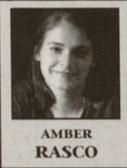


Summer learnin'

Instead of complaining, students should see pros of summer school

Another day, another semester begins in Aggieland. Thousands of Aggies reluctantly truck back to College Station to begin another agonizing summer school semester. For many, the mere two weeks' rest and recoup time between the spring semester and the first summer session simply does not suffice. Groans fill the air as the thought of tedious reading, writing and testing fills the minds of tiresome students. But instead of complaining, students should look at summer school in a new light — not as a hindrance, but rather as a golden opportunity.



AMBER RASCO

The mind has less to consider and fret over, thereby reducing the level of stress among the student body.

Fewer hours allow for a more focused area of study — even if a student has a summer job, the burden of having to balance study time for six classes no longer exists. Most summer students take two, maybe three classes, which creates a more in-depth, enjoyable learning experience without the overload.

Although going to class every day may seem a tad redundant, this level of reinforcement results in students actually learning the material and getting their money's worth for their education.

Obviously, the more students are exposed to a subject, the more likely they will absorb the material, thus making an "A" more attainable. Summer school may get tedious; however, classes do not linger like regular semesters. Summer session classes are completed, and hours earned in only five weeks — three times faster than fall and spring. Although intense, summer sessions provide a more compatible learning environment than the academic year. Fewer organizational responsibilities demand students' time, and Aggie sports fans are forced to take a break. Thus, schedules are free and study time is readily available. Basically, there is not a darn thing to do over the summer at A&M except hang out with friends and study. At-



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

tending summer school creates a sense of productivity and a deeper feeling of accomplishment.

As summer comes to a close, students can be ahead of the rest of their class and be prepared for the upcoming fall semester. Study skills are refreshed and perhaps even enhanced. Students may complain about early hours and going to the same class five days a week however, these schedules help prepare students for the inevitable real

world where there are very few "MWF" jobs.

Students who have enough intelligence to get accepted to one of the nation's finest universities should learn to use time wisely and efficiently. Aggies who buckle down and take some summer classes stand to gain far more than they lose.

Amber Rasco is a junior journalism major.

American high-tech jobs risked by bill

For many Aggies, the future is in the high-tech world where programming skills and knowledge of computer languages are hot commodities. Many analysts believe graduates with computer science degrees will have employers beating down their doors, but if legislation that is currently on the floor in Congress is passed, employers will have less motivation to hire American workers.



BRIENNE PORTER

Company demands for high-tech employees will be filled by people holding H-1B visas, which are for foreign workers with high-tech experience. The computer industry is claiming a labor shortage of qualified hardware and software engineers and is pushing for more visas to be issued to meet the industry's labor needs. The industry is working to bring in foreign workers and will be able to pay those workers less than their American counterparts. This will affect graduates of A&M, who plan to find jobs in the computer industry.

Yet, evidence shows that there is no labor shortage. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent figures, the average increase of programmers' wages in 1997 was only 7 percent. If there were a labor shortage then companies would be paying more money to hire and retain these programmers. A 7-percent increase does not support the existence of a shortage of high-tech labor.

Also, according to the Department of Labor, there will be approximately 138,000 job openings per year, while there will be 162,000 graduates with associate's, bachelor's or graduate degrees in the needed fields. The industry is using this nonexistent labor shortage to allow lower-paid foreign workers into the country.

The sponsors of these bills have stated that they put safeguards in place so that foreign workers will not become cheap labor. However, these safeguards do not protect American workers from the wage differences. According to the bill proposed by Senator Phil Gramm (R-Tex), foreign workers must be paid a minimum annual salary of \$60,000, including bonuses. These salaries are supposed to be a quality-control device for the industry. Accord-

The industry is using this nonexistent labor shortage to allow lower-paid foreign workers into the country.

ing to Gramm's bill, the salary will be used to hire "geniuses." Contrary to Gramm's belief that this proposed minimum salary will defer cheap labor, that amount of money is not the salary of so-called "geniuses" but is in fact closer to the median salary nationwide for all information technology professionals according to a survey done by Datamasters.

The same survey lists the going salary for those considered to be "geniuses" as \$100,000 or more. The safeguard is not a real safeguard, but rather an opportunity for the industry to pay less for the same skills.

Many supporters of the bill argue that refusing to allow foreign workers to come to the United States does not hold to the image of an equal-opportunity country. Yet, an equal-opportunity country does not mean qualified applicants are not hired because they cost more. A truly global community would offer the same wages to equally qualified people regardless of their citizenship.

By paying less for foreign workers, these companies are not helping create a global community but rather they are exploiting qualified foreign workers. It is not a matter of just protecting U.S. citizens' jobs; it is also a matter of discrimination and a lack of respect for both American and foreign applicants.

Another argument for allowing more high-tech foreign worker visas is that U.S. companies should not discriminate against qualified applicants because of their ethnicity. Both sides agree on that ideal, but the companies could potentially end up discriminating against American applicants if companies will have to pay them more. It should never be a problem or a chore to hire American workers who are qualified for the job.

