

All I want for Christmas is a drug-detecting test

SherTest, a company based in Yonkers, New York, has begun the marketing of a product called DrugAlert which can detect traces of marijuana and cocaine.

The product is designed to be used by parents who wish to test (or have the capability to test) their children's bedrooms and personal effects for the residue of drugs.

The kit consists of three aerosol cans and a parent's guide to drug abuse. I suspect that the "parent's guide" would prove to be both informational and entertaining — a must for the family library and alone worth the package price of \$49.95.

Sidney Kline, SherTest's general manager, says the product should be used in families that are "already in turmoil." And it seems logical that if

Boyd Waltman
Reader's Opinion

family strife is your goal, you could do no better than to run around the house with a couple of these aerosol cans.

However, Klein clarifies the proper function of the product by saying that it should not be used as an end in itself, but as a tool to encourage frank talk about drug abuse.

You see, DrugAlert is not a device of detection, but of communication. And of course family communication leads to family bonding. Hence, the inevitable conclusion: the family that sprays together stays together.

Klein offers an interesting scenario to illustrate the introduction of DrugAlert to the typical troubled American home: "If your family is being torn up, you can get the product, hold a family meeting, open it up together ..."

Although the scenario is heartwarming, it presents an obvious dilemma: Who does the gift-wrapping? Mom? Pop? Uncle Bob?

Is it a stroke of luck or of marketing genius that DrugAlert is already on the shelves for the early Christmas shopper?

Not only is it the one gift perfect for every member of the family, but DrugAlert is also the gift that keeps on giving. Every kit provides enough spray for 100 tests! Never before has it been possible to wrap up 100 chances for

communication and put them all — in one neat package — under the tree.

Although DrugAlert is the family communication tool par excellence, it is used in an imperfect world. That's why SherTest has designed it for use in a multiplicity of potential bonding situations.

As Klein, the communication guru, says, "If something tests positive for cocaine, and your child says it's because he loaned it to a friend who uses cocaine, you say OK, and if you think you're being conned, you test something else."

Of course, some hard core civil libertarians have clamored for children's rights to privacy, taking the ethical high ground. Some television stations have even refused to run ads for the product.

But Klein, ever the pragmatist, rebuffs the critics with a probing analogy: "Emotionally, sure it's an invasion of privacy, but so is a thermometer." Apparently the young adults in the Klein family know how to take a thermometer the hard way.

The DrugAlert family is a family of the 90s. It does not pretend to exist in the ethereal regions of the warm but reluctantly accepts that, in this world of human frailty, love must be tough.

Why wait till Christmas for a communicative family? Who knows you act now Mr. Klein may even find in a deluxe over-sized thermometer with every order — from his family yours.

Boyd Waltman is a graduate student in English.

Mail Call

Letter full of Marxist doctrine

EDITOR:

We can proudly say that A&M has finally become a "world class" University. How do I know? We finally have graduate students writing crackpot letters spouting so much Marxist doctrine I needed a shovel to clear my way through it.

I am referring, of course, to Paul Kennedy's letter to the editor on Sept. 17, 1990 about the current Middle East crisis. His letter's faults are both glaring and numerous.

Kennedy refers throughout his letter to U.S. "imperialism" and "aggression," as if the United States had nothing better to do with our army than to throw a few hundred thousand soldiers into the desert. The only imperialistic act in this affair is on the part of Iraq, who invaded and looted Kuwait. The U.S. response has been reaction only, not aggression.

Kennedy also claims that "troop deployment is at the behest of the oil companies who are seeking higher profits at the expense of the working class." By controlling both Iraq's and

Kuwait's oil fields, Saddam Hussein controls an estimated 20 percent of the world's oil reserves. If the oil companies wanted high prices, they could enter an oligopolistic relationship with Hussein, thereby maintaining higher prices for a much longer time than from the result of military actions in the Gulf.

