



Damon Arhos
Assistant Opinion
Page Editor

Candidates' endorsements not endearing

It's amazing who's doing the political endorsing these days. I just can't figure out the process. It seems very simple, doesn't it? I mean, first you declare your candidacy, then you slam all of the other candidates in the race in any way that you can. After some fellow candidate bashing, you get someone who is famous, someone who people look up to, someone with credibility to endorse you. (Then you win or lose the nomination. If you lose, you just endorse the candidate that you have been bashing all along. If you win, you bash your opponent.)

Political candidates don't want just anybody to endorse them. For instance, how do you think one of our gubernatorial candidates would feel if Tammy Faye Bakker decided to come out publicly in support of them?

Yet, lately we have seen some doozies in the race for Texas' governorship.

The latest came from Henry Cisneros. Last Saturday at a Capitol rally, Henry jumped on the Richards bandwagon. This endorsement is an attempt by Richards to swing the Hispanic vote her way.

And if current allegations are true, she'll need some help in the Hispanic community. The Cisneros endorsement came just two days after allegations that Richards used the term "wetbacks" in a 1976 campaign speech.

Ernesto Fraga, publisher of the Hispanic-oriented newspaper *Tiempo*, quoted Richards as saying: "If it takes a man to hire non-union labor, cross picket lines and work wetbacks then I say thank God for a woman or anyone else who is willing to take over." (This is alleged Richards gaffe number two, the first being the "white woman" slip in the gubernatorial debates.)

But Cisneros, who said he didn't know about the controversy until after the scheduled endorsement, is defending Richards' Hispanic record.

What I don't understand is Richards' motivation behind wanting Cisneros' endorsement. Granted, Cisneros was the mayor of San Antonio and has a resounding voice in the Hispanic community, but what else is he known for?

Adultery.
Why does Richards want an adulterer to endorse her candidacy? His endorsement could potentially damage her candidacy.

And it gets even better!
Kent Hance has been running around Texas with Oliver North. Oliver North — the convicted felon. While Oliver North still may be very popular with many people in Texas, there are many others who really don't like his style. After all, he is a criminal. Why would any candidate want to be endorsed by a criminal?

What's even more incredible is that it may not even be helping. Clayton Williams is way ahead of his fellow Republicans in the polls.

It is time for our political candidates to think about the names they choose to associate themselves with. Voters associate people with action. If they don't like the actions of the people who are doing the endorsing, then they won't like the candidate.

Reputation and character are the political lifeblood of the candidate. If the candidate compromises their reputation and character when they seek political endorsement, they essentially reveal their true reputation and character to the electorate.

Mail Call

Good could exist without God

EDITOR:

I think Ronda Sheperd missed the point with her column in Tuesday's Battalion when she tried to deal with the problem of evil in the world.

Epicurus summed up the problem well: "Is (God) willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then He is impotent. Is He able, but not willing? Then He is malevolent. Is He both able and willing? Whence then is evil?"

Since few people's conception of God include him being impotent or malevolent, Ms. Sheperd tried to "prove" God's existence by mentioning a few non-evil things that go on our planet.

While there are ways to reconcile evil and the Judeo-Christian God, one of them is not pointing to the good in the world, as Ms. Sheperd did.

Good could certainly exist without God, as could any "good" organizations she mentioned.

Not believing in God does not mean you don't care about your fellow man in society. You might.

The whole argument rests on her conclusion that "for every evil, there is a greater good," something she doesn't prove at all.

My saying that more people are hungry than are fed does not prove that there is more evil in the world any more than her statements show that good prevails.

But these things are beside the point, anyway.

The point is this: Ms. Sheperd began her column with some good questions, yet completely ignored them in the body of her argument.

She failed to address how an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God could place evil and suffering among his children.

Stephen Pace '91

Humans lack authority to sentence death

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the letters from Mr. Crawford and Mr. Finfer appearing in the Feb. 21 edition of *The Battalion*, supporting capital punishment instead of life imprisonment.

I agree with Finfer's argument that life in prison does not exactly fit the crime of raping corpses. As humans, however, we are not all-knowing. Therefore, we do not possess the knowledge and thereby the authority to say exactly what is appropriate punishment.

If I condemn someone to death with no better justification than revenge, then I am no better than the murderer himself.

People lack understanding of racial issues

Kevin Carreathers

In recent weeks there have been many articles in *The Battalion* on racism, affirmative action, diversity, discrimination, Black History Month and other related issues. Reading the comments made by our students, faculty and staff I was enlightened but reassured that too many of us still do not have a good understanding of civil rights, affirmative action, multiculturalism and cultural pluralism.

