



## Cartoon frustrates educators

### Bart Simpson labeled as poor role model

NEW YORK (AP) — Bart Simpson, the goggle-eyed cartoon kid with a corrugated hairdo, is catching flak from educators who say his smart-alecky attitude on "The Simpsons" gives children the wrong message.

Bart, with his overbite and back-talk ("Don't have a cow, man!"), is fast becoming an icon of American pop culture, helped along by a multimillion-dollar merchandising blitz from Fox Broadcasting Co.

Bart's influence has reached Stanford University and UCLA, where he won votes in student elections. He was disqualified in both races on the technicality that he was not enrolled, prompting student protests.

In a telegram from Fox to Stanford students, Bart told voters to be patient: "I must tell you I have set my sights on higher goals. Bart Simpson for U.S. president in '92, man!"

Bart is fast becoming the fictional youth American children identify with most. Not bad for a 10-year-old kid with only eight fingers, eh? But his attitude bothers some critical school officials.

Last month, Principal Bill Krumnow of Lutz Elementary School in Ballville Township, Ohio, banned Bart's "Underachiever: And Proud of It, Man," T-shirt.

"To be proud of being an incompetent is a contradiction of what we stand for," Krumnow said. "We strive for excellence and to instill good values in kids." The show, he said, "teaches the wrong thing to students."

The shirt also was banned at Cambridge Elementary School in Orange, Calif., and last week in Kentucky, Principal Lonnie Watts of Taylor Mill Elementary School declared the Bart shirt a dress-code violation.

"Simpsons" creator Matt Groening and Fox officials prefer to let Bart defend himself with statements like: "I have no comment. My folks taught me to respect elementary school principals, even the ones who have nothing better to do than tell kids what to wear."

The show's co-executive producer Sam Simon said: "I don't think it's the job of elementary school principals to pick the role models for their kids."

The uproar caused J.C. Penney Co. Inc., which created Simpsons boutiques in its stores, to remove the offending "underachiever" shirt and another that reads: "I'm Bart Simpson. Who the hell are you?"

Even drug czar William J. Bennett took a swipe at Bart. On a May 16 tour of a Pittsburgh drug-treatment center, Bennett saw a poster of Bart and told recovering addicts they shouldn't follow Bart's lead as an underachiever.

"You guys aren't watching 'The Simpsons,' are you? That's not going to help you any," Bennett, director of the national drug policy office, said.

That wasn't lost on Fox. "We have great respect for Mr. Bennett's task and responsibility," Fox spokesman Brad Turell said. "But I am not aware of any one TV program that will help teenagers kick the drug habit."

## Status of women survey reveals discontent

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

A significant minority of women faculty and professional employees surveyed recently expressed dissatisfaction and unhappiness about the reward structure, decision-making processes and quality of life at Texas A&M.

The survey, conducted by the Faculty Senate's Status of Women Committee, was sent to 2,100 A&M faculty, professionals, and staff members of both sexes in March.

The committee received 850 questionnaires completed, only a 42 percent return rate, and based its data on the responses to the 15-question survey.

The 1990 report is a follow-up of a 1985 Status of Women Committee survey of faculty regarding attitudes about the treatment

of women on campus. The first survey, however, questioned faculty about conditions for women as a group, while the second survey questioned employees about their own job conditions.

A significant number of women surveyed, especially faculty and professional women, are not happy with all working conditions at A&M:

- Thirty-two percent of the women surveyed reported that their pay was not comparable to men in similar positions at A&M. In the survey sent to women only, 36 percent said their pay was not comparable.

- Twenty-seven percent of women faculty believe they do not have as much of an opportunity to participate in decision-making as men do.

- Twenty-two percent of women faculty and professionals stated they had personally experienced some form of sexual harassment

at A&M.

- Twenty-four percent of women in faculty and professional positions said sexual harassment has occurred in their departments.

- Eleven percent of women faculty felt they had been denied access to promotions because of their gender.

- Twenty-three percent of women faculty and professional employees reported that University leave policies, particularly parental leave, made it more difficult for them to deal with family issues.

