

OPINION

Ignorance of AIDS

AIDS isn't just for gays. Heterosexuals, including women and children, are contracting the virus by non-homosexual means. Ryan White, 13, is a hemophiliac who got the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus from a blood transfusion.

White is being prohibited from attending school in the fall because Western School Corp. officials say they don't want to deal with the state health guidelines for infectious diseases.

It's understandable that many people are terrified of AIDS, a virus which is associated with homosexual activity and which has no known cure. But we cannot allow our fears to punish innocent victims of the disease.

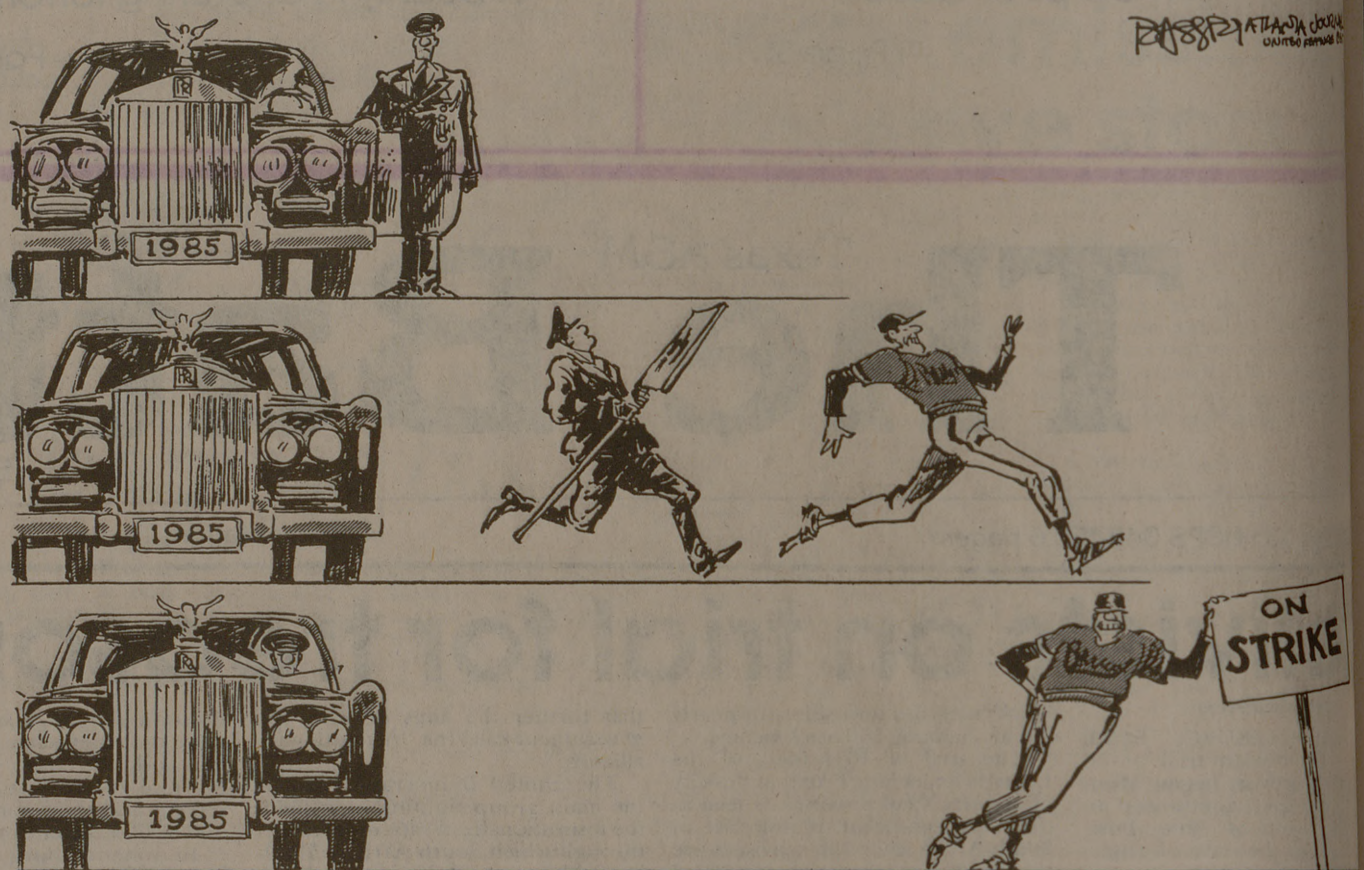
The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta says there is no evidence AIDS can be transmitted among school children or by casual contact with infected people.

