

Bart's expulsion a mistake, dude

Bart Simpson is being kicked out of school. According to an Associated Press wire story, Bart's smart-aleck attitude has led to his expulsion from some elementary schools. Students at these schools are considered to be breaking the dress code if they wear the Bart Simpson T-shirt bearing the slogan "Underachiever: And Proud of It, Man."

Now, I'm not a big Simpson's fan, though I am quite fond of the comics that their creator Matt Groening has produced under the "Life in Hell" title. But I do think that it's about time somebody came to Bart's defense.

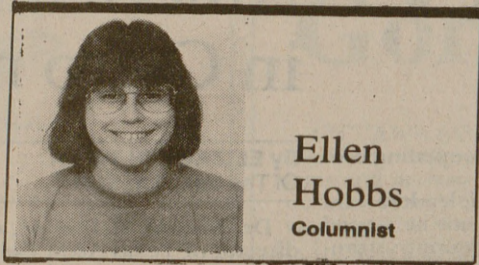
Elementary school officials think that Bart is a bad role model for these kids. They think these kids are going to grow up to be bad-mannered and underachievers and cuss too much and say "dude" and "man" all the time.

They'll be trouble-makers in school and in the community. They'll use drugs. They'll go on welfare. They'll spend their lunch money on beer and tattoos.

That's really pretty silly.

Any educator who believes that a cartoon character is going to corrupt the life of an elementary student is kidding himself. Sure, Bart Simpson may not be the best role model in the world, but it takes more than an irritating pop-culture cartoon character to ruin the minds and attitudes of youth in America.

But these educators seem to believe



Ellen Hobbs
Columnist

he will, so they're doing the best they can to solve the problem. They're censoring him.

Censorship is a pretty common problem in the public school system. Books have been pulled from library shelves and out of the classroom. Certain songs have been banned from being played at school functions.

Halloween celebrations have been eliminated in case school might inadvertently be promoting Satanism. Dress codes keep unattractive elements of pop culture like Bart Simpson from being viewed across students' chests.

The book bannings, unfortunately, have been rather successful. Students just don't read enough out of the classroom to expose themselves to such offensive works as "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Wizard of Oz" or even "The American Heritage Dictionary."

But the other bans are just a waste of the censors' time.

Top 40 songs will play on the radio anyway, and students will hear them whether or not they are played in the school cafeteria at lunch. Most students'

parents will let them dress up on Halloween whether or not the school will. And elementary students are going to see Bart Simpson again, whether its on a T-shirt or on TV or in the mall. No school rule is going to keep them away from it.

Only in our most open-minded dreams is book banning that ineffective. So, to all you overly-moralistic school officials out there, try to forgive Bart. He was never created to be a role model.

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just a funny character in a sitcom. And don't worry. Most of the time Bart Simpson seems to learn from his mistakes, and good prevails over evil.

Instead of worrying about the kinds of clothes your students are wearing, worry about the quality of the education they're getting.

It's just a T-shirt. Don't have a cow, man.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major.

Flag burning only defaces individuals involved, not country flag represents

There's a controversial issue that has been burning in my mind for some time now. It's the controversy surrounding the burning of the American flag.

Recently, I have seen several news stories showing people lighting up flags on the steps of the Capitol and getting arrested or assaulted because of it. This has also been a hot topic in the courts, where there are efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning. But I have to ask myself, what is so wrong with burning the flag?

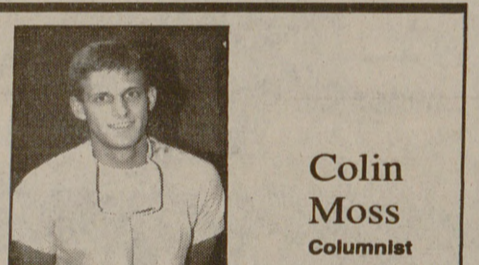
How do you feel when you see pictures of third world countries, or anyone who is not an American, burning the American flag?

I was born on Flag Day, a day to celebrate the adoption of the American flag, so if anyone should be offended by the burning of the flag, it should be me.

"I was born on Flag Day, a day to celebrate the adoption of the American flag, so if anyone should be offended by the burning of the flag, it should be me. But, I realize what they are doing is not hurting anyone. It only makes them look bad. I would not even have known about it if it weren't for the media playing up to them."

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Here in America, those who choose to



Colin Moss
Columnist

burn the flag say they are exercising their constitutional rights. Although the First Amendment guarantees our right to freedom of expression, I don't feel this is how the flag burning issue should be supported.

How can anyone say they are exercising their rights by standing in a public place, waiting for a crowd to gather and then setting a flag on fire? This is not freedom of expression. This is a fire hazard.

But burning the American flag in a safe place is just like burning any piece of material with 13 red and white stripes and 50 white stars. The American flag is just a symbol. It is a symbol we can be identified with and that is all.

Veterans who say they fought for the flag, and those who are willing to die for the flag are really fighting for and dying for is freedom, democracy and the American way — not for a colorful piece of material.

So what happens if an amendment is passed banning flag burning? Will this cover every form of flag destruction? Will little Johnnie in the fourth grade, who draws a picture of the American flag to commemorate President's Day, be able to throw it away if he doesn't like it?

Or will this amendment just cover flags flown over the Capitol for a few

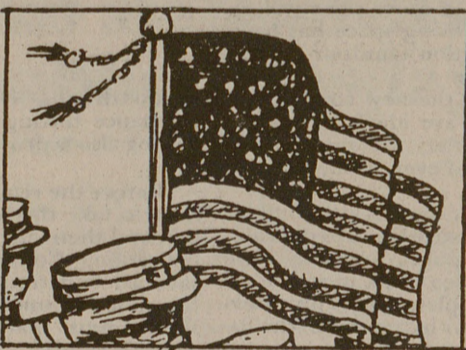
seconds? Or perhaps flags made just of American cotton?

