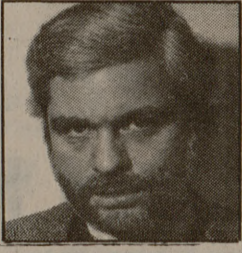


Opinion

The real victim of drug wars

If at first you don't succeed, learn nothing from the experience and do the whole thing again — in a bigger way, if possible. This seems to be the administration's rubber stamp when it comes to handling the drug crisis. Having found itself unable to staunch the flow of drugs into the United States, it now thinks it can do it at the source. The cavalry's been sent to Bolivia.



Richard Cohen

there too much coastline to patrol, but dope smugglers are not dopes. When Florida got hot, they moved to Louisiana and Texas, corrupting local law-enforcement authorities along the way. They can always keep going. They have going for them an almost-endless coastline and an insatiable market. No matter. On to Bolivia.

But the South American nation is Florida in spades. If the administration thought it saw official corruption in the United States then, to paraphrase the late Al Jolson, it "ain't seen nothing yet." Already, the first joint operation was tipped to the press. A previous operation, launched by the Bolivians in 1984, was tipped to the traffickers. A strike into the Chapare region, where about one quarter of the world's coca (from which cocaine is made) is grown, came up empty-handed. Bolivia tried another raid, with the same results. As Kurt Vonnegut would say, "and so it goes."

Naturally, word of the top-secret information surfaced in the Bolivian press and reluctantly was confirmed by the U.S. Embassy in La Paz: "U.S. helicopters and U.S. personnel have been sent to Bolivia at the request of the Bolivian government to provide transportation support to Bolivian civil authorities." The helicopters are reported to number six, the personnel about 140 and the chances of their success about nil.

The field marshal of Operation Dope is Vice President George Bush. He is the same George Bush who is in nominal charge of the government task force that is supposed to interdict drugs on their way to Florida. The success of that operation is evident on the streets of America: We are experiencing an epidemic of cocaine abuse.

The lessons of the Florida operation have been lost on the Reagan administration. Of course, more and more cocaine is coming into the country — up by over 100 tons since 1980. Not only is

In fact, it goes the same way in this country. There are regions here — northern California, for example — where marijuana was grown illegally for years. In some regions, it still is and it takes only the most determined government effort to put the growers out of business. If that is the case here, consider the odds of achieving success in Bolivia. For many peasants, coca is their cash crop and in some regions, the production of cocaine is the chief industry.

There is more than a good chance that the administration's Bolivian Bust is doomed for failure. But the real target of operation appears not to be the Bolivian drug industry, but American public

opinion. The death of Maryland basketball star Len Bias and the resulting publicity about widespread drug abuse has put this vocally anti-drug administration on the spot. Do something, it is urged.

And so it has. But in doing so, it has introduced American troops into a foreign country where, by proxy or otherwise, they will make war against the local people. Some of them, for sure, will be drug dealers. But, inescapably, some will not. Even in the United States, innocent people get arrested and, sometimes, killed in drug raids. If you don't think the same thing will happen in Bolivia you must believe that that country is more efficient than our own.

Moreover, the president has obscured the line between military and civilian authority. Law enforcement in this country is a civilian concern. That is the way we like it — the way our laws and traditions would have it. Now, though, the president is using the military as a posse — to chase drug traffickers in distant Bolivia. An administration that is quick to respond militarily to crises that should be handled otherwise has crashed through a significant barrier.

It could be argued that the administration has taken an acceptable risk if, in the end, Bolivian cocaine was eradicated. But the chances of that are slim; dealers and growers simply will move their operation. Meanwhile, American troops are where they do not belong, fighting a war in Bolivia that cannot even be won at home. Usually, it is truth that is war's first casualty. In the war on drugs, it appears to be common sense.

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Mail Call

Cure by raids and enlightenment

EDITOR:

While I agree with Mark Ude's recent assessment that the drug culture is firmly entrenched economically in South America, I take issue with his pronouncement that "The only avenue for success (in combating the drug problem) lies with . . . eradicating the present level of drug use in this country (i.e. the United States)."

True enough, a few raids into Bolivia will not thwart an entire industry no more than a single attack on Libya will eradicate terrorism. Any success toward this issue will be the product of a policy which attacks the war on several fronts, including raids at the source as well as enlightenment at the terminus.

Glenn Streiff

Bolivian clarifications

EDITOR:

We would like to make a correction to the column "Bolivian drug raids: cure for U.S. addiction," written by Mark Ude and appearing in *The Battalion* on Wednesday.

