

Solve social woes with manual labor

Earn money instead of using birth control, attending reform school

In these trying times, big issues, big things, overwhelm us everyday, penetrating the grating debate of our homes, our hearts, our hallowed halls, our newspapers, our opinion pages, our bastions of communist dogma. I'm talking about the big ones: AIDS, homelessness, crime, bonfire, sex education, parking tickets, satan, and the A-word... but this summer, I discovered a solution...

While most of you were wavering and waffling in the sultry summer sun, swilling your effervescent beverages, contracting skin cancer on your bodacious brown bodies and partaking in activities about which your mothers so fervently warned, I toiled in the plastics factory with my working class comrades and did the manual labor thing.

Slaving over labyrinths of conveyor belts, I stood in my Nikes, cutoffs, t-shirts, ear plugs and hair-net — yes, I of the hallowed bandanna actually wore a hairnet — and contemplated the state of the world, and here it is in a nut shell boys and girls: **MANUAL LABOR IS THE KEY.**

"Manual labor is a gender-neutral form of birth control — both the male and the female can employ it — or rather be employed by it — or only one of the partners can practice it, and it works just as effectively as the others. And even better, you get paid for it."

Manual labor is the solution to all our societal ills.

Follow me here.

This summer I ground up over five million tampon tubes — not used, mind you, defective. Regular, slender regular, super, super-plus — you name it, I ground it. And I liked it. People actually get paid for this. People actually support their families by doing this. And maybe we all take ourselves a little bit too seriously — but that's a different sermon. Just know this, grinding up tampon tubes gives you a whole new lease on life, and manual labor is the solution to our societal ills.

Take for example birth control, which includes the whole spectrum of sex education, social disease, pre-marital sex, the A-word, you name it. Manual labor is the **only** sure fire method of birth control and carries with it none of the stigmatizations that accompany the pill, condoms, diaphragms, etc.

Manual labor is a gender-neutral form of birth control — both the male and the female can employ it — or rather be employed by it — or only one of the partners can practice it, and it works just as effectively as the others. And even better, you get paid for it.

You drone in the factory all day with your proletariat buddies. You sweat. You wear a hair net. You grind up tampon tubes. You watch millions of caps, bottles and hospital trays file past on the conveyor belts. You eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. You move boxes. You envy the corporate Americans who saunter through the plant in their Land's End power ties and Burberry shirts. And you go home.

You collapse in your Laz-E-Boy, swill the best beer you've ever swilled and settle down for an exciting round of *Geraldo Rivera*. If you are a working woman, your man will sleaze into

the room — feeling rather amorous — and you'll scream:

"DON'T POINT THAT THING AT ME! I'm tired! I've been working all day! I don't want to get pregnant and do this for the rest of my life! Go back to your room and put that thing away!" (Dammit!)

Of course, if you are a man, this method is just as effective. You go home. You collapse in your Laz-E-Boy, swill the best beer you've ever swilled and kick back for an exciting round of "Wheel of Fortune." (Spin, Vanna! Spin!). Your woman will slink into the room — feeling hot and bothered — and you'll scream:

"WOMAN, I'M TIRED! Leave me alone! All you think about is your own self! You never stop to consider my feelings! Do you want me to knock you up so I can work at that plant for the rest of my life? Go to your room and put that stuff away!"

It happens. It's true. Don't deny it. You can see yourself doing it, too. Can't you?

But not only is manual labor a good method of birth control, it's also

an excellent educational reform.

Think we have problems keeping our children in school? Slap 'em in the factory for a summer. Make 'em grind up some tampon tubes. Have 'em watch the assemblies to make sure all the rat guards are properly inserted in the Crisco lids. Make 'em sweat. Make 'em drone. Make 'em wish they would have never even seen this plant. Work 'em till they break.

Watch 'em toil. Then listen to them whine when they beg and plead to go back to school, enroll in college and enter an excellent law school — so they can be corporate Americans in Land's End ties and Burberry shirts, instead of one in the toiling masses in Nikes and hair nets.

