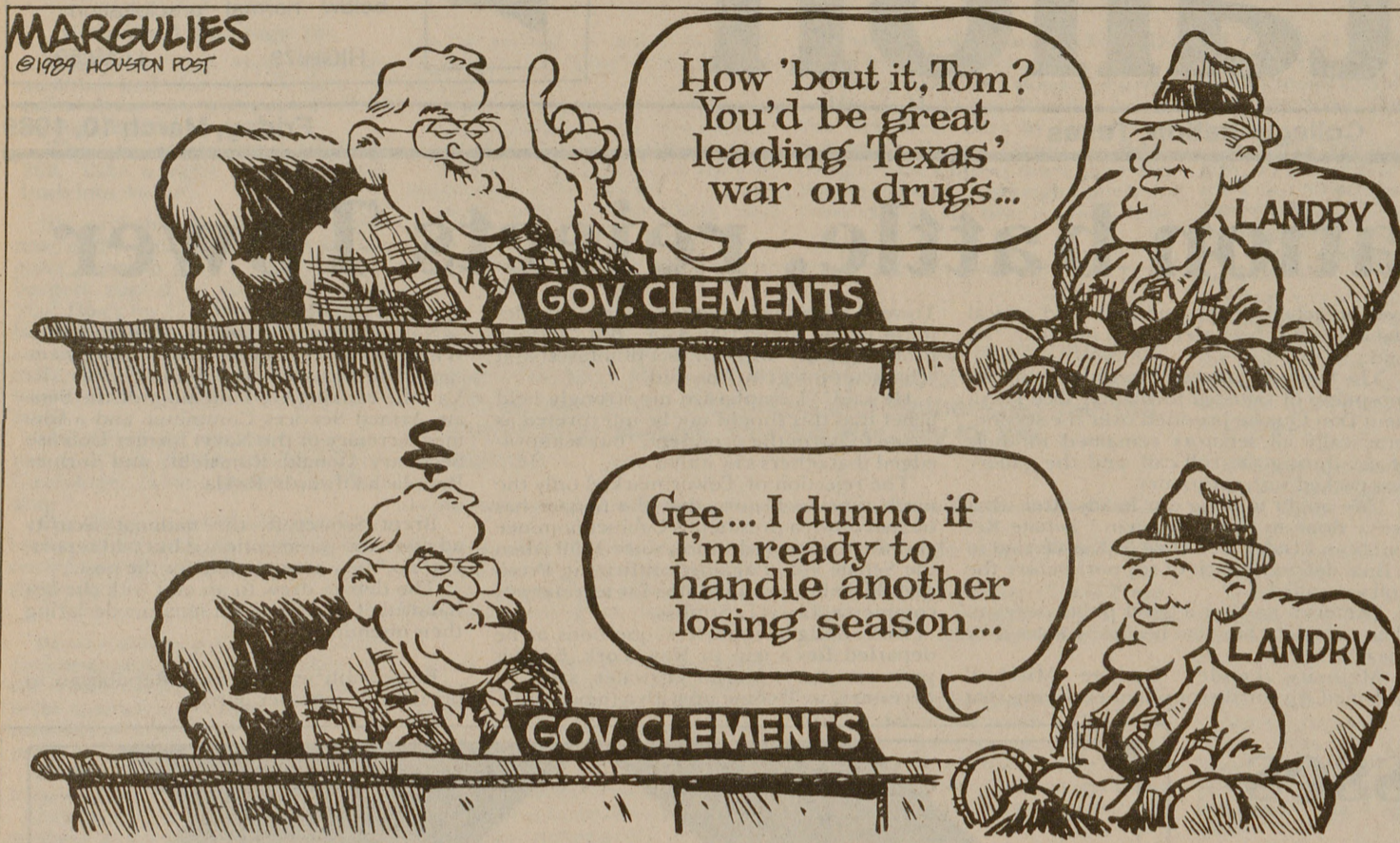


MARGULIES
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Mom, Dad, I'm moving back in

The way it looks right now, my parents will have a little while to get to know me again after graduation — since it doesn't look like I will have a job.

I finally get the pigskin and I can't even bring home the bacon. Sad.

I did apply for some internships, and I have gotten some replies. Can you guess what they said, boys and girls? Can you say "rejection"?

