

Opinion

So you want to know about Skin Heads?

My sophomore year, I visited the Baylor campus to watch our wild and bodacious Aggie team take on those feisty Baylor Bears in our annually celebrated pigskin tossing ritual. Since my friend was a Baylorite, and he got the tickets, I found myself smack dab in the middle of the Baylor crowd.



Mark Nair

Rest assured, though, I was doing all that good Ag stuff. You know, yelling and hissing and booing, then looking around and chastising everyone else for booing. The good Ag stuff.

But then something very interesting happened. When our beloved Aggie Corps of Cadets marched by, a murmur ran through the Baylor crowd around me. The murmur formed into a mumbling, and then the mumbling formed into a somewhat coherent chant. After a few seconds of intent listening, I finally discovered what they were chanting. It was "Skin Head. Skin Head. Skin Head."

Skin Head? I was bemused. Could this possibly be a nefarious plot hatched by the Baylor students to insult our favorite synchronized marchers, our guardians of academic freedom and individual expression on the A&M campus? Surely not. Yet, I could not shake the idea that this was, in some small way, something important that I

should be aware of.

I decided to investigate further. After taking the dust buster to the unabridged Webster's, I flipped though it with great zeal, searching for my quarry. I soon found it, hidden between skin grafting and skink. Here is what it said:

1 Skinhead (skin-hed) n 1: one whose hair is cut very short 2: a young short-haired working-class British hoodlum.

2 Skin Head (skee-hey) n 1: a member of quasi-elite brotherhood which is dedicated to the universal conquest of liberalism in political and social thought by methods equivalent to those preferred in Germany during the late 1930s and early 1940s 2: one from a university whose hair is cut very short. Usually found dressed in khaki or fatigues, quelling student masses and threatening students from other colleges with bodily harm.

I found myself in a conundrum as I perused the dictionary entry. The pronunciation of the Baylor students did sound like "skee-hey, skee-hey," and thus I concluded that they were referring to the dictionary's second entry. But could they possibly be referring to our Corps members? The evidence did seem to point to that. I needed more information.

I interviewed a Baylor student and asked him if this "skee-hey" chant was meant as an insult. He told me that the Corps insults itself enough without their help. After visiting our spacious campus, he pointed to the songs the Corps members sang as they romped around the school as evidence of their

stupidity and deranged minds. Allow me to repeat an excerpt of one of the songs to you:

"Issue me a hand grenade,
You should have seen the mess I've made.

Issue me an M-16
Turn me into a killing machine."

I rebutted. How can a normal person, using logic and reason, actually state that these songs are the workings of deranged minds? The songs are obviously the work of poetic geniuses attempting to show us how the value of individualism and the spirit of social harmony can be merged into one entity. The songs are inspiring works, telling us to better mankind with hard work, perseverance and diligence.

But my initial question remains. Is the

Skin Head (skee-hey) chant an insult?

I decided to take another angle. Are our Corps members actually Skin Heads as per the dictionary entry?

I searched the methods of the Corps of Cadets. Admittedly, they do wear khaki and fatigues. And at times they have threatened other school's students with bodily harm. But they really don't quell our student masses.

I suppose, though, that this is because we don't have any masses to quell.

After all, as we all know from previous literature, we are all apathetic, slothful creatures driven by our insane desire to escape the reality of life. Student masses? Hardly.

The Corps cannot quell non-existent masses. If the Corps cannot quell them, then it does not fulfill the qualifications

of the dictionary entry. If it does not fulfill the qualifications, then it cannot be considered as a group of "Skin Heads." Therefore, our beloved Corps is composed merely of swell guys just trying to do their job of upholding our constitutional right of pure, unadulterated conservatism. They uphold our right to have that narrow mind, to invade any country we see fit, to make everyone know that the American way is the only way.

That is what our Skin Heads are all about. If anyone disagrees, I'll sic 'em on you.

And gosh dang it, that's the way it should be.

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BEN SARGENT... 10-1

Being a good Samaritan ain't what it used to be

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about a kind-hearted woman who gave a stranger mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after he collapsed on a Chicago sidewalk and appeared to be dying.



Mike Royko

When the city's paramedics arrived, they looked at the man's arms and discovered that he was a mainlining junkie. And, as it turned out, he was not only a junkie, but a gay junkie. And not only a gay junkie, but one with bleeding gums.

Naturally, the woman was alarmed at the possibility that she might have been exposed to AIDS. So she tried to persuade the hospital where the man was treated to give her information, including his name.

The hospital refused, saying the law prevented it from giving out any information on the man.

So she turned to the city's Health Department for help. She told her story in detail to a department employee who listened, then asked: "Did you have sex with him?"

And that was where we left the story of Diane, the good Samaritan. Since then, there have been other developments.

"My social life has taken a nose dive," says Diane, who is divorced.

"There's been someone in my life. I showed him the article and obviously he's rather hesitant. We haven't broken up, but I haven't seen him very much in the last couple of weeks.

"My dentist read the article and now he wears a mask when he works on my teeth. Friends who used to shake my hand no longer do.

"I don't know if I can describe it, but my friends seem different now. It's just a feeling I have, a gut reaction. They're concerned about my welfare, but they're also concerned about their own. But with all the misinformation going around about AIDS, I'm not surprised.

