

Opinion

Gold standard only solution to inflation

Perhaps the gravest injustice suffered by hard-working Americans today is one of which they are profoundly ignorant. Though we are aware that a problem exists, we fail to see to its heart. And no wonder, for it is well-concealed behind a smokescreen of technical jargon and the assurances of the experts that these affairs are too complicated for the rest of us to understand.



Brian Frederick

I refer to an economic injustice perpetrated upon us all that surreptitiously relieves us of a portion of our earnings and gives it to others. Such is inflation, an ingenious tool employed by our government to relieve us of our hard-earned wealth.

If you believe what is commonly taught and reported that inflation is merely a general rise in prices, you may wonder how it can be so insidious. Inflation, however, is not a rise in prices. Rising prices are only a result of inflation.

Inflation occurs when the supply

ply increases and general prices rise in response to the law of supply and demand.

When inflation is defined as a rise in prices, it is easy to attribute it to any number of causes and thereby deceive the public. But when it is seen properly as an increase in the money supply, the responsible party is revealed. According to our Constitution, Congress is given the authority "to coin money." Even though Congress has surrendered this control to the Federal Reserve, it is still ultimately responsible.

When government wishes to pay for something new, it has two means of doing so. It can openly raise taxes, but this is not popular with the electorate. Its other alternative is to create money, which is done through the Federal Reserve. The Fed loans money at interest, money it creates out of nothing.

By financing government expenditures in this fashion, politicians are able to avoid the stigma of raising taxes, when in actuality they have. They expect that we won't realize what they have done.

We should all know that there is no such thing in this world as a free lunch. Deficit financing promises a way of ob-

taining government benefits without paying for them through taxes. In spite of this promise, inflation is a tax, and dishonestly imposed at that. It transfers wealth from one group to another, usually without the knowledge of the victims. This is hardly just and is a strange custom for a nation that fought against "taxation without representation."

It may not be evident how increasing the money supply effects a transfer of wealth. Let's say government wishes to make new military expenditures without raising taxes. It goes to the Fed to get newly created money which it uses to pay defense contractors, thus putting it into circulation. The contractors and their workers benefit through higher profits and wages, which they use to make purchases.

The market price at which they buy, however, was determined by the supply of money before the government spent the new money. There is a lag of several months before the market is able to adjust to the new supply of money. Prices will eventually go up, but not before those receiving the new money have spent it at old prices and thereby derived considerable benefit.

However, not all will benefit. Some

will not get the new money until after prices have gone up, if at all. Higher prices force them to cut back on their purchases, and they end up worse off than they were before. They have been effectively taxed to pay for the new expenditures, while some of their fellow citizens have profited at their expense. This is not the case when tax revenues alone are used to finance government spending.

Inflation does more than just transfer wealth and dishonestly tax Americans. It discourages saving, which is the foundation of economic growth. Small savers will cease saving when they see rising prices eroding the value of their savings, for they are lucky to break even with interest, let alone earn a decent return. Instead of saving, they will spend their money before it becomes worth less.

Inflation encourages larger investors to make high-risk investments in hopes of a large return to keep ahead of inflation. These are often poor investments, and capital is thus squandered to the eventual detriment of everyone.

While inflation may serve as useful political expedient in the short run, it hurts us all in the end. If the mere creation of money could bring us into pros-

perity, we would need only for each of us to be supplied with a printing press to make money for ourselves. This is clearly folly, yet it differs not in principle or eventual effect from what our government does. This policy has not yet utterly ruined us, only because as a rich nation, we have so far been able to afford our folly.

The only way to secure ourselves from inflation's ill effects is to establish honest money which government cannot create at will. The gold standard is such a system. It places the money supply beyond the control of politicians who would manipulate it for their own benefit and that of their constituents. It forces them to keep expenditures in line with revenue. Then, if they wish to spend more, they must openly raise taxes.

