

Opinion

Welcome to the liberal arts revolution

A new elite has slowly and stealthily infiltrated this University. It has taken some time, meticulous planning, and intense preparation, but now the coup is ready.



Mark Nair

Liberal arts has arrived and arrived in force.

I realize, for all you non-liberal arts majors, that this comes as a serious shock, but do not dismay. We are not subversives. We merely offer the New Way: a broad education about Life, an escape from technical schooling which has haunted this institution from its inception.

I submit to you, then, my "I thought I knew my Liberal Arts but apparently I

didn't" quiz. If you believe that building a microwave oven surpasses reading Ibsen and expect everyone in foreign countries to speak English, this quiz is for you.

1. Who was Plato?
 - A. The genius who invented that great-smelling stuff you played with in kindergarten.
 - B. The astronomer who discovered the ninth planet.
 - C. A philosopher who spent more time contemplating shadows than doing algebra homework.
2. Who was Peter Paul Rubens?
 - A. Pee Wee Herman.
 - B. A famous singer until he changed his last name from Andmary to that of a great-tasting sandwich.
 - C. The painter who preferred to do the Marie de' Medici series over painting his garage.
3. Who said "It is better to live rich than to die rich."
 - A. Ronald Reagan.
 - B. Ronald Reagan.
 - C. Samuel Johnson doing an impersonation of Ronald Reagan.
4. Who was Karl Marx?
 - A. Ex-columnist.
 - B. Harpo's missing brother.
 - C. The original communist party animal.
5. Who was the author of *Paradise Lost*?
 - A. Brooke Shields.
 - B. Stephen King.
 - C. John Milton and a thesaurus.
6. Who was the first president of the United States?
 - A. George Jefferson.
 - B. Curious George.
 - C. You've got to be kidding.
7. Remember *Faust*? How do you pronounce the author's name?
 - A. Johann Wolfgang von GO-THA.
 - B. Stephen KEE-NG.
 - C. Johann Wolfgang von GARE-TUH.
8. Berlin is in
 - A. West Virginia.
 - B. West Germany.
 - C. East Germany.
9. Malcolm X was
 - A. Speed Racer's older brother.
 - B. Speed Racer's younger brother.
 - C. A radical black-rights activist who never quit.
10. James Joyce
 - A. Uh... I know, but ah...
 - B. Wait, wait, I really know but... ah... well...
 - C. *Ulysses*. Tough. Stream of consciousness. 'Nuff said.

Answers: All are C.
To score:
10 out of 10: Keen.
8-9: You've been memorizing those Trivial Pursuit cards again, haven't you?
6-7: Those intro classes sure helped, but now it's time to move on. Try a 200-level class.

4-5: Uh oh, you took all your life in your own department, didn't you? EXPAND.
2-3: I don't want to talk about it. 0 out of 10: Murrur, murrur.
This quiz was meant to provide you with a taste of the liberal arts. Liberal arts majors at A&M have been insulted, and shown no respect. It is time to change. No longer will the College Liberal Arts be synonymous with "majors." This is the New Way. We saw, we conquered.
So, to my engineering roommates and science suite-mates of old, I announce the coup. Sit in your class and sweat with fear. We have gained upper hand; the core curriculum's weapon. We are here to stay.
Mark Nair is a senior political science major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Poor funeral planning could prove fatal

Here's a grim sort of question to ask, I suppose, but I'm going to ask it anyway:



Lewis Grizzard

Have you ever given any serious thought as to what you would like done at your funeral?

Most of us haven't because we don't want to think about such things, and that's why most of the funerals I've been to seem inappropriate for the guest of honor.

I don't want something like that to happen to me. I have, for instance, set aside a few bucks for a wake in my honor. I want cold beer and barbecue to be served, and I don't want any crying or carrying on.

The reason I'm broaching this subject today is because of a newspaper clip a reader sent me from Memphis regarding a suit filed against a funeral home for totally botching the funeral of a Missouri woman a year ago. The same sort of thing could happen to you or me if we don't prepare ahead of time.

The family of this woman hired a funeral home after her death. After the services at the church, the funeral

procession began a 30-mile trip to the burial spot.

