

## Life isn't a game, but it matters how it's played



William Harrison

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth."

- Matthew 5:5

I believe a glass is half-empty; not half-full.

I believe freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose. That men will never know what it's like to be a woman, women will never understand

men, so why bother with relationships? Why Ask Why?

I believe in might makes right, Darwin's 'survival of the fittest' theory, and King Arthur's Divine Right through trial by combat. Borders divide groups of people whose conflicts are of no concern as they can be righteously ended and resolved through genocide. This world only makes sense when you force it to.

I believe that people are basically tribal in nature, just like the apes, and this tribal system necessarily creates every outstanding atrocity ever committed by one group against another. Not even the individual who initiates the atrocity - from a minor political execution to a holocaust, pogrom or any large scale massacre - should be held accountable for merely perpetuating the system.

Therefore, I believe in voting for the lesser of two evils. I'll judge presidential candidates on their detractions, and not their merits.

I believe there is nothing natural in human nature, that we watch network news to see the day's top ten disaster list (listed in order of casualties), and that Mother Earth has deemed the human race a nuisance - to be kicked off the planet by AIDS, as George Carlin quips.

I believe in rights, not responsibilities; that "you've got to remember what you see; we'll take it eventually; you can have anything you want, but you'd better not take it from me, in the jungle - welcome to the jungle." So sayeth the Rev. Axl.

I believe Alexis de Tocqueville was in-

correct when he toured the United States in the 1800s and labeled us the most fraternal country in the world. He obviously never met Carnegie, Vanderbilt, or Rockefeller - the ultimate capitalists, businessmen, and pragmatists of that era.

I believe Ayn Rand was correct in the establishment of the individual and 'egoism' as the utmost ideal, the government's role is nothing more than meddling kids out to foil old man Withers, and that slavery wasn't the most important issue in the war between the states.

I believe order doesn't need to be made out of chaos, that food, clothing and shelter are the only things people need to survive and thrive, and that all men are created equally to fend for themselves.

I believe ulterior motives form the bonds of friendship. To paraphrase Karl Marx, sympathy is a disease of dogs: with no such thing as even man's best friend.

I believe in good vs. evil, black vs. white, right vs. wrong, logic vs. illogic. I don't believe in consideration vs. inconsideration, and tolerance vs. intolerance.

I believe I don't have to respect anybody's opinion, even my own, and I also believe it's an unnecessary risk to take anyone's word for anything.

I believe one man's meat is another man's poison, everyone has their own hidden agenda, and because of this, we'll never walk on 'common ground.'