It got worse yesterday when I received a letter from a newspaper in Atlanta telling me they could not give me a job. That's fine, but I didn't even apply for a job with them. I am getting rejected for jobs I never even applied for. Now that's bad.

I did find out, however, that a friend of mine, Leslie, got rejected from this Atlanta paper, too — and she didn't apply for a job, either.

I think this is really a case of a company with tons of rejection letters and no one to send them to. There is probably a mailing list circulating with the names of "People to Reject" on it, and my name is on it. So now when companies print out too many rejection slips, they can just send one to me. I don't mind, though — it's good practice.

The real rejection letters (I received two so far) are about the same: "We are sorry that we cannot offer you a job at this time. There were many qualified applicants..." Need I say more?

But then, do I really want to work for a company that can't come up with a more original weed-out letter? I think not. Of course, I'm sure it would be a different matter if they had offered me a job instead.

I don't mind not getting the jobs now, but I know that if I get turned down enough it could start to bother me.

However, I see it as my duty to keep a cheerful personality for my parents when I return to the nest as a jobless bum.

The strange thing is that I always promised myself that I would never go back home after I graduated — I would make it on my own and that was that.

Funny thing about those days was

Becky Weisenfels
Editor

they had nothing to do with reality. Reality is realizing someone has to pay the rent. Reality is realizing you have gotten accustomed to simple things like food and shelter.

I always took for granted that I would have a job when I graduated. It was just part of the plan that I have always heard from my parents from day one. You go to school, go to college, get a job, get married, have kids, win a Nobel Prize, have a town named after you, retire, and visit small European countries with weird names. (Of course, not everyone goes in that order.)

I took me a few months to accept the fact that I may have no choice but to go back home and figure out what I want to do. I rationalized that as long as it isn't permanent, it's OK.

What is really going to be hard is moving back home for those few weeks and not reverting back to my grade-school self. It always happens. I keep my room clean at college — at home my room is destroyed five minutes after I walk in the door. I wash my own clothes here — at home I get a mental block when I try to figure out where the laundry room is.

I just can't stay at home too long or I will forget everything I have learned at college. I'm sure my parents will beg and plead for me to stay and make their lives just a little more fun and exciting, but I will have to say no and instead, make my merry way on the road to success.

I guess everyone goes through the out-of-work blues (if you didn't, I don't want to hear it). So I'll sit and wait, and sit, until a job comes along. Or until my parents pay me to get out of their house, whichever comes first.

Becky Weisenfels is a senior journalism major and editor of The Battalion.

Mail Call

Proud of pageant

EDITOR:

This is in response to Mr. Wilson's column concerning the Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant.

I was a contestant in the pageant and was awarded first runner-up. I am very proud of my accomplishment. I also am very proud of Amy Hopkins, Miss TAMU 1989, and the other wonderful runners-up and contestants.

Mr. Wilson, did you attend the Miss TAMU pageant? Did you fully research its background before you wrote your very insulting article? I don't think so.

If you had attended the Miss TAMU Scholarship Pageant, you would have been entertained by 18 talented, intelligent, and yes, beautiful ladies. You would have discovered that of each contestant's total score, the swimsuit competition, which you so heavily criticized, is worth only 16.66 percent.

You also would have discovered that Miss TAMU is not just a hand-waver at the Cotton Bowl Parade. She has the honor of representing our University at the Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant and possibly a chance to represent our state in the Miss America Pageant.

So check your facts and open your narrow mind to new possibilities. I find your naivety and dogmatism much more insulting and abhorring than wearing a swimsuit.

Rhonda Horn '91

Get involved

EDITOR:

I saw a commercial recently that gave me hope. It was Whoopi Goldberg talking about how to beat apathy. She asked the people of America to give five hours a week to a cause that we care for — righteous words!

Her plan instilled in me strength to finish making the final flyer for Medicine Tribe's war against apathy. Here are some of the words I typed:

Apathy is a lack of caring. But not just that — it's a lack of doing. If you care about something but never act as you do, your care means nothing. If you believe in something but do not act on your beliefs, you believe in nothing. Let's end apathy.

What followed that was a listing of local, national and international organizations committed to helping people and our environment. Addresses and phone numbers were given. I hope students copy down the information about the organizations that work towards their beliefs. I hope we Aggies can vanquish our apathy.

