

# OPINION

THE BATTALION

## Healthy body, healthy mind Four-hour kinesiology requirement for graduation should not be reduced

Remember the carefree days of elementary school when the biggest concerns were when activity periods were and the best class was recess?

Even junior high was a breeze; after structured lessons, everyone went to the gym for PE or athletics.

High school was a bit more challenging because academics had to be balanced with athletic periods. College, on the other hand, leaves very little time for physical education because, obviously, more emphasis is placed on academics.

For most college students, kinesiology classes are the least of their worries and hitting the books is a top priority.

What happened to the good old days where athletics broke the monotony of academics? With demanding standards for graduation, Aggies are lucky if they make it to graduation within four years.

According to Physical Education Activity Program Chairman Frank Thomas, the Faculty Senate has passed a bill that will reduce the number of required physical education hours for incoming freshman from four credits to two. With Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's signature, more lecture time with less recess will become a reality.

Ever heard the expression, "All brains and no brawn?" That is exactly where the University is headed if these credit hours are reduced.

Many students do not realize the importance of kinesiology. It is critical for the human body to be emotionally and physically fit. Kinesiology classes not only teach students a beneficial sport, but also help reduce stress and break up the monotony of demanding academics.

Four credit hours is not a lot of activity. The time is justified in that it helps teach students how to establish consistency and maintain sanity in what would be an even more hectic life after graduation.

In light of all this, it is difficult for the Faculty Senate to justify the reduced credits. They claim it



CAYLA CARR

will allow more time for studies, allowing students to graduate sooner. But really, how much harm can two credit hours do?

Kinesiology teaches many habits that students retain for the rest of their lives. Physical attributes such as coordination, skills and physical fitness are all positive effects of kinesiology classes.

Contrary to popular belief, kinesiology is not exclusively meant for the physically fit. Classes offered include golf, aerobics — even yoga.

Yoga focuses on stress relief and finding inner peace. Aerobics classes are aimed at more active students and is an upbeat activity that often reduces tension and stretches the mind and body.

For those students who enjoy a thought provoking sport, golf is the answer. It is a game that requires four to six hours of continuous and intense concentration and muscle and body coordination.

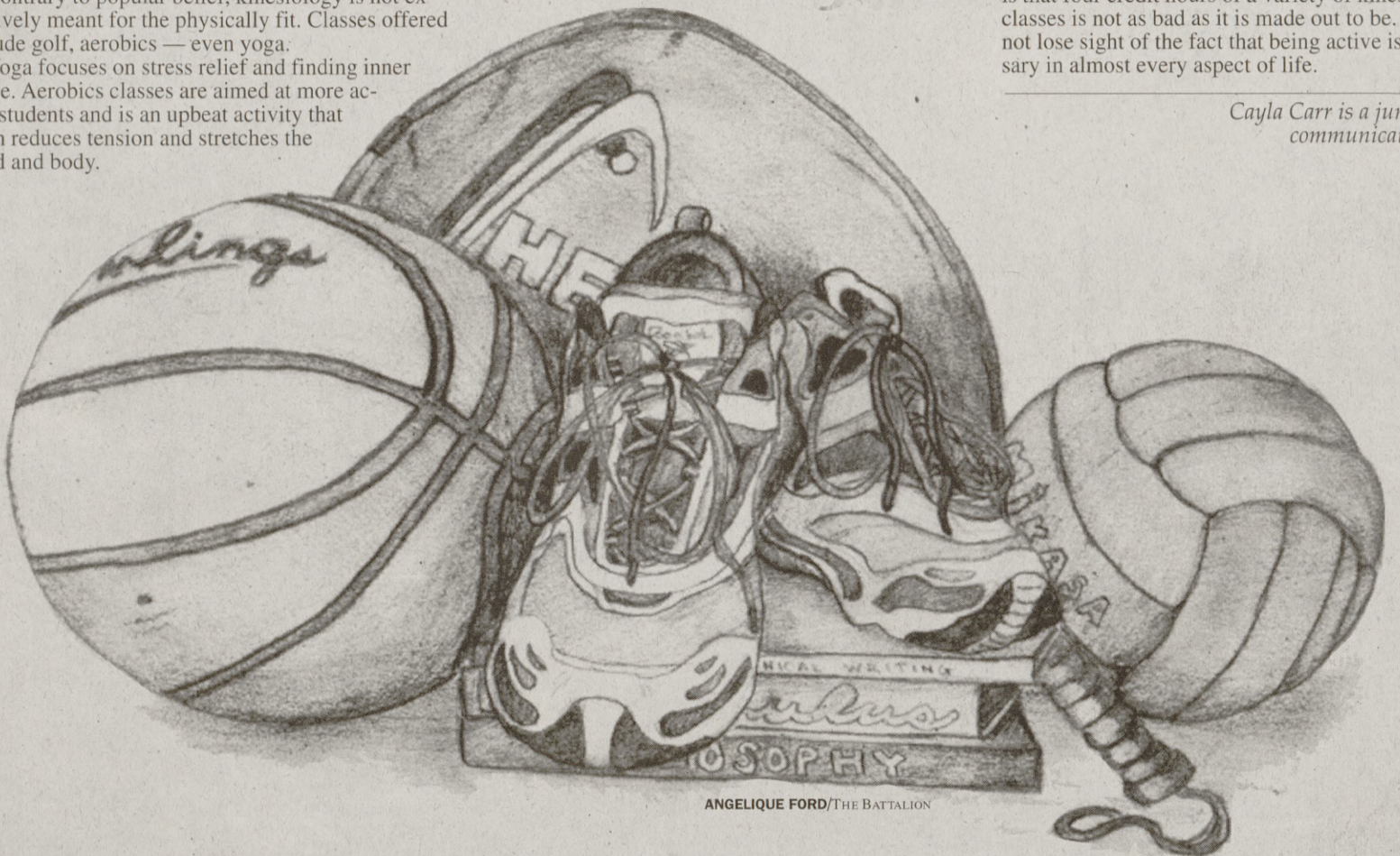
The golf course is also an important business platform. Deals can be made, accounts won, and clients can be recruited within the scope of a "friendly"