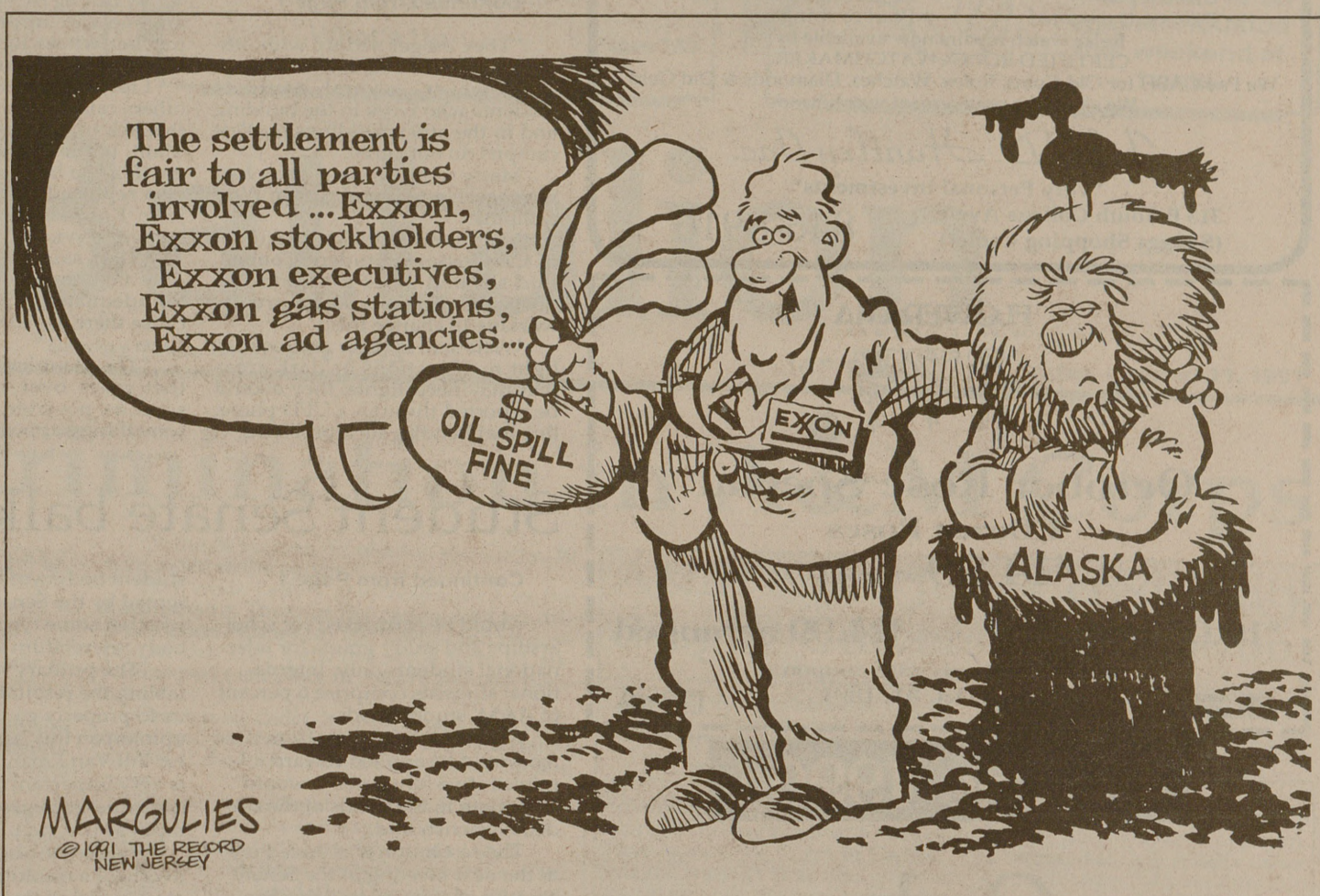
In addition to being an excellent educational reform, manual labor is a swift and steady deterrent to crime. Though it may make the life of a Columbian drug lord or Louisiana politician seem rather intriguing, I'd rather be grinding up tampon tubes and getting paid every week than doing it in prison for free. Could you imagine doing this work for free? Surrounded by hardened criminals and people who store body parts in their freezers? In the company of those who just might be fried on television next week during the next public execution? Near people who make a habit of burping and farting *all* the time? People who think "The Cat in the Hat" is a pimp?

I don't know. You be the judge. But there are just way too many benefits to manual labor to cast it aside as a plaything of corporate industrialists. Manual labor: it's the simple solution to all of our societal ills — and besides, you get paid for it. And by the way, "proletariat" is *not* the name of the horse that won the Triple Crown: it's a communist buzz word. Tell the gang at the plant I said "Howdy." You heard it here first.



Stacy Feducia

Feducia is a junior English and history major.



Lack of space forces students to park illegally

PTTS makes problem worse

Almost every Aggie is familiar with the vocal audience participation segment of the country favorite "Cotton-Eye Joe." For those of you not familiar with the song, it goes something like this.