According to the suit, the funeral home's flower van had to drop out of the procession because of a broken muffler.

A few miles later, the hearse had to stop for gas. After that, the suit said, the hearse drove at a fast rate of speed.

In the meantime, the flower van had its muffler repaired and rushed to the burial site.

It came over a hill near the cemetery and rear-ended the hearse. The casket was damaged in the collision, and an hour later the service finally continued.

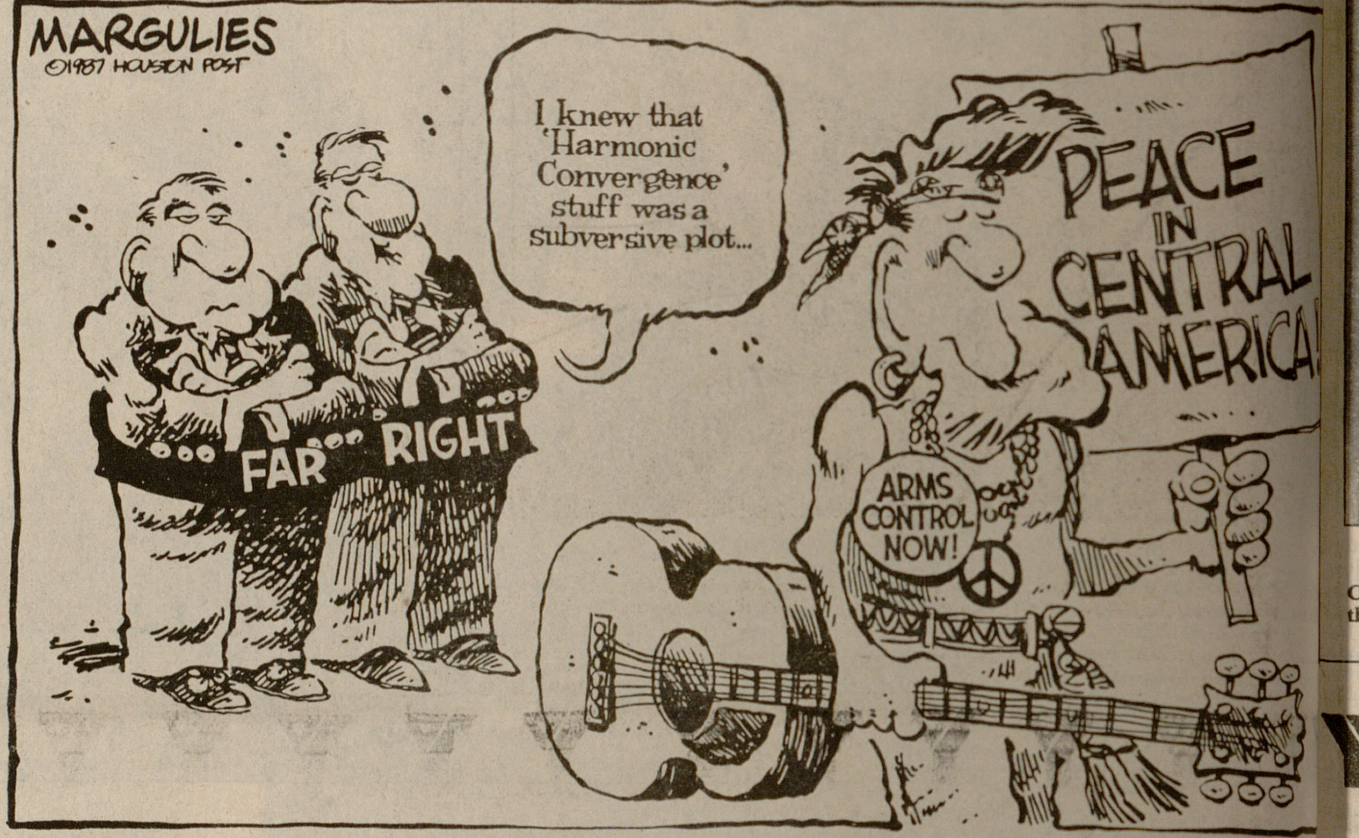
Nothing like being late to your own funeral — and nothing like that is going to happen to me.

