

Give guidance to needy children

Help future America by being role model

"Three-year-old girl schooled in drug deals."

No, this is not a typo — the girl was three and the subject was drugs. This is what is happening to our world, and some of us are standing by doing nothing about it.

That headline, taken from a Houston newspaper, joins a long list of headlines involving the victimization of children in the nation's cities, large and small alike.

Children of various ages are being introduced to drugs, molested, abused and exposed to a number of atrocities in their young lives.

In fact, just last April a 10-year-old was arrested in Houston for selling crack, and earlier in the year, another 10-year-old was prosecuted for crack cocaine possession.

I was appalled at the story which accompanied the above headline. The article explained that the little girl sold crack cocaine to an undercover Houston police officer. When the officer returned with a search warrant, the 3-year-old was caring for her 2-year-old, 1-year-old, and 1-month-old siblings.

It appeared from the article that the small child was very accustomed to her role as caregiver and drug deliverer. The girl's mother was arrested and the children were taken by the county's children's protective agency.

Incidents such as this one are not

"Although each of us may not be a professional at helping these children, we have accomplished some position in life which they can aspire to achieve. We have obtained a level of education which few they come into contact with have completed; we could be their chance out."



Tanya Williams

Williams is a sophomore journalism major.

tatives know how we feel — but that's another column altogether. Back to the problem at hand.

Underprivileged children are often given little or no incentive by parents or relatives to achieve in life. In fact, many of them do not realize there is anything higher to excel to.

They rarely see positive role models; they only see the role models who deal drugs or shoot with them. They don't have the opportunity to see doctors and lawyers as role models.

And if they do see them, they are on television.

Although each of us may not be a professional at helping these children, we have accomplished some position in life which they can aspire to achieve.

We have obtained a level of education which few they come into contact with have completed; we could be their chance out.

A number of the organizations on campus offer programs to help children as service projects. These are our opportunities to help underprivileged children or children in general to escape for a short time during the week — not to mention, it is our chance to help the future of America.

There are a number of big brother and little sister programs in conjunction with elementary schools around the community. These offer a chance to provide emotional support or a helping hand with school work to a

yet occurring on a daily basis, but if we continue to sit idly by and appear uncaring, this generation of children will suffer greatly.

It is obvious we can't help all children, nor can we pull them out of their desolate conditions.

But it is possible for us as not only Americans, but also as college students, to help the children escape sometimes from their circumstances.

These children, those from underprivileged families, often do not have contact with an outside influence offering optimism and hope.

If they attend school, this is their only outlet and exposure to a world other than one of drugs or abuse or molestation.

These students are often overlooked in school or ignored by their teachers and peers, thus ruining their only chance for escape.

Also we assume they do go to school. These underprivileged children often don't begin school on time or at all.

While on the subject of underprivileged children not attending school, when our state government tries to take away head start programs which help these children (as they did during the summer), it is important for us to speak out and let our represen-

child in need.

Many groups go to boys' clubs to spend some recreational time with youngsters. There also are youth programs connected to various churches in which you can become involved.

You may ask after awhile, "why on earth does this columnist lecture week after week on what can be done by me, the reader?"

The answer is this: In order to make the future of this nation and world brighter than what it now appears to be, we have to get up and start doing something about the state it's in ourselves.

We must realize that the children we help and influence are this world's future and the ones who will be taking care of us in our old age.

If 3-year-olds are taught to sell drugs — or rather if children are subjected to anything that horrible at such an early age — the future can't appear bright.

It will be dark and shadowy unless we can make a difference now. We have made it this far and are blessed to have done so. But many aren't so lucky.

Just remember what the Whitney Houston's song says, "... the children are the future, teach them well..."

Cafeteria Myths

by Bingo Barnes

THE UNTOLD STORY BEHIND MELON BALLS



Sex education benefits everyone, does not promote promiscuity

Did Russ Miller actually read the column by David Nash (Sept. 11)? After reading his letter, I read Nash's column again and then the letter again. Still I can't figure out what Miller read. It looks as if he read the headline and then went off to write about the horrors of premarital sex.

If Miller had read the article, he would have found that Nash was not advocating premarital sex. He was talking about sex education. I don't know Miller, but judging from his letter I would guess he has been brainwashed by some fundamentalist religion. All of his "arguments" don't show much common sense or logical thinking, which usually implies religious beliefs are the basis.

Most of Miller's arguments can be grouped under three main points. These points are apparently refuting something in Nash's column (I'm still not sure what).

Under Miller's first point — refuting, "They won't know how to please their partner" — he makes a silly statement: "The experienced couple cannot be equally experienced and will inevitably make comparisons to previous partners."

