

Continued from Page 1

Ringling Bros. has vic- States Department of Animal Welfare Act 39 times since 1990. have they been found in humane practices, they opposed legislation outlaw using electrical deprivation, and the use when training animals. 1993 Ringling Bros. also legislation which would th of time elephants ca

the circus trainers use electrical shock, base metal pipes to break the animals and show them rge, forcing them to pe or the entertainment of

imals were not made cks," Delia said. "Tigers through flaming hoops not ride bicycles in the ricks are not natural lier should be."

a spokesperson from os. was unavailable for the protests, a Ringling person said in a news he animals are trained ed on observations made lers. The expert handlers animals closely with ze with other animals es are created based onainers see.

Ringling Bros. and sup circus argue that anima vide a place for childr ls they would otherwise however, she points out s give children the wrong e nature of the animals children see these anima ng animals in their unam ent, doing things the or do if they were not e tricks," Delia said.

son, manager of Here Travel, a performing eany, said in an Associa that, "The animals ce- ambassadors for other children get to touch or our animals, it gives onal experience they can or the rest of their lives hink about elephants and ls."

at the Big Cats Society o the treatment of the and other large cats used s.

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orship Directory

Christian Church South Ennis, Bryan 823-5451

ay School 9:30 a.m. g Worship 10:45 a.m. ner Hudler, Interim Minister

Will Baptist

Worship Free Will Baptist Church & Career Class

are invited to a Bible especially for students. ay mornings at 9:45 228 W. Villa Maria 779-2297

Thursday, July 6, 2000

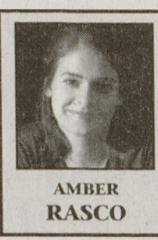
The show must go on

PETA crosses the line with animal rights Websites

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is coming to College Station this month, eager to awe thousands of Aggies with "The Greatest Show on Earth." This time-honored entertainment will give Aggies an opportunity to walk down memory lane, enjoy the entertainment they did as children, and escape the monotony of summer classes. Moving from smoky bars to the comfortable chairs of Reed Arena, locals will experience an innocent kind of fun.

While many people will be mesmerized by the glitter and magic, others will not be so amused. Pleasing everyone is impossible, and not surprisingly, controversy surrounds even the circus. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the world's largest animal rights organization, is speaking out against circus life. PETA, which operates under the principle: "Animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on or use for entertainment," argues that low circus revenues have resulted in inadequate care for animals. Claiming that circus animals are "mere captives forced to perform unnatural and often painful acts," PETA has crossed the line by tricking and misleading people. While the cruel treatment of animals is not popular with anyone, PETA's tactics and methods are likewise despicable.

It condemns circuses for their cruel treatment of animals and accuses circus-goers of having no compassion for the animals. Though protesting is welcomed in America, PETA's approach is underhanded and conniving. The organization has resorted to manipulating the American public via the Internet. PETA has tricked Web surfers into going to its Websites by registering misleading domain names. In



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1998, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey sued PETA for using the Website name "ringling-brothers.com" to promote anti-circus propaganda. Now, two years later, PETA is at it again. Most people would assume that a Website called "circuses.com" would entail entertaining, or at least informative, circus details. However, this Website is instead just a scheme to push PETA's beliefs. This Website gives the viewer reasons not to support circuses by displaying horrid pictures and posting accusations of cruel circus life.

Most disturbing of all, the Website has a section for children to peep into. Sadly, kids who mistakenly venture into the "Virtual Tour of the World of Elephants" will be misled. Deceiving impressionable kids, this tour takes the viewer through a series of graphic photos, telling the sad story of elephants with inappropriate detail. While the first few glimpses appear harmless with cute quotes like "Baby elephants grow inside their mothers for almost 2 years," later captions read, "Elephants in circuses have been taken away from their families and homes. Would you want to be chained up for the rest of your life?" This "tour" is potentially harmful, and certainly scary, for a child's growing mind.