The school officials are letting their fears influence their actions. They are denying White an education because of their lack of understanding in this unfortunate situation. White contracted AIDS by accident during a transfusion to fight his hemophilia. He does not deserve to be persecuted.

The actions of a paranoid few shouldn't dictate the actions of others. If officials were more informed about the disease, they might react differently.

Instead, out of ignorance, they will deny a child an education.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Mail Call

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.

If science, religion could get along

EDITOR:

I'm not sure that I completely followed Mark Lupo and Gary Barbee's analysis of Genesis in Wednesday's Batt.

However, I do agree with their main point: that modern science and the Bible are not irreconcilable.

From reading I have done in the past year, I feel that neither evolution nor creation fully explains the origin of man.

What usually happens when one idea (a thesis) and an opposing idea (an antithesis) conflict is that a compromising idea (synthesis) is proposed, which more fully explains the situation.

However, this process (Hegelian dialectic) has not taken place in the

case of the origin of man, since science and religion, the proponents of the opposing ideas, are arch-rivals.

Religion has a long history of suppressing scientific "heresy," while science has a long history of despising religious "mumbo-jumbo."

But if each would accept that the other has an entirely valid point of view, and if the two would work together, a much better understanding of existence would result.

Also, although we cannot answer God's challenge to Job concerning creation (Job 38:4); we can answer it with respect to the sea (:16), the size of the earth (:18), the polar ice caps (:22), irrigation (:25), electricity (:36), and several other aspects.

Perhaps one day we will know the details of what happened in the beginning.

Jeff Christenson
College Station

Television networks have an interesting view of morals. Dr. Ruth Westheimer talking about "Good Sex" is all right. Cathy Rigby telling us that this marvelous new thin pad is as absorbent as those clumsy old thick ones is OK.



Loren Steffy

Plugging Massengil's wonderful patented applicator is just fine.

Problems with pre-menstrual syndrome? Take one of these.

Hemorrhoids? Try this.

Diarrhea? Pepto-Bismol.

Irregularity? Metamucil, it's all natural.

During an average evening of television watching, the viewer is bombarded by advertisements for just about every kind of personal hygiene item. Only one product — contraceptives — is exempt. Dr. Ruth can get away with pushing condoms, but she can't sneak the word "contraceptives" in or she's suddenly dealing with "controversial subject matter".

The American College of Obstetri-

cians and Gynecologists has developed a public service announcement which tries to reach America's sexually active, yet sexually ignorant audience. The college says it hopes the spot will reduce the 3.3 million annual unintended pregnancies in the United States and cut down on the 1.5 million yearly abortions.

The only problem is two of the three major television networks have refused to run the ad because it contains the word (gasp!) contraceptives. NBC is reviewing the ad and has yet to give a definite answer.

The advertisement gives a toll-free number which young people can call to find out about sexual responsibility and contraception.

A spokesman for CBS said, "We do not run public service announcements of a controversial nature. This is one of them."

CBS may find the topic of contraceptives controversial, but then so is 3.3 million unintended pregnancies. With all the ruckus in the streets these days it seems 1.5 million abortions is controversial, too.

The networks can only hide behind two-faced morality for so long. It's time for America to stop saying, "Teen-agers shouldn't be having sex before they're married, so we shouldn't need to edu-

cate them about contraceptives." Obviously, young people are having premarital sex, or at least 3.3 million of them are.

It's time to put aside what should be for what is. At a rate of 3.3 million pregnancies per year, what should be becomes irrelevant. Something has to be done.