Critics may accuse the gold standard of being a "barbarous relic," but they would have us live at the mercy of arbitrary bureaucrats instead. With their desire to have our money manipulated at will, they would deny us the only means for us to have a stable economy free from the injustice of inflation.

Brian Frederick is a senior history and Russian major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Fluoridation's dangers shouldn't be ignored

The College Station City Council has decided that fluoride will be added to the city's public water supply. The water supply in Bryan has been artificially fluoridated since 1971. Consumers of this water should be aware of some potential hazards.

Bill Adams
Guest Columnist

Courts in Pennsylvania (1978) and Illinois (1982) have ruled that fluoridation creates a public health hazard. Among the evidence in these cases were studies by Dr. Dean Burk and Dr. John Yiamouyiannis that showed that 10,000 to 20,000 people in the United States die of cancer each year due to fluoridation of the public drinking waters. A number of witnesses attempted to discredit these studies, but, as the presiding judge in the Pennsylvania case remarked, "Point by point, every criticism made of the Burk-Yiamouyiannis study was met and explained." The judge ordered a halt to fluoridation.

Dr. Burk was one of the founders and a chief chemist of the U.S. National Cancer Institute. Dr. Yiamouyiannis holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry. He became aware of the dangers of fluoride while working as a biochemical editor at Chemical Abstracts Service, the world's largest chemical information center.

In his 1986 book, *Fluoride: The Aging Factor*, Dr. Yiamouyiannis explains how fluoride in the body contributes not only to cancer, but also to arthritis and other bone diseases, hardening of the arteries, damage to the immune system, genetic damage, and premature aging of the skin and other tissues. Granted, some experts disagree with his conclusions, but if experts cannot discredit him in court, then non-experts may wonder who is right.

Yiamouyiannis also points out a number of interesting facts. For example, mother's milk contains only 0.01-0.05ppm (parts per million) fluoride. Yiamouyiannis believes this is nature's way of protecting the small child from fluoride damage. (Local supporters of fluoridation believe that 0.8ppm fluoride is the optimum level for all; this is up to 80 times the level nature provides for the infant. Concern among infant formula manufacturers led to their voluntary agreement in 1980 to remove fluoride from the water used to manufacture infant formulas.)

At least one child has died as a result of a fluoride treatment received at a dental clinic. A 3-year-old boy received the treatment during his first visit to the dentist. The attending dental hygienist handed the boy a cup of water, but failed to instruct him to spit out the so-

lution. Instead, the boy drank the water, swallowing a lethal dose of fluoride.

Accidents have occurred in a number of cities in the U.S. On November 11, 1979, up to 50ppm fluoride was dumped into the Annapolis, Maryland public water system, resulting in the poisoning of 50,000 people. Dr. Yiamouyiannis went to Annapolis to investigate the damage. He found that approximately 10,000 people exhibited acute symptoms of fluoride poisoning. He also found that more than five times the normal number of people died of heart failure during the week following the spill.

