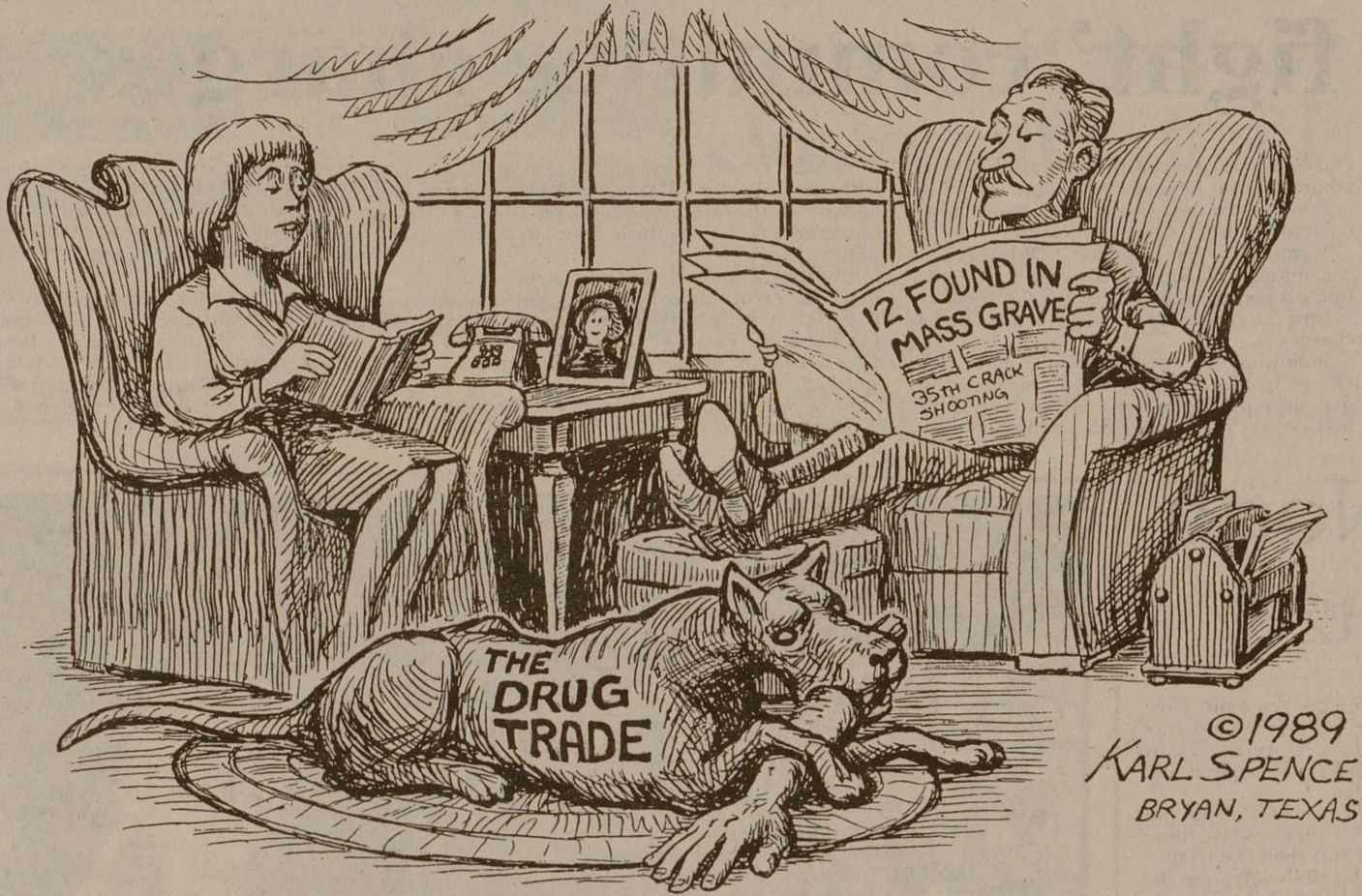


MR. AND MRS. AMERICA AT HOME



Community involvement must replace federal intervention

When one thinks of New York City, many images come to mind: Broadway, the Statue of Liberty, Harlem, Coney Island, drugs, poverty, Lou Reed's new album. New York has the good and the bad, but some see it as the epitome of materialism.

Last week, a new social project was opened in Queens. It is an apartment complex for low- and middle-income elderly people. It houses medical services and meets most of the needs of those who will live there. And the people residing there will retain their independence.

The federal government was not involved in this project. Private organizations and businesses, as well as the city government, provided the planning and funding for the project.

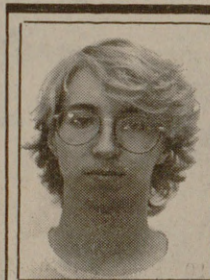
This is the future of America and Americans, at least if we want the future to be productive.

