

KINE may be cut from core curriculum

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Proposed Core Curriculum Changes

- Drop KINE 199 required hours from 4 to 1
- Change KINE 199 courses to Health and Fitness courses which consist of 2/3 academic work and 1/3 activity
- Three of six social science hours may be taken as Humanities
- Include a minimum of two writing-skill classes for each major

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Sweating through math tests may be something that will never change for students at Texas A&M, but sweating through a racquetball or weight training kinesiology course may soon become a thing of the past.

A preliminary report by the Core Curriculum Review Committee (CCRC) recommends three hours of KINE 199 be cut from the core curriculum, and that the remaining kinesiology hour be a Health and Fitness class which would consist of two-thirds academic work and up to one-third activity.

According to the report, it was the committee's opinion that "physical activity courses have no place within a core curriculum" because of the limited number of course hours in the core curriculum.

Dr. Paul Parrish, chair of the CCRC, said this recommendation was based on 50 hours of meetings with a committee of 20 faculty members in addition to time spent with student leaders, an email survey of former students and an open forum in the Memorial Student Center last November.

"Over all, the students were more sympathetic to the kinesiology than the faculty response," he said. "Nothing said in the report is intended to diminish the value of physical education, but courses which are physical and not academic don't fit in with the core curriculum."

Parrish said the health and fitness course should teach students the value of physical activity rather than requiring students to be active for a grade.

"We are all impressed with the Recreation Center, but the majority of the students do not take advantage of it on a regular basis. Seventy-five percent use it once a semester, 50 percent average once per week, but only 6 percent use it more than

three times a week — which is what the Surgeon General recommends."

Dr. Robert Armstrong, a representative on the committee from the Department of Health and Kinesiology, was against the idea of losing three core KINE 199 classes.

"In all fairness to the committee, they approached the issue thoughtfully," he said.

"[But] of course, there was a lot of competing interest between the faculty on the committee."

Most of A&M's peer universities have dropped the requirement. Of the 17 peer universities surveyed, only three had any physical activity requirement.

Armstrong said that the top 10 learning institutions in the country did not have the requirement at all.

Armstrong said that job loss is a possibility, but it is very unlikely because the plan would be phased in over a period of years. Because of a

high rate of job turnover in the department, Armstrong believes the department could shrink by not replacing kinesiology faculty who leave during this time span.

"At top speed, if the recommendation went through, the change could possibly be seen as early as the 2001 catalog, but that timeframe is really not realistic," he said.

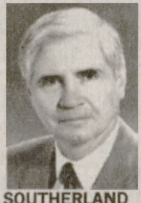
The CCRC also recommended that three of the six hours now required in the core curriculum for social sciences be offered either as a second humanities or social science class. The report said the idea behind this recommendation was to give the students more flexibility in their schedules.

The report also recommends a bolstering of writing and communication skills across the curriculum by including two classes within the students' majors which will "contain a significant amount of writing and attention to writing skills."

Southerland reflects on bonfire aftermath

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
AND STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

While the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse may be done with its work by March, Aggies may never fully heal from the tragedy.



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Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland said the collapse is still on Aggies' minds.

"I think [the collapse] is completely in our consciousness. We've had direct contact with every student injured, some cases multiple times. About 85 percent of those injured have routine contact," he said.

"If access to me is useful, that's a priority. The time is going to be made. Student Counseling Services (SCS) has their own thing going. I am confident that a number of students are availing services."

Southerland said most of the students directly affected by the collapse are in the same social circle.

"Bowen and I had supper with Bill Davis [one of the injured students] in the Commons and three of the others we wanted to speak with were there," he said.

"The injured students are comfortable with being back in school in most cases. They feel good. They connect with friends and associates, plus being busy with friends and school helps."

"But once you're involved in a tragedy, you don't know what will trigger that memory. You couldn't go to the Bonfire benefit concert and not be triggered. The strength of everyone together is very good," he said.

"The Association of Former Students had a reception for the families of the injured students. It was a very powerful event. It's the natural emotion and moving forward."

"One of the lasting impacts is that all of us are less likely to take individuals for granted," he said. "It was an important loss, not with unimportant consequences."

"Because of this, thousands of people are

Bonfire police records, statements available

More than 150 statements collected by the University Police Department (UPD) shortly after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse will soon be made available to the general public by Texas A&M's General Counsel.

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland said he is concerned that the students who gave the statements — previously unavailable because of their connection to a UPD investigation — may have assumed the statements would be kept confidential.

These students may now be inundated with calls from various media outlets.

"We just want to give these students a heads up, and let them know that they should use their own judgment in how much and in what ways they communicate with the media," Southerland said. "These students have no obligation to talk to anyone."

Southerland said he hopes these students will continue to work with the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire.

"We are concerned that these students will be confused," he said. "These calls might impact them in a negative way, but we continue to want anyone with any information to help in the investigation."

Kroll Associates consulting firm will handle any further interviews necessary for the commission's work.

going about their business in a slightly different manner. No, slightly is the wrong word, people have been affected from just slightly all the way to significantly different ways than they were," he said.

"An important part of the process is determining the cause. We hope the commission can identify those cause or causes. It is essential to the next process of evaluating the next steps."

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Ready, aim . . . FIRE!



ELIZABETH O'FARRELL/THE BATTALION

Sophomore sports management major **Matt Bevers**, of the Army ROTC program, demonstrates how to shoot his rifle on the hand grenade assault course Wednesday.

