

Sex discrimination: OK at colleges?

Who cares if women are discriminated against in college?

That's essentially what the Supreme Court said when it ruled Tuesday that the federal government may not cut off all financial aid to a college just because one of the programs of the college discriminates on the basis of sex.

That's right, Title IX may be dead. The federal government can refuse aid to specific, discriminatory programs but not to the entire university. Thus, if a college wants to do away with its women's athletic program, and the program does not receive federal funds, it may do so. If a college discriminates against women in admissions or classrooms, unless direct federal aid is involved, it may do so.

And many just might. A sampling of Southwest Conference school officials said they didn't think their schools would reduce support of their women's sports programs.

Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles said that funding of men's and women's athletics have been based on the amount of money available. But who will be the first to lose funding when money gets low? Surely not the football teams.

And why should a school support a program that doesn't return any monetary proceeds from its investments?

How much money does the library make?

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Child custody not a question of race

A child-custody case argued before the Supreme Court may set a dangerous precedent if the high court upholds a lower court decision.

The case involves a Bryan man, Anthony Sidoti, his ex-wife and their 6-year-old daughter Melanie. Melanie's natural mother, Linda Palmore, is asking the justices to overturn a 1982 ruling by Florida District Judge Morison Buck of Tampa. The judge originally awarded Palmore custody of Melanie but later granted custody to Sidoti.

The Court heard arguments last week and is expected to rule sometime in July.

The judge's reasoning for the original decision was based on a racial issue which wasn't a focal part of testimony in the original custody trial. Palmore is married to a black, and Buck cited the inevitable "social stigmatization" of Melanie as a reason for granting Sidoti custody.

Solicitor General Rex Lee, representing the Reagan Administration, told the Supreme Court last week that Buck would have decided Melanie's custody differently if Palmore had not remarried interracially.

The racial aspect of the trial has made the issue a constitutional one. That's the tragic part — and the Catch-22 part.

No court should grant the responsibility of a child's life on the basis of whether one parent is married to someone of a different race. Bigotry will never be erased as long as courts say custody hinges on such a factor.

Conversely, Melanie's life shouldn't be disrupted because of the foolishness of a judge. Any judge should know better than to base his decisions on a racial issue.

If Palmore wins the case because of Buck's foolishness, the judge must take the blame for yanking a child from her home.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Letters...

Texas A&M reputation a laughing matter

Editor: When getting a copy of *The Battalion*, I recently have had a strange desire to immediately flip to "Police Beat." I have noticed an odd trend among crimes committed on campus.

It seems that individuals have been committing the most insignificant, stupid crimes.

In the Feb. 19 *Battalion* I read of strange people exposing themselves and masturbating in the library. Then there was a story of four subjects thrown in the Brazos County Jail for the horrible crime of removing a manhole cover.

Contained in the Feb. 15 issue were "criminals" who stole liquid paper, markers and stamps (probably a journalism major).

These petty crimes didn't stop there. In the Feb. 21 edition, under "misdemeanor theft," there was the case of

someone with an immense appetite entering the Zachry Engineering Center snack bar and eating a quart of tuna fish salad.

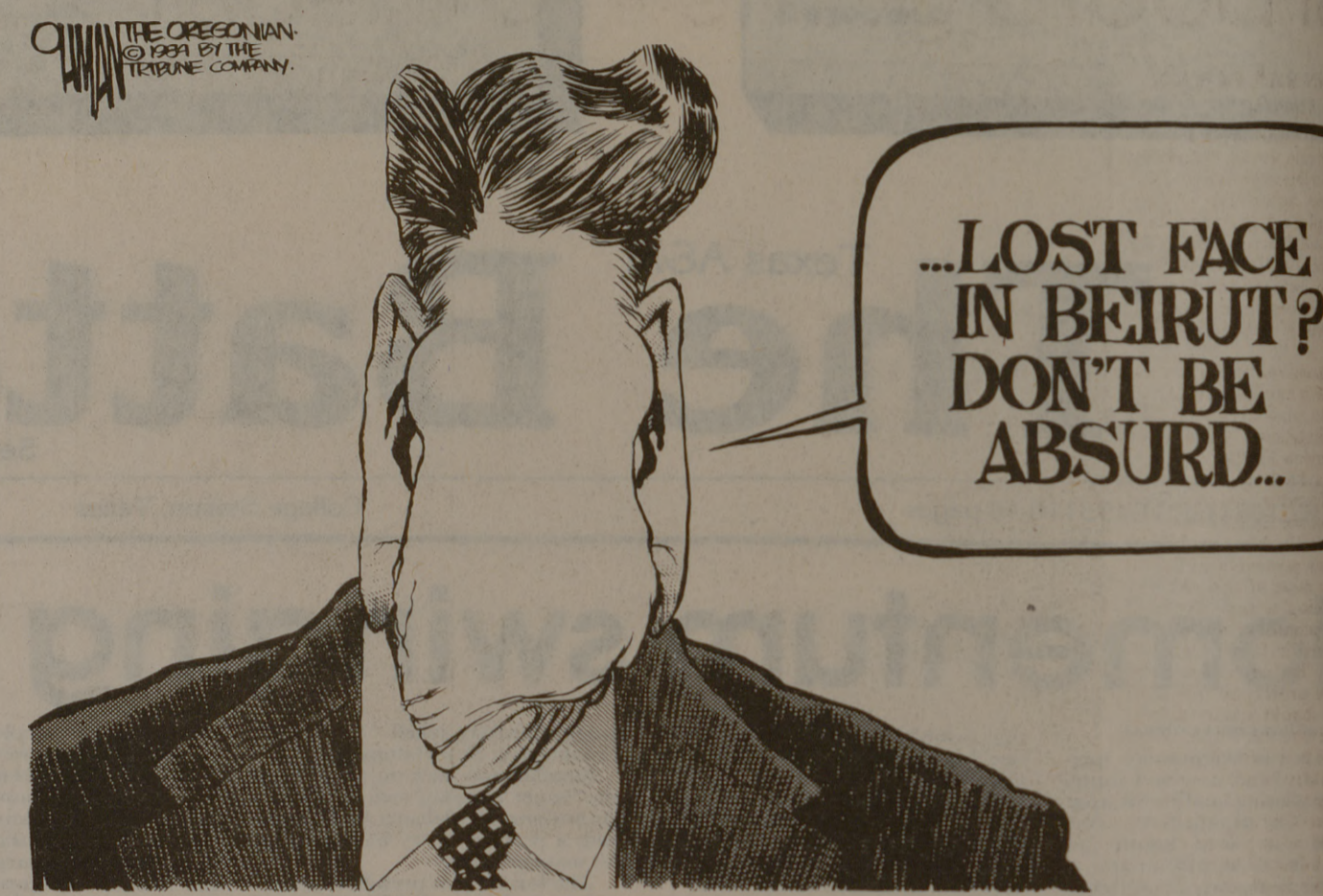
After an hour of uncontrollable laughter, I proceeded to read *Police Beat*, and there it is, in print: some guy sits next to a student and fondles himself.

