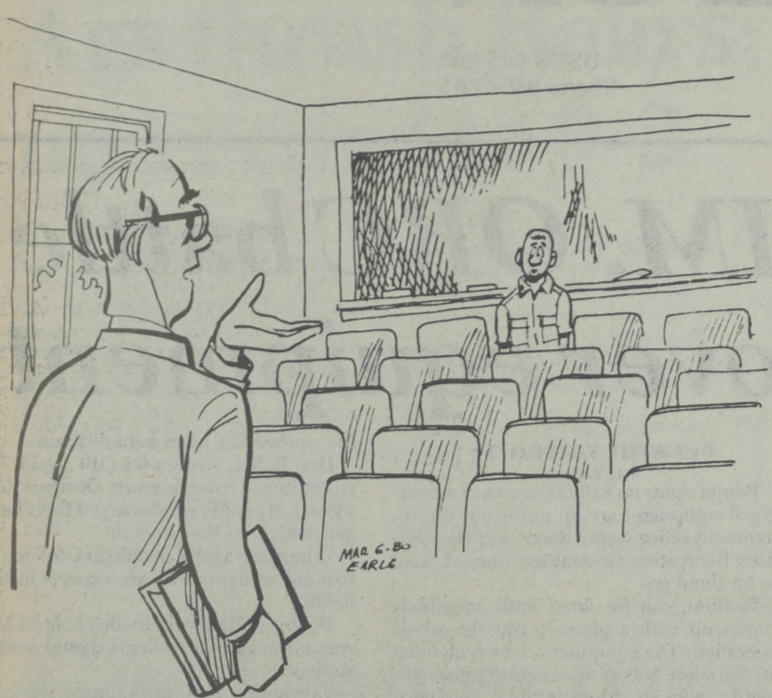


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Before we get started, are you absolutely sure that your ride doesn't leave early?"

OPINION

ORC should keep canoes

Intra-university bickering has hit a new high, or low as the case may be.

The MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee has \$10,000 worth of canoes and backpacking equipment which the Intramural Department wants.

Intramurals wants the equipment because it feels it can distribute the goods to the students more efficiently. ORC thinks it is doing a good job of distribution right now.

ORC is open to rent the equipment at the Grove on Thursdays and Fridays. The canoes and packs can be returned on Mondays and Tuesdays. The committee seems to have a good set-up for the students and themselves.

But Intramurals insists it can do a better job. It wants to have the check-out open five days a week. This means paying a full-time checker. Also, it won't have storage space until the G. Rollie White Coliseum expansion is completed.

Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, will make the final decision on who gets the equipment. He says he will make no decision until Intramurals comes up with an organized plan for managing the equipment.

Maybe the best way for Koldus to make his decision is to ask himself, "Why fix it if it isn't broken?"

the small society

by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

3-6 Brickman

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday weeks and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per fiscal year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or to any of its contributors, and to act in or out of court in connection with the reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

MEMBER

- Texas Press Association
- Southwest Journalism Congress
- Editor..... Roy Bragg
- Associate Editor..... Keith Taylor
- News Editor..... Rusty Cawley
- Asst. News Editor..... Karen Cornelison
- Copy Editor..... Dillard Stone
- Sports Editor..... Mike Burrichter
- Focus Editor..... Rhonda Watters
- City Editor..... Louie Arthur
- Campus Editor..... Diane Blake
- Staff Writers..... Nancy Andersen, Tricia Brunhart, Angelique Copeland, Laura Cortez, Meril Edwards, Carol Hancock, Kathleen McElroy, Debbie Nelson, Richard Oliver, Tim Sager, Steve Sisney, Becky Swanson, Andy Williams
- Chief Photographer..... Lynn Blanco
- Photographers..... Lee Roy Leschper, Steve Clark, Ed Cunniss

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
MARCH 6, 1980

Reader's Forum Critiques based on inaccurate views

By JAY STANISH

I would like to respond to the comments made by Mr. Springer and Ms. King in the March 3rd "Reader's Forum" concerning the film series, "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?" I believe that the majority of their critique was based on inaccurate observations and mere personal taste. To wit:

— The "monotonous repetition of irrelevant symbolism" was to my mind an effective way of emphasizing the point. The judgement of monotony and irrelevance is a matter of personal opinion. I'm sorry they didn't like it; I and many others did.

— The rain on the table sequence lasted perhaps 30 seconds. Big deal. Symbolism again is a matter of personal opinion.

— I thought the movie was not only an adequate visual aid; it was excellent. Again, personal opinion.

— Black slavery was paralleled to infanti-

cide and abortion because in both cases the Supreme Court labeled those affected by the practices as non-human, sanctioning horrifying abuses.

— The Nazi extermination of not only Jews but all those considered to be sub-human or an economic drag on society was paralleled to euthanasia because of the increasingly vocal advocacy of using euthanasia as a means of ridding society of unwanted or burdensome members. The point is that similar views of man are leading to similar practices.