Also, what about the practice of burning the flag if it touches the ground? What will become of this tradition?

I can see it now. All flags will come with a tag reading:

Machine wash cold.
Do not bleach or the flag will turn pink.
Tumble dry, but do not use too much heat.
Keep away from flames.
Do not burn or destroy under penalty of the law.

If the lawmakers are so concerned with this burning issue, then they should



require that flags be made of nonflammable material.

I realize that the burning of an American flag may offend a lot of people, but so does picking your nose. That does not mean there should be a constitutional amendment banning it.

I feel we should respect what the flag stands for and stop worrying about what color flames it will produce. But for those of you who think it is necessary to take your frustrations out on the American flag, I say go ahead and burn it. We'll make more.

Colin Moss is a senior journalism and speech communication major.

Administrators make majority decisions

EDITOR: My first semester at Texas A&M University was the fall semester of 1986. By reading The Battalion I realized that many of the students complained and griped too much.

They complained about bonfire, the parking situation, the Corps of Cadets, fraternities, sororities and many other issues.

When I returned to Texas A&M University two years ago, I again read The Battalion. I felt like I had been transported back in time to my first year here. The same issues were being complained about in Mail Call. I asked myself, "Why?"

The administration apparently views the students as a continuous flow of four-year faces. Every year, one year's worth would enter and one year's worth would exit.

The administration realizes that the students will complain regardless of what they basically make decisions based on University needs as a whole, not the needs for the few.

Bonfire and the Corps of Cadets are but two of the traditions at A&M. Those who serve in the Corps are and should be proud of their commitment.

However, the Corps should also respect other student's feelings and commitments just as you should respect the Corps'.

Bonfire was originally intended to raise the spirit of the student body prior to the University of Texas football game.

Its construction builds character in those participating and creates deeper unity among the student body.

The actual size and location of bonfire are not relevant as long as the purpose is served.

Fraternities and sororities are and should be recognized organizations long as any student organization meets and follows the requirements. They have the duty of officially recognizing them.

So Aggies, please remember that this University is for all of the students. You are here a very short time.

Complete your education to the best of your ability, enjoy your time, quit complaining so much and learn to respect the opinions, desires and attitudes of others, for this is just a sample of the real world.

James A. Scott '86

Daughter of Williams sets record straight

EDITOR: I've stood by long enough and listened to the liberals talk about my attitudes toward women. Yes, that's right, I'm Clayton Williams' daughter.

And I believe I know more about his attitudes toward women than they do.

I think a man's true attitude toward women is shown through his relationships ... mother, wife, sister and daughter.

Ask my Grandmother and my Aunt about by Dad and they'll tell you he has always encouraged them in all of their endeavors ... from hunting to game to working in the business world.

Now, how did Clayton Williams raise a daughter in today's world? Well, you.

From the time I was a small child he has encouraged me to do my best in many ways.

While most men leave the females home when they go hunting, fishing, camping and working, he not only took us with him but also taught us good shots, to love and respect the outdoors, to clean our own game, to be as far as any man and to be good sports (not to mention teaching me about business).

Does that sound like a man with prehistoric ideas about women? No. He has always encouraged all of his children to "do something" with their lives ... to find their niche. In our endeavors to find my place in the world, he has tried a lot of things.

(1) Construction: He tried to teach me to drive a bulldozer, with no help from his survey parts of the ranch with some success.

(2) Cow work: It turned out that I'm not such a hot horsewoman and I stamped a whole herd somehow.

(3) Flight school: When I thought I might make a good pilot, he paid and encouraged me during the three lessons I took (airsick each time).

Finally, after earning a bachelor's degree at the University of Texas (lieve it or not) and working at a large Dallas bank for awhile, I started working an MBA in finance.

With his emotional and financial support I earned that degree in 1983.

Now, here is a man who encourages his daughter in all her non-traditional pursuits, who teaches her the kinds of things most men only teach their sons. And the liberals say he has a bad attitude towards women?

BALDERDASH!

The women of Texas ought to wish they'd had a father like Clayton Williams. Here is a man who believes in equal rights and has put it in practice.

Clayton Williams is a friend to people from all walks of life. I truly believe he will prove to be a historically great governor for all the people of Texas.

Thank you for letting me speak in support of my father.

Kelvie Williams Muhlbauer
Daughter of Clayton Williams

Have an opinion? Express it!

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit 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, telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Stop 1111.

The Battalion

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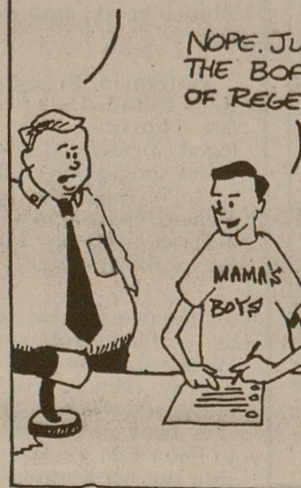
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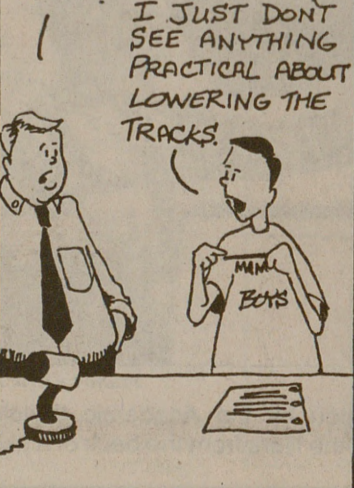
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