Americans appear to be gaining in their consumeristic, materialistic tendencies. It is what I want that matters, not what you want or what is good for society.

This type of thinking is a massive inhibition to the growth of the nation and the world.

We need a new perception of unity. We need a nation which cares, which shows responsibility for its problems and which uses knowledge, not stupidity, to deal with its problems.

Is there something inherently wrong with



Todd Honeycutt
Columnist

this dream? I realize that perhaps I am too idealistic at times. But why are people so angry when someone tells them to care more, to do more?

Our government is the problem. Sure, it's always easy to blame the government. If we have a problem with drugs or with prayer in schools or with abortion in the streets, blame the government.

The problem the United States government has is that it takes on too many responsibilities which should belong to the people. It is not up to the federal government to create and maintain a welfare nation. The responsibility belongs to the communities of America.

To me, that is what democracy is all about — people solving the problems in their community and the federal government being as small and limited as possible, trying not to interfere into the lives of its constituents.

But people don't believe in that. We want someone else to blame for our problems. We

don't want to be responsible for helping others. What is in it for us? How many toys can I collect before I die? I realize that I may be overgeneralizing, but this seems to be the predominant thought pattern in our society.

The government cannot handle societal problems, which have become too cumbersome to deal with. Putting problems in the government's hands not only ensures waste and corruption in what would be good and useful systems, but it increases the amount of money and time the government spends meddling in our affairs.

If we removed some of the responsibilities from the government's back and let the communities come up with solutions for their own problems, the government would be able to be more efficient and responsible in other areas that need reform.

Besides, who is better able to understand the problems of the community than the community itself? When I say community, I mean the city and county governments, businesses, and private volunteer organizations. Community participation works, as seen on the small scale in isolated cases.

If community aid were broadened into a wide-scale program with no federal government intervention and state governments dealing only with financing, we would see a dramatic increase in the productivity of the people involved in the welfare system.

Todd Honeycutt is a sophomore psychology major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Mail Call

A&M — love it or change it

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Carol Landry's warm and heartfelt April 17 letter to the editor.

Without radicals like J. Frank Hernandez at this school questioning A&M's policies and traditions, well, let's not even speculate what it would be like.

Mind you, I love A&M, its traditions and policies, but these things need to be questioned if A&M is to be truly a world-class University.

Carol, you are the kind of person of whom we need more at A&M. It is so refreshing to hear yet another stick-in-the-mud conservative foam at the mouth about people questioning traditions and policies that may need change.

"We didn't need radicals at this school . . ." were your exact words.

May I remind you and those like you that if Lawrence Sullivan Ross had not been such a radical back in the 1880's you would be at t.u. and the mental patients of the state would be living at A&M. By the way, Carol, if it weren't for radicals in the '60s, you and all women wouldn't even attend A&M. Count your blessings.

Matt Michaels '92

Helmets save lives and money

EDITOR:

James Cecil, in a column referring to the helmet law's infringement on personal rights, would have us believe the public's money is being wasted through legislative processing of the bill.

Here is the true waste: The Texas Department of the Health conducted a study recently which found that the average hospital bill of a helmeted motorcycle accident victim is \$7,211. The average bill of an unhelmeted victim is \$17,155.

For all motorcycle accident victims, an average 63.4 percent of their hospital stay is paid for with public funds. Therefore, the public pays an average \$6,304 more for the care of unhelmeted motorcycle accident victims.

Mr. Cecil, would you and others like you please wear helmets so that our money can be put to a better use (such as a revision of the state tax codes).

C. Lance Davis '89

Nobody's judge

EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to a column Dean Sueltenfuss wrote in which he judges whether or not the Power Team is in the will of God. Mr. Sueltenfuss, thank God, is obviously in the will of God himself since God has appointed him to cast judgment on other people.

I hate to disagree with a judge, but it is wrong to say that the Power Team flaunts their bodies in order to steal money from kids. It does not cost money to attend a meeting and hear the fully dressed members of the Power Team talk about the love of God. There is a difference between getting rich off of people "for the sake of Christianity" and selling an \$18 sweatshirt to support yourself and your ministry.

I'll tell you right now — the Power Team is not perfect. No evangelist is. Except for the blood of Jesus that washes away all sin, they are all sinful. Every person who breathes is sinful. It is a fact of the human race. Why criticize someone for being imperfect when Jesus said there are none good but God.

Mr. Sueltenfuss, you didn't say anything good about the Power Team. You didn't say that the majority of their meetings consist of the Power Team conveying the power and victory we have through Jesus, God's gift of love. You did say that you suspected that the Power Team was not communicating with all the kids they could. How many kids are you communicating God's love to?

What you're resorting to is called backbiting. When you get the facts correct and have enough courage to confront them yourself, then write them.

God is the judge of The Power Team. God is the judge of you and me. You, Mr. Sueltenfuss, are nobody's judge.