Being Bolivians, it is not easy for us to be associated with the cocaine problem. Nevertheless, we found the column courageous and objective.

However his sources of information are incorrect. The column states there are 6.5 million drug-related jobs in Bolivia, while — according to recent reports — the entire population barely reaches 6 million. This obviously demonstrates the invalidity of his statement.

Carlos Miranda
Vice President, Bolivian Student Association
Manfred Ledermann, Secretary

The other viewpoint

EDITOR:

I just read Karl Pallmeyer's article in Thursday's *Battalion*. I have read several other articles of his and noticed that he consistently has a narrow, one-sided point of view. He reminds me of a person who goes to a party with the attitude that he's not going to have any fun. He would stand around by himself and complain about everything he can think up, instead of enjoying the good times around him.

I agree that all aspects of people's opinions should be made known to the public, but Pallmeyer is abusing his position on *The Battalion* staff by consistently airing his one-sided views.

Besides all that, he is short, fat and he dresses like a dork.

John C. Martin '86

The worth of archery

EDITOR:

As one of the three basic discoveries that led mankind out of the caves and into civilization — archery — which was once a livelihood, has grown into an ultra-modern sport. And it is that sport that the Texas A&M Archery Team strives to master.

The most recent tournament the team participated in was held July 12. It seems a shame that there was no school support to accompany the participating members. Does *The Battalion* not feel archery as worthy as football, baseball or basketball?

To become an accomplished archer, one must be willing to devote a considerable amount of his mental and physical energy, not to mention time and money. Archery asks as much of its "players" as does any other sport. Why should it not be recognized? Is it not a school sponsored activity?

When one of the members was asked why he was willing to give so much of himself to the sport, he replied ". . . for the glory." What "glory" does this man have to look forward to?

The team members pay their own tournament expenses and are expected to! There is no "glory" in that. If these people are willing to give 101 percent of themselves to their school, should we not be willing to give them our support in as many ways as possible?

K. Freeman

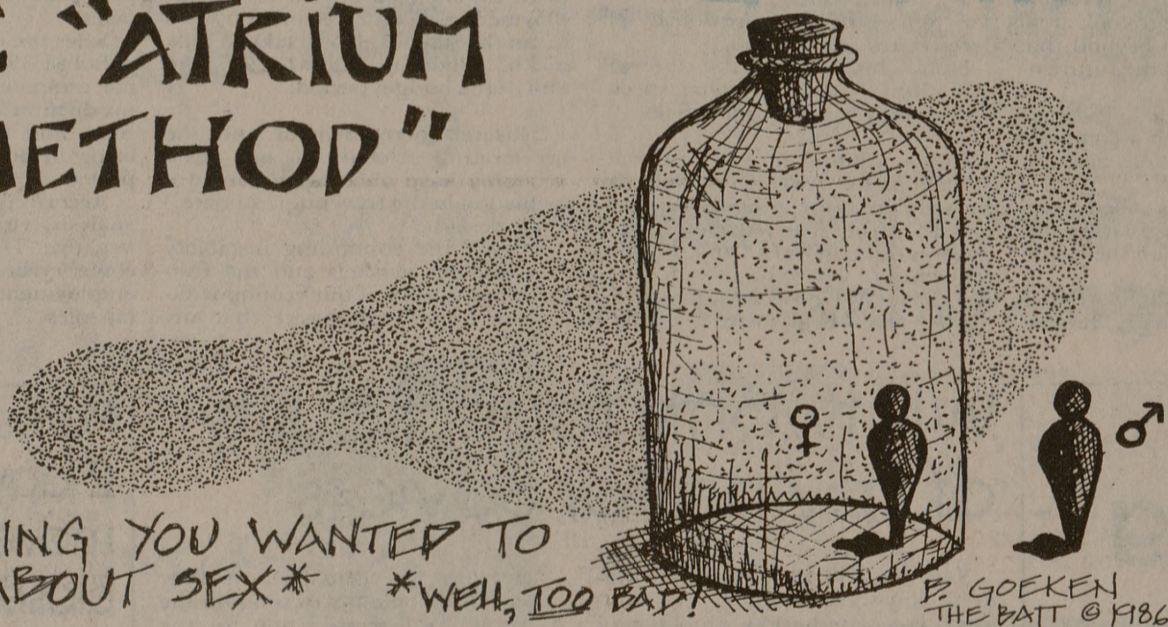
EDITOR'S NOTE: Yes, archery and the other sports clubs deserve our support. Unfortunately, these sports take a back seat to the "more popular" varsity sports during the school year, and *The Battalion* sports department has been understaffed to adequately cover the sports clubs. However, we are attempting to correct the problem and provide coverage on these less known — but deserving of recognition — sports.

