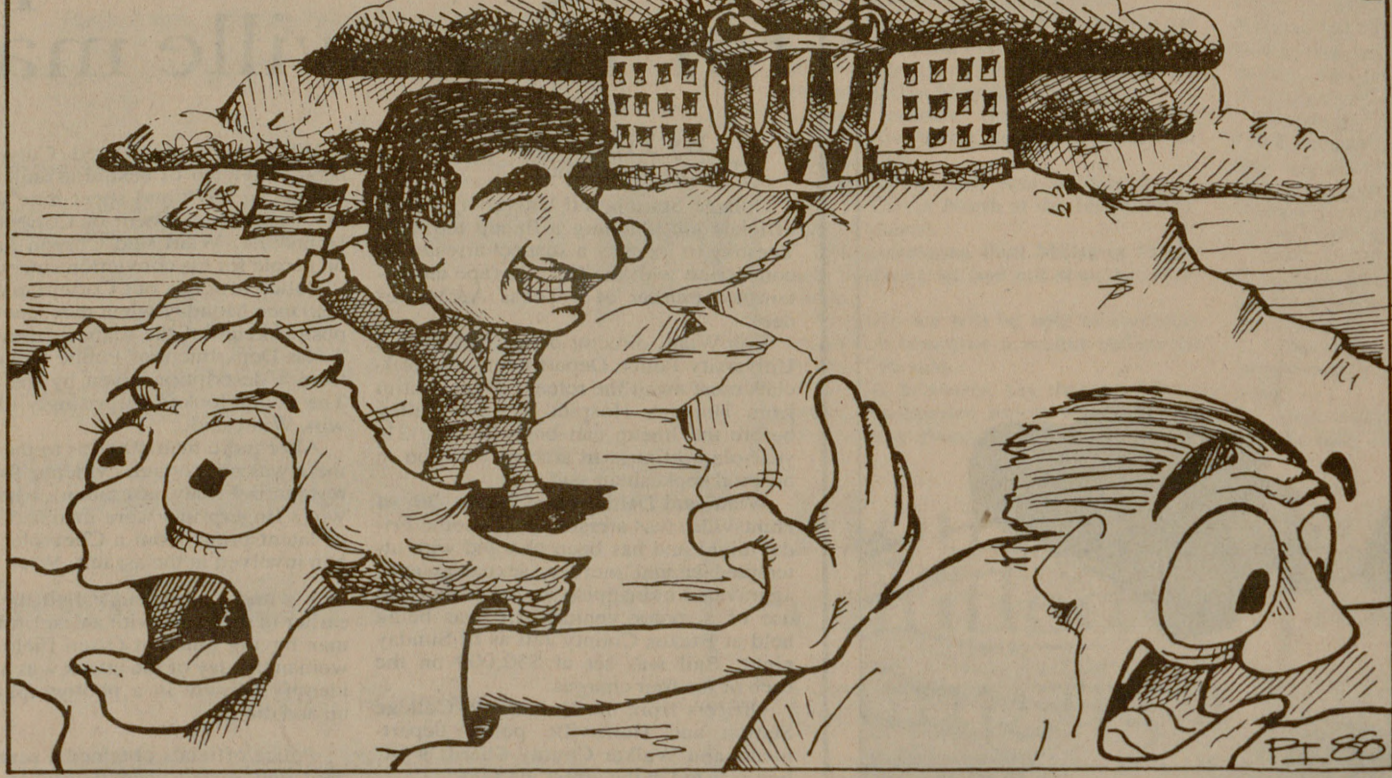


# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



## Hiding from AIDS education socially irresponsible, deadly

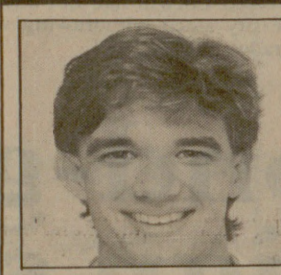
Safe Sex To Go, an AIDS awareness organization, has recently taken an unusual approach to promoting safe sex practices. A few weeks ago, it sent *The Battalion* one of its "informational packets" which contained wax lips, latex gloves, a towelette (to make sure all body surfaces are clean before sex is initiated), a magnifying glass (so partners can examine each other before intercourse) and a feather (to begin the arousal stage).

But the focal point of the packet was a lime-green condom — which is perfect for men living in A&M's Corps-style dorms because they won't clash with the walls. Along with the packet, Safe Sex To Go included humorous literature which concluded with a serious editorial about the importance of using a condom to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Safe Sex To Go's style was different than any other AIDS awareness campaign, but like the rest is an admirable effort. The AIDS epidemic is possibly the biggest threat our world faces and should be of the utmost concern for everyone.

However, some people refuse to believe this and blindly reject good efforts to educate the masses about the misinformation dispersed about AIDS and condoms. Specifically, I'm referring to last week's decision by several Tarrant County magazine distributors in Fort Worth not to distribute the November issue of Spin magazine because it contains a free condom and "explicit instructions for its use."

Aside from the fact that this may be an example of censorship, those marketers are being socially irresponsible by not distributing the magazine. Spin publisher Bob Guccione Jr., who's tactics and motives are usually suspicious, appears to be on the up-and-up this time. Sure, he realizes his newstand sales and advertising will skyrocket because of the publicity and public rela-



**Anthony Wilson**  
Opinion Page Editor

tions of the condom giveaway. But he sincerely seems to be making an honest effort to educate and help his readers.

"We want to make the immensely important statement to our young readership that safe sex can save lives," Guccione said in an Oct. 26 Associated Press article. "We think that the presentation of a real condom in this fashion will leave an impression that no picture or text can convey, so that when our young male readers have sex, and they will have sex, they will think more seriously about wearing a condom."

