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# Opinion

# Birth control no fairy tale

Once upon a time there was Little Aggie Rid-ing Hood. She was very innocent and ven her darkest, scariest nightmares did not involve sex. In fact, she didn't even know what the

word meant.

But one day her hormones turned into a big wolf, and her hidden desires at the best of her. She went to find birth control.

Camille

Brown

No one ever talked about this subject in the Aggie Forest, so she didn't know e to find birth control. But she got in the nerve and finally went to the Ag-Chine. When she got there she saw a d told her of a place just outside of Vggie Forest where she could get isty thing, birth control. So Aggie g Hood, convinced she was abnordecided to forget about birth control, because it only caused her embarras-

and Little Aggie Riding Hood grew up and had lots of children, but did not happily ever after because she alays thought she was weird.

This tale is not as far-fetched as it

There is a drama that has been brewing on campus, and it has a potent end-It concerns birth control services that are far from adequate and inconsis-offered by A&M's A.P. Beutel ealth Center

The story began when the health cencame under fire for discontinuing et control services. Headlines and groups were screaming dis-

a gesture that was sure to take the heat

The health center appeased its attackers by hiring a doctor, enabling the center to reinstate the birth control service they had offered before a September cutback in services.

But the doctor they hired was a pediatrician, not a gynecologist. So while everyone thinks something has been done, still no significant step has been taken to ensure adequate health care for women.

The health center restored the routine checkups that it had previously offered, but the checkups available for women on campus have never been up to par. Reinstating these checkups is no way to improve health services.

Three problems remain.

First, the health center's services for women have been restored to their original inadequate level. Second, people think the issue is over, when they should realize the health center is not meeting the needs of all students. And third, no improvements can be made until Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the center, changes his attitude that only illnesses and injuries should be treated at the health center.

With this prescriptive attitude, Goswick is missing the point. A health center should be concerned for the health needs of students, and counting physical exams and birth control services as unnecessary is simply naive.

It's just as important to prevent a problem before it occurs, as it is to treat a problem after it has settled in.

Goswick has mentioned in previous articles that giving physical exams is a favor his physicians perform for stu-dents. Some women have gone into the

crimination against women. The health center to refill a perscription of birth center's director responded quickly with control pills, only to be refused treatment by a doctor who claimed it was against his morals to treat her. And on top of that, Goswick said the health center often refers students to Planned Parenthood, where they can get birth control counseling and services for a nominal fee.

Goswick's administration of birth control at the health center is outrageous and should never have been allowed to get this far unscathed. Why has no one at the University questioned this problem before?

Most major colleges not only offer gynecological care for women, but counseling services as well.

A birth control article in College Woman magazine says, "Once inside (the campus health center), you will find not only information and medical service, but also some needed reassurance. Most campus health centers provide the pill, diaphragm, IUD, information on other methods and as much free counseling as you need.'

But not at A&M.

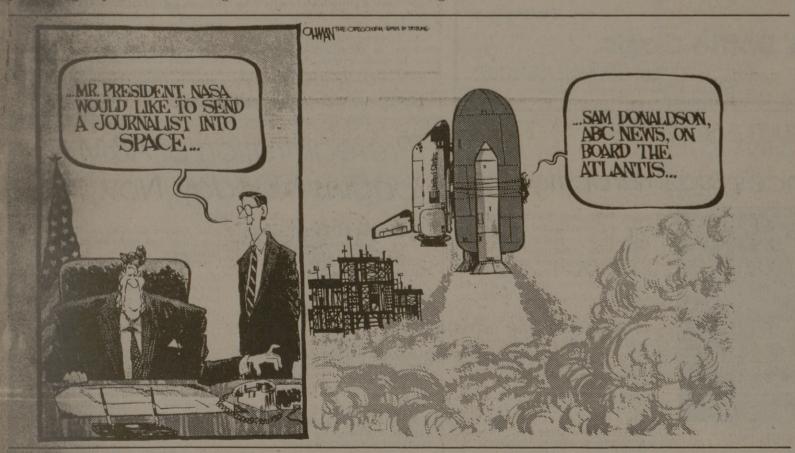
An Aggie who musters enough courage to ask sometimes embarrassing questions about birth control is referred to an off-campus clinic.

