

Baby Fae's chance worth baboon's life

A baboon has been killed so a child may live. "Instead of one death, now there will definitely be two ..." said a woman protesting the operation where a baboon heart was transplanted into a 16-day-old girl in California Friday.

"In essence they killed a baboon to prolong a child's suffering," she said. "We feel it's ghoulis tinking."

Dr. Leonard L. Bailey who headed the team that performed the operation didn't see it that way. He said the infant girl would have died if the transplant hadn't been performed. But because of the operation the doctor said "we have a beautiful, healthy baby."

Beautiful, healthy: those adjectives are surely debatable. But the girl, dubbed Baby Fae, does have two things for the moment: life and hope.

It's a bit scary — maybe even ghoulis — that medical science now has the capability to transplant organs between animals and humans. So far four ape-to-human heart transplants have been conducted. No human recipient has lived for more than a few days. A dead baboon for a few hours of human life? And for what quality of human life? And for what hope of prolonged survival?

Using animal organs in transplants with humans seems to be such a strange concept. But vaccinations seemed strange when they were first administered.

The Battalion Editorial Board is not endorsing a wholesale slaughter of animals in the name of medical research. Instead, as human beings, when a choice must be made between human life and animal life, human life must come first. This type of transplant has a place only if all other means of medical technology has been exhausted.

As a last resort, the death of a baboon — weighed against the chance of life for a human — must be viewed as insignificant. It's part of human nature to think we are innately superior to all other beasts. Much medical research depends on that belief.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Texas A&M maintains apathetic, hickish air

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the lack of student initiative on this campus. I wouldn't dare say this attitude was limited only to A&M, rather it seems to be a national phenomena among the young. While students here do have strong opinions on certain subjects, (GSS, religion, protection of A&M traditions all come to mind), they seem strangely uninformed on other

seemingly important issues.

I have to wonder if this is because these issues truly aren't being published or even discussed, or if it is that we, as a student body really don't care about anything but completing our education so that we might go out and make great sums of money. I was amazed at how little the Goodrich incident was discussed here on campus; I little realized just how large the issue had become on a state and even national scale, until I went home to Houston and found it plastered all over the papers, as well as being the subject of discussion every evening on the nightly news. Yet upon returning to A&M there was little said about the incident in The Battalion or elsewhere; friends barely discussed it and when they did the conversation always ended with, "It doesn't matter because nothing will be done anyway."

I did hear a few people mumble about disbanding the Corps, but it was carried no further than mumbling. This attitude is being taken with so many issues that I tend to believe that the students are either lazy or they just don't give a damn about anything but themselves.

I wonder about the lack of freedom of speech on this campus — the almost Soviet-like atmosphere, with the threat of swift retaliation by the campus police and even the Corps against any breakers of tradition or school rules as a backdrop.

Sure, we have a newspaper in which we may air our opinions, but why is it that the staff is appointed instead of allowing the students to decide among themselves who is best fit to run the paper?

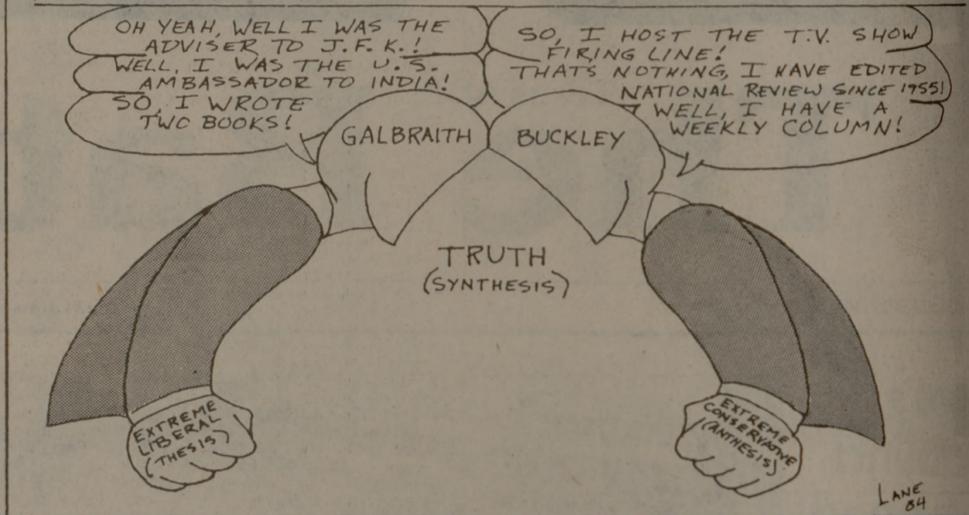
And why is so much labor being expended as well as potential energy burned up with our yearly bonfire when there are so many neighbors so close to us, in Bryan and all over Brazos County, who go cold in the winter?

And what is this upcoming beauty pageant? It seems to be a perversion of justice to provide a scholarship to someone based strictly upon their beauty, especially when there are so many very able students who might not be able to continue here for lack of funds.

For a school struggling to attain status as a world-class university, A&M seems to maintain a mighty hickish air.

Bill Sparks

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. AND JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH SQUARE OFF OCTOBER 30th AT TEXAS A&M FOR AN ELECTION COUNTDOWN DEBATE ON THE SOCIAL DESIRABILITY OF BIG GOVERNMENT!



No debate: there'll be no debate

For voters of Brazos County there will be no debate between 6th District Congressional candidates Joe Barton and Dan Kubiak. Political strategists generally advise frontrunners to stay clear of debates and Kubiak listens to his strategist. Why not? If you're a politician you'll play the game typified by a disregard for sincerity, openness and other nonsense.

As true sportsmen, candidates running for offices of U.S. President and Senate have been willing to engage in debates, setting a precedent this campaign season. President Reagan, showing as much as a 20 percent lead, accepted Mondale's offer to debate not only once but twice. Politically this decision was a bad maneuver.

