Students should learn as much as possible

recently heard a student on campus say, "I didn't Lcome to college for an educational experience." My first thought was, "What?" How could you come to Texas A&M University, an internationally-renowned institution, and not want to get an educational experience? And although she



ELIZABETH

meant that she only wanted to get a degree and get out I found it amazing that any student wouldn't want to take advantage of the chances we have to expand our minds outside of class. However, it seems as of late that this is the unfortunate mentality of

many students at A&M. Students at this University need to take responsibility for creating an educational experience for themselves in and outside of the classroom. There are a wealth of opportunities to learn on this campus, but students are not taking advantage of them.

Now is the time for students to take these opportunities to learn. As students, there will never be more time to learn than now. After graduation, full-time jobs, spouses and children will occupy most of our time, and

there won't be time for learning. There are a myriad of chances to learn about the world around us here on campus. The Bush Foundation brings amazing world leaders to A&M more than once a month. Many academic departments host lectures on contemporary topics outside of the classroom that are free to all students. Other campus organizations are hosting programs about politics, religion and science, just to name a few.

This is also a great time for learning because

Hope Pregnancy

this is the time when our minds are most open to new ideas and experiences. Whether our parents like it or not, college is a time of self-discovery and learning. These are the years that we figure out who we want to be. As students, we can learn many things during these years that will help us understand ourselves and who we want to be when we leave here. We have the opportunity to learn about everything from leadership to politics during this time. It would be a shame for any of us to walk away from our college experience without taking in as many of these new ideas as possible. We will be better prepared for the world outside of college equipped with this knowledge.

Taking advantage of the abundant opportuni-

ties on this campus will prepare us for our futures but also for our futures. In my experi-Students as this University ence, employers are not just looking for an applineed to take responsibility for cant with book knowl-

edge, but a student wellversed in a variety of topics. Employers are looking for people who can carry on adult conversations about virtually any topic, people who have an understanding of the world and people who can work with someone from a background different from their own. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to learn how to do all of

these things.

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Even with all of these chances and all of these reasons, few students seem to want to expand their minds to their full potentials. I challenge all of us to look beyond the classroom for knowledge and to learn about the world in which we live.

Elizabeth Dacus is the MSC Council President

MAIL CALL

Hotard Hall must stay open

In response to Carrie Pierce's Feb. 24 article:

Shutting down halls such as Cain, Hotard and Legett is a huge mistake! These halls contain a lot of The University's history and deserve to be kept as residence halls, rather than impersonal offices for faculty.

The history of Hotard Hall, built in 1939, gives it a character and sense of self not found in the newer residence halls. Quirks, such as community bathrooms, funky staircases and the tiny basement make Hotard undeniably unique and irreplaceable.

Hotard may be the smallest residence hall on campus, but it contributes as much as the larger residence halls to the school community, proving how great their residents are. Winning awards for their residence hall programs and having the greatest return rate on campus are more important than faculty offices.

The tight-knit community of Hotard Hall has been creating friendships for more than 50 years. Residents often live in the dorm for several years or move off campus with friends they met in Hotard.

Since the University is getting rid of these resident spaces there will inevitable be more ugly, impersonal modular residence halls built. It makes no sense to shut down two or more historic residence halls when one building could be built for the same purpose. This University needs to get its head out of the sand and realize that by closing down our residence halls it is destroying large parts of our Aggie community.

> Jocelyn Wright Class of 2003

Sen. Kerry is not moderate or a hero

In response to Collins Ezeanyim Feb. 24 column:

I agree that news outlets should verify rumors before reporting them. I am taken aback by some of Mr. Ezeanyim's unnecessary and unfounded comments in conveying his fundamental idea.

First, his obvious dislike for Fox News. While some liberal Americans feel there is a conservative tilt to the reporting of Fox News, I disagree. I believe its reporting is far more centralist than any other major news agency.

Secondly, while John Kerry is most certainly an intelligent man and a veteran, he is by no means a war hero, nor does he maintain a moderate voting record. Kerry received the Silver Star for action no more severe than that encountered by thousands of Vietnam veterans. Read the report for yourself and form your own opinion. Kerry was certainly intelligent enough to request removal from Vietnam through an obscure regulation allowing thricewounded soldiers to return home, even though Kerry himself said the three wounds were not severe enough to limit his duty more than two days.

As for his supposedly moderate voting record, Kerry has a lifetime rating of 92 with the liberal Americans for Democratic Action. A perfect liberal score is 100. Even Ted Kennedy has a less liberal lifetime score at 88. If that is moderate, then your point of view must be so far left as to be off the scale.

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Michael Straney Class of 2005

Peace Corps needs Americans with skills in

Environment Education

AIDS failures aren all Bush's fault

In response to Lindsa Orman's Feb. 23, column

I would like to say that M Orman was absolutely right the funding is not sufficiently a adequately being distribut toward AIDS act promises b her statement "the only visib results of the President's plant are the three million people wh have lost their lives to AlD since he vowed to help them," a fallacious statement of has generalization.

Ms. Orman is justly blamin Bush for not implementing h plan, but she is unjustly blaming him for the deaths of three m lion people. The massiv spreading of AIDS is definitely cause for concern, and Bus has been working actively to ha the trafficking of sex internation ally in order to limit the spread ing of AIDS. Conservatives have been urging Bush to end s trafficking and that in turn wi significantly decrease the preva lence of the disease. It is unfai to say that his AIDS plan "ha been utterly futile."

Jessica Hollowa

the editor. Letters must be 200 words 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 submitted in person at 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be mailed to: 014 Rd McDonald, MS 1111, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mailcall@thebattalion.net

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City of College Station **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, MARCH 3, 2004

7:00 pm Lincoln Recreation Center 1000 Eleanor St. College Station, TX

Woodway Park Development

The College Station Parks and Recreation Board will hold a public hearing to consider the site development of Woodway Park. This park is located along the south side of Holleman drive south of Sienna Ct.

Features proposed for development may include a basketball court, volleyball court, walking trails, lighting, picnic units, picnic shelter,

The meeting is open to the public and comments from the public are encouraged. Interested individuals may respond to the Woodway Park project by writing to:

Approx. 1 block west of Wellborn Road.

Attention: Director P.O.Box 9960 College Station, Texas 77842-9960

For additional information on the meeting, Call the office of the Sr. Secretary at 979-764-6271. For more information or to

review related maps or plans, please contact:

Peter B. Vanecek, College Station

Parks & Recreation Department at 979-764-3412

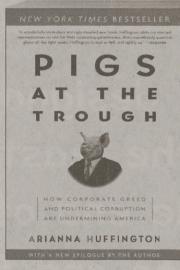
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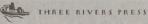
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Friday. February 27, 2004 9:00 pm - 1:00 am

- Kamran the Comedian

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* Free activities in the MSC Basement: pool, bowling arts & crafts and DDR in Collaboration w/Gepheid Variable

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