

Listen Up —

Abortion Law Constitutionality Upheld

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"We had to do something . . . they hate getting dressed up for a photograph!"

Editor: Re: the letters from Mr. Harris and Mr. Curry which appeared in "Listen Up" on Oct. 2.

The abortion controversy seems to stem from differing views on whether or not a fetus constitutes human life and is therefore entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Supreme Court, in its January decision, offered these words in its final statement:

We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to its answer.

Anti-abortionists should realize that their criticisms are late in coming. As an example we can see that for years, in hospitals where therapeutics have been performed, the provisions of the law have stated that the fetus may be flushed down the toilet or thrown out with the garbage. If embryos were ever regarded as human beings then certainly such an improper treatment would never have been allowed.

Last spring, as part of an English research project, I conducted a survey on the subject of abortion. (This does not make me an authority on the matter, but many

students have since asked me about the results of this survey.) Two hundred students, 100 male and 100 female, were randomly selected and each was personally interviewed. When asked if they were in favor of the Court's decision, 79.5 percent of the students answered in the affirmative. Although 200 students is a small sample, these figures must be somewhat representative of campus opinion. This does not mean that most students approve of the act of abortion, but that most students believe that anti-abortion laws are unconstitutional. Mr. Curry and Mr. Harris should realize that infants are entitled to due process and equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment, but fetuses are not. Abortion then becomes a moral choice —and this nation has never tolerated the legislation of morality.

The only breach of A&M's "credo of fair play" has been the verbal attack on a woman who, having made a choice which was hers to make by law, now finds

herself severely criticized by two people whose argument is made solely by virtue of their personal morals.

Mike Alford '76
★ ★ ★

Editor: When I moved to Dallas from Chicago three years ago, I noticed how great everybody treated me. When I came to A&M, I really got into the brotherhood that is so definitely felt here.

When A&M was all male, tradition was very intense. Everyone belonged to this brotherhood and "howdy" was the password.

However in the last two years tradition and all other "old Ag stuff" has taken a dive. Incidents such as described by Kyle Stephenson in the 9/27 Battalion illustrate my sad point.

Guys became pretty close when they are by themselves. But introduce a girl and it's "every man for himself," "go find your own," "hey, that's my girl." I'm glad the girls are here—believe

me. But let's face it, old Ag tradition has paid for it—our tradition. If we lose that, we will be like U.T. Girls should feel no guilt and to blame them would be unjust. The fault doesn't lie with anyone.

But I'm an optimist. I love my school and would do anything for another Ag. This feeling is still shared by most Ags but merely subdued. So come on Ags. Pull your heads out! Everybody get with it! This is 'Texas A&M! Smile! Say "Howdy"—don't look away. Let others know that you care. This is the Land of the Aggies! Act like it! We're Aggies!

Russell Herring
★ ★ ★

Editor: We Ag's who were unfortunate enough to get our student tickets in the south sections of Kyle Field would be interested to know why there are no yell leaders down there. We feel we have just as much spirit as any Ag,

but we are left out on many the yells. As anyone could see that fighting twelfth man there the entire game. I am sure the absence of yell leaders is nothing to do with the fact that most of us were non-reg's. There any reason?

Judson Prince '77
Randy Triplett '77
Mike Krueger '77
★ ★ ★

Editor: Why, with so much traffic on campus on game nights, is the traffic light at University Drive and Nagle Street switched "blinking?" The traffic on University Drive is tremendous during the game and it is impossible to cross over to Nagle on the blinking red light.

We made good time on campus until we got to that red light. Then the line of traffic was backed up as far as the A&M Press Building. I wish to request that this light be allowed to work regularly on home game nights.

Hattie M. Emery

Rick Brown—

Texas Fighters: Sexists vs Commies

Texas is currently in the process of adopting new textbooks for use in our public schools across the state. Some 316 books are under consideration, 142 of which have been challenged for one reason or another by any of several groups basically representative of two ideological poles, the more radical of the women's libbers and those groups to the right of Republicans. The authors are all a bunch of sexist pigs on one hand; they're all a bunch of pinko commies on the other.

Legitimate complaints do exist in some cases, but many of the objections have been trivial sometimes bordering on the inane. Snow White, for example, is nothing but a sex symbol, according to the libbers, and as such degrades all women. The fable psychologically conditions children to accepting the woman's role in society as secondary and inferior to that of the male. She just has to go. (Chalk one up for the Bad Queen.) Other feminists' objections are of a similar vein, with one objection being raised regarding a picture in which a man was driving a car with a woman sitting beside him. "Why can't the woman drive for a change?" quipped one libber.

As I said not all comments have been trivial. One book was cited as having but one picture of a woman in the entire text, and that one picture showed her in a kitchen with an apron on. That is sexism. The book should be rejected by the state or altered by the publisher before adoption.

