pertain to different majors, have practical application



MANISHA PAREKH

Kinesiology. For some students across this campus, it is a chance to recapture the glory of high school physical education. For others, it is the dreaded waste of time and tuition money. Some students do not appreciate the opportunity to attend four college-level classes — learning to bowl, do the cha-cha or play handball; they believe kinesiology simply does not apply to their major or to real life. Of course, it is easy to see their point. How many psychology majors are really going to use a kinesiology class unless they are being chased by a psychopath ex-patient? How many computer engineering majors really need to take strength training unless, one day when they are frustrated, they decide to throw the mainframes across the room? The answer: not too many. The kinesiology classes that tend to fill up all seem to have one thing in common: they have a practical application to the lives of certain majors. Golf probably fills up because many students need to learn the fascinating sport that is associated with business, money, schmoozing and the 19th hole. For many corporate wannabes, knowing golf can be an important asset for the future. Journalism majors probably rush to take self-defense just in case they have to interview Sean Penn or Christian Slater one day. Taking these factors into consideration, it would appear that the kinesiology department should offer more classes that have practical applications for different majors. Here are some suggestions. **Beginning Professional Wrestling:** This offering is directed at theater arts majors and pre-law students since it teaches the basics of physical acting and injury. Students will learn about faking punches, in-

juries and body slams. They will also learn basic techniques for professional wrestling makeup application. Some assignments will include creating a wrestling stage name, learning how to shout about an opponent's mother while being thrown down on the mat and the functionality of spandex and lycra.

Political science majors who are interested in running for a governorship are highly encouraged to take the class.

Beginning Disco Dancing: This class is geared towards those students who plan on pursuing a career in government or public service.

It will help students get into the '70s mood, which is a definite plus if one wishes to work in the retro '70s government mentality.

Design students should also take the class since the '70s is the essence of fashion and architectural don'ts.

Bungee Jumping: This class meets at the top of the O&M Building. It is designed to give physics majors a hands-on experience with spring models, gravitational force, acceleration towards the Earth and, occasionally, the effects of rapid deceleration.

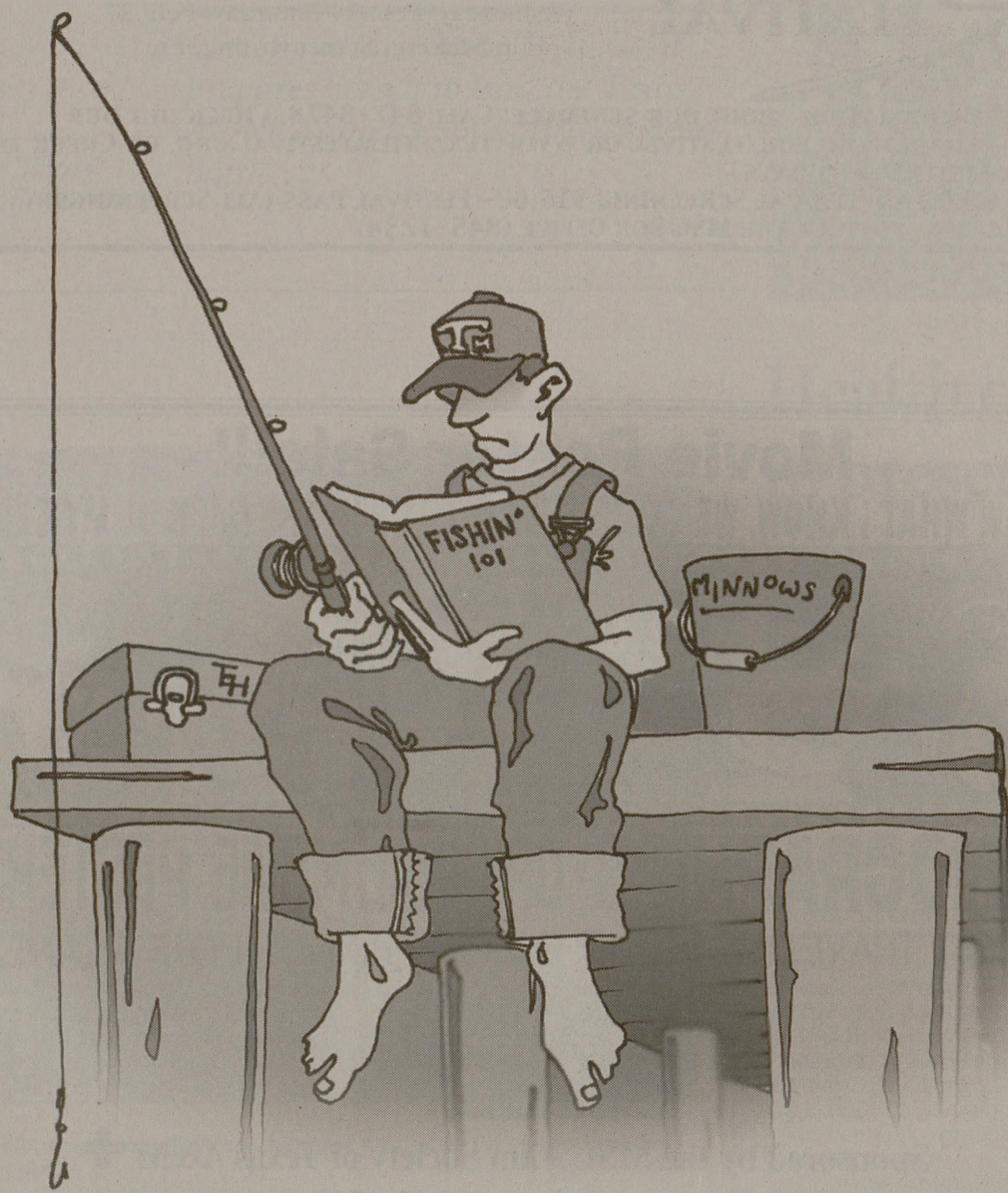
Business majors are encouraged to sign up for the class in order to experience the "ups and downs" that can be related to the stock market.