First of all, I would like to thank John Bussell '92 and S. Murrell '93 for their letter to the editor, "Racial Tensions 0Flare at A&M," which appeared in the Friday, Feb. 16 *Battalion*. It is their beliefs, values and attitudes towards what they deemed "racism" that has challenged me to respond and clarify a few concerns for all those involved in making America a better place for all of its citizens.

Thank you for sharing your insights on the issues of racism, discrimination and segregation. I can only assume that your socialization into this great society assisted you with your opinions on the above-mentioned social ills. I cannot and will not blame you for your feelings, just like I don't blame anyone else who carries with them similar opinions. I say this in all truth and honesty, because I too have been socialized into this society and I have been a personal witness of it for over 30 years. I have read much about "the struggle" which is not just over 300 years, but more than 2000 years old. Until all of us learn to appreciate, understand and deal with how society treats its residents differently, the "the struggle" will continue.

It is a Black thang and you wouldn't understand. It could also be an Asian thang or a Hispanic thang and you wouldn't understand that, either. You wouldn't understand unless you have had the same experiences with racism, discrimination and segregation as your counterparts from other ethnic groups. Until you immerse yourself into their culture and their environment, you just won't understand. It could have read

"It's a White thang and you wouldn't understand," but I doubt it because members of ethnic minority groups have always had to understand the "White Thang" if we hoped to be accepted and respected in America. Members of ethnic minority groups have been forced to become bi-cultural to survive "White America". It's important to understand that there are values and traditions in all cultures which are unique and meaningful to the members of those cultures. Now, more so than ever, we all need to learn how to respect and appreciate those time honored values and traditions and not ask that they be given up in order to be totally accepted by the so-called "power structure".

Thank you for recognizing that this is Black History Month. I hope that people of all races and ethnic backgrounds have been able to participate in some of the events. You see, this only proves that Black History Month focuses on the accomplishments of African-Americans, but in reality the month is designed to be celebrated by all people.

I, too, would tend to agree that we shouldn't need a Black History Month. However, we do not live in a truly integrated society where we are taught about the accomplishments of all the great people who have helped to build this world and our great country. When Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week, which then evolved into Black History Month, he was only asking that the accomplishments of African-Americans be infused into our educational process. I am still disturbed that so many African-American students assume that their history started with slavery in America.

Educational curriculum, as it is today,

Finfer's argument that keeping a corpse-raping murderer is a waste of tax money is additionally offensive. How can Finfer assign a monetary value to human life? Is Finfer suggesting that we allow money (greed?) to help us with moral decisions?

There is a term for that: selling out. By the way, Finfer suggests that we use methods that "insure" a rapid demise. Who sells quick death insurance? How can I get into the business? The word, I think, is "ensure."

Mr. Crawford, your use of the Bible as an argument for capital punishment is blasphemous, banal and blatantly incorrect. Jesus (one of the people you can read about in the Bible) said that only the sinless could throw the first stone, in other words, condemn someone to death.

He also said that not one of us are sinless. I am not attempting to say that the Bible supports life imprisonment, merely that it does not support capital punishment.

David J. Massey '91

KAMU benefit article unethical

EDITOR:

The Feb. 8 article, "Benefit shows rescheduled," was simply unethical.

One should never print an article that can be damaging to a person or business without notifying the subject. Instead of interviewing Tim Davis exclusively, John Righter could have very well included a response from Club Fahrenheit.

Tim Davis was quoted as saying, "By sponsoring this benefit for us, (Estakhri) will actually be making quite a profit. ..." If Tim Davis ran a night club, he might understand that employee's salaries, premium liquor and electricity must be paid for.

The bar does make money, but how much of a profit can you make with free drinks at certain hours and \$1.25 to \$2.25 mixed drinks?

Even though Todd Stone presented what should have been the original article later in *The Battalion*, I think a public apology is in order to Club Fahrenheit as well as Battalion readers.

Jennifer Lynn Humes '91

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

does not address Black History from its origin. Its origin goes beyond 4000 B.C. Only recently have many of the leading anthropologists and Egyptologists publicly admitted that Africa is the "cradle" of civilization — that so-called "Dark Continent". We were never taught that the earliest forms of cataract surgery were performed thousands of years ago by African Priests, or how some of the world's greatest thinkers such as Socrates and Aristotle based their philosophical beliefs on the beliefs of African philosophers. We don't read about the accomplishments of Imhotep, Ramses II, Hanibal, Aesop, Cleopatra and Akhenaton, who all lived before the birth of Christ. The way we are socialized in our school system today denies African-Americans their sense of historical connectedness in how our ancestors helped to make the world what it is today. We are led to believe that Egypt is in the Middle East and that Georgetown University is great because of its basketball team, rather than that Father Patrick Healy, a Black man, was one of its presidents in the 1800s. We were never told about Lewis Latimer and how he assisted Alexander Graham Bell in designing the telephone, or how the first successful open heart surgery, the invention of blood plasma, and the invention of the traffic light were all accomplishments made by Blacks.