- Thirty-eight percent of faculty and professional women and 34 percent of men faculty said they are not satisfied with the quality of life at A&M.

Dr. Patricia Alexander, chairwoman of the Status of Women Committee, said the survey results can be interpreted two ways.

Some people will look at the results in a positive light since a majority of the respon-

dents reported they were satisfied with the working conditions at A&M, Alexander said.

"But in all cases, a small group of people expressed dissatisfaction and discontentment," she said. "And in some cases, in a particularly sensitive area like sexual harassment, it caused us concern. We felt those numbers should not be ignored."

The committee made several recommendations in the survey, including an examination of University leave policies, a study on the problem of sexual harassment, and an assessment of possible salary differences between men and women employees.

The survey and summary report was accepted by the Faculty Senate during the May 14 meeting and sent to the Executive Committee for review. Alexander said the Executive Committee then has the option of sending the report to the appropriate groups for action.



Helen, David and Jennifer Faulk try to sink a hole-in-one playing a game of putt-putt golf.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

## Tenured faculty member settles terms of dismissal with A&M out of court

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M recently agreed to settle out of court the grievance of a tenured faculty member who had contested A&M's move to dismiss her since 1985.

As part of the settlement between Dr. Katharine Richards and A&M, the terms of the settlement are confidential.

A&M attempted to dismiss Richards for professional incompetence, neglect of professional responsibilities, mental or physical disablement which adversely affected her responsibilities and unprofessional conduct.

Richards contested her dismissal and filed civil charges against A&M with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claiming she was discriminated against on the basis of her handicap, sex and age.

Richards, 49, wears a leg brace and has not been able to walk or stand without crutches since contracting poliomyelitis at age 10.

In hearings before the Committee for Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure in September 1988, Dr. Luis Costa, modern languages department head, testified that

Richards' student evaluations were consistently poor.

Complaints were similar in that students said Richards gave few explanations, students had problems understanding her and that she was absent-minded and often unprepared, Costa said.

Dr. Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, also testified in a deposition to the 1988 CAFRT that medical conditions, not her sex or handicap, were the basis for her dismissal.

Dr. Tom Pollock, an associate professor of aerospace engineering, who was chairman of the Tenure Advisory Committee for 1985-86 said negative comments about Richards' class recorded during the TAC investigation were not as negative as the committee had been led to believe and almost equaled the number of positive comments.

The Tenure Advisory Committee in 1986 unanimously recommended ending dismissal procedures against Richards.

Richards has been a member of A&M's faculty since 1970 and earned tenure in 1976.

## Floods continue Experts say dams, levees prevented more damage

DALLAS (AP) — A year's worth of rain in four months washed out crops, damaged homes and caused some \$300 million in damage in four states, but experts say dams and levees built since 1950 prevented a far worse catastrophe.

Downtown Dallas, for example, probably would have been swamped by the Trinity River if five dams had not held back 390 billion gallons of water — enough to cover Rhode Island under nearly 2 feet of water.

"This would have been the new flood of record," Ron Ruffenach of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said. "Our economists ... think \$2 billion in damage was prevented in the Dallas area because of these water projects."

Instead, water was held back or channeled away from populated areas, and flooding in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana was confined mostly to rural, low-lying flood plains. In those areas, development is sparse, and agriculture and recreation are the only industries.

In all, damage from the water draining south toward the Gulf of Mexico is estimated at \$300 million or more — most of it related to agriculture. Exact counts are unavailable because many areas are still under water and may remain flooded most of the summer.

So far, 76 counties in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas have been declared eligible for federal disaster assistance.

But as water recedes in most areas, officials say it seems clear that given the record volume of water, flooding could have been far worse.

"A lot of the area that was flooded was agriculture area and much less populated than other places. And particularly downstream, it's safe to say a lot of people received an early warning," Lauren Chernow, a spokeswoman for the Texas Office of Emergency Management, said.

Carol Weathers of the Trinity River Authority added, "There's no doubt it could have been a lot worse.

