

Here are some answers to unanswerable questions

Every now and then, we get letters here at The Batt asking us for answers to questions which have no answers. So, to appease those who have asked, I made up some answers.

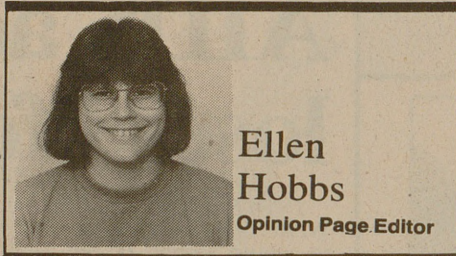
I've noticed that the majority of students on the Texas A&M campus carry their backpacks on their left shoulders. Why is that?

According to researchers, the side of the body on which college students carry their backpacks indicates the political party the student feels the most inclined toward. Sometimes, though, because of societal norms, they suppress their urges to vote for that party.

Students who carry their backpacks on their left shoulder tend to prefer a more liberal government. Since around 98 percent of the A&M student body claims to be politically conservative and Republican, and since most A&M students carry their backpacks on their left shoulders, this shows that many A&M students are closet Democrats with latent liberal tendencies.

Closet Democrats have to deal with a lot of negative feelings within themselves and try to make themselves feel as Republican as they can (and therefore more accepted by the A&M community). An unfortunate side effect of this condition is voting for Clayton Williams.

The reverse is true for students who carry their backpacks on their right shoulders. Many of them would prefer



Ellen Hobbs
Opinion Page Editor

Construction often blocks campus streets, but the streets that are barricaded change so quickly that I can never get used to which streets I can drive on and which I can't. Will this construction ever end?

No, it won't. Not because A&M is not ever going to quit building new stuff, but because construction on campus is controlled by a group of psychology graduate students doing research on human behavior. These graduate students have taken behavior

studies well beyond the age of mice running through mazes to find cheese. Their "mice" are A&M students, faculty and staff, and their "cheese" is whatever these people are trying to get to: the Memorial Student Center, their offices or Kyle Field, for example.

And what have the graduate students found?

"Well, it doesn't take long for the subject to learn how to get through the 'maze,'" said one of the students. "But when we change the barricades, they get really mad. We can tell because they cuss a lot, and flip people off.

"The experiment has been very helpful. We've learned a lot more than we did with just the mice. We always thought that the mice got mad, but it's hard to tell, because they can't talk or make angry gestures."

When they cut down the trees by the MSC, or anywhere else for that matter, do they go to heaven?

Well, different people believe different things, so it all depends on

your point of view. I personally like to think that trees do have souls of some sort, and that they go to some sort of "tree heaven" where they can flourish and grow peacefully.

