

# FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 4B • Thursday, February 26, 2004

## Students should learn as much as possible

I recently heard a student on campus say, "I didn't come 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 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.



ELIZABETH DACUS

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.

**"Students as 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."**

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

Taking advantage of the abundant opportunities on this campus will prepare us for our futures but also for our futures. In my experience, employers are not just looking for an applicant with book knowledge, but a student well-versed 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.

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 inevitably 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 thrice-wounded 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.

Michael Straney  
Class of 2005

#### AIDS failures aren't all Bush's fault

In response to Lindsay Orman's Feb. 23, column:

I would like to say that Ms. Orman was absolutely right: funding is not sufficiently distributed toward AIDS act promises, but her statement "the only visible results of the President's plan are the three million people who have lost their lives to AIDS since he vowed to help them" is a fallacious statement of hasty generalization.

Ms. Orman is justly blaming Bush for not implementing his plan, but she is unjustly blaming him for the deaths of three million people. The massive spreading of AIDS is definitely a cause for concern, and Bush has been working actively to halt the trafficking of sex internationally in order to limit the spreading of AIDS. Conservatives have been urging Bush to end sex trafficking and that in turn will significantly decrease the prevalence of the disease. It is unfair to say that his AIDS plan "has been utterly futile."

Jessica Holloway  
Class of 2006

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 200 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 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be mailed to: 014 Reed McDonald, MS 1111, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mail-call@thebattalion.net

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**MSC Aggie Nights**  
Friday, February 27, 2004  
9:00 pm - 1:00 am  
**\* Kamran the Comedian**  
Rudder Auditorium at 9:00 pm  
Doors Open at 8:30 pm  
**\* Free activities in the MSC Basement: pool, bowling, arts & crafts and DDR in Collaboration w/Cepheid Variable**  
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For special needs, please contact us three days prior to the event at 845-1515.

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. Approx. 1 block west of Wellborn Road.  
Features proposed for development may include a basketball court, volleyball court, walking trails, lighting, picnic units, picnic shelter, playground, and parking.  
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:  
College Station Parks and Recreation Department  
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. Vanecsek, College Station Parks & Recreation Department at 979-764-3412  
LOCATION MAP