

Opinion

Denying health care not justified

The A.P. Beutel Health Center recently cut physical examinations and birth control prescriptions from its services to students. Director Claude Goswick says the center's seven physicians see 500 students a day. Therefore, he says, they don't have the time or manpower to provide routine services, such as birth control prescriptions.

There is no question the health center personnel are understaffed and overworked. But that doesn't justify denying a service to students who pay a health fee and expect health care from their campus health center.

There are more than 14,000 women attending Texas A&M who require gynecological exams at least once a year. (Doctors recommend that women over 18 see a gynecologist once a year to check for problems such as cervical cancer.) Women who attend A&M for four years will need to see a gynecologist at least four times during that period.

Yet such an important service is deemed routine and therefore not important enough to provide.

Goswick says the physicians have their hands full treating students' injuries and illnesses. In other words, it seems the physicians are more interested in treating students after they are sick or hurt rather than practicing preventive medicine.

Some physicians at the health center prefer not to give birth control prescriptions, Goswick says. It would be unfair to force a doctor to provide a service against his wishes, but it also is unfair to deny women gynecological exams. There should be someone on the health center staff who will provide such services.

Goswick says money is available to hire more physicians; there just aren't any physicians available for hire right now. But the answer to this problem is not merely to cut back the workload of the existing number of physicians. The answer is actively seeking physicians to meet the demand.

This University recruits athletes, Nobel laureates, professors, chancellors. Why not recruit physicians?

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.

Can't police get wet?

EDITOR:

During the cold weather and downpour of rain Sunday, a young lady asked me if I would help her jump start her car in the Commons lot. While we were both outside getting wet, she told me that she had called the Campus Police so that they might help her jump start her car. The University Police informed the young lady that they would be happy to help her after it stopped raining. No thanks to the University Police, I got the car started. I wasn't aware the University Police melted when they got wet. Perhaps if the young lady wanted prompt service from our "professional" police department, she should have illegally parked her car in a staff lot!

Matthew K. Davis '86

alluding to the physical differences between the sexes.

Obviously if the Ags played against a group of women the game would be ridiculous; it would be a farce. Women just do not have the strength or athletic ability that men have (sorry, Laurie, it's a fact of life). These differences do not lessen the value of the accomplishments that women have made or the awareness that people have of these accomplishments. Men and women can never be equal in all respects: genetics, if not society, has dictated this fact. Women can, however, be the intellectual equals of men; maybe they should stop worrying about being discriminated against and concern themselves with achieving their potential.

Lisa Stelly '86

Policy short-sighted

EDITOR:

I feel the new policy of the A.P. Beutel Health Center — no longer providing physical examinations or prescriptions for birth control — is short-sighted and discriminatory. Unwanted pregnancy is a health risk for all sexually active students, one that is easy and relatively cheap to prevent. The disapproval of the prescribing physician does not eliminate the health risk and should not be allowed to interfere with the (preventive) treatment.

Further, because birth control is the responsibility of couples rather than "the woman's" problem, this policy discriminates against all sexually active students. The health center's cost-cutting decision makes about as much sense as cutting costs by refusing to treat sports injuries. After all, most sports injuries could be avoided simply by eliminating sports.

I urge the administration of the health center to review this policy and find out other ways to cut costs.

Anne Raymond
Assistant Professor, Geology

Yell not really sexist

EDITOR:

I am writing in reply to Laurie Human's letter on Sept. 24 concerning what she termed the "chauvanistic comments" of the yell leaders. I think that in suggesting that the Aggies should "make Northeast Louisiana look like a bunch of women" the yell leaders were

Gandhi was 'just what the doctor ordered'

Winston Churchill called him "the half-naked fakir" — and as far as Churchill was concerned, there was no love lost between them. Subhas Bose, the ardent advocate of the seditious overthrow of British imperialism in India, blew hot and cold over "the fakir's" means of achieving Indian independence.

Albert Einstein said of him, "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this, in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk."

Millions of poor Indians loved him for his sheer simplicity and transparent, yet powerful, personality. He said of himself, "People have described me as a saint trying to be a politician, but the truth is the other way around."

His life was a message — it still is, for those who want one — a struggle, full of mistakes, trials and tribulations. His life was a struggle for realizing the quintessence of that great assertion of the Upanishads (Indian scriptures) that "Truth alone triumphs, never untruth."

Gandhi applied "abstract" and "subtle" philosophy to simple acts of daily life. In his simplicity lies his greatness. He said, "I have nothing new to teach

the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as the hills. All I have done is try experiments in both on as vast a scale as I could. In doing so, I have sometimes erred and learned by my errors. Life and its problems have become to me so many experiments in the practice of truth and non-violence. . . ."