I will now think twice before entering the MSC browsing library for fears that I will encounter some sexually frustrated goon fondling himself. I suppose now the student body is going to organize a special room for these perverts.

Now come on, Aggies, let's not make Texas A&M the laughing stock of all universities. Our reputation is funny enough already!

I also hope the entire newspaper staff knows that "Police Beat" contains more humor than the comics "Slouch" and "Warped."

Jeff Berling
Class of '84



Buckle up those children

Driving down Texas Avenue yesterday I saw a terrible sight: a mother who hated her child, who didn't care if her child lived or died.

What was she doing? Letting the child jump around in the car with no seatbelt on.

"Oh, so what? It's too much of a hassle to get the kid to sit still. He'll yell." You'll yell if he goes through the windshield.

Remember the commercial featuring Loni Anderson? Where she says that a child's body becomes a missile exerting a force of one ton during a wreck? Imagine what becoming a one-ton missile can do to a tiny 30-pound body.

The result is an innocent child who becomes mangled and mutilated because his mother didn't take the extra three seconds to belt it in.

It's probably the same mother (or father, let's not discriminate) who spansks her child when he's not absolutely perfect. The child yells then, and the results of his bad behavior surely aren't as bad as the possible results of not wearing a seatbelt.

One of my first memories of my parents is being told "The car doesn't start until the seatbelts are buckled."

And it wouldn't. My father had to turn around and see that my sisters and I were securely buckled in before he'd turn the key.

I was lucky. My parents loved me.

"Oh, but you can't buckle in a two-month old infant. You have to hold him."

Sure you do. That's why they make carseats. Safe, padded, sturdy carseats that you just slip the baby in and voila! He's safe. Secure. Not about to become a missile flying through the windshield.

"But we can't afford a carseat. They cost \$60 or even more."

Granted, however, some people can't

Emily Stiteler, the local Red Cross director, told a *Battalion* reporter that an accident occurs, the child dies, the mother while being crushed to death. She said a Bryan police officer told her that if a mother has a child on her lap, she might as well tie it to the front bumper of her car, because it would be equally as safe.

"But we won't have a wreck!" That's probably what every parent every child killed in a car crash would have a wreck.

You may be Mario Andretti, but other crazies on the road don't know. They'll crash into you no matter how well you drive, and your baby will be as dead.

There is no excuse not to have children buckled in, securely.

The only excuse would be a lack of love.

Only a mother who doesn't love her child would want to turn a six-month old infant, that precious gift of life, into a small, bloody, mangled, twisted mess. Only a father who didn't care would want to see his first son as a corpse, laid out in that tiny casket, never to be run in the grass or play in the sand, or be a puppy, or smell a rose.

It's a lousy way to keep a baby from crying.

Kathleen Hart is a senior journalism major and assistant city editor for The Battalion.



kathleen

hart

...and more letters

Make gifts practical

Editor: The Albritton Campanile is a nice addition to the hodge-podge of eclecticism we call a campus. Now that we have a phallic symbol, we can be like all the other schools in the Southwest Conference.

The other memorials such as bonfire funds or eternal flames are nice also, but really do not serve the students as class gifts should.

I will admit that I really should not

gripe about the Class of '84's gift since I have not attended class council in three years, but I feel there are better causes for the money spent for memorials.

Texas A&M has been good to me, and when I can I will send money, but it won't be for phallic symbols or football coaches. A gift means much more if many, many people can use it.

How does a mansion and a pond for the chancellor help the student body? Or a bell tower? Or a football coach? Do these and other embellishments really improve the products and reputation of this University?

My ideas for a good gift are simple. How about a fund to increase salary for teaching assistants? Or an Arboretum — a place for recreation and learning? Why not renovate our campus dining course? Such gifts would really benefit the students and make Texas A&M "The Harvard of the Southwest."

I am not trying to be radical. I want Alumni to think about how their gifts will help the University academically — the primary reason this institution was created.

Les Maul
Class of '84



The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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Editorial Policy

The *Battalion* is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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.

The *Battalion* is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The *Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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