Pradhan seeks resolution from A&M

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Former Texas A&M endowed professor Dhiraj Pradhan claims Texas A&M still holds on to some of the same racial grudges that he believes to be part of the prejudiced history in the state of Texas.

"Texas A&M had me jailed on trumped-up charges of using the copy machine," Pradhan said. "Bizarre it may sound —



PRADHAN

but this is the old South. They don't like me, so they sent me to jail."

Pradhan, who at one time was the highest-paid computer science professor at A&M, said although it has been years since original allegations were brought against him by the University, his case remains unsettled and A&M refuses to offer any kind of compromise.

However, according to an April 30, 1998 article in *The Battalion*, Pradhan declined an offer from the district attorney earlier that month, which would have offered him four years deferred adjudication with a

\$5,000 fine and restitution of \$30,000.

"This is no offer to me," Pradhan said in the article. "I do not want to put distance between myself and Texas A&M, but [the University] is using the district attorney to indict people like me."

Last week, Pradhan said he was looking for employment outside of the United States but had to forfeit job interviews in Europe and India because his passport was seized on Dec. 17, 1999 and has not been returned. He currently resides in College Station.

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Gasoline prices to rise

NEW YORK (AP) — As Lydia Gamos filled up her fuel tank, she refueled her complaints about rising gas prices.

The homemaker grudgingly paid \$1.45 per gallon to gas up her Honda in Houston. "It certainly does hit you in the pocket," she complained Tuesday.

The hefty prices at the pump have Gamos holding her driving to a minimum "until it gets a little cheaper."

Prices that now average \$1.41 a gallon in the United States could stay high into the summer travel season. Some analysts even predict pump prices up to \$1.60 and \$1.70 per gallon before the problem eases. Americans already are talking about curtailing their driving just as resorts and other vacation spots are starting to gear up for summer.

Gasoline prices have been rising steadily since last March, when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cut crude oil production by 7.5 percent, or more than 2 million barrels a day, to try to boost prices that had fallen to 12-year lows.

Fears that gas prices will go even higher were raised Monday when the price of crude oil futures closed at \$30.25 a barrel — topping \$30 for the first time in nine years.

Analysts believe that OPEC will come under increasing pressure — especially from industrialized nations such as the United States — to raise production at its next meeting in late March.

Roger Diwan, managing director for global oil markets at The Petroleum Finance Co. in Washington, expects OPEC will increase oil production 1.5 million to 1.7 million barrels a day. But because inventories at refineries already are low, "that won't be enough to bring prices down dramatically and change the gas outlook in the United States."

Part of the problem is that U.S. refineries normally increase production of gasoline during the first three months of the year in anticipation of higher summer demand. That is not happening this year because the high crude prices and short supplies have prompted many refineries to cut back operations.

Ahead of the OPEC meeting next month, the Clinton administration is starting to lobby oil producers to boost output. The rise in crude has also pushed up heating oil prices this winter. The average retail price for heating oil has nearly doubled over the last year to \$1.66 per gallon, up from 86 cents in January 1999, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

So far, the Clinton administration has resisted tapping the 580 million barrel Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help increase the supply and bring down prices.

B-CS Planned Parenthood clinic marks one year anniversary

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Over 200 abortions have been performed at Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas' Bryan clinic since it opened one year ago.

"We're not bad people," said Debbie McCall, director of community service at Planned Parenthood in Bryan. "No one is for abortion. Sometimes it is the only choice these women have."

According to Planned Parenthood, 1.5 million women in America with unwanted pregnancies choose abortion. Most of those women are under the age of 25 and are unmarried.

A Planned Parenthood poll found 74 percent of voters under 30 say it is important to insure access to abortion.

McCall said Planned Parenthood has been in Bryan for 22 years, but since the new clinic performs abortions, protests have gotten worse.

"February is the worst time for protesters because of *Roe v. Wade*. They are peaceful to a point, but they have become more rowdy," McCall said.

McCall said protesters line the street with posters and have begun to write license plate numbers down.

"They know where we live, and they send letters to parents saying their children have been to our clinic, whether it is for an abortion or not. Some kids take their friend's car, and then they get into trouble," she said.

McCall said more protesters show up on Tuesdays and Saturdays, when doctors perform abortions.

"They have no right to judge and harass people," she said. "They stop traffic and may cause an accident. The yelling and screaming do not help. No one knows the woman's decisions."

Lauren Gulde, executive director for Brazos Valley Coalition for Life (BVCL), said the clinic does not provide all of the information to the women, and the sidewalk counselors are there for support.

"We have people called sidewalk counselors that line the street when people go into the clinic," Gulde said.

"We encourage women to look at other resources such as adoption, crisis pregnancy programs and churches. They are murdering by taking innocent lives of the unborn babies. Planned Parenthood definitely doesn't tell the patients everything."

Gulde said BVCL's goal is to offer healthy options for both women and their unborn children.

"Our goal is not to run Planned Parenthood out of the city. We just want to offer information and education about the problems abortions cause. A good option never includes the destruction of another human being," she said.

McCall said abortions are only five percent of Planned Parenthood's services.

"We provide health care, mostly. Men and women come in



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Father **Dean Wilhelm** leads Bryan-College Station residents in prayer in front of the Planned Parenthood on E 29th Street. Today is the one-year anniversary of the clinic's opening.

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Batt Radio

• Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a proposed use for the bonfire logs.

Batt Online

• Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.