Urban Venture Dynamics: This class is designed for the average A&M student. The course begins with a unit on dashing from West Campus parking areas to Main Campus classes.

Other units include learning how to properly play chicken (the skills test is fairly demanding), how to sprint from a building to an illegally-parked car before PTTS officers can ticket it and how to master the art of dodging bicycles.

Perhaps it is a stretch to believe these kinesiology "classes" would really be course offerings at A&M. But considering the recent proposed fee increases, anything is possible.

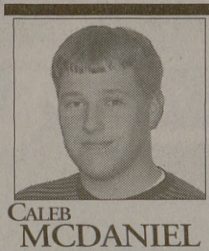
Manisha Parekh is a junior psychology and journalism major.



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Need for education with character calls out to teachers, students

The fifth of Gandhi's seven social sins — education without character — strikes right at the heart of academia. As America's teachers and students prepare for the educational promise of the 21st century, the cultivation of character must rank high on their list of priorities. For as long as there have been teachers and students, character in the educational environment has first involved avoiding the cardinal academic sin — cheating. The prohibition of plagiarism and intolerance of cheating are necessary for schools and universities to perform their intended tasks.



CALB MCDANIEL

Indeed, education without the common character of student honesty is destined not to be educational at all, since students who prevaricate about their understanding are mainly hurting themselves.

Likewise, educators, professors and researchers must uphold rigorous standards of academic ethics.

Instruction without integrity amounts to infamy; the absence of character from academicians would be nothing less than a horrible disgrace.

However, Gandhi's admonition to make education estimable involves more than refraining from cheating.

It further involves instructing students not only in academic disciplines but also in the ways of good living.

Texas A&M has long touted this "other education" as a primary part of the college experience, and its efforts to implement Gandhi's sentiment are

praiseworthy indeed.

However, it is always worth reminding ourselves that the "other education" ultimately entails more than learning how to whoop, how to walk like an elephant and how to wear an Aggie ring.

Education with character means more than infusing students with an Aggie spirit — it also means inspiring students to be better people.

It involves an understanding that knowledge is not the only or even primary intellectual goal.

Knowing how to use information is as equally important as knowing how to get information, so education with character will not divorce knowledge from wisdom.

These somewhat intangible fruits of education will of course be hard to perceive in the short run. However, there are at least two characteristics of a

character-based education that can be immediately monitored.

First, education with character will teach students to be humble learners.

Academic conceit is antithetical to academic character, since the smartest person of all will realize how much they have yet to learn.

There is never a point in a human life when it can be truly said that one knows everything there is to know.

Therefore, while education without character creates arrogance and intellectual pretense in students, education with character will encourage students to reach for their potential while respecting their limits.

Secondly, education with character will be sure to keep the most important things most important.

It will emphasize that learning is not as important as loving, being smart is less valuable than having a heart and a

wealth of knowledge is not as lasting as a wealth of friends.

If educators and students both approach the academic enterprise with such guiding principles in mind, A&M and other universities will continue to flourish.

But the educational world must constantly beware of indifference or condescension.

We must always seek to melt these twin mountains of ice with the warmth of an abiding character to temper our educational goals.

For ultimately, when each teacher and student comes to the end of life, the most important question will not be how much we know but how well we have lived.

Caleb McDaniel is a sophomore history major.

MAIL CALL

Greek system more limiting than elitist

In response to Andrew Davis' Feb. 15 mail call.

It is true that the Greek system has not been a part of A&M life for long, but it is here to stay whether you like it or not — and that really should be the end of the story, but it is not.

I have been at A&M long enough to know that I will never develop a liking for it, but I have learned to accept it as part of college life.

To me the Greek system represents a limited view of college life. Why limit yourself to a small group of people to enjoy college life?

What is the point of college if you are not willing to open up to changes and new possibilities that will help you grow when you go out into the "real world."

I feel like that is the number one thing I have learned at A&M. That is why I have enjoyed my experience at A&M to the max.

Too often former Aggie surveys complain that people graduating from A&M lack necessary leadership qualities to deal with the ever-changing world and ethnic diversity.

To me the Greek system only helps to promote this view.

A point to incoming freshmen and sophomores: the Greek system is not the only way to be socially active and meet new people.

Irfan Shaikh
Class of '96 and '99

Prostitution can never be considered moral

In response to Brendan Guy's Feb. 15 opinion column.

It trembles me to see a student at Texas A&M, or any person anywhere, claiming that prostitution, as filthy as it is, could be implied to be "moral" or "good for our nation."

This nation was raised on righteousness and with the current trend it is sure to crumble. It is all written down in a fantastic book called the Holy Bible.

Finally, in response to the conclusion of the article: Yes, Jesus in His great love for mankind that despised Him even humbled Himself to eat with prostitutes so that one sinner might repent, just as He humbled Himself on the cross for the entire world.

Therefore, you are greatly mistaken.

David Now
Class of '00

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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. Letters may also be mailed to:

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Q - NAME THE DEGRADING ACT MONICA WAS ASKED TO PERFORM ON MORE THAN TEN DIFFERENT OCCASIONS -



MIKE LUCKOVICH
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION '99

A - ORAL TESTIMONY.