Today marks this fascinating man's 116th birthday. "Mahatma" Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is now practically a household word for millions who never before had heard of him — thanks to that powerful movie by Sir Richard Attenborough.

In his time, he was "just what the doctor ordered" to a people ravaged by hatred, war, devastation and lack of a sense of purpose in life. On this day, thought for some of the values he stood for is worth the effort. What better homage to can be paid to a man who, by these values that he stood for, shook a mighty empire to its roots? What better example to emulate than a man who sought truth and achieved a high degree of success?

He was a man, not a divine incarnation. He failed many times and in many ways. But he faced truth and made it a part of himself.

He identified himself with the oppressed and the weak and fought for their liberation. In this process, he held a mirror to the Indian nation, and in fact to the world, and showed India its weaknesses — untouchability, inequity, oppression, and disunity.

In the fight he also demonstrated in-

dia's strength and how India could use it to become great. To help the poor, he believed, he must be one among them. Only by living their lives could he truly know suffering.

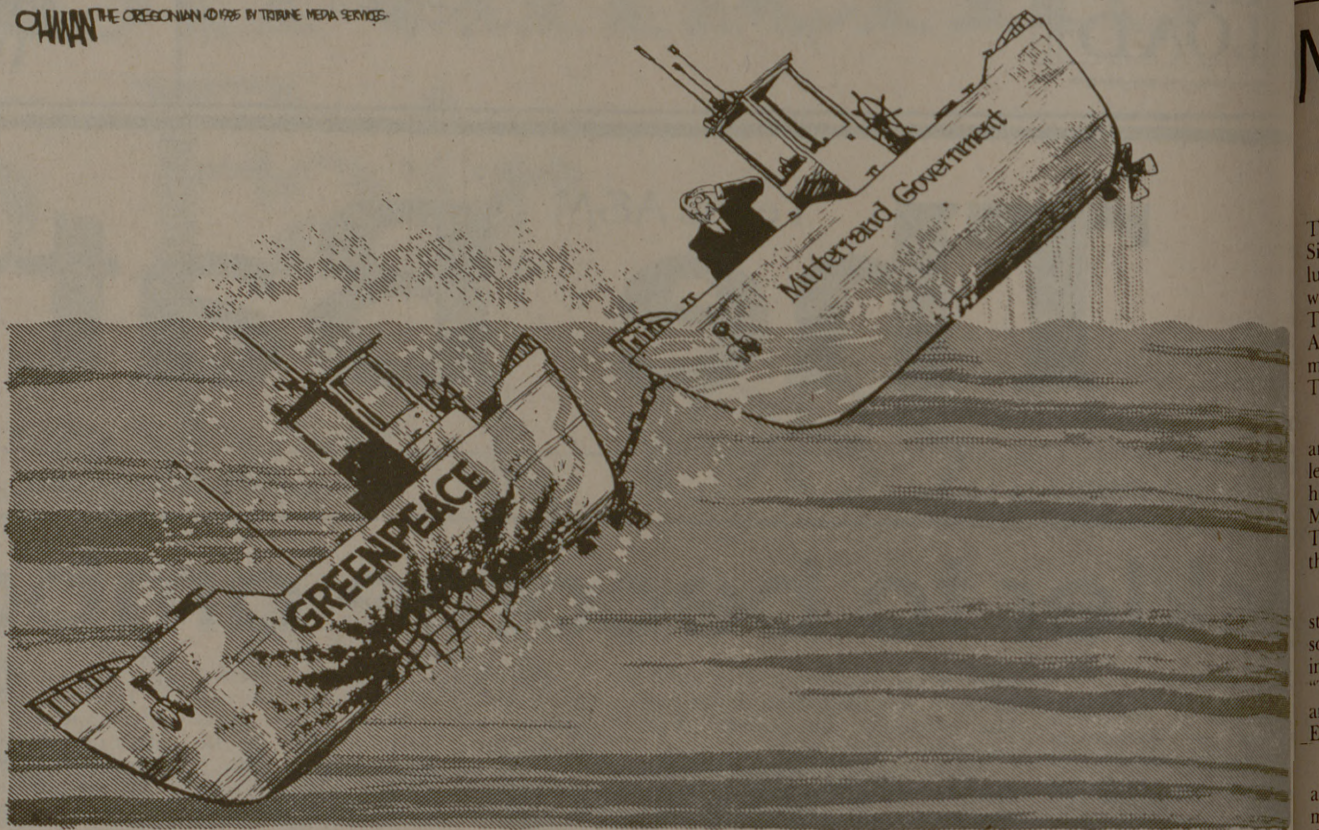
Part of his fascinating personality was his universalism. His struggle for the unification of the Hindus and Moslems in India was a practical demonstration of this universalism. He neatly summed up his universalism saying, "I am a Hindu, and a Moslem, and a Christian and a Jew — so is each one of you." What better thought to put into practice in daily life in interacting with our fellow humans?

