

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"We don't mind you keeping count of the hours left until graduation if you would forego announcing the latest count on the hour."

Gun editorial gets reaction

Editor:

Well, I was waiting for it to happen. Waiting for one of the staff writers, driven by the boredom of rainy days, to revert back to rule number one in the journalism handbook. It states, "If there is nothing else to write about, pick at the National Rifle Association and the gun owners of America."

Well, Gary Barker really went all out for this assignment. With help from his imaginary dog, they proceeded with their "save America" article. It reminded me of Jimmy Carter asking Amy about nuclear proliferation. Gary, your conversation with your dog Spot brought back memories of reading Tip and Mitten in first grade.

Just for the record, murders will not stop if gun control was instituted. The only way to put an end to ruthless killing, would be to put an end to the person convicted of the murder, whether it be by capital punishment or life in prison without parole. You seem to be wrapped up in the liberal thinking that has plagued journalists for ages.

Take Spot for a walk, both of you could use some fresh air.

Grant Harpod '85

Editor:

Journalism cannot be sensationalism,

(I'm not even sure the word exists) but should be factual or enjoyable. Gary Barker's article in Thursday's Battalion was neither. I immediately recognized the weakness of Barker's article and I refuse to be quiet on such a volatile issue.

The two-faced article written by Barker amazes me. Barker supports pro-handgun control law — usually associated with a liberal political atmosphere. Liberals usually support freedom, what about my freedom guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment "The right to keep and bear arms."

Barker attempts to blame increasing murder on handguns. An excellent point used by many pro-gun control advocates. All of which have no factual data to support it. I challenge Barker or anyone else to present such data. Do you really think a handgun control law would help? DWI laws don't stop, Mr. Barker, how many people are killed by drunk drivers each year. I believe the issue should not be attacked at the gun-control level, but at the judicial level of prosecuting gun related crimes.

Finally, Mr. Barker, you attacked the NRA. Surely you must realize the NRA is protecting my rights that you would so carelessly throw away, with no regard to my personal beliefs. By the way, the statement "a handgun is a weapon designed to kill people — and is ineffective for any-

thing else" is a lie.

Bert McJimsey '82

Editor:

I would like to take the time spent about Gary Barker and Spot's enlightening revelation of a nation to the crime problem in the States.

Yes, I agree wholeheartedly with about the number of senseless committed today around the Gun control must be the answer. There are too many drunk wreckless drivers. Maybe it's time to fiscate automobiles also. There are doubtably too many cases of slander today where people's reputations are devastated. I have a right moratorium on all reporting journalism of any kind. Sure, people do use their cars and typewriters responsibly, but I believe they are willing to give them up for justice served. I mean this is justice, but all, it would be too hard on only those who use them wrong.

In closing, I would like to state that Barker actually believes what he writes. Our school newspaper, I'm convinced with a new Aggie Joke Book.

Scott Kirke
University

Editor:

I have some comments on Sandra Gary's editorial on book censorship (April 21). I applaud your anti-censorship stance, but I choose to take your arguments one step further.

As I understand you, you say that since no absolute set of moral standards exists (among other absolutes), young people should be prepared for the mucky reality of the outside world. I'm afraid with that sort of statement, you arm those modern censors with lethal weapons in your defeat. Censorship is usually based on trying to achieve a moral goal of some sort in education, or indoctrination. Merely saying "There are no absolutes, so it can't be done" is not an adequate defense of the world's literature.

I hold as a moral imperative one basic premise: "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." I assert that my life is mine to live in individual liberty in my pursuit of happiness. This assertion implies that I recognize the same premise

for my neighbor, because I do consider it an absolute. This is what my country was based upon, and this is what I choose to defend from enemies of free thought, wherever they arise.

Frank Knickerbocker
Dorm 4

Editor:

Sandra Gary's story on book censorship (Editorial, April 20) has got to be the most biased article I have ever read. I am not going to argue that books she mentioned should be kept out of school libraries. I believe the school library should be a place where the student has access to a wide variety of materials, but students should not have to be subjected to offensive material in the classroom.

Gary has done a great injustice to the people who are sincerely trying to upgrade the quality of education in the public classroom. All of the cases of censorship that she mentioned or alluded to are obviously the doings of fanatics.

Why didn't she mention the work of concerned parents and citizens? People seldom hear about the biology books based on evolution as fact that were used in Texas classrooms for years before concerned parents had it rejected. They seldom hear of the fifth grade history book that contained six and one-half pages on

Marilyn Monroe, a sex symbol, and mentioned George Washington only five times and never told about his life or what he did. They seldom hear about the textbooks that portray Communism as benefit to the peoples who live in Communist societies and only present the evils of America's free enterprise system.

And have they heard about the sociology books that teach that homosexuality is only abnormal because of outdated laws against it? That same book also goes into great detail about the different types of gay bars and how homosexuals decide who will be male or female (Who needs to know that?). It goes on to teach that to be initiated into Hells Angels, the other member may urinate on the potential member, his gang, and/or his girl. How repulsive!

I must stress that these books were used in Texas public school classrooms — not libraries. Thanks to the work of concerned parents and citizens these and many other books like them have been taken out of Texas schools. The examples I have given are some of the more extreme ones, but there are many other less severe examples that elementary and secondary students are subjected to.

Gary doesn't mention the "offensive language" in the five dictionaries that were banned and I doubt the editor would have allowed the words to be printed. Why would it be necessary for students to learn these words?

According to Gary, the "censors seem completely unaware of the sophistication of contemporary youngsters." Sophisticated? How? If these youngsters are as sophisticated as you say then why is suicide so high among teenagers? Why are the number of pregnant girls each year so high? Why is alcoholism and drug abuse such a problem among our young people? What makes you so sure that exposure to violence, crime and indecency in the classroom will help prepare the student for the real world? Is that all the real world is — violence, crime and indecency? Do you and your family live that kind of life? Of course not. Why is it then that more and more violence and immorality are put into textbooks while the good aspects of life in the real world are being shoved out? The concerned people who have a sincere commitment to students want textbooks to present a realistic view of life — more stories about people living together in harmony, love, understanding and helpfulness and less cruelty, crudity, hate, rebellion and violence.

Students get enough violence and immorality from the television which, according to recent surveys, the student watches an average of 20 hours a week. So why must they be constantly bombarded with it in the classroom?

And yes, Miss Gary, I would be afraid "when groups and individuals have succeeded in banning the Bible from high

school libraries." Fortunately, I have heard of any cases such as this, and am sure it may have happened in a couple of isolated instances — no doubt work of atheists.

But if they were banned, should we be attacking the school board for doing such ridiculousness instead of one who has been labeled a "censor" forming Saturday

I am not frightened of censorship. I am frightened by articles such as Sandra Gary's that do not fairly present subject and attempt to bias the reader. Yes, there are a few fanatics who almost everything banned from school but there are also many more concerned parents and citizens who want fair education. I was at first frightened of censorship activity when I first heard it, but I learned more and became more frightened about what was being taken out of the classroom. I suggest Gary and others read "Censorship in the Classroom" and "Are Textbooks Keeping Your Children?" which are available in the Texas A&M Library.

book is anti-censorship and the book is a call for people to speak against objectionable material in schools. Then decide for yourself if you stand on this subject and have treated both sides fairly.

Teresa He...

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Letter: Looking back to learn for the future

Editor:

In the flicker of candlelight at the All Faith's Chapel, a small group gathered on April 20 to commemorate the Holocaust. Christian and Jews sat side by side and listened to the roll call of the camps, and the impossible-to-comprehend numbers of souls who were exterminated systematically during the 12 agonizing years from 1933 to 1945. Hillel, The Latter Day Saints, Lutheran Student Movement, Wesley and the United Campus Ministries student organizations are to be commended for their sponsorship of this remembrance.

The genocide committed in a period when the world reeled under the atrocities of a madman, cries out of the pages of history to be remembered. The death of millions of men, women and children can never be explained or justified by any cause for which they stood, any battle which they waged, or any act which they perpetrated. They were murdered simply because they WERE. This reality must be passed from generation to generation so that never again can such a nightmare be turned into reality.

In the three years I have been a part of the Texas A&M community, I have never been more touched by a campus program. In a world filled with inhumanity, there must be more effort to unite us all by our common bond — the higher qualities of the nature of man.

Carole Ancelin
Secretary to the MSC Director

April 21st important

Editor:

Wednesday Sandra Gary and Phyllis Henderson and the rest of The Battalion

staff overlooked the importance of April 21. Let me remind them and the people who are interested.

On April 21, 1836, several hundred Texans led by General Sam Houston routed a much larger Mexican force at the Battle of San Jacinto. This victory gave Texas her independence from Mexico. It was also the beginning of the greatest state in the union. This is why we are supposed to celebrate April 21, San Jacinto Day.

I know it's hard for a big-time newspaper to remember such a trivial event, but there is always next year. Please have the respect to remember San Jacinto, the Alamo, Goliad and other important dates in our Texas heritage. Thank you.

Grant Harpod '85

Editor's note: There was a front-page story giving the history of Muster and San Jacinto day in Tuesday's Battalion. There was a front-page reminder about Muster in Wednesday's Battalion. There was a front-page story about Muster activities in Thursday's Battalion.

The real Spirit

Editor:

I am writing this letter of thanks to a fellow Aggie, one who has reaffirmed my pride in the true Aggie Spirit. This person, name unknown, gave up his tickets to the Singing Cadets concert so that my mother and I could attend the performance. We thoroughly enjoyed the show (as did the entire audience). And I am personally indebted to you for saving our weekend. Your action truly exemplifies the real Spirit of Aggieland. Thank you again.

Heidi Freeborn
Hughes

Bad ending to a good night

Editor:

I'm sorry you Ags have to open your papers and read another depressing story. It didn't start out all bad, and it doesn't have to end this way either. All it takes is a little honesty on the part of one or two people.

Wednesday night, April 21, myself and some friends attended Aggie Muster, but between 6:30 and 8:00 that night, someone entered a room in Keathley and took two wallets and a purse. If it was money you were after, I will gladly pay you a reward for the return of the merchandise. There were so many sentimental items that mean so much to these girls. I don't want to say the purses were stolen, because I pray they were just temporarily taken and will be returned in time.

We were so full of Aggie Spirit and so glad to be a part of his great tradition to take such a hard fall. Maybe I'm optimistic but I do believe in this great school and all it stands for. Thanks so much for your time.

Greg Simmons
Moses Hall

Request for peace

Editor:

So Israel is at it again, bombing and strafing Lebanese towns and villages, killing or wounding in the process over 100 people; that is people like in human beings, like in men, women and children. Meanwhile it asks, no begs, for peace.

Peace, peace, peace, all we want is peace. So say the Israelis.

Peace, while they farm the land still wet with the blood of Arabs who had lived on that land centuries before the Zionist Jews ever came. They're only crimes, be they Moslem or Christian was

that they weren't Jewish and would upset the homogeneity of "Jewish State."

Peace, while they ring their tents with barbed wire, settlements were built on land which once belonged to the very people they are bombing Lebanon.

Peace, while thousands of Palestinian youth rot away in Israeli prisons. Peace, while their gun-toting fanaticism beat up on unarmed Palestinian civilians, hoping that some day the Jews will just give up and leave.

Peace, peace, peace, they cry. Peace, see them pray for it, while lament the loss of six million brethren to Hitler's Nazis.

Peace, while they pay the world for neglecting them in the past. Palestinian Arab blood.

Today the world mourns and remembers six million human beings who were Jewish. Tomorrow, and with Israel's clear potential, who knows, there could be mourning six million more beings who are Arab.

Wouldn't it be better if the world gave up the idea of a pure Jewish state and elected to live with the non-inhabitants of Palestine in a truly democratic state, where all people had rights before the law regardless of color, or creed.

Let's we forget the Nazi German to create a purely Arian state just 2000 ago, need I continue.

Nabil Al-Khowair

Correction

In the "Girl Scout camp needs vote for one weekend" story in The Battalion the dates of the camp were correctly listed as May 31-June 1. The camp will be held May 31-June 1. Battalion regrets the error.