game of golf.

Furthermore, employers are not just looking for a brain to do the job, if that were the case they would hire robots only. In many cases, employers look for outgoing people who can balance demanding intellectual tasks with physical fitness.

What the Faculty Senate and Bowen must realize is that four credit hours of a variety of kinesiology classes is not as bad as it is made out to be. They cannot lose sight of the fact that being active is necessary in almost every aspect of life.

Cayla Carr is a junior speech communication major.



ANGELIQUE FORD/THE BATTALION

## Two birds with one stone | Feral-cats could minimize bird problem

At one time or another, most Aggies have wondered how many students have ever parked under a tree on campus.

How many of them have done that more than once? Probably not many. Once is more than enough for many people.

Specifically, the birds that inhabit the trees are the root of the problem. They swarm and chatter in an eerie Hitchcock-like manner. Worst of all, they deposit their feces over the expensive paint finishes on student and visitor automobiles.

What would a person say if there were a solution to this bird debacle? A solution that would be low-cost, environmentally sound and would take an existing environmental program and alter it slightly.

The Aggie Feral Cat Alliance of Texas (AFCAT) is the program. As stated in their promotional pamphlet ([www.cvm.tamu.edu/AFCAT](http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/AFCAT)), AFCAT is "dedicated to the welfare, study and management of the feral-cat populations on the campus at Texas A&M University."

A feral-cat is one usually born in the wild that is too savage and uncivilized to be kept as a pet in the home.

Feral-cats have been on the A&M campus for

more than 20 years and the AFCAT program has been feeding and taking care of them for only two years.

This program has been very effective at A&M, despite many critics' hopes that it would fail. The program has kept the feral-cat population under control and monitored. The alternative of trapping these cats and killing them off would be an empty void filled soon after by more stray cats.

Theoretically, AFCAT could take these wild cats which are already on campus and use them to help control the birds.

AFCAT also actively maintains the current population, keeping it free from disease.

The program could be expanded to aid in the Bird Relocation Active Management Program (BRAM). Instead of catching, spaying, neutering and monitoring the animals, cats could be released with monitoring collars to be breeding stock as bird-management devices. This population could be carefully monitored and maintained using existing systems in order to ensure the cat and bird population remained at an ecological balance.