By passing this legislation to increase H-1B visas, the government would be doing a disservice not only to qualified American workers but also to foreign workers.

This legislation would encourage companies to pay less for the same work. This bill will affect not only those already in the high-tech field but those who will soon be graduating with these degrees, which include many Aggies.

Brienne Porter is a sophomore chemical engineering major.

Clinton disbarment justified by past actions

I was always a big fan of President Clinton. When he made his first run for the presidency, I was only in eighth grade, but nevertheless very interested in politics. His ideas on abortion rights, education, gays in the military, everything, it all seemed so perfect, like he would be an ideal leader for the nation.

Now, nine years later, I, like many of his supporters, realize that everything he said sounded so perfect because Clinton is the purest of political animals: He tailors his viewpoints to his targets.

After 1995's devastating Republican overthrow in Congress, Clinton quickly went to the center, shedding a lot of the values Democratic purists had been so attracted to during his first presidential run.

Before that, he had already disappointed by not really following through on his promise to lift the ban on gays in the military, and his health-care ideas, while well intended, never even got off the ground.

But still I defended him. I supported him through Gennifer, Paula and yes, even Monica, because I remembered the enthusiasm, intelligence and heart he had during his campaigning.

I supported and defended Clinton while he went through his embarrassing impeachment ordeal, because it was simply a case of his enemies trying to smear his name for their own benefit.

But the recent decision by an Arkansas Supreme Court that Clinton, who was once the attorney general of Arkansas and taught law there, be disbarred for lying about his sexual relations with that woman, Monica Lewinsky, gave me pause.

It is obvious that the majority of Americans are pret-

ty happy with the way the country is being run, even if they do not like the man who is running it. True, Clinton's possibly being disbarred does not stem from any shocking new developments about the president; it is

Clinton got off pretty easily in January 1999. He should just count his blessings and accept his disbarment

just the same old garbage that everyone is tired of hearing about anyway. But the news of the proposed disbarment made me reconsider exactly how I feel about this president whom I once so admired.

I still do not think he should have been impeached. I think lying about a mistake, especially if it is an embarrassing sexual mistake, is somewhat forgivable. But I agree with the Arkansas Court — Clinton should never be able to practice law in this country. Not after the example he set.

I realize this logic sounds contradictory: Someone is not fit to hold a lawyer's license but is morally fit to be the leader of the Free World. However, the impeachment charges were largely thrown together as the Republicans' last-ditch effort to embarrass the president ... mission accomplished.

Clinton's lying was repugnant, but not as much as

the Republicans' desire to gain from someone's bad judgment, especially when so many of them had equally mortifying skeletons in their closets.

It would not have been right, especially when the majority of the country was so against the idea, for Clinton to be removed from office. His censure was his public humiliation.

But there is no getting around the fact that Clinton basically lied in a court of law about his relationship with Lewinsky. Lying in a court of law is not acceptable for a lawyer who wants to keep his license.

Of course, Clinton has said he will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, but it is not believable that his legalistic arguments are going to save him forever. Clinton got off pretty easily in January, 1999. He should just count his blessings and accept his disbarment.

Lord knows he will probably have his work cut out for him raising money for his presidential library, and it is not like he was planning on practicing law again anyway. Who knows, he might be a Senate Spouse — if Hillary lets him in her house.

Taking this punishment would help Clinton maintain the little bit of integrity he has left. Maybe doing this would keep him from being seen as a complete failure in the eyes of history.

The most disappointing thing about Clinton is realizing how much hope many people had for him, and his potential to be a good leader. I have come to the realization that it will be a relief when he is gone.

Kate Kompas is a columnist for the Iowa State Daily at Iowa State University.

MAIL CALL

Faculty's bonfire recommendation should be second to student opinion

In response to Maureen Kane's May 30th article.

I feel that the opinion of the faculty senate should have little influence on the decision that is to be made by the administration on the future of Bonfire.

Instead, I feel that the decision should be focused on the opinions of the students and the former students. As Aggies we have created and maintained the traditions that make this school special, and as a result, we are the ones who own the traditions at Texas A&M, not the employees.

Many of the faculty members received their degrees from other schools and have never participated in any of the traditions that we hold so dear to our hearts. Why should we let people who are not even Aggies decide the fate of one of our most revered traditions?

The decision on the future of Bonfire is outside the jurisdiction of the faculty because Bonfire is an extracurricular activity, not an academic activity. I am sure that the opinion that will be submitted

to the administration will be appreciated, but why should professors be involved in student affairs outside of academics? Texas A&M's traditions belong to the students and former students, and Bonfire's future should rest in the hands of Aggies, not the faculty senate.

Justin Seal Class of '00

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number. 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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WE DECIDED I WANT TO BE CALLED 'PRINCE' AGAIN...

BUT WE'VE GROWN COMFORTABLE CALLING YOU 'DOOFUS'...