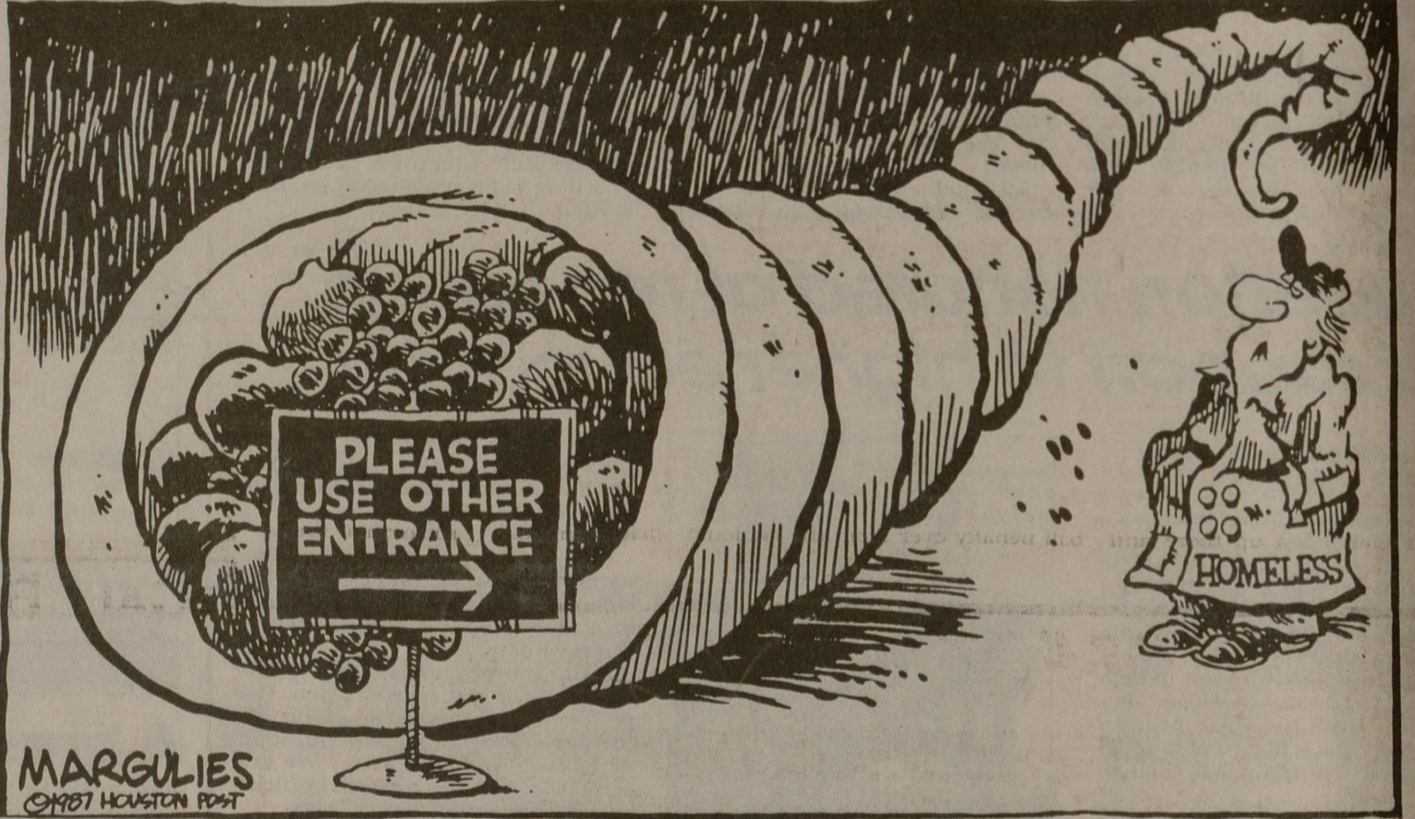
There is no U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance of fluoride. Nor has there ever been one reported case of a fluoride deficiency. On the other hand, there are thousands of reported cases of fluoride overdose. While some amount of fluoride cannot be avoided (all foods contain some amount), Dr. Yiamouyiannis recommends lowering one's fluoride intake as much as possible.

Also of interest are the thoughts of the editors of the journal *New Scientist* on the discovery by Dr. John Emsley at King's College in London (1981) that fluoride forms very strong hydrogen bonds with biologically important substances called amides. The editors conclude: "Some of the charges that are laid at its door — genetic change, birth defects, cancer, and allergy response — may arise from fluoride interference after all."

Some proponents of fluoridation make great claims as to its health benefits. Others, some dentists included, question its efficacy in reducing tooth decay, and question its necessity when fluoride toothpastes are readily available. They feel that the best way to reduce tooth decay is to reduce the consumption of sugar and other refined carbohydrates.