First, the experienced couple could be equally experienced (maybe not exactly, but close enough). If one partner is more experienced than the other, so what? This means the more experienced partner can teach the less experienced one something new.

As far as comparisons to previous partners, what does this have to do with sex? People make comparisons to things in the past all the time, whether it's someone's first love (not necessarily first lover), last weekend's party or last year's Super Bowl. It's called memory. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy something new, or that you would want to go back to the previous time. Only a very shallow person would allow memories to interfere with the present.

Later Miller states, "As the number of previous partners increases, the probability that the current partner is the most sexually satisfying diminishes, as do the chance both partners will remain contented for a lifetime."

The first part could be right, statistically, but I disagree completely with the second statement. I think in general people will be more contented in a monogamous relationship if they have had sex with a few other people first. If someone only with their spouse, it seems they might wonder if sex with someone else would be better.

In his second point — refuting, "They won't know how to prevent conception" — Miller implies an accidental pregnancy while married is better than being informed about contraception before marriage. According to Miller, this is because knowledge of contraception would promote premarital sex. This is fairly standard religious rhetoric, and it still doesn't make any sense, especially when we are talking about adults.

On his third point — refuting, "They won't know how to prevent infection" — Miller states, "They won't need to. Mutual monogamy accomplishes absolute protection against sexually transmitted diseases."

Monogamy will prevent you from catching something from an outside source, but this does not make sex safe from disease. There are some diseases which can be contracted independently of sex, and then transmitted to a sexual partner. Crabs and yeast infections are two examples. (I'm not a medical expert so I will leave the details up to the doctors at the health center.) If Miller had taken some kind of sexual education course, he probably would have known that.

Before anyone writes in to complain I'm promoting sexual promiscuity, let me assure you I'm not. I'm merely pointing out problems with some of Miller's statements. Actually, I believe wholeheartedly in monogamous relationships as a way to prevent sexually transmitted disease and as the best way to be happy in life. However, I do not believe premarital sex is wrong. If you love someone, and you are both mature adults, how can making them happy be wrong?

A final word of advice: If you can't discuss contraception (or AIDS) with someone before engaging in sexual intercourse, you are definitely too immature to be involved in a sexual relationship.

Reader's Opinion

Jesse Spears is a graduate student electrical engineering.

Mail Call

Show more respect for A&M property

❖ The police reports in The Battalion have never been of great interest to me.

Usually I browse through them quickly, never paying attention to the stolen wallets and broken windows.

However, on Sept. 18 I read something that distressed me terribly.

I would like to meet the person who damage the turf on Kyle Field by burning a piece of paper over the emblem on the 50-yard line.

To this person I would say, "My friend, have you no respect for your school?"

"By your actions I can tell that you do not.

"And while I can not ask you to respect your school, I can ask that you respect my school. Texas A&M is very special to me as I imagine it is to many others.

"I do not enjoy seeing uncaring, irresponsible people like yourself doing malicious things to destroy it. I hope you are planning to give up your time and any money which is required to repair the damage you have done.

"In the future, if you feel the necessity to burn something, may I sug-

gest you come to Duncan Field on Nov. 27.

There will be a spectacular Bonfire which you can watch burn to your heart's content."

I was prompted to write this letter after reading the damage done on Kyle Field.

However, this does not mean only Kyle Field should not be vandalized.

No building, field or anything on this campus should ever be destroyed.

Jennifer Kiley '94

Watch out for vehicular traffic on sidewalks

❖ Have you ever noticed the over-abundance of Texas A&M

staff who feel they have the right to drive on the sidewalk?

Do you ever feel the need to "look both ways" when walking out of a building and onto the sidewalk?

Personally, I am sick and tired of trying to dodge the oncoming traffic while walking across campus!

Avoiding the many parked cars and motorized carts (along with the oil spots they leave on the sidewalk) is no easy task either!

I can understand a cart being driven on the sidewalk when it has something too heavy to carry like a freezer or something.

However, driving on the sidewalk for the sake of convenience, whether it be for a shorter route to the other side of campus or to pick up a bunch of lazy coworkers, is totally unacceptable!

My suggestion is to keep the cars and trucks and carts on the streets, and have those people walk an extra 50 feet on the sidewalk!

Either that, or we students may start walking down the middle of the street to class.

Or maybe we will just drive and park on the sidewalk next to the staff vehicles.

All we would need to do is put a "Texas A&M University, Physical Plant" sticker on the sides of our cars!!

Shawn Holt graduate student