He is not being deified here, which is precisely the point. He was a seeker who sought with all his heart and soul. He was not born extraordinary. As a child, he was not extraordinary. He became extraordinary. This is an example of the strength of the divine in man.

For those who don't like theistic overtones, the example is a demonstration of man's inherent capacity to reach great heights by dint of hard work. In his words, "I have not the shadow of a doubt that any man or woman can achieve what I have, if he or she would make the same effort and cultivate the same hope and faith."

He was an example of what each one of us can be, if we want to be. Indeed, he was a working model of the prayer that sages of India sang in the hoary past and many do today.

"From untruth, lead me unto truth.
"From darkness, lead me unto light."



Why go the extra miles when the U.S. has it all?

Canada. What winding secrets it holds. From College Station, that far away country almost fades away like the horizon in a haze.



Camille Brown

On my flight home from Toronto, I couldn't help writing down my thoughts about this centuries-old culture I'd just discovered.

Now I can look back at the notes I scribbled on my People's Express complimentary throw-up bag and begin to understand the complexities of that distant country about which so many Texans have misconceptions.

Canada is a long drive from College Station. Why go the extra miles when Texans can get anything Canada offers in the United States?

If we want snow, we go to Colorado. If we want beach we go to Padre Island. Big cities? Dallas or Houston. Big bodies of water? The Gulf.

Why go to Canada, then, unless you feel the urge to tame the wilderness in a parka?

Well, Canada is more than Campground Heaven. And believe it or not, it's not part of the United States.

Canada has similar, but nonetheless separate, currency, a different form of government, socialized medicine and among other things a socialized beer industry.

From a Texan's perspective, Canada

is big but too far away to mean much. But the closer a Texan gets to Canada, the more he should realize how important it is to know something about it.

Lake Ontario was my first introduction to Canada. It's one of the smallest of the Great Lakes, but at ground level it looks at least as big as the Gulf of Mexico.

Lake Texoma can't compare.

The lake comes with seagulls, beaches and huge cargo ships, but not inexpensive seafood. I had to remind myself the lake wasn't an ocean.

Right on the lake is Toronto, the Safe City. But some of the characters walking along the streets seem to disprove that claim. Purple- and green-haired punk people strut down the busy streets. Some imitate the Clash, Madonna or the Crue, some dress up like the living dead. I hear the new trend is the Amadeus look.

Second-hand clothing shops there are as common as 7-11 stores are here. Wild haircuts and weird clothes are accepted. Those who flaunt them get the attention they strive for on the subways or walking along the street.

In Toronto, unlike Dallas or Houston, the rich, poor, punks and preppies are thrown together every day on the subways. Subways ignore social status — there are no first class seats. So in Toronto, when you want to show off prosperity, you buy expensive clothes. Whereas in Dallas, the well-to-do buy expensive cars.

For 90 Canadian cents, a suburbanite can travel by Go-train, subway, streetcar

and bus to get to any part of the city really needs to own a car, and teenagers don't get a license.

The Cottage Country is not far from a two hour drive north delivers the dweller to the land of many castles. Anybody who is worth beans has a cottage by one of the beautiful lakes up north. The highway to Cottage Country on a weekend is like 50 traffic in Texas.

Canadians look like Americans. Canadian minds set American standards far away as possible. A Canadian sulted if he's accidentally called American.

Sure, the United States and Canada are friends if not for the only way that it would be too much of a hassle we weren't. Canadians won't fight, we don't attack them. But Canadians we're encroaching, and this threat be the root of some anti-American sentiments. No matter if the issue is resources or the environment, Canadians seem to disagree with the American way of dealing with it.

My short exposure to Canadian culture was an eye opener. I pointed out how little Texans know about this country. The people, the cities, the attitudes are unlike anything found in the United States. Most people know Canada for its beauty, more people should realize that real riches are found in its culture.

Besides, they have salt and nuts chips.

Camille Brown is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

"From mortality, lead me unto mortality."

Chandra S. Balachandran is graduate student at the Biosystems Research Center.

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