America can't stop its youth from having sex, but it can stop confusing them into acting irresponsibly. The dual message of "you shouldn't do that" and then the after-the-fact statement of "you should have taken precautions" only contributes the problem of sexual ignorance.

If we're ever going to decrease the unintentional pregnancy rate and the abortion rate, we must educate, not condemn, the young people in this country. The ACOG ad offers a helping hand to those teen-agers bound to become another statistic.

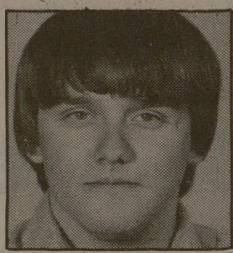
It's time for the major television networks to come down off their moral high horses and help to curb this "controversial" problem. The problem of 3.3 million unintentional pregnancies won't go away, no matter how hard television networks try to ignore it.

Loren Steffy is a junior journalism major and the Opinion Page Editor for The Battalion.

Living in the shadow of a mushroom cloud

Today is August 6, 1985. On this day I want to ask you a question. How are we going to live with the bomb?

On August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber called "Enola Gay" dropped "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan. "Little Boy" was the first atomic bomb. Some 70,000 people died in the blast, many others



Karl Pallmeyer

died later due to radiation sickness. Three days later, another bomber, "Bock's Car," dropped "Fat Man" on Nagasaki. About 74,000 people died because of that atomic bomb.

In the history of our planet only two atomic bombs have been used in war. It was 40 years ago today when the first atomic bomb was used in war. Friday will be the 40th anniversary of the day the last atomic bomb was used in war. During those 40 years the bomb has hung over us like the sword of Damocles, threatening to fall and annihilate the world.

The American scientists completed their bomb in 1945. Two years later the Soviets exploded their bomb. Before long several other countries also developed the bomb. Through the United States, all NATO countries have a nuclear ally on their side. Through the Soviet Union, all Warsaw Pact nations have a nuclear ally on their side. Almost every country, excluding some Third World countries, either have the bomb or are allied with some country that does.

Over the past 40 years, tons of treaties have been signed to limit the threat of nuclear war. These treaties have been ineffective and now the world's nuclear arsenal has grown to the point where there are enough bombs to kill every man, woman and child at least 70 times.

Whenever one side proposes a treaty to stop production or limit the number of nuclear weapons, the other side refuses to sign saying the treaty is nothing but an attempt to gain a nuclear advantage. Most recently the Soviets said they would stop underground testing of nuclear weapons beginning today. The Soviets asked the United States to do the same as sign the two countries could work together to solve the nuclear problem.

We refused saying the Soviets would take advantage of the situation. In the past the Soviets have refused to sign the treaties we have proposed saying that we would take advantage of the situation.

At this moment, Soviet missiles with nuclear warheads are aimed and ready to be launched at Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and every other major city in the

United States. On the other hand, U.S. missiles with nuclear warheads are aimed and ready to be launched at Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Novosibirsk and every other major city in the Soviet Union. These missiles can destroy these and every other city in the world. The fallout from this destruction will be enough to kill just about everybody who wasn't killed in the blasts. The entire world could look like Hiroshima and Nagasaki did 40 years ago.

It's now 40 years later. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed and nothing can bring them back. "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" cannot be put back in the bombers. "Enola Gay" and "Bock's Car" cannot be recalled. J. Robert Oppenheimer and the other scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project cannot un-invent the bomb. Albert Einstein cannot un-think the theories that led to bomb. Mankind cannot un-learn the principles of atomic physics that made the bomb possible. We can't argue about what happened before because we can't change the past. We have to find an answer for the present.

Star Wars is not the answer. Even if it worked it would soon become useless. The Soviets would develop an anti-Star Wars device. The United States would develop an anti-anti-Star Wars device. The Soviets would develop an anti-anti-anti-Star Wars device. And so on, and so forth, and so on and so forth. Star Wars is not the answer, it only complicates the question.

The question still stands. How are we going to live with the bomb?

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