

OPINION

THE BATTALION

Page 4B • Thursday, April 1, 2004

MAIL CALL

Math student was incorrectly quoted

In response to Sonia Moghe's March 31 article:

In your cover story on Heterosexual Awareness Day, you have signed the quote of one of the representatives of "heterosexual pride" with my name.

The quote happened to be the bold attention-getter quote, and I merely would like to point out that the original statement came out from Bill Sebring, a sophomore general studies major.

I think that the Department of Mathematics at Texas A&M University would also appreciate it if there wasn't a closed-minded statement of implied hatred and bigotry falsely credited to one of its students.

Ilya y. Rostovtsev
Class of 2005

MSC did not use any scare tactics

In response to David Shoemaker's March 31 column:

First, Mr. Shoemaker incorrectly quoted a statement that I made at the Student Service Fee Forum last Friday. I stated that all marketing expenses for the fee referendum were covered by donated funds and services and money out of students' — including my own pockets. Contrary to what Mr. Shoemaker may have indicated in his column, my statement is absolutely true. This is not merely a claim as Mr. Shoemaker indicates.

The sandwich boards and reproductions on them were donated by the MSC and Print 'N Copy. The paint used on the

sandwich boards was paid for by my boyfriend and myself. The MSC did in fact sponsor the concessions permit for the sandwich boards and is ultimately responsible. Additionally, Mr. Shoemaker seems to doubt how other advertisements were paid for. All flyers and buttons were donated by Print 'N Copy. Other advertisements and stickers were paid for by donated funds, none of which were from student service fees.

Finally, any allegations that the information being disseminated about the Student Service Fee Referendum is a scare tactic are completely false. Unfortunately, all areas supported by the student service fee stand to suffer if the infrastructure of these student services is not supported.

I hope that in the future Mr. Shoemaker will do his research more carefully, record quotes more accurately, and take the word of honest students more seriously.

Elizabeth Dacus
Class of 2003
54th MSC Council President

Proposed fees would benefit all

I do not agree with opinions published in The Battalion, so could I have my student service fees from The Battalion back? I understand that Student Service Fees are not a pick-and-choose kind of thing.

As a whole, Student Service Fees serve students beyond the actual dollar amount spent.

I cannot decide which ones are best — I entrust that decision to a well-qualified board called the Student Service Fee Allocation Board.

If Mr. Shoemaker has issues with particular items in the

SSFAB recommendation, he needs to address changing the students who are on the board—not discourage an increase in Student Service Fees.

An increase in Student Service Fees should be encouraged if it would benefit the student body. To best serve students through new programs and projects, students should provide a way to pay for them; this requires an increase in Student Service Fees.

Lizzie Stubbs
Class of 2003

President should not be elected

In response to March 31 Editorial:

Recently, several people have proposed electing the Memorial Student Center Council president claiming that it better benefits students. In actuality, A&M students would suffer greatly, and they need to know why before voting.

The majority of students don't know exactly how complex the MSC Council is; in fact, they may not even know the MSC's actual purpose. The MSC houses 22 student organizations and involves more than 1,800 student volunteers, including the MSC President and other Council officers.

To insinuate that all an MSC president needs is "hard work, integrity... willingness to listen" insults every student leader on this campus. The current selections process guarantees a person who has all those traits and much more.

Additionally, the MSC was never designed to be a student-

elected representative body; that job is reserved for Student Government and the Senate.

We are about programming, for and by students. And as for accountability, as Council officers, that is our entire purpose for holding our positions. We all passionately believe that our programs benefit you, the student body. What kind of leaders would we be if we didn't think our work was in your best interest?

Nicole Hoegg
Class of 2005
54th Council Development
Vice-President

Former president served students

I am appalled to read the editorial concerning the MSC president issue. I want to address Josh Rowan, former MSC president, specifically. Josh worked hard at what he did, and he devoted countless hours to being MSC president. I, nor any of the editorial authors, was present when the issue concerning Josh occurred so nobody should pass judgment on him.

Josh had graduated from Texas A&M, moved, and started new life. Before the editorial board is critical of others, they should be critical of themselves. I personally want to thank Josh for his hard work and wish him luck in the future. It is time for the authors of the editorial to move on and stop attacking people who are no longer around to defend themselves.

Carter Hall
Class of 2004

Texas A&M must never change time

I think it is necessary to bring up an issue that is affecting all of us: Daylight savings time. Every spring and fall we set our clocks ahead or behind an hour because someone a long time ago thought it would be fun. I'm tired of it.

Texas A&M should jump on board with Arizona and other mountain standard time states that do not recognize daylight savings. Whenever I visit the Grand Canyon, I can't remember whether to set my watch back an hour, forward two hours, or drive a stake in the ground and use the sun's shadow as a clock. The University of Texas recognizes daylight savings time; therefore, we should not.

I say we set our clocks ahead six hours and go by Greenwich's universal time. Then, wherever we go in the world, we know what time it is. Game time.

Charles Holland
Class of 2005

VIP program hurts white applicants

In Response to Matt Maddox's March 30 column:

I have a brother in junior college who is applying to attend a four-year university. He has made the dean's list every semester of his college career so far, and should be accepted to pretty much any major state-funded college he applies to. But because his skin is white, he does not qualify for the Very Important Prospect program.

Correction

In Julio Jana's March 25 column, John Penson should have been paraphrased as saying, "international trading was established, Americans would be obligated to perform tasks that were unnecessary, inefficient using the United States' natural resources."



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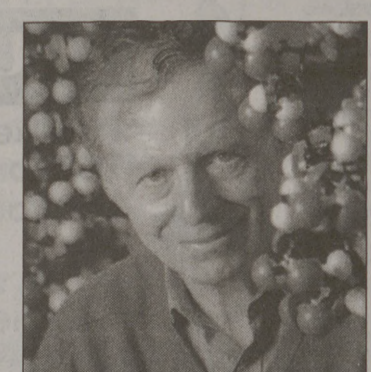
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Monday ~ April 5, 2004

7:00 p.m.

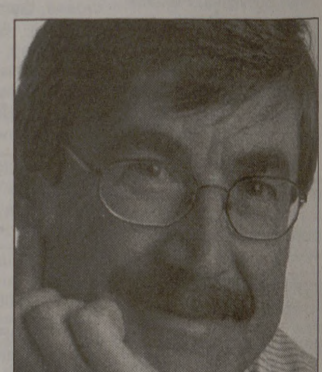
Rudder Theatre

two views on the origins of life



Dr. Robert Shapiro:

Shapiro, a professor emeritus and senior lecturer of Chemistry at New York University, conducted research centered on the chemistry of nucleic acids. Through his research, Shapiro has argued that the complexity of RNA is too great for spontaneous, unassisted assembly of the first molecules to take place.



Professor Paul Davies:

Davies, a professor of Natural Philosophy at the Australian Centre for Astrobiology at Macquarie University, has conducted research in the fields of cosmology, gravitation, and quantum field theory, with particular emphasis on black holes, the origin of the universe, and the nature of time. In recent years, he has moved into astrobiology, where he is renowned for his controversial views on the origin of life.

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