There's no moral to this tale, but there is a bottom line.

Health care does not exclude birth control. If the campus health center can't accommodate this area of health care, its name should be the illness and injury center.

When the A.P. Beutel Health Center can offer health care, then it deserves to be called the campus health center.

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



Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staffrest right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephonen the writer

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### Small car 'lifted'

**Mail Call** 

#### EDITOR:

A few weeks ago, Oct. 3 to be exact, a criminal injustice was mitted against my car. It is a small car and thus, lightweight. My car parked parallel on Coke Street. Oct. 5, my car was not where I parked assumed it had been stolen.

This, of course, sent me into a state of panic. I immediately phase the campus police to find that my car had been towed. Why? It was no grass, up beside a building . . . on Lamar Street!

OK, that was a real cute joke, Ags ---whomever you are. I (or lin say my parents) had to pay \$40 to get my car back. Not to mention ing two classes. Maybe you thought you were playing a harmless pra but I take care of my car, and I thought you were playing a hadhespear guess I was wrong. Hey, Aggies, this type of thing can be expected other schools, but not Texas A&M. Grow up a little guys, OK?

**Suzanne Pruitt** Class of '89

#### A generic University?

EDITOR:

Some things have been going on at Texas A&M lately that I finding tty upsetting. While walking across campus the other day, I sawagm of civilians poking fun at a group of cadets (after they were a earshot, I might add). And I've seen some letters in the paper with gestions for changes I could not believe

No Corps of Cadets? A bar in the Memorial Student Center? are we trying to do, make A&M like every other college in the nation

I am aware of the anti-Corps feeling among some people on can and I would like to express my disapproval of the way the cadets and ing treated. I have it straight from a cadet that the people in the Com not want to be treated any better than any one else on campus. But have they done to deserve being treated worse?

They have activities and traditions that seem strange to non-Or students, but there are plenty of other people on campus who are some pretty strange things, too! (And I find myself wonderingifter ple who are complaining the loudest could even make it in the Com Corps members also get some special privileges, but they work had earn those privileges. They created a lot of those privileges. And not

is forcing any civilian student to take part in anything the Corps doe. The cadets were the sum of A&M until last couple of decades a they are the ones who made the unique school we are enjoying w They are backbone of our traditions and that unquenchable Aggest that distinguishes us from Louisiana or Alabama or Houston or the versity of Texas. Without the team effort of the Texas A&M Corps dets, and the A&M student body, all of that will be lost.

Speaking of traditions brings me to my second point - the sug tion of a bar in the MSC. Is your grandmother's house not how enough because she does not serve beer or whiskey? The MSC isour ing room, a place of relaxation and togetherness, a place where even can feel comfortable. Put a bar in there and not only will it be and rowdy place, next year most underclassmen won't even be able tot the MSC. Besides which, it is a memorial! Do you often advocate have party in a war memorial?

For those of you who don't like A&M the way it is, who wantaba the lounge, swinging party life, and a non-military atmosphere, there simple enough solution . . . Go to t.u.

Stephanie A. Hillard

# Reagan trips over his own tongue

President Reagan = Michael as stumbled over own words lately Putzel to deal <u>AP News Analysis</u>

issues ranging from arms control to apartheid.

Whether attributable to fatigue, carelessness or mere inattention to detail, the president's statements have prompted enough concern that he himell has felt compelled to try to clarify them. And his aides, who long ago stopped trying to correct factual errors in Reagan's impromptu remarks, have

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more than once been left without an explanation of what the president was talking about.

During Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign and early in his first term, Democratic opponents and many news reports challenged Reagan's use of supposed facts that just didn't check out. Assigning "truth squads" to verify numbers became standard practice after the president's news conferences.

The White House eventually stopped responding to suggestions Reagan had made a mistake on this or that.

In recent weeks, however, Reagan has made some gaffes even he felt compelled to correct.