To make matters more absurd, PETA encourages children to participate in protesting circuses by providing elementary step-by-step instructions on how to mail Prince Rainier of Monaco, the host of the world's largest circus, asking him "please don't gamble with elephants' lives." PETA is taking protesting too far by manipulating and tricking children who do not know any better.

The PETA's methods are ridiculous and obnoxious. Changes in animal treatment should not be achieved through trickery and manipulation. Rather, PETA should aim its coercive tactics at the government and urge it to step up and take action. Most would agree that PETA's

tactics are unscrupulous and misleading. As long as PETA continues to lose the respect of the people, its voice will not be heard.

PETA must appeal to the public in order to gain support. PETA should take a few lessons in decorum. The organization could learn a few things by looking at College Station.

Protesting against the unethical treatment of circus animals, members of the Bryan and College Station communities will also be speaking on behalf of animals' welfare. Posters and picketers will line the streets and walkways surrounding Reed Arena as animal rights advocates try to make a statement against the cruelty of using animals as entertainment.

Frances Delia, who is involved in planning the protest, says that participants will be outside Reed to "peacefully educate and inform." She said that the protest will be a low-key, respectable form of expression, and that the protesters are not "a group of radicals."

A similar protest was held two years ago on Olsen Blvd. for the same reason. Instead of handing out vile pictures of chained animals like PETA does, protesters will distribute brochures tastefully pointing out the circus's violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Protesting on college campuses is nothing new — it



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

has been a tool of change throughout history. Bold opposition to such a family-oriented event is audacious, but when it is done tastefully, it is a respectable statement.

Reed Arena protesters are likely to encounter some unpleasant words and gestures, but circus-goers should respect their peers for protesting in a proper, civilized manner, and

not badgering people the way PETA does. Perhaps PETA should come to A&M and learn how to protest the right way. Perhaps local animal rights protesters are wasting their breath, but at least that breath is spent protesting in a decent manner.

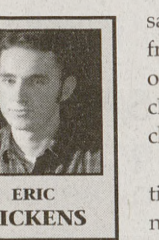
Amber Rasco is a junior journalism major.

Textbook reserve dead on arrival

The much-needed renovations to Sterling C. Evans Library are well under way as students anxiously wait to take advantage of the building's improvements. While updates like refurbished individual study rooms and a coffee shop, Poor Yorick's, will be of great benefit to students, one new feature will be of little to no use to the student body. Evans Library is working to provide a textbook reserve room where students can check out a copy of required texts from their classes. The idea behind the venture is to offer students an alternative to carrying every book they need for class. Although the service is not intended to be used in lieu of buying their own copies of a class's textbooks, students would still be able to drop by the reserve room during their free time and read or make copies from the reserve room's book.

This service seems heaven-sent to students burdened with a backpack full of chemistry books, but in reality, it will most likely be of little use to students. Despite its noble intentions, the reserve room idea is beset by a number of problems. The most limiting facet of the service is that it is unlikely Evans Library will be able to provide enough books to meet even the lowest student demand. Right now, the service is off to a sluggish start as requests to publishers for textbooks have been filled slowly. Dr. Fred Heath, dean and director of Evans Library, said that so far only "about a dozen textbooks have trickled into the reserve."

This "trickling in" of texts would be expected because publishers have no real reason to give copies of their books to Evans for free. Publishers already give out a number of free copies through other channels like charity groups and book clubs, but giving books to Evans is philanthropy to students — the people the companies are trying to make a buck off of. Furthermore, Evans Library and the Student Government Association (SGA), which have worked with the library in planning the reserve room,



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say their goal is to provide one or two copies of each text from each class. It goes without saying that more than one or two people from each class — especially when that class is a larger one like Biology 113 — will be looking to check out the texts from the reserve room.

Many students have already experienced the frustration of going to Evans Library to get the one book you need for a class project, only to find that somebody else in the same class beat them to it. The textbook reserve room will almost certainly render the same fate. To have any real impact on lowering students' textbook burden, the reserve room would need many more than one or two books from each class — and good luck getting even more freebie texts from publishers.

