

Love in the fast lane

Is the pressure to succeed in and out of class leaving students date deprived?

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Eight o'clock class, exam, work, meeting, paper, project, studying and sleep. That, in a nutshell, is a normal day for many college students. It seems as if in between school, organizations and jobs, Aggies aren't finding much time to date. Are our most frequent dates with our biology books at Sweet Eugene's?

Laura Sansom, a senior marketing major, has 26 kids and a husband. No, she's not married, and the kids aren't really hers - she's a Fish Camp co-chair. With 26 counselors and a co-chair partner to keep up with, Sansom has stepped out of the dating pool for the time being.

"During spring semester, because I was a Christian Business Leaders executive, a Fish Camp co-chair and in upper-level business classes, I didn't have any spare time that wasn't devoted to my camp," Sansom said.

Sansom said there is pressure to be involved at A&M, but that there is also a stereotype of getting engaged senior year and married right after graduation.

"If I had someone to date, I probably would make time," Sansom said. "You have to learn how to time manage. You don't go on lots of real dates; instead, you study together."

The best way to not have your grades suffer when you are in a relationship is to date someone who studies a lot, Sansom said. The beginning of a relationship is hard, she said, because you want to spend a lot of time together.

Casey Ho, a junior biomedical engineering major, said time management is key in balancing dating with school. Freshman year, Ho and his girlfriend broke up because she said he didn't have enough time to see her. Ho was taking 18 hours, pledging a fraternity and was involved in the Vietnamese American Student Association and the Asian American Association.

"Once you mature, you learn how to time manage," Ho said. "Time management is being able to assess your day into what needs to be done, and when you should do it."

Taylor Gilley, a senior marketing major, said

pressure in other areas of college life keeps her from pursuing relationships.

"If there were more hours in the day, I would pursue relationships," Gilley said.

Gilley once had a relationship not progress due to lack of time.

"Organizations are so selective that once you are in one you have this feeling of wanting to devote all your time to it," Gilley said.

Gilley is an MSC Hospitality Exec-

Students who are too busy don't get enough sleep, and therefore get irritable, which affects their relationships, he said.

"Students must build in time to relax and rejuvenate," Stachowiak said.

Having time to let stress melt is important to build into a week's schedule, he said.

John Huffman, a senior finance major, and Elizabeth Jones, a senior communications major, have

now serves as Corps Commander along with preparing for law school and applying for a Rhodes Scholarship, in which he is one of two A&M nominees. Jones is chair of MSC Fall Leadership Conference, a Reveille Ball Executive, Miss Aggieworld, on the student advisory board for the Bonfire Dedication Ceremony and has a part-time job. Between all of this, however, Huffman and Jones have managed to make time to have a healthy, committed relationship. They agree it's not always easy and takes a lot of love.

"The major challenge is we both have a lot of time commitments," Huffman said. "Elizabeth reminds me that when we do spend time together, it's quality time."

Jones stressed that it's about the quality, not the quantity. Even five minutes a day is good, Jones said.

Huffman said planning is a big part of a quality relationship, too. The couple plans time when they can cook dinner together, watch TV and do their separate tasks at the same place, Jones said.

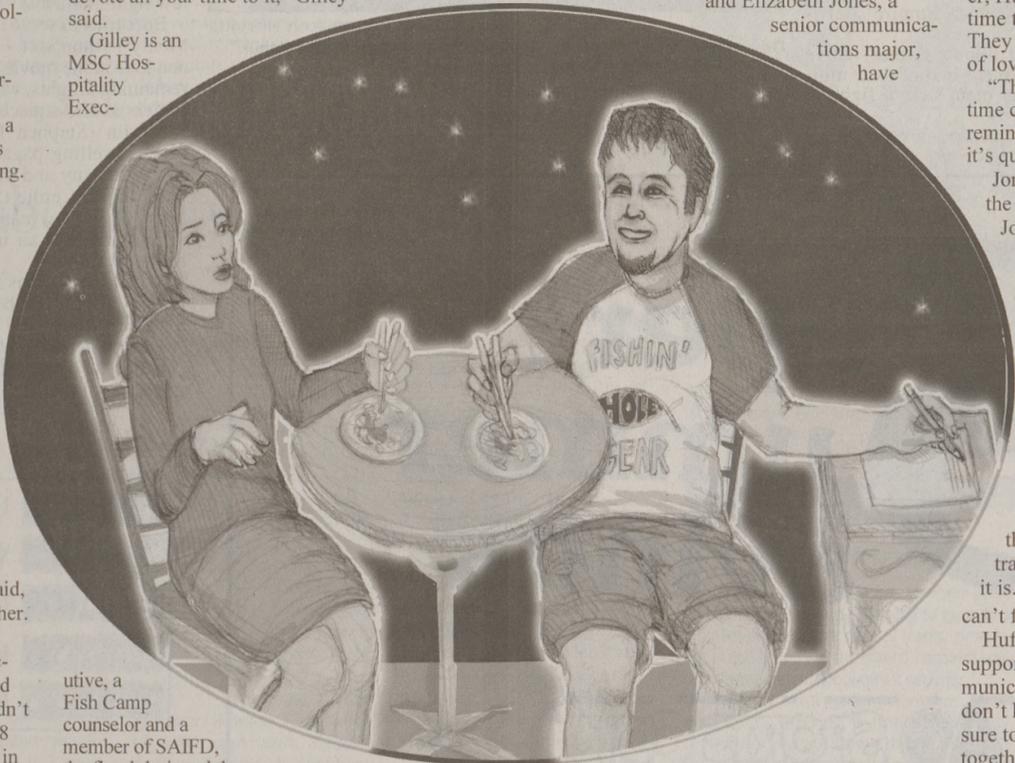
"A big part is confidence in the other person," Jones said. "We recognize each other's commitments."