Closer to home, state Senator Lloyd Doggett and Representative Phil Gramm, neither having a significant lead, chose to debate since they would address a rather heterogeneous audience of conservative, mainstream and liberal voters.

Now even closer to home — right here in this congressional district — it seems that one candidate wants to hide himself and not face a debate. Kubiak, a veteran politician is hiding himself somewhere between the National Democratic Party Platform and the conservative temperament of area voters.

If elected, Kubiak as a Democrat will go to Washington, bend over to the liberal party leadership as personified by Tip O'Neill, and then come back six years later to defend a liberal voting record. Earlier this year Phil Gramm exemplified the fact that a Democrat can not represent the interests of 6th District residents in Congress. Gramm resigned his position, ran in an election to fill the seat and was reelected to the same position as a Republican.

In the race to succeed Gramm's seat, Kubiak, as a Democrat, must overcome the stigma of having Doggett and Mondale-Ferraro running on the same ticket. Fearing that Barton would have a heyday in a debate, and score votes by associating his opponent with the standard bearers of the Democratic

Party, Kubiak's staff has placed the debate idea on the burner.

Kubiak's nonchalant behavior regarding a debate seems to me to conclude that he said no weeks ago. He has refrained from admitting it publicly, since it would be politically wise.

The politician's move would be to conduct negotiations for a debate right up to the day before election and then declare that the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

Well, it is no surprise that negotiations have been slow along for several weeks and progress is simply an illusion. Kubiak's extraordinary commitment to a debate is represented by the size of his negotiating team. It consists of a local semi-retired businessman who functions as a financial coordinator for the campaign in addition to his role as a man. Negotiators for Barton include the campaign manager, a salaried staff member of the Reagan-Gramm campaign and a non-salaried volunteer.

This poses two fundamental questions? First, who is right mind would seriously negotiate any agreement with a 1:3 disadvantage at the bargaining table? Second, who would use, as his sole negotiator, an individual who has no direct involvement in running the campaign?

A further point of evidence is that the Barton staff submitted a written debate proposal while the Kubiak representative has failed to reciprocate with a counterproposal. The official word from Kubiak headquarters is that no agreement can be signed until Barton writes a letter pledging to abide by the rules of a debate agreement. The fallacy of this is that the Barton proposal already contains a clause stating that the signers of the agreement would abide by the rules of the debate.

If elected, Kubiak will represent 6th District interests with the same deceit and insincerity that he has shown in these debate negotiations.

James Walker is a staff writer covering politics for The Battalion.

Think before voting straight ticket

With 10,000 A&M students registered to vote in Brazos County, local politics could be upset. Community residents are concerned that the student voters will vote strictly bipartisan while unfamiliar with local candidates and community issues.

Community politics are more affected by personalities than by party ideas and philosophies. Although many voters vote bipartisan in national politics, differences in party ideas and philosophies are less of an issue on the local level.

What really matters to the community voter is which candidate will do the better job, who will get the job done, what

does the record show, or if elected, will the candidate meet the community's needs.

What will be decided on Nov. 6 will affect Brazos County residents for at least the next four years.

Ironically, approximately 100 percent of the student voters will have graduated by 1988, leaving behind the politics of Brazos County. On Nov. 6, local residents will be voting for county commissioner, county sheriff, county district attorney, etc. The Texas A&M student vote could be a critical upset to the policies of Brazos County in the next four years.

Your vote counts, a conscientious vote is an informed vote. So be a conscientious voter and let the local residents decide the future of Brazos County.

Sandy Winter

In search of fine cuisine

Shocked by china and silver

I was on board plan for two full years and thought I'd seen it all. But I almost mistook the Underground Railroad for the likes of The Mansion, Tony's or The Texan.

This familiar eatery, revered for its salad and soup, was disguised, almost beyond recognition, as an elegant restaurant — with candle-lit tables; fine china and an array of silverware at each place setting; chairs bedecked in white seat covers; a wine bucket at each table (for non-alcoholic fare); suave waiters and waitresses in black and white uniform; a post-dinner finger bowl (no Ags, you don't drink it); and even (alas!) a strolling guitarist.

The four-course menu was even more uncharacteristic. It read: A Cup of Bouillon, Spring Salad with a Choice of Fine Dressings, Steamed Lobster Tail with Drawn Butter, Choice of such finery?

Each Wednesday, the department graces students and faculty members with a sumptuous Candlelight Dinner. Its purpose is two-fold, Col. Fred Dollar, food services director said: it's a special treat to show the department's grat-

Rice, Spring Garden Peas with Fresh Mushrooms, Sparkling Catawba, Napoleon.

Who would have thought the A&M

A Cup of Bouillon
Spring Salad with a Choice of Fine Dressings

Steamed Lobster Tail with Drawn Butter ...

Who would have thought the A&M Food Services Department would be capable of such finery?

Food Services Department would be capable of such finery?

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Its purpose is two-fold, Col. Fred Dollar, food services director said: it's a special treat to show the department's grat-

itude for students on the board and it's a welcome opportunity for service personnel to flex their culinary muscles, to prepare something more exotic than the standard board fare.

Dollar knows of only two schools in the country that have tried to do A&M's culinary extravaganzas. Naturally, they can't compete.

All this reiterates what we all know: the A&M staff, with an abundance of good will, endeavors to make existence more pleasant for us — even to the extent of importing South African lobster for 200 lbs. each week.

I'm sure if board students had the resources or the ability to cook, they would invite the entire food services department to dinner in reciprocal gratitude. But, a simple "thank you" have to suffice.

Katherine Hurt is a staff writer for The Battalion.

Reader's Forum
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The Battalion

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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.

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