The system worked as it was supposed to."

In Louisiana, the Corps of Engineers, which operates flood-control dams, warned that 700,000 acres of land could be flooded. With cleanup operations under way, authorities count fewer than 110,000 flooded acres because levees held.

About 110 homes sustained damage in five counties, but counts from six others affected by flooding haven't been made, Janet Merritt, chief of disaster services in Louisiana, said.

Only two counties in Louisiana apparently will qualify for a federal disaster declaration, she said. Agricultural losses are estimated at \$7 million.

Elsewhere:

- In Oklahoma, President Bush declared 13 counties eligible for disaster aid. One child was killed during storms, about 500 homes were damaged and highways and bridges sustained about \$8 million worth of damage, officials said. No crop or livestock losses were reported.

- In Arkansas, 22 counties have been included in the disaster declaration, no deaths were reported, about 500 houses were damaged and agriculture losses were estimated at \$4.8 million.

- In Kansas City, 208 houses were destroyed, 302 sustained major damage and 224 sustained minor damage after flooding, including 800,000 acres of corn. Damage is estimated to be at least \$5 million.

- In Mississippi, 345 houses have been damaged by flooding, and cleanup efforts are well under way.

- And in Texas, 12 people died last month because of the floods, which began April 15. One died last week, authorities said. So far, 41 counties have been made eligible for federal disaster aid, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency has received applications for aid from 3,473 Texas families.

Last year, 22 people died in flooding that made 89 Texas counties eligible for federal disaster assistance.

## Clements vetoes new school finance reform plan, reiterates vehement opposition to higher taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements, opposed to a sales tax increase and confident that lawmakers lack the votes to override him, Tuesday vetoed the Legislature's proposed school finance reform plan.

Senate Democrats immediately tried to override the Republican's veto. But they backed down without a vote after Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby failed to find the 21 supporters needed for the required two-thirds majority.

Several lawmakers then predicted that a court-appointed special master would wind up writing a new formula for giving state money to local schools.

"I won't agree to any sales tax whatsoever. Period. I've only said that about a hundred times, and one of these days everybody's going to start believing it."

— Bill Clements, governor

Clements said he wasn't worried about a June 1 court-ordered deadline for action. If no finance reforms are approved, Clements said, he will call lawmakers into a fourth education special session when the current 30-day session ends May 31.

Lawmakers have been in non-stop special sessions since Feb. 27. The \$555 million school finance bill they passed last week was the product of those 2½ months of legislative wrangling.

In vetoing it, Clements complained that "the liberals" were too eager to pass a half-cent sales tax increase to help pay the bill's cost.

"I won't agree to any sales tax whatsoever. Period. I've only said that about a hundred times, and one of these days everybody's going to start believing it," Clements said.

The governor boasted before the Senate's unsuccessful try that the Legislature, controlled by Democrats, couldn't override his veto. There are 23 Democrats and eight Republicans in the Senate.

Sponsors of the override attempt gave up when Hispanic senators said they would join Republicans to uphold Clements.

While not agreeing with Clements, the Hispanic lawmakers said they would rather take their chances with a court-written plan than with the bill being debated.

"For a lot of us as minorities, we have had to look at the courts to do what's right ... I have a

great deal of faith in the judiciary," Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, said.

Afterward, Clements said, "A governor has to be pleased when he gets a veto to stick ... Gloating is not in my nature."

The Legislature is trying to overhaul the \$13.5 billion-a-year school finance system to respond to a 9-0 Texas Supreme Court ruling. The high court declared the system unconstitutional, saying more money must be made available to poor school districts.

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If lawmakers and the governor fail to enact a plan, state District Judge Scott McCown already has appointed a special master, former Supreme Court Justice William Kilgarlin, to do it for them. "We have a big club behind us — and that's the unanimous Supreme Court decision and the appointment of a master," Truan said.

"If we fail to override, I'm putting this button on. It says: 'Here comes the judge,'" Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, author of the Legislature's reform plan, said.