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.

SEX EDUCATION:

THE "ATRIUM METHOD"

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX* *WELL, TOO BAD!



B. GOEKEN THE BATT @ 1986

Sex education programs lack quality information

What would you say if I told you about this new revolutionary high school drug program where students are taught how to use drugs. The philosophy behind it is that "kids are

Mike Foorde
Guest Columnist

going to use drugs anyway, so the school is just going to tell them how to do it."

The school starts by having seminars on how to freebase cocaine and where to get "crack" at the lowest prices. Then it will have courses that show the finer points of gardening your own marijuana plants and producing heroine in your own laboratory. Phase three of the new plan calls for in-school clinics where students will be able, without the parent's consent, to obtain hypodermic needles, water pipes and snorting straws to avoid getting any of the dirty "street" variety. Furthermore, these new drug education programs will be going into effect all over the country starting with your own hometown high school.

Who could conceive such an idiotic and, thankfully, fictitious plan? Who? The same people who are right now devising the sex education programs in high schools all across the nation.

"Education," proponents of these programs say, "is the key to awareness about sex, and therefore, responsible choices on behalf of the kids today." As an education major, I can appreciate that education is important for people to make the right decision, but the question lies in what kind and how much education is needed.

The problem with today's sex educa-

tion programs is not the quantity of education, but rather the quality of information that is being taught to our youth.

Author and counselor Dr. Tim LaHaye writes in his book *The Act of Marriage* that in reality it takes about six hours for him to discuss with a couple about to get married everything they need to know about sex. The rest they can have the pleasure to discover on their own, by doing.

In spite of this, junior and high school curricula are being designed with semesters of courses about the subject of human sexuality. More and more these courses cover the whole gamut of today's sexual options, including various techniques. This is certainly excessive, especially in the case of high school teen-agers. The biology of human sexuality can be covered more than adequately for the high school level in about one week of regular class time.

The second major flaw of these excessive sex education programs is what they teach. Sexual behavior is being taught to high school students many times without regard to traditional moral standards, or even worse, with a completely new immoral standard.

Many of these programs teach that pre- and extra marital sex is all right, masturbation is encouraged as a "heal-

thy" practice, even deviant sexual habits such as homosexuality and bestiality are passed off as "normal alternate lifestyles."

This is what is dangerous. To teach kids about sex without giving them a standard to govern their behavior is like showing them how to use guns and hand grenades, but not telling them how and when to use them. It is easy to see how this is crazy using our fictitious drug example, yet some schools have started their own sex clinics, making contraceptives and other sexual devices available to kids at school. Even Secretary of Education William J. Bennett agrees that this teaches children that according to adults, promiscuity is OK as long as you are responsible (i.e. don't get pregnant).

This is the worst fallacy of them all. Pregnancy is only one of many tragic outcomes of teen-age promiscuity. The sex education supporters point to a few mildly successful programs where they actually were able to reduce the amount of teen-age pregnancies and delay the average first sexual encounter.

These results are at best encouraging, but they tend to ignore the overwhelming statistics. Namely that in spite of massive education programs teen-age pregnancies are up about 125 percent from 15 years ago, and this doesn't take

into account the tens of thousands of abortions. The cases of teen-age venereal disease are soaring, not to mention the tremendous emotional and spiritual damage a sexual relationship can cause a young person.

Teen psychiatrists also report that teen-age population is suffering from an extremely guilty conscience stemming from, among other things, the extreme sexual involvement. This helps explain the 16,000 teen-age suicides that tempt daily. Naturally, this happens because teens are in an emotional, physical pressure cooker that they are not designed or equipped to handle. Obviously, this "anything goes" philosophy of teaching teen-agers about sex is failing bitterly.

Sex education primarily should be the responsibility of the parents, the church and finally, if at all, the school. Children should be taught that the sexual revolution is over. We should And wouldn't it be really radical and revolutionary if after the teen-agers were taught basic biology, they were taught that sex is a beautiful experience that God designed to be enjoyed in the context of marriage? Any other option has and always will lead to eventual disaster.

Mike Foorde is a senior education major and president of the A&M chapter of Americans for a Biblical Government.

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