Kennedy ends his letter with a bang, saying "It is no coincidence that this operation has taken place just before the fall campaign," so as to "give everyone seeking election to preserve the status quo," and give everyone a "chance to wrap themselves in the flag." Gosh, Paul, did you think of this one all by yourself? I find it hard to believe that President Bush called up Hussein to say "Boy, Saddam, this campaign is really going down the drain. Could you invade Kuwait, so we can put troops in the Gulf, and I won't have to answer any more questions about this S&L thing anymore?" I'm sorry, Paul, but even "The Twilight Zone" doesn't get that bizarre.

Time and space do not permit a complete discussion of all of the logical faults of Kennedy's letter. But I am reminded of

one thing. After the fall of Marxism throughout the world, the main difference between the United States and Eastern Europe is that we still have people who quote Lenin.

Britt Bullard, '90

Put wasted inserts in garbage cans

EDITOR:

As a regular reader of the Batt, it has come to my attention that there is a problem with the distribution of advertising inserts in the paper. When it comes to these inserts, Aggies who normally are quite conscientious about keeping the campus clean seem to have a problem. I have noticed that there is at least one garbage can next to most Battalion boxes. How much of an extra effort is it to simply place the ad in the garbage can? Let's keep our campus looking good.

Julie R. Chamberlin, '91

End distraction: Get your heads out of the sand

It's all about distraction.

It's about turning on the radio when you are supposed to be studying. It's about skipping your two o'clock class to go try on clothes at Foley's. It's about finding someone to work for you on Saturday so you can go to the game. It's about going to college.

Terri D. Tomlinson
Reader's Opinion

Not that college is a distraction, it's not; but it breeds distraction. It breeds

this head-in-the-sand attitude which puts a higher value on beer than it does on the environment, on sorority parties rather than current events.

This kind of distraction promotes nothing but ignorance. Ignorance at a world class University frightens me.

I myself am distracted all of the time.

I am more concerned for an attorney doing "God's" work telling me that music promotes rape and sin than I am about my Constitutional Rights.

I am more angered by a semi-illiterate man with a foul mouth who claims to be a musician than I am about who governs my body.

I am more moved by a mother's story on the dehumanization of the Greek system than I am by my brothers, sisters and friends being sent off to war.

I am made more nervous over whether or not I understand logic than I am about the gun my friend carries in her purse.

I am brought to tears by Hallmark Card commercials, and yet I turn my head when I walk on campus and see women digging through the trash. (And speaking of trash, I have never seen College Station so filthy with litter — it looks like the day after a t.u. game.)

A professor once referred to college as this strange state of limbo which somehow borders on adulthood. Tax laws force our parents to hold onto us by the scruffs of our necks while at the same time they are trying to kick our butts out of the nest.

We are adults. We can vote, go to war, drink, reproduce, work, drive, spit, chew, feed ourselves, die, change our own clothes, and practice proper hygiene. College should provide an atmosphere in which the raising of consciousness is practiced, not ignored.

We, as college students, as young adults striving for knowledge and insight into the human psyche, need to focus on those things affecting our world

just as much as we focus on a pop beer bust, or a blemish.

The collegiate bubble is not only distracting, it is unrealistic. Those things which we ignore exist right here — stealing, starvation, AIDS, drug abuse, waste. Students are just as affected as the next guy, maybe more.

If a full scale war develops in the Middle East we will be fighting it, not our parents. We will have to deal with pollution, crime and political unrest.

If a full scale war develops in the Middle East we will be fighting it, not our parents. We will have to deal with pollution, crime and political unrest. The future belongs to our generation and if we ignore it now how will we be able to change it for our children?

The future belongs to our generation and if we ignore it now how will we be able to change it for our children?

I for one will not be distracted longer, not by my government, friends, my parents or my professor. I cannot live in a bubble, I am real. I take the responsibility of an adult that I won't cry at Hallmark commercials anymore, but I will also cry for homeless and the children, and the times.

Terri D. Tomlinson is a senior major.



The Battalion

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson

