

Commercialization endangers Games

The rest of the world is upset with the U.S. Olympic Committee's attitude towards the Olympic Games.

American capitalists are selling the sacred Games.

They have gone as far as selling sponsorships for the runners who will carry the Olympic flame from Greece to Los Angeles.

This is the game plan: American Telephone & Telegraph Co. will sponsor the "path of fire." AT&T will sell shorter stretches to sponsors for \$3,000 a kilometer — not even a good American distance like a mile. The proceeds will be donated to American youth organizations.

A member of the International Olympic Committee has urged the committee to revoke its approval of this plan.

He has said the plan is gross commercialization of the torch — one of the few non-commercialized elements of the games.

Is it a sin to commercialize the showcase for the world's best athletes? Aren't athletics just another form of entertainment?

In America people will pay to be entertained. So will people in the rest of

the world, whether they admit it or not. They pay either in actual currency or in time that could be spent in more productive ways.

It's fair to say that the commercialization of the Olympics is justified to a point — the point where the Games break even.

But the moment the games begin to turn a profit — even a profit that may be used to better funds for the American athletes and thus their chances of winning — it's time to limit commercialization.

Hopefully, this will occur before too many more sponsors for the Games are found.

An official Olympic lip balm is bad, an official Olympic convenience store is worse, but an official Olympic douche would be almost unbearable. Almost.

Commercialization is a better way to pay for the games than through government funding which would increase an already over-loaded budget deficit. Other countries use government funds for Olympic programs.

Be glad we're in America where we can pay for the Olympics by sitting through a few obnoxious commercials.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Don't bring the flu to class with you

Since the flu bug is still sweeping the campus, The Battalion Editorial Board believes an etiquette lesson is in order. If you're sick, stay at home. If you're contagious, stay away from people. If you're afflicted, don't put others in the same boat as you.

A professor called The Battalion Tuesday, saying several of his students came by his office to tell him in person they were too sick to attend class. He wondered if these students realized they were exposing him to the same illness that was supposedly keeping them

from class. We doubt it. When it comes to the flu, Aggies seem to struggle on, unaware of the problems their presence can cause others.

But it works both ways. If professors were more tolerant of those who have to miss their classes because of illness, students could relax and not go through the ordeal of either staggering to class or getting a note from the health center.

If you have the flu, please don't spread it around. Some of us have things to do.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Creationism still valid

I have been amazed at the lack of scientific evidence in recent letters supporting either side of the creation/evolution dispute. Here is some to be considered.

The source of a theory is irrelevant. Creationism cannot justifiably be considered strictly a "folk explanation" merely because of its Biblical origin.

Proof of evolution cannot be drawn from observance of changes by genetic breeding within species. Evolution depends on transition occurring between species, such as from reptiles to mammals.

Evolution assumes the earth to be at least 4 billion years old, by conservative figures, to allow time for gradual change between organisms. Therefore, a single proof that the earth is far younger than 4 billion years would effectively refute the main tenets of evolution. A vast range of observable data

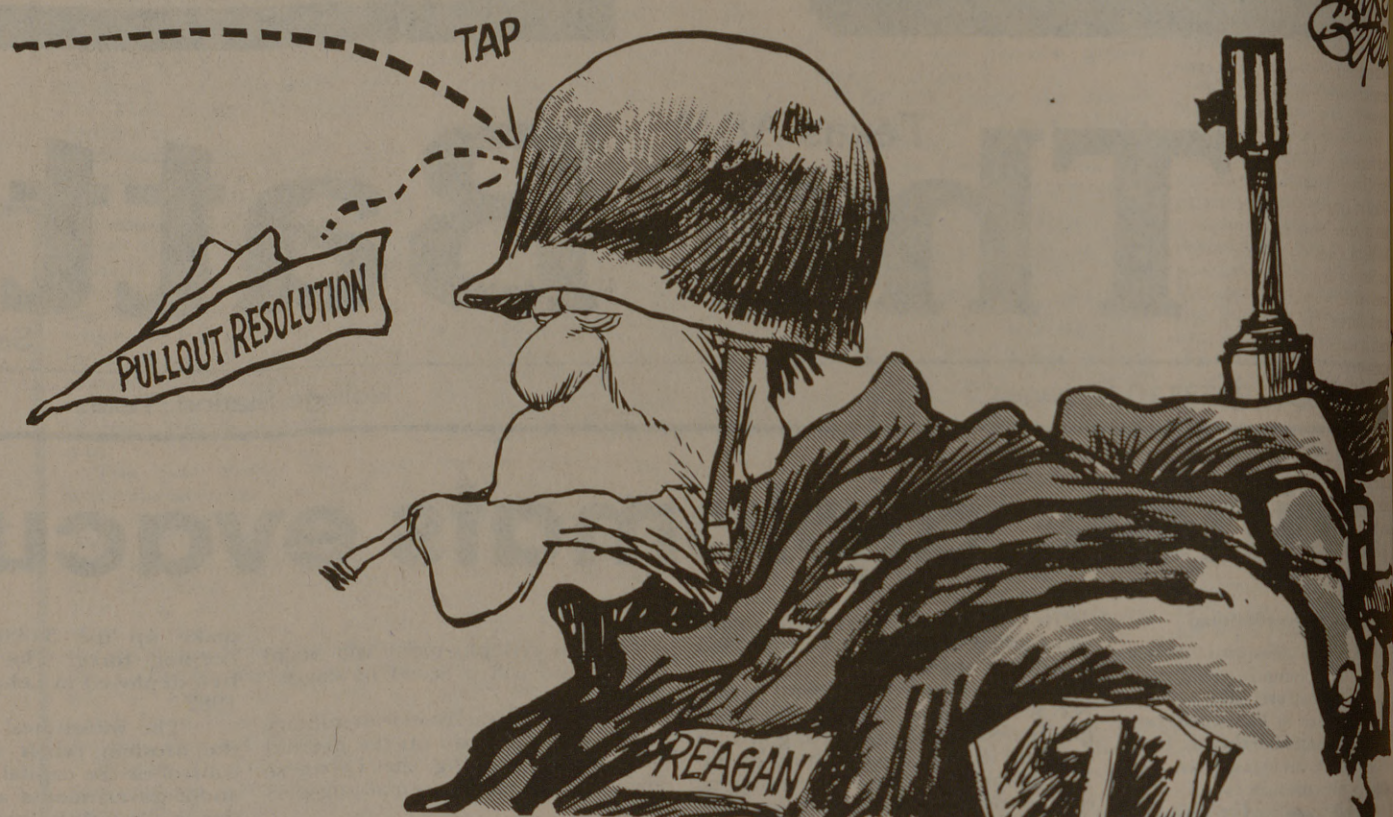
prove the earth, moon, and sun are too young for evolution to have occurred.

The rapid depletion of energy in the earth's magnetic field is the best evidence of a young earth. Evaluations have revealed a definite decay rate (at which the magnetic field will vanish about the year 3991). Going back in time to a maximum plausible strength puts the earth's age at about 20,000 years — not enough time for evolution.

In 1979, it was proven that the sun has been shrinking at a rate of 5 feet an hour. This means the sun could be anywhere from a few thousand to 10 million years old.

The scientific evidence has inevitably confirmed my faith in God and has shown me that He is real and has done exactly what the Bible claims He did: create the heavens and all that is in them.

David Swanson
Chemical Engineering



Evaluation of attitudes needed at Texas A&M

February is Black History Month, for those of you who didn't know. If you're among the majority of Aggies here, you probably don't feel that black history really concerns you, because you're white.

Although the Supreme Court declared the doctrine of "separate but equal" unconstitutional in the 1950s, the first black students at Texas A&M were not enrolled until the 1960s. Now Texas A&M has a total of 469 black students, a small percentage of the total enrollment.

Some people here say we can't recruit black students because we don't have many black professors. Others say that we're going to have to lower the standards for our faculty to hire black professors because highly qualified blacks are going into industry.

However, Texas A&M has some of the highest paid faculty members in the state. Surely with all these large salaries, we can afford to outbid industry, especially in areas such as education, foreign languages, sociology and psychology.

Could it be that Texas A&M will continue to be predominantly white because of the attitudes here? Are those

attitudes prevalent throughout the South in general?

White supremacy and black inferiority has become part of the culture of the American South. It's going to take a long time to change the attitudes of the past. And denying them isn't going to change anything. We need to take time

white supremacy stuff behind us. It explains why the Ku Klux Klan marches in major southern cities every year.

But wait, the Klan cries, we're against minorities anymore. That's the Klan of the past, we're different now.

That explains why a Klan member was sentenced to death this month for the murder of a 19-year-old black man. The murder was supposed to be a test of Klan strength in Alabama.

And it gives the reason why people still stare and whisper when a black person is with a white.

Does it also explain why, in Texas A&M was the most predominantly white school in Texas? About 66 blacks attended school here. These students were athletes.

Texas A&M is still predominantly white. Is it because, as an official school since the 1960s, it's a school with rural and urban blacks just don't fit in?

Maybe we predominantly white students and faculty should take a moment or two to stop and think about our attitudes toward minorities during Black History Month.

(Bonnie Langford is a senior journalism major and staff writer for The Battalion.)

bonnie langford

to look at the past mistakes and see how to correct them to ensure future harmony.

Most college students are too young to remember the separate drinking fountains, or the stores that wouldn't sell to blacks.

Perhaps some can remember the all-black or all-white schools. Surely everyone has at least heard about busing and race riots.

Things have changed; everything is OK now, right? We've put all of that

Letters:

Jackie's team not competitive

Editor: Well, Jackie, I finally found out what your idea of a competitive football program is. After watching the two disasters you've put on the field during your tenure here I was wondering what your conception of a competitive team was, but now I know. It means charging a 'competitive' (i.e., high) price for football tickets.

It's obvious you're here at Texas A&M for one reason, to milk our supporters of every dime possible. It's apparent you're just trying to raise more money for the athletic department so you can grab a bigger slice for yourself. I think it's time to put an end to Sherrill's embarrassments of Texas A&M both on and off the field.

Richard H. Fosberg
Class of '78

Nestle boycott

Editor: No, I did not help in the boycott of Nestle products, nor did I ever feel any moral obligation to do so. Nestle convinced Third World mothers that bottled formula was better than mother's milk? It's probably true, considering that the water is contaminated and the food is scarce; the mothers must be sick and malnourished themselves.

Do you believe that if Nestle had convinced mothers that Nestle's distilled water was better than free contaminated water, no one would have objected? Neither do I.

Maybe you are unable to justify anything that makes money. Maybe you realize that lifting the citizens of the Third World out of the mire of poverty and ignorance is the last thing you want to do. If you did, you would have no one about whom to write inane articles such as the one that was published Friday.

Perhaps your awareness of how ignorant of the situation you are of your reluctance to accept the criticism you deserve are the reasons you signed a committee's name to your diatribe, then sat back, smug and contented and holier-than-thou.

Leonard J. Hobbs

Slouch

by Jim Egan



"Before I start this lecture for your tape recorders, I want to warn you that I'm gonna be tough if I find out that all of you really don't have the flu."

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials also are welcome. Address all inquiries to the editorial page editor.

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