Song: Now what you say?
Participants: Bull (expletive)!

This segment repeats itself many times throughout the song.

"Bull (expletive)!" is exactly what I thought when I read the Sept. 30 article in *The Battalion* regarding Parking Transit and Traffic Services' promise for parking for all students within two years.

True this greatly reduces the risk of a bicyclist riding headlong into an open car door at breakneck speed. But it is hardly a giant leap toward Williams' goal.

Don't get me wrong — I'm all for bicycle safety, but most of A&M's cyclists seem to have certain suicidal tendencies anyway, such as running stop signs. That will kill them a lot quicker than a car door.

One of these bike lanes in particular is poorly placed — the one in front of the health center. This lane removed many critical parking spaces in front of this facility. In the past, many students drove to the health center because they were too sick to walk. However, with the new bike lanes, they've got to walk because there is no student parking anywhere near the place.

Of course Williams feels that the new bicycle lanes have "met with overall approval thus far." Approval with whom?

I can just picture Williams briefing all the parking service officers (all of whom seem to have passed the "Crappy Attitude of the Day" test): "OK folks, why do

we approve of the new bike lanes?" (PSOs in unison) "Because we can give more tickets!"

And those people have been busy too. They're always giving tickets to the tons of people who park in the bike lanes. Williams, if the lanes were approved overall, why the hell are people still parking in them? Well I guess it's because people don't approve of them.

Later in the article, Williams states "We are just about at the point where we should be, parking wise."

I'll bet they are! What other point would they want to be at than one which eliminates \$75 per year parking places for on-campus residents but creates \$200 per year parking places? It just makes for a "University parking system

[that] is completely self-supporting," right? Great! Good for you, Williams!

OK, to sum up, let's see if you can follow this line of Williams' logic. It gets kind of hairy, but stick with me.

- "We've got to build some multi-million dollar parking garages.
 - So first of all, we'll eliminate almost all of the other parking spaces. We'll, um, make 'em bike lanes — the bikers will love us so at least somebody will.
 - That will mean almost everyone will have to park illegally while we build the garages.
 - Then we'll hire a bunch of obnoxious t-sips with bad attitudes to give tickets to everyone since there aren't enough legal spots left.
 - Next we'll raise the fines on those tickets so we can pay for those multi-million dollar garages.
 - Finally we'll charge 'em \$200 per year to get a legal spot in the garage.
- Should meet with overall approval!"
Well Ags? "Now what you say?" (BULL — !)

Reader's Opinion

Clay B. Loveless is a sophomore theater arts major.

Mail Call

Student must buy midterm

❖ I just want to say that this is BULL! Did the College of Business Administration not just double tuition for graduate business students? Where has the money gone that the management department is making me go out and buy my midterm for a class?! I think this stinks!

Amy Davis
graduate student

Library users need parking

❖ While visiting the Texas A&M campus on Sept. 10, I got a parking ticket... ironically on the same date you had an article concerning parking problems on the campus.

I am a former A&M student. I never graduated due to the lack of funds to continue school, but nevertheless I am a former student. I am a newsman, 31

years in radio and now working as a free-lance reporter for a local newspaper. I am also working on a couple of books and must do research.

I have used libraries at the University of Texas at Austin as well as Southern Methodist University and Evans Library at Texas A&M. I find that at UT, they have plenty of parking spaces for the LBJ and Barker Libraries visitors — the same at SMU. But not A&M. I find that Evans library has much more material for my research.

On Sept. 10, my son and I drove over from Cleveland to do some research. As always, I found it difficult to find a parking space near the library, and I got a \$25 parking ticket.

There was no sign to designate this as a no parking area. The curb

was not painted, and, besides, I think \$25 is an out-of-the-ball park amount to charge. Oh, I find out there are some parking areas to utilize, but to find this out, I have to get a ticket that tells me about the parking areas. I have read about parking problems on the campus in *The Battalion*. I find that there's ample parking for employees of A&M but not for parents or visitors.

I am proud of A&M and wish I had been able to graduate from there. I am proud that A&M will get the George Bush Library, but I am afraid there won't be any parking room. I find the Evans Library the best research library around and that's why I drove two hours to College Station. It's a shame that a person can't come visit and use this library without getting a large parking fine or having to park elsewhere and walk long distances across the campus.

One other thing. What has happened to the friendly attitude of Aggies? I had only three Aggies say "Howdy" to me as we passed on campus. I said "Howdy" to many without any response.

Glen Dodson
Visitor of Texas A&M

Have an opinion? Express it!

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