— To say that the film was without documentation is to be categorically mistaken. I heard plenty of documentation. I challenge undocumented. It was "propaganda," in the strictest sense of the word, but that does not mean "no facts." Look it up.

— Dr. Koop should have been more clear in his definition of euthanasia, but

there is little argument that the concept is applied in the main to the elderly.

— The critique of the statue shows a basic misunderstanding of the thrust of the film. The point is that a changed view of man has provided us with a morally schizophrenic and disoriented society which can on the one hand hold up hundreds of millions of dollars in dam construction to save the snail darter and on the other hand calmly flush six million unborn children down the drain. The counter example of the boat people and Cambodian refugees only serves to further illustrate the dichotomy.

— The churches in Germany were not directly responsible for the atrocities committed, and that was not the film's point. They do bear part of the blame for not speaking out, in accordance with Ezekiel 33:1-6. The government of the Third Reich was indeed military, but that does not mean that it was not afraid of the people.

When I visited Dachau last summer, the first concentration camp, it was brought to lengths to prevent the German citizenry from discovering the real purposes of the camps. It should also be pointed out that the inclusion of Jews in the camps was almost an afterthought; they were originally for those deemed politically troublesome, for those who were expedient to be rid of.

— Finally, Dr. Thaxton was not a commentator; he was simply there to answer questions, which he did a fairly good job of. No matter what the criticisms may be, the issues are significant ones and must be dealt with. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

(Jay Stanish is a senior EDCL major from Houston. He is the chaplain of the Aggie Band and student president of the Campus Crusade for Christ.)

Pro-life films stand on their own merit

By BILL ROBERSON

I would like to express an alternative view to the one submitted by David Springer and Celia King concerning the film series recently presented in the Rudder auditorium: "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?" The series deals intellectually, emotionally, and artistically with the questions and answers surrounding the controversial issues of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Mr. Springer and Miss King, both personal friends of mine, have critiqued the series in a harsh, negative light and it is to this analysis that I would like to address my refutations.

The critique dealt with two aspects of the film; quality and content. The critics mentioned instances of "irrelevant symbolism" and "scenes devoid of meaning." These opinions call for attention. First, any art form is an attempt on the part of its creator to communicate specific concepts to the beholder. Personally, I did not find the symbolism "irrelevant" nor the scenes, "devoid of meaning." The scene described by the critics as "devoid of meaning" which

showed rain pouring down upon a deserted banquet table was probably meant to be meaningful, but effectual. It was not.

Secondly, the director, Franky Schaeffer V, demanded creative and artistic excellence in all phases of the film making process, using a large range of cinematic techniques to dramatize and illustrate its points.

The critics alleged that "the films were without documentation." With this I must make issue. Dr. C. Everett Koop is one of the world's most prominent surgeons. As surgeon-in-chief at Philadelphia's Children's Hospital, he is in a competent position to voice the medical perspective on these issues. The film series was simply not intended to be a black and white, monotonous documentary, sedating us with technical data and statistics. The film found it sufficient to note that since the legalization of abortion in 1973, over 6 million babies have been aborted in this country, surpassing the number of Jews murdered in the holocaust.

This brings me to my second point. It

was stated in the Springer and King essay that the film paralleled black slavery to infanticide and Nazi extermination of the Jews to euthanasia. Had they attended the entire film series, Mr. Springer and Miss King would not have so greatly misunderstood Dr. Schaeffer's statements. The films did not claim that infanticide is a parallel to black slavery, but that each generation labels some group of humans as "non-human" for social and economic convenience. During the pre-civil war era it was the black slave. In Nazi Germany it was the Jew. In our generation, in a 1973 Supreme Court decision (Roe vs. Wade), the unborn child was arbitrarily classified as "non-human" with no civil rights. Schaeffer pointed out that the Dred Scott case demonstrated that the Supreme Court is not above making significant mistakes.

Secondly, the films never drew a parallel between Nazi extermination of the Jews and euthanasia. The films point to early Nazi German history, when Hitler first exterminated the socially and economically inconvenient — the handicapped, the

mentally ill, and the elderly — before he focused his attention on the Jew. Dr. Schaeffer maintained that the legalization of abortion has opened the door to further violation of human rights: infanticide and euthanasia.

Finally, though I agree with our film critics that the commentator, Dr. Charles Thaxton, did not handle the position as well as he might have, I question the validity of their pointed criticism of his "competency." Were they offering constructive criticism? Did Dr. Thaxton's "incompetency" as a commentator weaken the message of the film series? I think not. The films stand on their own merit as do their arguments.

I take off my hat to the critic, Springer and King, in agreement with their fundamental position that "the film was propaganda." Daniel Webster illuminates the statement in his definition of propaganda: "ideas, facts or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause."

(Bill Roberson is a senior English major from Amarillo)



THOTZ

By Doug Graham

