

Children exposed to explicit sex too early

Young minds accept smut as typical attitude

Sometimes I worry about my brother and sister. He is 10, and she is 12. That puts both of them at a very critical age. They are each very impressionable and at the same time forming traits and values that will remain virtually unchanged throughout their lifetimes.

formed me that she is "going with someone" and had just experienced her first *real* kiss (this is the 12-year-old). We giggled for a bit as sisters are prone to do. Then I grew quiet, remembering for a moment the two eighth graders who had babies the



Toni Garrard

Garrard is a sophomore speech communications major

year I graduated. I do not think I like this "going with someone" ritual anymore. And if that little Don Juan gets fresh, he'll have to deal with an older sister just ridden with the maternal instinct to bite the head off all males who aren't family.

Probably shouldn't worry. Speaking from experience, I know they have better than average parents in a better than average atmosphere.

Truthfully, I rarely concern myself with such extreme scenarios. I trust her intelligence and place a great deal of stock in her upbringing. Still, all of our nation's youth are a matter of concern for me when I consider what their expanding minds witness every day.

Certainly our generation is much more open to sensitive topics than previous generations, and tremendous benefits have resulted. The attempts of some groups to ban "offensive" books from our schools is unspeakably backward. They are attempting to repair a situation by ridding us of one of our most valuable tools. I do not advocate censorship but a moderation of all the senseless trash.

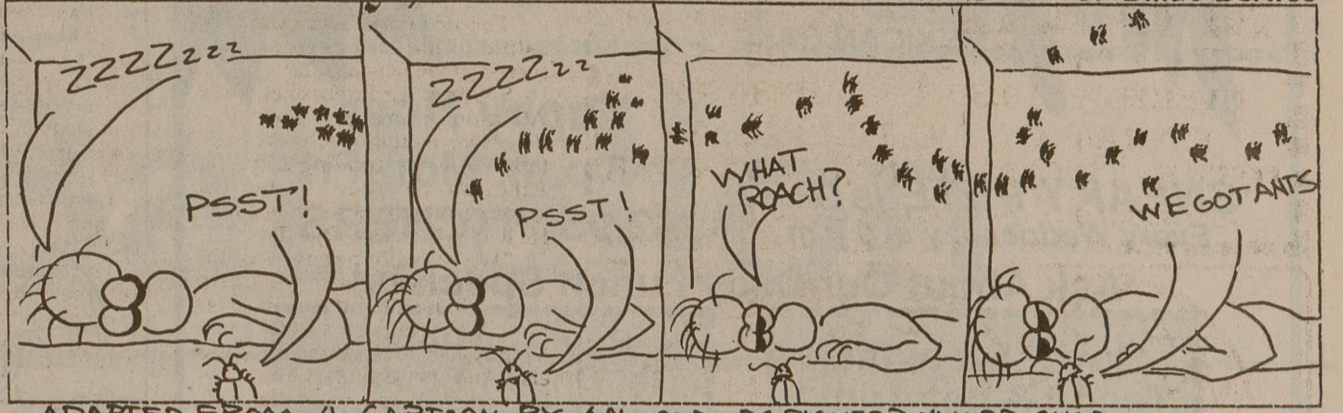
You and I may know what is right and what is not, and thereby make the claim that we are not swayed from our convictions by anyone or anything else. But what about the 15-year-old girl who allegedly shot and killed her classmate? What could possibly have influenced such a young mind to such unspeakable violence? Somewhere along the way in her short life, she absorbed what she saw and heard and witnessed, and it overrode an innate sense of decency.

Perhaps I am oversimplifying. Certainly, there are more complex reasons as to why people behave as they do. What is clear, though, is that children come into this world with minds that are formed through the process of observation. Have you noticed all the garbage there is lately?

Sometimes I worry about my brother and sister.

Davis-Gary, The Olde Years

by Bingo Barnes



ADAPTED FROM A CARTOON BY AN OLD DGFIGHTER NAMED CHOP

Organization must answer to University

Separate Corps from ROTC

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and the ROTC should be separated.

Hey, now don't get all upset. It's not all that radical an idea. We've already taken a step in this direction — membership in the Corps no longer implies future military service.

And membership in the ROTC shouldn't imply membership in the Corps.

Why would non-regs want to be a part of the ROTC? Perhaps because of scholarship opportunities, stipends and an officer's commission.

They might not be so hot on being in the Corps, however, because of the long hours the Cadets put into the organization, and because of having to wear uniforms to class every day, running at odd hours in the mornings, eating in four minute, and any number the other things the Corps does.

Being a member of the Corps takes dedication, not only to the country, but to the Corps itself. Not everyone preparing for a military career is willing to or wants to dedicate themselves to the Corps.

The ROTC is supposed to benefit those who are thinking about being in the military as a career, plan to join the reserves or need financial help that could be provided through the benefits and scholarships for which ROTC members are qualified.

All ROTC members are qualified to compete for scholarships in their branch of the military. Those scholarships pay for all tuition, books, fees and necessary supplies plus a \$100 per month stipend.

ROTC members are also paid \$100 per month once they have been in the program for two years, and they are paid for attending some of the camps and training sessions required by the armed services for being in ROTC.

Members who are also in the National Guard or the Reserves earn even more money and can benefit from the GI Bill.