"The impression I get from people is, they look at me with amazement, and the look on their faces says: 'Why did

you do such a stupid thing?' It's as if I could have somehow known that he was an addict. Or a promiscuous queen."

The hospital where the man was treated still hasn't done much for Diane, although it has tried.

"They've tried to get him to come in for a test. They've been in contact with his mother, and she thinks it would be a good idea. But he's refused.

"What really infuriated me is that the hospital told me that he'd like to talk to me and they asked me if they could give him my phone number.

"When they asked me that, I was furious. I told them: 'You won't tell me who he is, but you want to give him my name and phone number? Do you think I want some junkie calling me at two o'clock in the morning telling me he's sorry?'"

Working on her own, however, Diane has discovered the man's name. When the paramedics treated him, they took down that information, and it is a matter of public record.

But that hasn't helped Diane track him down because the man seems to be constantly on the move. A busy lifestyle, I assume.

So Diane is going to go ahead and take the series of tests. There's no great urgency. As a state health official said: "It's not like she can go in and take a shot and change anything." In other words, if she's got it, she's got it and that's that.

The state official also said: "I've talked to our medical experts and they said that her chance of getting AIDS is extremely slim."

Incidentally, after I wrote the first column about Diane's experience, I heard from an organization that promotes educating the public on how to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The organization said that I may have been irresponsible in writing the article, because I might discourage others from giving mouth-to-mouth aid to strangers.

They might have a point, so I want to make it clear that I was not trying to frighten people into ignoring someone in need of help.

On the other hand, it might not be a bad idea to take a couple of seconds and check to see if he has needle marks on his arms and is wearing lipstick.

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Mail Call

Vote against Proposition 10

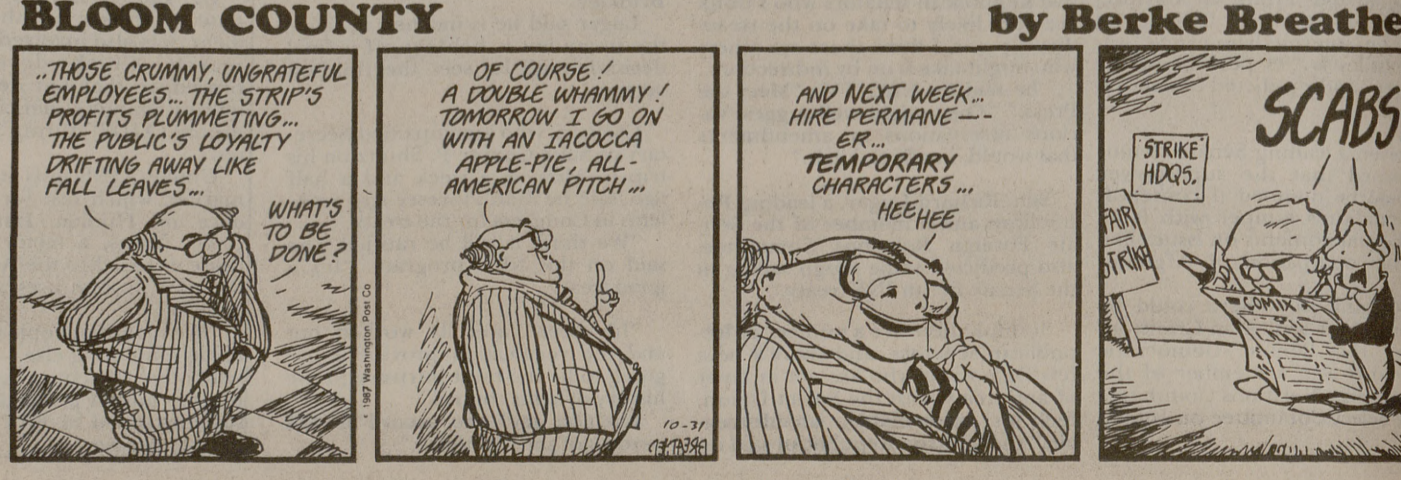
EDITOR:
I plead with my fellow Texans to defeat the constitutional amendment Proposition 10 on Nov. 3. Described as a personal property exemption, it would actually accomplish the opposite.
Article VIII, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution forbids the Legislature to allow ad valorem taxation of personal property that is not used for business purposes. Quote: "The legislature by general law SHALL exempt personal effects not held or used for production of income." Webster defines "effects" as movable property.
Texas Property Tax Code 11.14 (b) 2 makes unconstitutional exceptions to that mandate by stating that "personal effects" does not include motor vehicles, boats and other means of transportation (any movable property that rolls on wheels, floats on water or flies in air.) I contested that part of the Tax Code in 221st District Court. Therefore, the legislative lawyers are attempting to have us change the Constitution to conform to their unconstitutional law.

Since the Legislature is ordered by the Texas Constitution to exempt ALL our personal property not used for income, there is no need to "ALLOW" them to exempt CERTAIN personal property" and in addition to allow each taxing unit to continue to tax personal property if they so choose. They can merely change the law to conform to the Constitution as is.

By approving Proposition 10, we would seriously weaken or repeal the personal property protection that we now have under the Texas Constitution. Please vote against Proposition 10 and any other of the 25 proposed amendments that you do not fully understand and approve. As the one who challenged the constitutionality of Tax Code 11.14 (b) (2) I feel dutybound to inform you of the purpose behind Proposition 10 and the inherent danger involved.

Art Rohsner

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The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.
Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.
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