Bill Poindexter '91

Accompanied by two signatures

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.

Crime is doing just fine in Atlanta, thank you

In an effort to improve its suffering image, Washington, D.C., officials did a study which pointed out that Atlanta, not Washington, was the Number One-ranked crime city in the nation. A large number of Atlantans were upset by the Washington report. Atlanta's city officials, such as the police chief, refuted the statistics and said, "Blah, blah, blah," which is what a city official says when he really means, "I'm into it up to my ears this time."

As for me, however, I took some measure of pride in finding out I live in the top-ranked crime city.

Residents in other cities celebrate

Lewis Grizzard

Columnist

winning Super Bowls and World Series. But Atlantans gave up on such things happening to them years ago.

We have the Falcons, the joke of the National Football League. We have the Braves, annually one of the worst teams in major league baseball.

The Falcons are so bad that when the owner threatened to move the team to Jacksonville, there were bumper stickers around that read,

"Goodbye, Falcons — and Take the Braves with You."

We have the Hawks, who again look like an early casualty in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

They did show some improvement last season, and this was to be their year. At this writing they are next to last in their division.

But crime?

Want to get murdered, raped or held up? Atlanta, according to the statistics, is the place to be.

What we must do with all this in Atlanta is to look on the bright side.

What does it say when Atlanta is called the crime capital of the country?

It says we have a great climate. Do you know why Chicago doesn't have Atlanta's percentage of muggers? Because it's too cold in Chicago about half the year to be out on the streets.

It says we have a healthy economy. If nobody had any money in Atlanta, there wouldn't be anybody out there trying to steal it.

It says we're not a sleepy little Southern city anymore, which is probably what people in places like New York still think we are.

They are wrong. You can't be sleepy in a place where people are murdering other people at such a rate. Keep alert, pal, and be prepared to duck.

It says we can get away with doing a lot of things people in other cities can't. We can jaywalk, litter the streets and ignore "no parking" signs. The cops are too busy chasing down murderers, rapists and thieves to bother with such relatively minor violations.

It says we have intelligent leadership. The City Council has mostly ignored the crime thing while deciding how much of a raise it wants to

give itself. That's plenty smart. Who's got time for crime when there's a real issue that must be dealt with?

It says we deserve a television show. There's "Miami Vice" and "L.A. Law." Why not "Atlanta Game" or "Peachtree Pursuesnatchers" or "Dead Designing Women"?

It also says we need a new slogan to replace the frayed "Atlanta: The City Too Busy to Hate." How about "Atlanta: You Have the Right to Remain Silent . . ."

I have seen my civic duty and now I have done it.

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The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

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.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

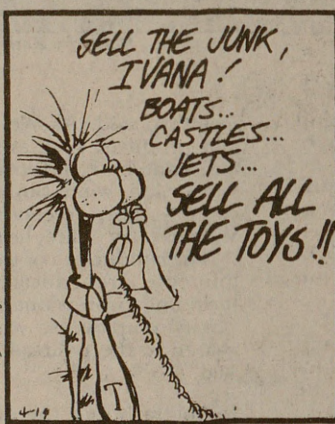
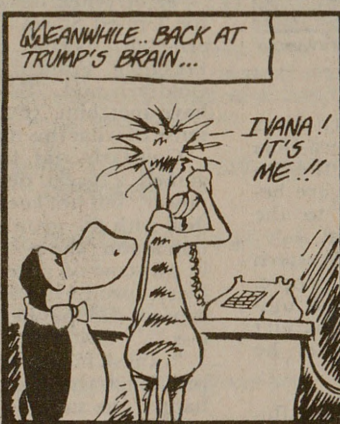
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BLOOM COUNTY



Gra

By Sherri Robert

STAFF WRITER

Dance clubs and change names, and frequently as the w College Station dog-eat-dog comp local businesses for However, Herm of the country/pop ham Central Stat take a swim in the

Investiga say offic in self-d

DUNCANVILLE investigators say a I cer who killed an duty Dallas polic ing an early mo fired the fatal sho to debilitate him.

Also, detective ville Sgt. Glenn Re first shot in the es fire, killing Dal Wise, who got of he was hit. Repp v

Initial reports had fired first an turned the gunfir Repp, who is t Rep. Glenn Repp ville, and a 12-y eran, was placed tive leave fo confrontation.

Duncanville Po Courville told th Herald Repp was debilitate Wise.

"I understand was saying our have attempted t because he was a get." Courville sa it or not, Sgt. R

Steve Crawford chief investigato concurred.

"Officer Repp to disable Officer him in the shoul said.

"He didn't wa was forced into Crawford added.

Wise, 39, and a of the force, died a gunshot wound was shot in front returning fr where he and th thia, had celebr birthday.

The couple, forced two year been living toget year, got into a Mrs. Wise went

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