And every student at Texas A&M should be able to get those benefits by being allowed to enter the ROTC program. No other non-military university forces stu-

dents in its ROTC program to be full-time members of a military organization.

Cadets who do not, upon entering the Corps, intend to go into the service could then show their patriotism by not taking ROTC money.

Taxpayers' money goes to Drill and Ceremony Cadets for their first two years, and we can assume some of them know when they are a freshman that they do not plan to take their commission.

But that's not the only reason we need the separation.

The recent alleged assault of a female cadet has brought something to light about the Corps of Cadets that isn't very attractive, whether or not any Corps members are prosecuted in connection with the assault.

Military-style secrecy is making it difficult to conduct any type of investigation. And quite honestly, there is no reason for it.

If this was an alleged fraternity hazing incident, there would be enough newsprint dedicated to it to repaper the walls of The Battalion offices.

But as it is, the investigation is being held up by government-style red tape and cadets are unwilling to answer such simple questions as "How many women are in your outfit?" with anything but a "No comment."

Reporters have barely been able to put together any updates.

This is unacceptable. The Corps of Cadets is a campus organization, and they are not above reproach, no matter what their "traditional" standing on campus. And they are using their link with the ROTC to legitimize their closed mouths.

The Corps should continue to integrate ROTC functions into their programs, but the ROTC should exist both inside and outside of the Corps.

And the Corps must realize that, as "the keeper of the traditions," they are a student organization *just like any other*, and they also must answer to the student body, faculty and staff when their integrity is called into question.



Ellen Hobbs

Hobbs is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

Experience nature without killing it

On Thursday, Sept. 19, we came across a very distressing article in the Sports section. While reading the article, we could only shake our heads in disbelief that people like Kevin McDaniel could really justify sport hunting in terms of having the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends and to be in "the outdoors."

McDaniel describes the feeling of "watching the sun come up" while sitting in a duck blind as though anticipating the chance to shoot a duck is the only way to enjoy a sunrise.

Are you not able to sit alone outside and watch a sunrise without wanting to dominate and kill an animal, which is just as real an object in that scene as the sun? Can you not feel "that surge of adrenaline" when a large buck walks out just because it is a beautiful creation of nature rather than because its horns will be a good bragging piece? My ultimate question is this: Why is hunting (i.e. death and power) a requirement for enjoying the natural world?

To address the section on hunting providing quality time with family and friends, we want to comment on McDaniel's statement, "Hunting is not just picking up a gun and killing an animal. It's driving six hours... with friends and family, sharing stories..."

Sorry McDaniel, but hunting is just picking up a gun and killing an animal. You can spend time with people you like in a multitude of situations that do not include the death or injury of some living creature. Is the death of a deer or squirrel just a topic of conversation from which to generate stories? That creature died not to feed a starving stomach; it died to quench the desire of an ego-centric sportsman.

Maybe our words make you shake your head, too, but we are only asking you to ponder our questions. Please, try to have a different kind of experience in nature (i.e. take a

day-hike, canoe a river, go backpacking, climb a rock face, just watch wildlife). Attempt these activities without killing a sentient being and see if you can't enjoy a sunrise or your family and friends in a little more educational and respectful manner.

Maybe then "the most time-honored tradition this country has to offer" will be appreciating nature for its beauty... not killing it for sport.

Stephen Silliman '93
Tracey Spoon '93

Don't criticize two-percenters

I'd like to address the issue of the ever-criticized two-percenters, those students who avoid, ignore or protest any one of a number of traditions here at Texas A&M. Now you may ask, what would I have to say about these pretentious slackers? Probably some enormous list of condemning adjectives, right? Well, let me begin like so many other "repentant sinners."

My name is Wyatt Galusky, and I am a two-percenter (for those who would be so generous as to give me that much credit). The reason for my bold admission is not to change my ways but, on the contrary, to explain my position.

Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters to the editor are welcome. Written letters must be signed and include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.

those of you who would like to bring out that cute little reference about how Highway 6 runs both ways, well I agree with your geography. In fact that's how I got here.

Wyatt Galusky '94

Regents should allow privatization

After reading the article in Monday's Battalion on the Regents Report on privatization, I almost regurgitated the hamburger I had purchased earlier at the Bus Stop Snack Bar. I have never in the two years of attending Texas A&M read an article that incorporates such a blatant display of hypocrisy by a group of men whom we all know (or assume) are "educated" human beings.

Where William McKenzie came up the the idea that "a for profit firm would not have the students best interests at heart" I don't know. I would think just the opposite.

A privately run firm would have to be competitive with any other campus run facility. This would in turn drive prices down and definitely be in the students best interest. Furthermore, McKenzie has the gall to say he "will not let a firm prey on our students."

I know from four years of restaurant experience that a 10 oz. coke costs the restaurant a little over a penny not including overhead cost, and yet "some food operations are losing money."

There is only one reason I can see to keep all on campus facilities run by the University, and that is the money goes back to the school.

So guys quit trying to mask you need for the money generated by these facilities by your feigned concern for our best interests and the non-existent quality of on-campus food.

You're not kidding anyone, the enormous tarpaulin you tried to pull over my head on Monday had many holes in it.

Peter O. Barnhart '95