Guccione is right. Young people are going to have sex. And young people will have sex in non-monogamous relationships. Many people refuse to learn the facts about AIDS because they believe intercourse outside of marriage is morally unacceptable. Not learning how to protect oneself from AIDS is not only stupid and socially irresponsible, it could be deadly.

The general manager of one of the distributors had this explanation for the refusal to distribute the issue: "We checked with the supermarket and convenience store chains and other outlets and they were appalled. They said absolutely not . . ."

That statement is exactly what's wrong with many people's attitude about AIDS and condoms. It's time we stopped being appalled at condom use and began being appalled at the deaths and ignorance surrounding AIDS.

We should face facts. AIDS is a viral disease. A cure has never been found

for any viral disease, so its unlikely that if one is found for AIDS it will be in our lifetimes.

So the only weapon we have to combat this menace is education. Many educational institutions have been slow to react to the AIDS problems. For example, the Texas State University System board of regents banned the sale or distribution of birth control on four system campuses last summer. The reasoning behind not allowing adults to more easily practice safe sex is non-existent.

And when the media tries to aid in the education push, it is stifled by others. Heaven forbid that we should see a commercial for condoms during an episode of "Family Ties." But hey, nothing wrong with that educational and entertaining Massengill's feminine douche advertisement. And for goodness sakes, please don't allow young people to see what a real condom looks like. That would send those children into a fornicating frenzy usually reserved for a Hugh Hefner party.

AIDS is here to stay indefinitely and condoms are definitely here to stay. It's time to stop shying away from both, accept both and learn about them in a responsible manner.

*Anthony Wilson is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor for The Battalion.*

## Mail Call

### Racism alive and well at A&M

EDITOR:

There are some on this campus who are of the mentality that racism does exist at Texas A&M. I sincerely hope this letter removes this misconception.

I was recently interviewed by SMU's school newspaper concerning racism at Texas A&M. During the interview the reporter stated that she had been told through other interviews that there was little or no racism at A&M.

Racism is definitely present on this campus. While I was riding across campus last week, four young white males leaned out of their car and yelled "nigger." There are many other racial incidents on this campus, but they are not reported. Therefore, we are led to believe there are none.

The thought comes to mind, "And some wonder why we have a Black Awareness Committee. There are also those who believe we should not have it. Those four young boys are just one reason for the purpose of BAC, which is to educate the campus and community about the black culture through various forms of programming. BAC also serves as a support group for blacks on this campus."

I will admit A&M is better than most about race relations. Nevertheless, it is still a prejudice effect that has been crippling our society for as many years as earth is old and it is crippling A&M. As long as this effect controls the minds of some, A&M, in all its greatness, will never be the "world-class university" some speak of.

I wish that all people who have not, could come to the realization that we should be proud of your race without being against another.

**Charles E. Henderson Jr. '90**  
Chairman, MSC Black Awareness Committee

### God not to be joked about

EDITOR:

I recently found a very disturbing item in the 1988 Aggeland. A previous comment by comedian David Naster is repeated on page 70 and states: "Pat Robertson is running for president because God told him to . . . there are people all over the world in mental institutions because they did things God told them not to do."

This statement is a sweeping generalization which has no foundation in fact. The truth is that in most cases, mental institutions, as well as other hospitals, are full of people who are paying the price of disobedience to God's loving direction. These include those suffering the consequences of such things such as sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, drug addiction, rape and divorce.

Granted, Mr. Naster's comment intended to draw laughter. There is much to be said for a good dose of humor, but not at the expense of honor and respect toward God. I hope that Mr. Naster's opinion is not a majority one.

Given the opportunity, I would rather have used the money that I spent to purchase my Aggeland to ensure that such a disgraceful and ridiculous comment not be printed. It is a matter of integrity.

**Chana Baum '88**

### Quayle a scary possibility

EDITOR:

Americans have good reason to be worried about Dan Quayle becoming president. Dan Quayle is the man who has never met a nuclear missile he didn't like. On the Senate Armed Services Committee, Quayle fought hard against reforms in the military procurement system that might have prevented the Pentagon scandal we are currently suffering.

The scariest thing about Quayle is his paranoid fear of the Soviet Union. He asked what he thought of Gorbachev's reform policy known as perestroika. He referred to it as revised Stalinism. In comparing the reforms we see taking place in the Soviet Union today with the oppressive and brutal policies of Joseph Stalin, Quayle is demonstrating a degree of naivete and ignorance that is disconcerting when you consider that he claims to be an expert on foreign policy.

Remember also that Dan Quayle was bitterly opposed to Ronald Reagan's greatest achievement, the INF Treaty. Quayle is also opposed to the START Treaty (Strategic Arms Reduction) that is being negotiated now.

Since George Bush is now beginning to share many of Quayle's views the choice in November is becoming more clear. When it comes to dealing with the Soviet Union, Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen would practice a policy of cautious optimism that would continue the progress towards peace that was started by Ronald Reagan. George Bush and Dan Quayle's policy of paranoid pessimism would erase all of Reagan's achievements and lead us back to the cold war era or worse.

The choice is yours.

**Katherine Hinson '90**

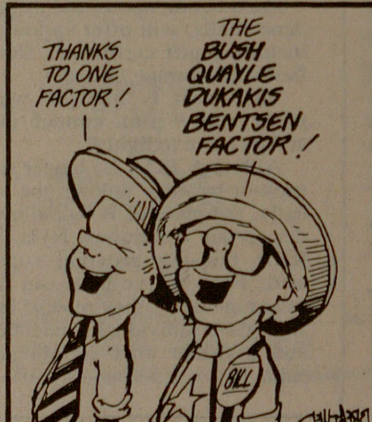
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include a classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

## BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

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## The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

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