Irwin Tang '92

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

People's concepts of rights often are mistaken

"Sneaky inconsistency keeps me up at night," Binkley said in a Bloom County cartoon of a few years ago. And although I do not agree with the majority of the views of Berke Breathed or his fictitious leftist Meadow Party, I find myself in complete harmony on this point.

And in no situation is inconsistency more glaring than in a discussion about "rights." No concept is more hallowed in our nation, and I think none is more misunderstood. Perhaps it is because rights are by nature close to the heart of each of us, and we have difficulty objectively seeing things that are in close proximity.

The inconsistent arguments that result are invalid and a waste of time and effort. Yet they are constantly voiced by people on both sides of every issue under the sun.

As best as I can figure, there are a few underlying problems with most difficulties over the concept of rights. I am convinced that sincere people who want the truth can come to it. But it involves an open-minded reassessment of all pre-conceived notions, which most people cannot seem to manage.

I like to think that I can. So if one of

Hal Hammons

you out there disagrees with a point or an application, I would appreciate the opportunity of discussing it with you, with the understanding that both of us want, not to prove a point, but to understand the world better.

The simplest of the problems is a misunderstanding of the right itself. The best example of this that I can think of is the issue of gun control — just about the only stance of any leftist slant that I find myself taking.

The standard argument defending the home ownership of handguns focuses on the Second Amendment to the Constitution — a single sentence that does not even mention guns, much less handguns. It says the population needs a strong militia ready to defend the country in the case of a surprise invasion.

Today that function is served by the National Guard. The idea of a house-to-house muster of soldiers to ward off the Communist hordes landing on our

beaches is somewhat ludicrous. People want handguns as a defense against domestic enemies — muggers, robbers, etc. Practically everyone admits that. Therefore the Second Amendment argument doesn't apply.

People have grown to think the Constitution guarantees the right to own guns, when it really speaks against reliance on the national army to defend the population in an emergency.

Of course, the gun-ownership forces added a new twist this week, as a Victoria state representative introduced a bill that would allow licenses to be issued for the carrying of concealed handguns. Even in Texas, the sacred homeland of the National Rifle Association, I never would have expected such an idea to be sincerely brought up.

Now we are to believe that our lives will be safer with people roaming the streets of downtown Dallas with Saturday Night Specials hidden in their pants. Right.

Of course, the bill would not allow "habitual drunks or drug users" to be licensed. I think the logistics of enforcing that stipulation speak for themselves.

Another difficulty that comes up

when people try to defend their arguments is a failure to extend the argument to its logical conclusion. People are perfectly willing to use an argument in a shallow sense to defend their point, but they don't consider the long-range ramifications that are involved.

A friend of mine reminded me of this during a discussion on abortion. He said I was the first anti-abortionist with whom he had discussed the issue who was not inconsistent in his arguments. Everyone else, he said, is willing to make an exception for a woman who has been impregnated as a result of incest or rape.

I am not. Call it insensitive if you like; it's a stand that I believe to be right.

The argument against abortion, after all, basically is that a fetus is a living human being, and that killing it is murder just as certainly as if the mother had been the victim instead. After all, men have been successfully tried for murder after shooting a pregnant woman in the stomach and killing her unborn child.

The details about how the child was conceived are not important. The child is alive. It has brain functions, nerve impulses, motor skills and functional or-

gans — all a few weeks after conception. I don't know how you would define life if such a being doesn't qualify.

But my friend failed to realize the inconsistencies in his own arguments. It is the argument of the "pro-choice" movement that people have the right to determine for themselves what to do with their own bodies.

I agree wholeheartedly. Everyone should be able to make for themselves the decision of what to do and where to go with their lives.

"Everyone," however, includes the unborn. And what decision is more personal or more important than the decision of whether or not to live?

Both of these problems can be seen in many more situations than I have described here, but these will suffice. My intention is not to isolate arguments of abortion and gun control with which I disagree. My intention is to get people on any side of any issue to reassess their stance and see if they are indeed building their houses on foundations of sand. Any stance worth taking is worth the extra effort to make sure it is worth standing for.

Hal Hammons is an assistant news editor for The Battalion.

by Berke Breathed

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion

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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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