Dr. Yiamouyiannis is recognized as an expert on the biological effects of fluoride. His book was written for the general public. While I do feel qualified to read and understand his argument, as an electrical engineer I am not qualified to say whether he is right or wrong. If his detractors argue differently, I am not qualified to say whether they are right or wrong. But if Yiamouyiannis can prove his case in a court of law, claiming that fluoridation is responsible for 10,000 to 20,000 cancer deaths and 30,000 to 50,000 deaths of all causes annually, that it contributes to arthritis, hardening of the arteries, damage to the immune system, genetic damage, and premature aging, then I am qualified to be afraid.

Bill Adams is a graduate student in electrical engineering.



MARGULIES
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Mail Call

Craig has character

EDITOR:

From what I hear, I am a dying breed. I am a Craig Stump fan.

Now, some people may say that is because we are from the same area (Craig is from Port Arthur; I am from Beaumont), but actually, I've grown to respect Craig Stump because he has been showing something that we Aggie fans have not been showing lately. That something is character.

It doesn't take a lot of character to hiss at one's own team when they are doing poorly or to boo at one's own quarterback when he is having a bad game (even though true Aggies aren't even supposed to boo). I was pretty disgusted at the crowd during the A&M-t.u. game for booing and chanting "Bucky! Bucky!" when Craig Stump had to come in for Bucky Richardson when Bucky's shoe came off. Perhaps we should rewrite a famous phrase to say, "Once an Aggie, always an Aggie... unless you throw interceptions."

Worldwide, the Aggies are famous for the fabled Spirit of Aggieland and the tradition of the Twelfth Man, standing at all football games in support of their team, whether we win or get outscored, whether we squeak by or slaughter the opposing team, AND whether we are led by Craig Stump, Bucky Richardson or Lance Pavlas.

And... oh, by the way...

BEAT THE HELL OUTTA NOTRE DAME!

Diamond Dave Mendoza '88

Moral absolutes

EDITOR:

Interesting encounter Brian Frederick had with a well-wisher Nov. 17. Trouble is, it is hard to know what lies at the core of your disagreement. Is it about the right of homosexuals to live as they please? Or, more generally, about the very definition of a right?

I assume you are more concerned with the latter. But still, condemning homosexuality on the basis of moral absolutes looks a bit fallacious to me. You seem to imply that such a perverse behavior should be "heartily disapproved of," for only actions that are "natural" should be considered as fundamentally and absolutely "right." However, let me propose another moral absolute that says people are free to act as they please, as long as they do not harm their neighbors.

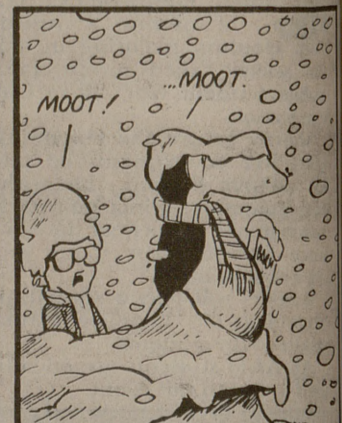
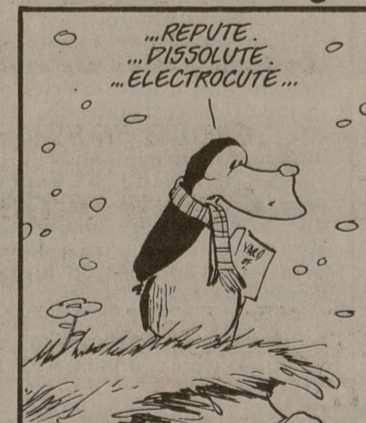
Of course, at issue is the way these "moral absolutes" are defined. You do not discuss the matter in all fairness when you bring the example of Nazi Germany. Of course the right to life is not to be tampered with. But there is no such consensus on what constitutes an "acceptable" sexual behavior, or even on the need to define such a norm. In this situation, on the basis of what moral absolute should society react to homosexuality? Freedom to have one's own lifestyle or conformity with nature's proscriptions? Your idea is not necessarily mine....

Yves Arsenault
grad student

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BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



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