It is for these reasons that we celebrate Black History Month, to share with the world our great and glorious past. I wonder how many more ethnic minorities would be successful in the fields of engineering, science, medicine, law, business and education if they knew the impact their ancestors made in these areas. Until we do a better job of infusing the accomplishments of all ethnic minorities into our educational process, you can rest assured that there will always be Black History Month.

It might appear that organizations which have ethnicity, culture or gender

reflected in their titles are only for said members. In order to set the record straight, membership in these organizations is open to any student who meets the qualifications. Ethnicity and gender are not part of the requirements for membership. Their focus and purpose will be aimed toward the enhancement and development of Blacks, Mexican-Americans, women and other specified groups. Historically, the Society of Engineers was not meeting the needs of women engineers; thus came the Society of Women Engineers. The Accounting Society was not meeting the needs of Black accountants; thus came the outgrowth of the National Society of Black Accountants. As long as cultural differences are not respected and treated with dignity, we will forever have gender-and culturally-related groups.

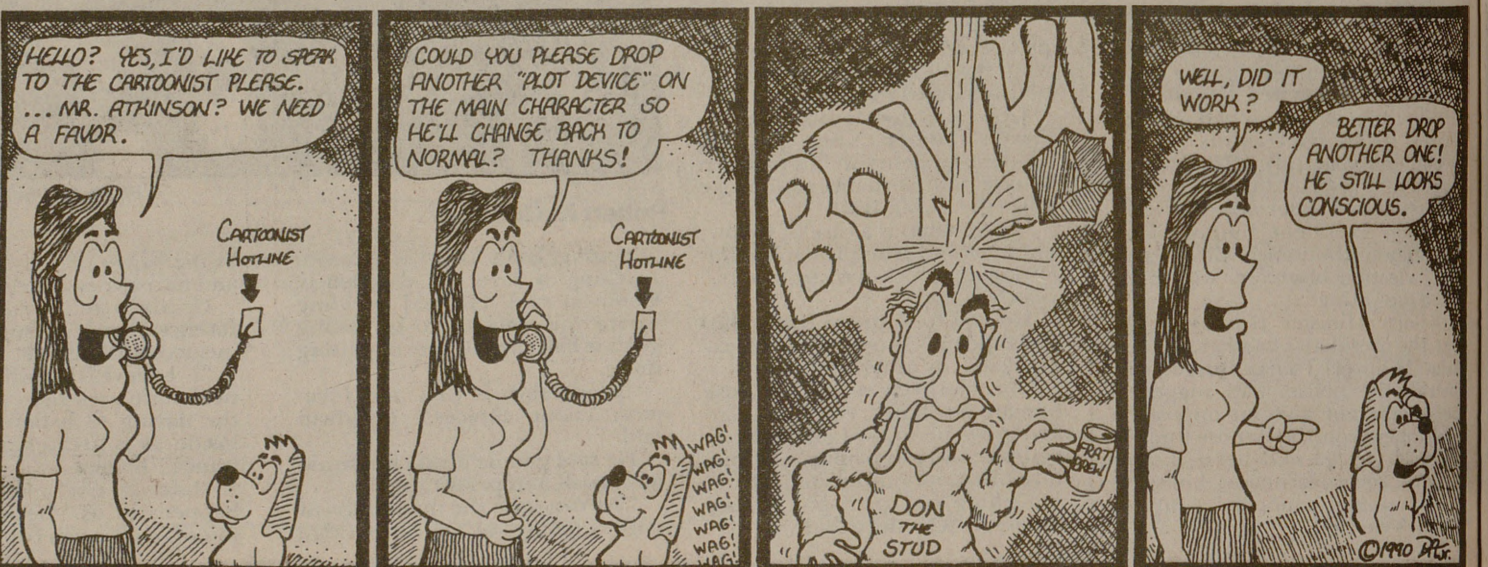
I applaud you for understanding the principle of equality encouraged by Dr. Martin Luther King. I hope that you will use your breadth of knowledge and talents to ensure that equality is forever promoted. That is but one way you can help keep Dr. King's dream alive.

In closing, please understand that both overt and subtle forms of racism and institutional racism exist in our society today. Until we can cure these ills, we will be forever dealing with "racial tensions", however anyone chooses to define the term. Just as the abolitionists of all ethnic backgrounds cured the ills of slavery and all the people involved in the Civil Rights movement brought an end to legal acts of racism and discrimination, now we must join hands together and find a cure for the societal ills of racism, discrimination and segregation of the '90s and beyond.

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



The Battalion

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