Besides the wake, I want at least two sets of jumper cables at my funeral in case the hearse comes up with a dead, if you'll excuse the expression, battery.

I've discussed all this with my stepbrother, radio legend Ludlow Porch, who has promised all my directives will be carried out in case I go before him.

In case he goes before me, I asked Ludlow what he wanted played at his funeral. After several moments of deep thought, Ludlow replied, "volleyball."

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LSU fans demonstrated their lack of character

When I was a junior in high school, my English teacher had a poster in her classroom that showed two teams playing football.

Anthony Wilson
Guest Columnist

The caption read, "Losing reveals a lot of a man's character. Winning reveals all of it."

Saturday's game against LSU showed a lot about the character of the LSU fans in attendance.

Or to be more accurate, their lack of character.

The LSU fans were guests of Texas A&M this weekend. They were invited to participate in a relatively meaningless athletic event between two fine institutions. They chose to turn the event into a free-for-all.

LSU fans arrived in College Station in cars sporting such sayings as "Aggies suck," "Jackie Sherrill's a *%&#%" and "eATMe." Very few of the sayings were in support of LSU — and this was the classiest thing the LSU fans did all weekend.

On game day, LSU fans showed up at the Corps of Cadets march-in. While

freshman cadets waited at attention to enter the stadium, they were pelted with trash and hit with pompons. I suppose none of these people took the time to think that the majority of these young men will be protecting them in five years as officers in the military.

Before kickoff, the LSU mascot and cheerleaders broke a time-honored Aggie tradition by going onto the field.

During the game, LSU students violated another Aggie tradition (and the law) by bringing alcohol into the stadium. Most of them then proceeded to get drunk as skunks. As our guests, the LSU fans should have taken the time to learn about and respect our traditions.

After the game, LSU fans disregarded announcements to stay off the field. Two of them ran onto the track and unfolded a sheet with "eATMe" written on it in bold letters.

During yell practice after the loss, several students and the mascot taunted and attempted to provoke the yell leaders and other members of the Corps into losing their tempers.

The running out onto the field by LSU students was especially disturbing to most Aggies, who consider Kyle Field

a memorial to the 55 Aggie men who gave their lives in service of their country in World War I.

The actions of LSU students disturbed me as an Aggie — and as an American.

The solution as far as the Aggies concerned is simple. Please, Coach Sherrill, don't invite LSU back. The game was a great contest, but nobody deserves to have his guests act as obnoxiously as the LSU fans do.

Another solution is to write letters to the president, athletic director and football coach of Louisiana State University. They need to be made aware of their students' abhorrent conduct.

The two football teams set a good example. They played a hard-fought game without any skirmishes or fights. After the game, they shook hands and congratulated each other on a well-played game.

But the LSU fans were an embarrassment to their school, its faculty, staff and student body, and the entire state of Louisiana.

The A&M fans can be proud. So can the Aggies lost. But they did it with character. And that showed a lot of character.

Anthony Wilson is a junior journalism major and a sportswriter for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Hart's 'inner circle'

EDITOR:

The country lost a wonderful chance for free counsel when Gary Hart dropped out of the presidential race. We all know the importance of the First Lady despite the fact the Constitution provides her no official role. We are told that Nancy Reagan is a shrewd observer of people and that crossing her may well spell an early return to the private sector. It is common knowledge that Rosalynn Carter often whispered bedtime advice to her husband, Jimmy. And Grover Cleveland, a bachelor, had his sister serve as First Lady to help him with the multifarious social functions associated with the White House.

With Gary "I don't feel I have to answer that question" Hart, not only would we have had a radical swing in sexual ethics, but a reinstatement of a Kitchen Cabinet in a far more literal sense than Andrew Jackson ever imagined.

The inner circle (How much closer could they get? They would have the president's ear and a whole lot else.) could have kept him abreast of a variety of issues. And Hart would have a full harem of counsel, not just that of one woman. Different position papers could have been developed on a host of national concerns. How Gary Hart would have navigated the ship of state through this Schylla and Charybdis we can only now conjecture upon.

All such communal arrangements as that envisioned here allegedly break up in the bedroom or the kitchen. Might this one have broken up in the Oval Office?

Tom Ahern

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The Battalion

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