In answer to the potential problem of books not being available when a student comes to the reserves, a time limit for how long a student can check out a text has been proposed. Limits of a half-hour to two hours have been suggested. Unfortunately, even this time limit will not sufficiently help the circulation of textbooks. Students looking to check out books during their breaks between classes only have as long as that break to get the book and do whatever they need with it. Most student with lapses in schedules have less than an hour free and do not have time to sit and wait for the book to get back in.

The reserve room will help out a few lucky people who have good timing each day, but most students will not see any benefit from the new service.

Despite the anticipation and excitement of students, the textbook reserve room will most likely be of little service to students. Students should, as library officials suggest, not count on the reserve to provide substitutions for their own copy of required texts. But students also should not count on the reserve to provide even a reasonable back-up for their own textbooks. Evans Library has only the best intentions, but like those of mice and men, the library's too, will go awry.

Eric Dickens is a senior English major.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

Bilingual education benefits teachers, students of Bryan, College Station

A recent federal grant given to the Bryan Independent School District (BISD) brought a new way of teaching and learning into the spotlight. The \$1.25 million grant from the Department of Education will be used to teach voluntarily participating kindergartners both English and Spanish languages. Half of the students will be native Spanish speakers, and the other half will be native English speakers. The classes will be taught in Spanish half the time and then switch to English for the rest of the day.



BRIENNE PORTER

Milam Elementary School, where the program will take place, has formed a partnership with Texas A&M's bilingual education department. A&M will provide already-certified BISD teachers with a program to certify them additionally in bilingual education. This new program brings a skill that will benefit future A&M graduates in teaching as well as other career choices to the forefront.

New graduates should take the opportunity to become bilingual for numerous reasons, including that it will help them succeed in states like Texas that have deep Hispanic roots. Furthermore, both students and teachers will benefit from open lines of communication provided by bilingual education.

In today's global community, with 6 percent of the world's population speaking Spanish — only Mandarin Chinese is spoken by more people — it is beneficial and important to know other languages.

Most larger companies now operate internationally. Bilingual graduates have a distinct advantage over other graduates. Many companies want an employee who has the

ability to move throughout the world without being hampered by language barriers. An employee who is able to converse directly with a client creates an air of camaraderie and a bond based on a common language. This camaraderie can give the employee's company an advantage over other companies, and the employee can become an essential part of that company.

Speaking two languages gives a graduate the opportunity to earn more money. Companies that are looking for employees who can work overseas are almost always willing to offer higher salaries to those applicants who have more

Elementary students should be taught to embrace both languages early on.

than one language under their belt.

For new teachers looking for employment, especially in the southwest region of the United States, being fluent in Spanish has become almost a necessity. There are many children of Hispanic heritage in the public school system. Their parents often have limited English skills and communicate with their children in Spanish. By being able to speak to the young students in both Spanish and English, teachers can help their students make progress in all subjects.

If the teachers are able to find a common ground and common language with these students, the teachers will have the opportunity to nurture students who will benefit society. These children will be able to advance in the business world when

they are older by having the ability to communicate in two languages.

The Milam Elementary program will benefit those teachers who were not previously bilingual by giving them the ability to earn more money and become sought-after employees. These teachers will have more opportunities because of their ability to teach in both languages. The grant supplies BISD with money to certify these teachers so they will not have to pay money out of their own pockets for the additional education. This advantage will provide incentive for more teachers to become bilingually certified, making them more capable to teach the many students who are native Spanish speakers.

When teachers are able to communicate better with their students, they have more ways to teach the needed material to the students. They can also express the need for the children to learn both languages properly without abandoning their indigenous language. Elementary school students should be taught to embrace both languages from early on. Native English speakers should also be given the opportunity to learn a new language.

The BISD grant has brought new opportunities to Milam Elementary kindergartners and their teachers. This program brings skills, which will improve Texas' education system, to teachers. By being able to communicate with all of their students, teachers can effectively teach their students. It is important not only for Texas' teachers to teach with the use of Spanish and English but also for all U.S. teachers. Teachers are educating tomorrow's leaders — to be able to give these students a quality education, teachers need to speak Spanish. BISD and A&M are leading the way to more effective teaching.

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