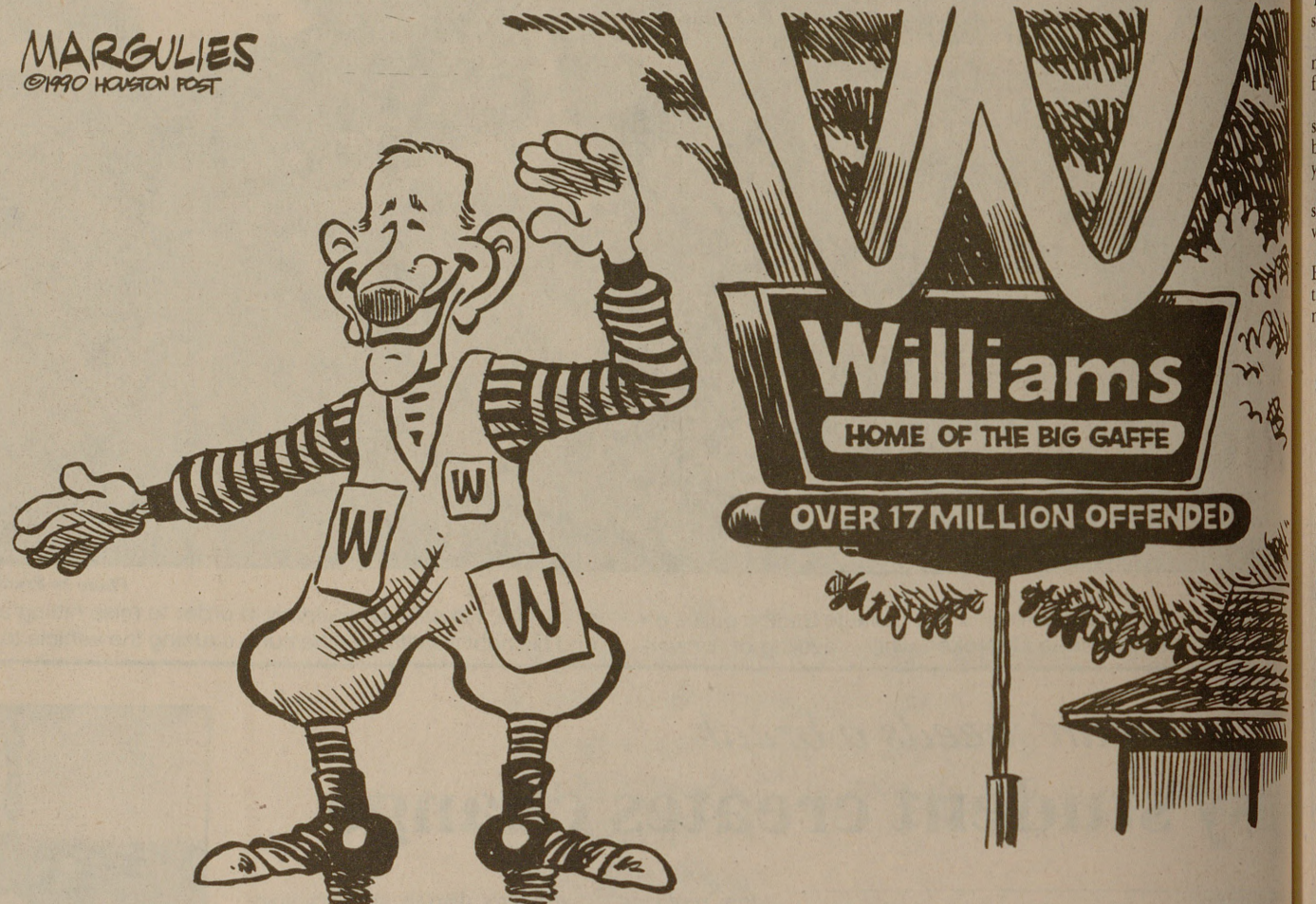
Humans beings have been cutting down trees for a long time, though, and we need to slow down. What with land clearing and strip mining and construction, tree heaven must be getting kind of crowded. We need to

save a few more trees for down here on earth, or this planet could become less than heavenly.

Well, those are my answers. That's the best I can do. Keep those cards and letters coming, and I'll keep answering your questions.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major.

MARGULIES
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Mail Call

Practice what you preach

EDITOR:

Until recently, I wasn't aware that the Christian religion offered an insurance policy. Thanks to the wise words of Bill Pirkle, though, I can rest easier at night knowing that I've selected the right company to suit my needs.

The plan is simple: If you act now, peace and eternal salvation can be yours for an unbelievably low price. Of course, since we're all open-minded here, we're not going to say that if you're not Christian, you're dead wrong. But why take the chance? Why not become a Christian anyway? That way, just in case it turns out to be the right thing, you're covered! Eternity, after all, is a really long time. Why spend it roasting in a hot oven?

I confess, I've thought of Jesus Christ in many different ways, but never as an insurance salesman. Of course, he doesn't need to be, not since Bill is doing the job so well.

And if you need to know whose beliefs are stronger, consider this: James Hammitt at least is standing by his beliefs even when confronted with narrow-minded views. Bill Pirkle, however, isn't taking any chances. He's already made a great deal with God.

I'd say that Bill has a great deal to learn instead. Keeping belief in something just in case it will keep you out of hell isn't faith, it's hypocrisy. You either believe or you don't. There is no middle ground. And I'm getting tired of hearing people professing their beliefs for everyone to see, while what they actually practice is something totally different.