Jones said there are always glitches in the system, just like in any other relationship.

"In the beginning, as soon as he made Corps Commander, I didn't understand the commitment involved and I got frustrated," Jones said. "Now I've realized what it is. You must be as supportive as possible. I can't forget how much I wanted him to get it."

Huffman agreed that it's important to be supportive of one another and have good communication. He suggests to men that if you don't have a lot of time to spend together, make sure to listen to your girlfriend when you are together. Jones said that both people must keep themselves balanced for the relationship to succeed.

"Being in love is taking a risk," she said. "You must have faith in each other."



GRACIE ARENAS • THE BATTALION

utive, a Fish Camp counselor and a member of SAIFD, the floral design club.

Ted Stachowiak, associate director of Student Counseling Services, said lots of A&M students face the challenge of balancing everything there is to do at A&M.

"It's a struggle for students to figure out how to juggle things," Stachowiak said. "It's easy to get overloaded. It's important not to let things slide."

been helping each other melt the stress for 11 months while making good grades and being involved at A&M. They met a year ago when they became MSC Hospitality Executives.

Huffman has also been a Ross Volunteer and

ATTN: GRADUATE STUDENTS!!

NEW AT THE TRADITION FOR 2004...

GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING PROGRAM

As a grad student at Texas A&M University, you don't need the typical, high-energy, facilitated interaction residence hall environment. But what you do need is the maximum time to do your advanced coursework and the minimum number of day-to-day hassles. And that's exactly what The Tradition at Northgate provides according to many graduate students who already live with us!

By requesting, qualifying for and being assigned to the graduate student block, you are automatically eligible for all-inclusive discounted group rates as low as \$525 per monthly installment payment, which includes 5 meals per week in our

Why should I join The Tradition at Northgate's Graduate Student Housing Program?

The Tradition is within EASY walking distance to many campus buildings!

Have the opportunity to meet other students from diverse backgrounds!

Live in an environment conducive to both studying and relaxing!

Access to on-site individual and group study areas!

You'll have the PRIVACY you need with your own bedroom!

No time to cook? No need to worry...Our on-site Edge Café and Java Court brings you the tastiest food around!

****TOUR HOURS EVERYDAY 8am-7pm!!****

979-268-9000

Tour online at www.traditionaggieworld.net and sign up today!

301 Church Avenue

College Station, Texas 77840

Comfort, Convenience, and Value All in one Place

One Month FREE - Ask Us How!

Open till 7pm Monday-Friday • Saturday till 6pm & Sunday till 5pm

- On-Site Management
- 2 Sparkling Pools with Sand Volleyball Court
- All New Fitness Center
- 3 Well Maintained Laundry Facilities
- All Units Cable-Ready
- Shuttle Bus Route (Elephant Walk)
- Plenty of Well-Lighted Parking
- Huge Closets & Pantries
- Only a Few Blocks from Shopping Centers
- 1 Mile from Campus

WILLOWICK

apartments

(979) 693-1325

Check us out at: www.willowickapartments.com or E-Mail us: WWLeasing@shortmgmt.com

502 Southwest Parkway • College Station, TX 77840

*Limited Offer - Limited Availability

Under
New Management
Lower Prices • New Dancers

The Silk Stocking Lounge

The Best in Adult Entertainment

-- Happy Hour Daily until 7pm --

\$2.00 Well / \$2.00 Drafts

- Sun.: \$2.00 Wells
- Mon.: \$2.00 16 oz. Drafts
- Tues.: \$2.00 Domestic Longnecks
- Wed.: \$2.00 Wells
- Thurs.: \$2.00 16 oz. Drafts

**2 for 1
Cover
with
Student ID**

Mon. - Sun. 5pm-2am

(979) 690-1478

4075 S Highway 6 - take Rock Prairie Road exit

Do you work 20+ hours per week?

call 979-680-3680