In addition, this proposed system is modeled after the one at Stanford University.

As cited by the Physical Plant, feral-cat colonies are located near Kyle Field, Sbis Dining Hall, Northside and various campus dumpsters. Accordingly, these cats could be relocated to more target rich

environments. The parking surrounding the Student Recreation Center and the resident area parking on Northside and Southside would be prime candidates.

This seems to be a very simple and effective fix. However, it seems a little too good to be true.

According to third-year veterinary student Dawn Fradkin, the BRAM plan "might not be feasible." Most cats are not hunters at all. They are more likely to eat bugs and dig through trash from dumpsters than to catch birds.

When a project was undertaken to use radio tags to track and follow the feral-cats in order to learn more about their lifestyle, they were never actually seen to kill anything. So, for the BRAM plan to be effective, cats would either have to be selectively bred as hunters, or some form of "little kitty boot camp" would have to be developed in order to train them.

According to Fradkin, "cats come out at night, when the birds are roosting," adding more roadblocks to BRAM.

Another complication is the familiar cloud of black birds — they are grackles, which are not native to this area.

Pigeons — especially around Kyle Field — are also a problem. The fecal matter builds up to where every year before football season, the stadium undergoes a massive cleaning effort. Unfortunately, the bird population is so large here that cats

would make a negligible impact.

There are some other solutions that could possibly be used to solve the bird problem. A special feed could be distributed that does not kill the birds, but sterilizes them, preventing the population from expanding any further.

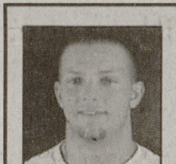
As the grackles die naturally the amount of birds on campus would gradually decrease. One major problem with this type of feed is that there is no way to know which birds are eating it. After all, there are native birds in this area that no one wants to harm.

Techniques also exist for scaring the birds away from their current roosting areas — equivalents to fireworks, for instance. However, these heavy-handed methods have a history of incited outcry from the student body.

The problem with the birds here on campus is definitely very real: in terms of money spent on clean up, as well as the inconvenience and wasted parking spaces on a campus where parking is at a premium. As with any other civic project, however, it is very hard to devise a plan that satisfies everyone.

In the end it may become as Hitchcock portrayed it: man vs. the birds.

Andrew Stephenson is a sophomore environmental design major.



ANDREW STEPHENSON

### Bull Board

**Good Bull** — Props are in order for First Yell organizers luring comedian Bill Cosby to campus this weekend.

Undoubtedly, his performance will give the entertainment-starved community a shot in the arm.

It is no secret that big name, headliner shows are traditionally a difficult find in Bryan-College Station.

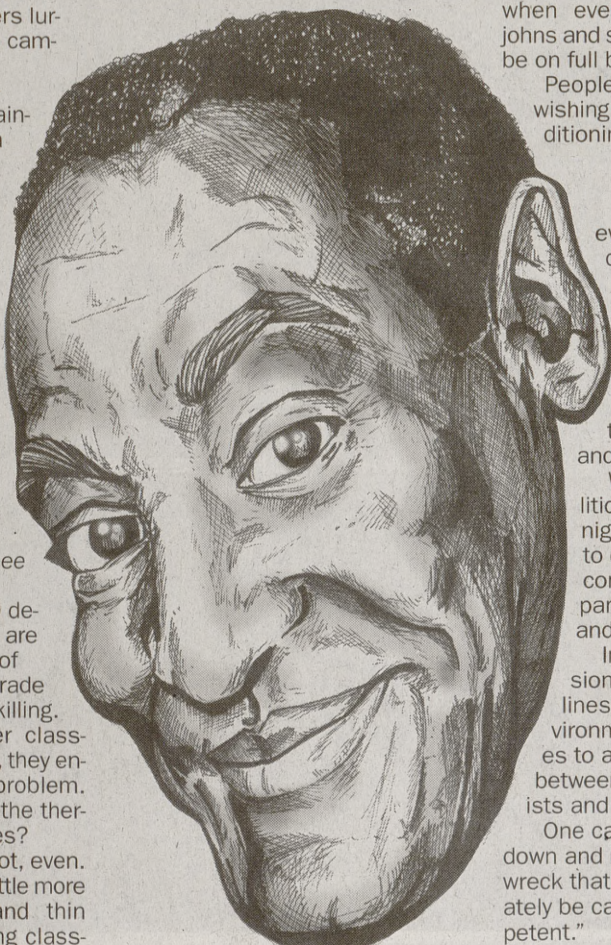
With recent visits from World Championship Wrestling and Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, hope is building that one day Reed Arena will become a regular stop on most major entertainment tours.