On the other side of the spectrum Mrs. R. C. Bearden Jr of Abilene, chairwoman of the Texas Society of the Daughter's of the

American Revolution, has had comments on a wide variety of materials from the proposed textbooks. On sex, Mrs. Bearden is again at least as far as telling kids about it goes. Speaking about the seventh grade physiology book which describes childbirth, the menstrual cycle, and development of the male sex organs, she said, "It'll tear up your classroom because you won't have any order, and it'll tear up your school because the mamas and papas will be up there objecting to it." Presumably the "mamas and papas" (known in some circles as parents) alluded to by Mrs. Bearden are also members of the DAR or similar groups. In reply the book publishers said, "It is precisely this hush-hush attitude about such topics as menstruation that causes unwarranted embarrassment." And they are right.

Mrs. Bearden also vocalized here support of pollutions, at least in small amounts. Specifically she objected to a comment from a sixth grade health text which advised, "a pesticide should not be used when a fly swatter will do." She went on to say in effect that environmentalists have blown problems all out of proportion and created unwarranted panic. In many cases this is true, but the statement above is valid and based on common sense, something with which Mrs. Bearden is not overly blessed.

But wait. What? No protest on evolution! Put your mind at rest anxious student, for Mrs. Mel Gabler of Longview has come through, saying that Cro-Magnon men were merely victims of arthritis.

Boycott Bike Registration

For those of you who have registered your two-wheeled, pedal-powered contrivances with the University Police since Sept. 17, the overall bicycle registration program seems to be grinding to a standstill.

To this point, only 1,056 out of at least 3,000 bikes have been processed by the police—a ridiculous number of registrants, considering the program is mandatory for all riding the vehicles on campus.

The program is being terribly mis-managed by the University in several ways, the first of which being that administrators have refused to use common sense in the enforcement of registration and state bike riding laws.

Last year the Dean of Students Office decided to initiate the registration program in the middle of the semester as it did again this semester.

In addition to this, the Dean's Office continually backed-off the enforcement of registration deadlines—ones which he set several times. As a result, the program was fruitless, since the police office computer terminal was not installed and only one-third of the number of riders registered and no money went into the bike rack fund.

Part of the problem in this has been that the police have never been asked how they think the program would be best run, even though they are running it. For instance, five days before the beginning of 1972's registration, the police could tell The Battalion nothing about the program, because no one above had told them anything.

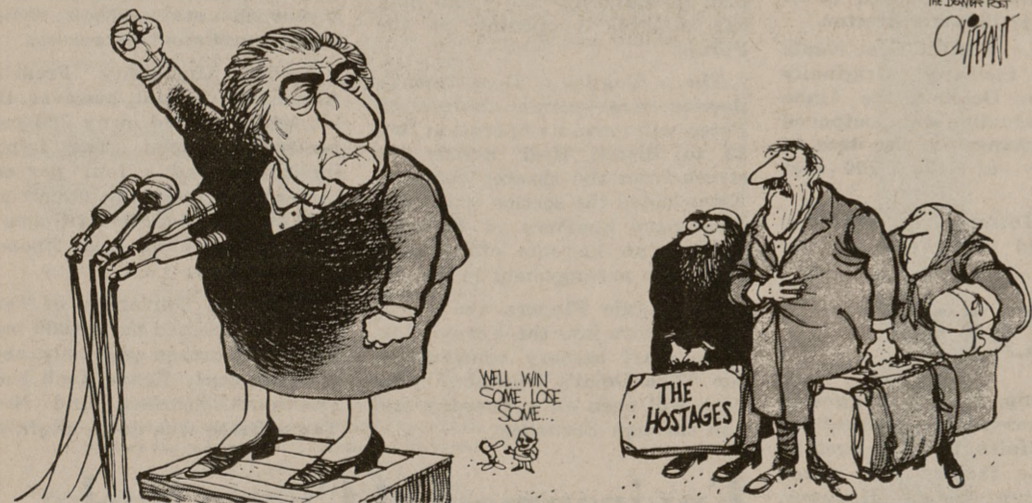
The same thing has almost repeated this year, except the police expected a late-starting program.

Administrators have tripped over another problem this semester, namely, how to enforce registration without standing by bicycles for hours to wait for the owners and still stay in the black, financially. At least autos already have conspicuous license numbers, bikes don't. And that wraps up almost the entire problem in a nutshell.

We think the University should discontinue its mandatory registration program until some equitable way of enforcement is found and approved by all necessary groups.

The University should act on recommendations from the University Police on enforcement and then place bike registration periods with pre-registration periods.

The existing system is being sloppily handled and students should refuse to take part in the program until University officials come up with a decent solution.



"BUT, MRS. MEIR, IF THE AUSTRIANS HADN'T GONE ALONG WITH THE TERRORISTS . . . ER, WHERE WOULD THAT LEAVE US?"

The Battalion

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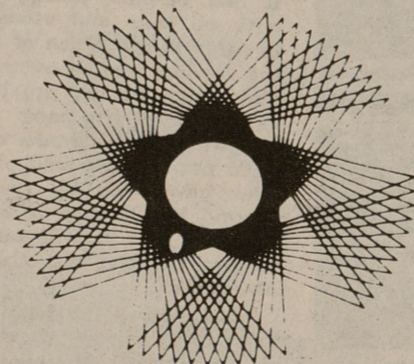
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