If Bill Pirkle wants to call himself a Christian, I'd suggest that he reexamine his values and grow up a little. Otherwise, he might have a lot of explaining to do when he finally does reach those pearly gates.

Marc D. Giller '90

Pro-choicers believe in individual

EDITOR:

The pro-choice Aggies are students of Texas A&M who have joined together to protect the most sensitive and private areas of our lives: a couple's right to choose for themselves

when to have a child. Abortion as a safe and legal option for all women is at the forefront of our concerns, and we defend that right by informing students on our facts and not employing scare tactics. To assume that pro-choice is also pro-abortion is incorrect. We are concerned with education, contraception and the individual or couple.

Caring and sensitive people do not have to accept the dogma that conception equals personhood, or the contraception is wrong. We take a realistic approach to the world and in dealing with the problems we all face. Pro-choice is believing in the ability of the individual, and not letting state legislators or anyone else determine when to have a child and what contraception may be employed.

Abortion as a consistent means of birth control is a fallacy. Again, education, contraception and the right to a safe and legal abortion is what we are concerned with. The preservation of freedom is why we exist.

Nikki Ried '93

Animals used for more than pelts

EDITOR:

Almost all the arguments against using animal pelts to make fur coats can be boiled down to two basic themes: The animals are only used for their pelts, and the rest of the carcass is wasted.

First of all, on fur farms the animals' bodies are not disposed of as trash. They are by-products resulting from the skinning. The bodies in many cases are sold and used in dissection labs for biology students. I know that my high school used skinned mink carcasses for this purpose and I would assume that we were not the only school in the country that did this.

Also, at bare minimum, the bodies can be recycled at a chicken rendering plant and processed into feed or other useful items. A fur supplier who does not sell the body as the useful by-product it is will not be in business for very long because he is at a competitive disadvantage.

Second, to protect itself from erroneous or emotional attacks, the fur industry needs to outlaw, or at least severely discourage the use of trapped animals. By removing the debate,

(the graphic picture of a trapped animal chewing off its leg), the anti-fur groups will not have a very strong argument with which to win over the apathetic majority.

Also, it would only be these small-scale trappers or poachers who would be discarding bodies as trash. The fur industry needs to protect itself as a whole by throwing its darker side, the trappers, to, shall we say, the wolves.

Brett Cornwell
Graduate student

Abortion tragedy of our generation

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the April 4th letter by John F. Welch, president of Pro-Choice Aggies. By stating that pro-choice is not pro-abortion, Welch is incorrect. Pro-choice means one is in favor of granting someone the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. It means one is not necessarily against abortion. But, by not being against abortion, one is passively for it, since one allows it to continue. Being pro-choice means being pro-abortion, either actively or passively.

In other words, "pro-choice" is really a euphemism for "option to kill." I am against giving anyone the option to kill anyone else, even if the intended victim is too young to voice his opinion.

Abortion continues to be the tragedy of our generation. One can only muse as to how many of our classmates would cease to exist if the Roe vs. Wade decision was made five or six years before it was. A growing number of Aggies continue to fight against the "option to kill." I salute you.

Richard M. Bohannon '90

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.

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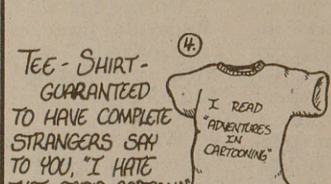
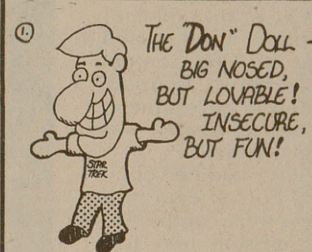
by Don Atkinson Jr.

WE NEED MONEY !!!
LOTS OF MONEY !!!

SO WE'VE DECIDED TO DO
WHAT OTHER STRIPS HAVE
DONE AND MERCHANDIZE!

THE OFFICIAL
"ADVENTURES IN
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