Two weeks after he told an interviewer in August that South Africans "have eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country," he publicly apologized, saying he "carelessly gave the impression" that he believed segregation had been eliminated in the white-ruled nation.

At a news conference two weeks later, Reagan said that, "in spite of some of the misinformation that has been spread around, the United States is still well behind the Soviet Union in literally every kind of offensive weapon - both conventional and in the strategic weapons.

Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, an influential Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee who usually supports the administration on defense issues, said that claim of total Soviet military superiority was "not right."

Tennessee to promote an overhaul of the income tax system, Reagan was asked about reports the Soviets were proposing a 40-percent reduction in nuclear weapons and replied he'd like to see a plan for even larger cuts than that.

Upon leaving Knoxville, he stopped to tell reporters he "was misunderstood in trying to call an answer" to them earlier in the day.

It was in a similar question-and-answer exchange on the run in Chicago on Oct. 10, when said he would be willing for the Palestine Liberation Organization to try the pirates who murdered American tourist Leon Klinghoffer.

Again, he reappeared later to tell reorters he had not meant to say that; he should have said they could only be brought to justice by the authorities of a sovereign nation.

Reagan almost always speaks from a prepared text when appearing before an outside group. But when he gets tired, he may stray from his text, as he did on the last leg of a 13-hour, 4,200mile trip last week.

At a routine fund-raiser in Milwaukee, the president launched into a story about his ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, and how the envoy persuaded Chinese leaders to abandon their opposition to his "Star Wars" nuclear defense plan.

For three consecutive days afterward, Reagan's spokesmen were asked whether the event Reagan described was true. For three days, the spokesmen had no reply.

Michael Putzel is a White House corre-Just a few days later, during a trip to spondent for The Associated Press.

## **Uninvited guests**

#### EDITOR:

I was in my room Monday night talking to my friend when we we interrupted by this rude resident of Moses Hall collecting money chainsaw and dance. Unfortunately, my door was not locked but slightly ajar. He knocked on my door and before I had time to walk to the door and answer, he barged into my room. He then proceed tell us he was collecting one dollar from every girl in this dom in chainsaw and a dance in which all girls would be admitted free.

First off, I don't appreciate this stranger bursting into my room out my consent, especially since I never allow anyone I don't know my room. And second, the only time I hear of a minimum dollar and for a donation is in politics where the donator receives somethingin change for his money —usually a dinner. If my dollar is an exchange this "all girls free" dance, then this dance is not worth attending.

Next time, be considerate of others and remember a donation shu not have a dollar sign on it. A donation is a gift.

**Cheryl Rayner** 

#### Think about Hance

#### EDITOR:

Those of you who are native residents of Texas probably know the Department of Corrections is having problems with overcom prisons. For those of you who are not native residents, believement

Three Saturdays ago, while you were cheering on the football against TCU, a friend and I were traveling back from Austin along 820 when my Ford experienced difficulties. What else could my and I do but lock the doors and walk to a service station? Unforum these difficulties occurred in the worst part of Fort Worth, the east and we soon became the victims of aggravated assault. Within tens onds, we were robbed of our wallets and watches, not to mention the and money spent to get a new SMU I.D. card and another drives cense

We thank God for our lives. But we cannot thank Gov. Mark especially if the man who threatened our lives already had served and in prison. You see, White's idea of handling the prison situation st criminals go free on probation for "good behavior." I won't say and more about this policy of his; I'll let it speak for itself.

However, I would like to comment on former Rep. Kent Hampoint of view concerning the prison issue. Hance has said, "we'reput bly going to have to face up to the fact that we're going to have 100 more prisons." If faced with the choice of either constructing newp or releasing prisoners because of lack of space, I'd rather haven kept behind bars. Wouldn't you agree? Kent Hance does, and to reason and many others I'd like to see him elected Governor of Tea

Think seriously. Crime can happen to anyone (it did to my friend me), but it doesn't have to happen. A strong deterrent, such as an ass long prison sentence, will help prevent crime before it happens White refusing to build new prisons, over 10,000 criminals will be leased withing the next two years. Think seriously about this issue then think seriously about Kent Hance.

Jeff Turner