— David Lee

**Bad Bull** — It is 150 degrees outside, and people are wearing the least amount of clothing as possible. Gatorade and Ozarka are making a killing.

Yet, as students enter classrooms dripping with sweat, they encounter an entirely new problem. Whose idea was it to turn the thermostat down to 40 degrees?

Yes, it is hot. Beyond hot, even. When people are wearing little more than a cotton T-shirt and thin shorts, sitting in a freezing classroom for an hour is unbearable.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

But have no fear: come January, when everyone is wearing long johns and sweaters, the heaters will be on full blast.

People will be stripping down, wishing for a little August air conditioning.

— Jennifer Ramby

**Bad Bull** — Nearly everyone has watched a car chase or hostage negotiation on a major television network. For some reason, viewing audiences cannot seem to turn their eyes away from these horrible sights and sounds.

Welcome to ABC's "Politically Incorrect," the late-night show which attempts to create an intelligent conversation among a panel of washed up actors and fanatic activists.

In lieu of relevant discussion about topics along the lines of abortion and the environment, the show digresses to arguing irrelevant topics between a collection of extremists and idiots.

One cannot help but slow down and rubber-neck at the train wreck that should more appropriately be called "Politically Incompetent."

— Marcus White

### Mail Call

#### Late bar closing argument flawed

In response to Shannon Greenwood's Sept. 6 column.

Have you ever had an idea that sounded good in your head — but when said aloud, sounded absolutely idiotic and ridiculous?

Well, congratulations are in order for Shannon Greenwood.

Allow me to review some of the more laughable idiotic arguments put forth by Greenwood for an extra serving hour at the bar.

"[Texas A&M is] famous for gallons of beer consumed every year..."

I think I can speak for scores of other Aggies when I say that this fact was the sole reason I chose to come here. Not academics, not traditions, not athletics — nope, just gallons and gallons of frothy beer.

Oh yeah — getting to drink a pitcher of beer in 102 seconds, that was the other reason I decided upon Texas A&M.

Not to be outdone by the insightful argument that with the extra hour of drinking, Greenwood states the "bars [would be] more liable for peoples' irresponsibility."

"With all the money [the bar would receive from the increased hour of serving] at stake, the bars would serve ... despite this extra liability."

So the argument here is that increased irresponsibility and beer consumption are justified by in-

creased bar profits. Superb.

But my favorite part of the entire story was Shannon's call to action.

"So the next time a bar kicks someone out at 1 a.m., he or she should not futilely gripe ... he or she should register to vote locally ... students have the numbers to elect their own representatives ..."

Amen. Let's not be contented to drink only until 1 a.m. — let us rock the vote and elect some people that will let us get sloshed for another solid hour.

Who is this oppressive Big Brother who's ripping the bottle from our hands at such an early hour?

Screw the presidential election. gubernatorial and congressional votes? No thanks, I'll pass. I don't want to elect no stinking school board member.

As for me, I'm backing the pro-beer ticket. Who's with me?

Mark Korzenewski  
Class of '02

Greenwood loses credibility due to inaccuracies in his column.

He states that Austin, Dallas, Houston and Lubbock bars stay open later as a result of people in those cities voting for the bars to stay open until 2 a.m.

This is untrue. Chapter 105 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code defines the hours of sale and consumption. For any county with a population of 500,000, the extend-

ed hours are applicable.

This would be the case in the Houston, Dallas, and Austin examples. For any counties under 500,000, it takes the City to enact an ordinance extending the hours of consumption.

At no point is this law voted on by the population.

Thus, it would have been nice if Greenwood did some fact checking and actually looked up some voter's registration numbers before he states that "more than half of the voting population of College Station" is in college.

John Denholm  
Civil engineering graduate student

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