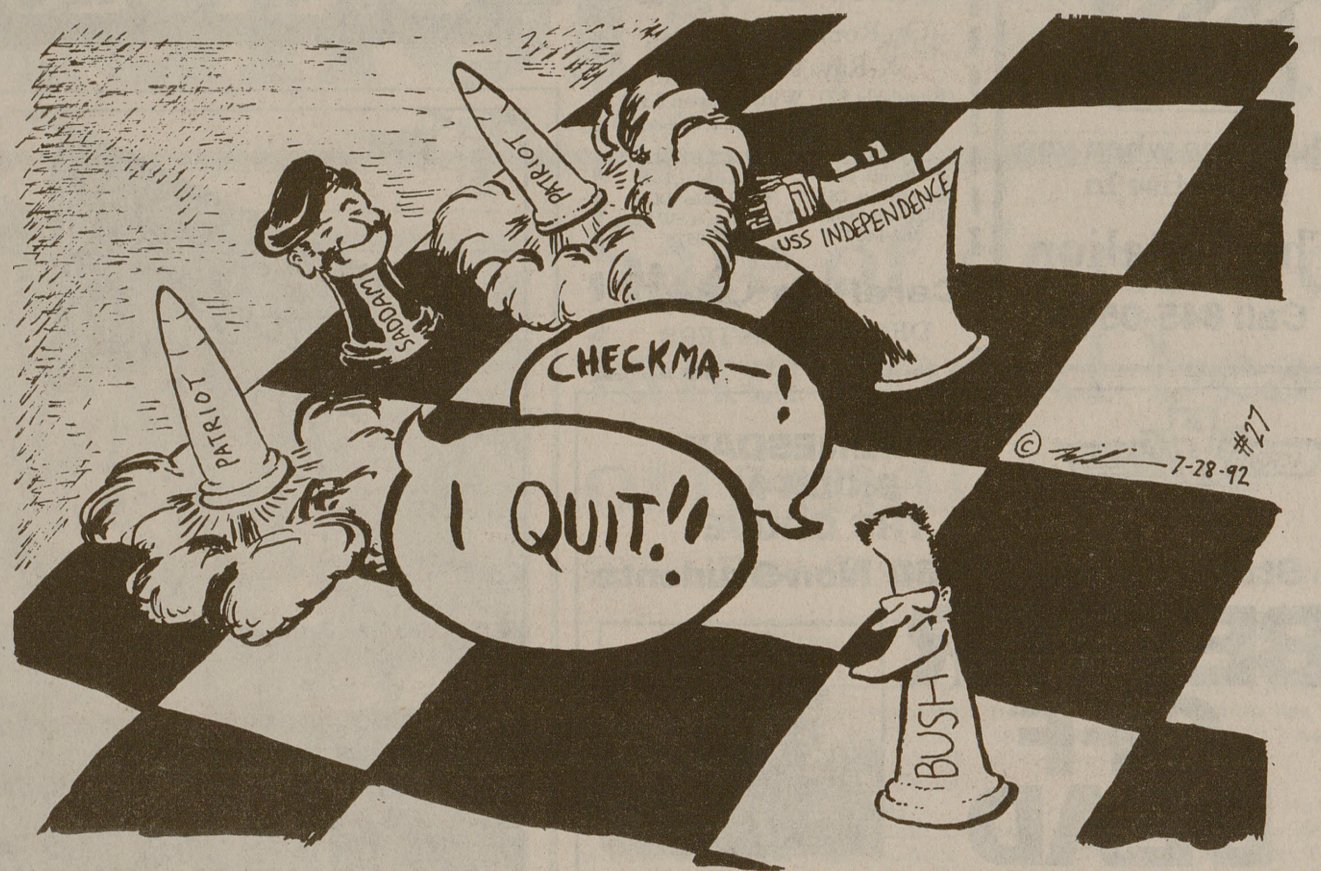
I believe men make perfectly good islands, and the best form continents - or maybe we are particles in a stream, eroded and eroding others through life.

I believe in existence, not living.

"Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shouting and doing things historians usually record, while on the banks, unnoticed, people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, write poetry. The story of civilization is the story of what happened on the banks..."

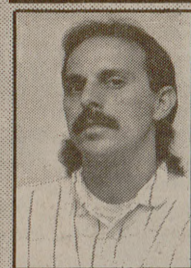
- Will Durant

Harrison is a senior journalism major and political cartoonist for The Battalion.



HOW TO WIN FOR LOSING: RULE 1, VERSE 2.

## 'Cop Killer' expression of anger



Paul Greco

"I'm 'bout to bust some shots off. I'm 'bout to dust some cops off. Die, die! Die Pig, Die!"

These words come from the song "Cop Killer" on rapper Ice T's latest album, Body Count.

These are some pretty powerful words. There's always extremist in every form of protest.

But maybe as a nation, we should look underneath all these words and examine what rap singers like Ice T, Sister Souljah, N.W.A., and the Geto Boys have to say. Most artists express themselves for a reason. So why are rap musicians now strongly expressing these views?

There is a large amount of frustration in this country. Sister Souljah told the Washington Post last month, "If black people kill black people every day, why not take a week and kill white people?"

Of course, she has a right to her opinion but this is a little extreme. Her views, however, illustrate the anger that has been building up for decades.

In 1963, unemployment in the ghetto was a soaring 25 percent. One black family in eight saw their kids forced out in the streets, where the crime rate was high. Unemployment among blacks in 1963 was 12 percent (more than twice the white unemployment rate). And one out of five black families had a child drop out of high school.

These statistics are strikingly similar to the statistics prior to the riots that occurred this year. In March 1992, the total unemployment was 6.5 percent for

whites and 14.1 percent among blacks, again more than double the rate for whites.

So where do we go from here? I discussed race relations with a group of students and received a variety of reactions.

"White folks believe that we have come far enough and that blacks have been helped out enough with affirmative action," a 22-year-old black male explained. "Black people know what the problem is. We can't solve these problems without cooperation from the power structure. We have little representation in government."

He went on to say, "I don't want to sound Marxist but you can just keep people oppressed for so long. The Rodney King incident has not evaporated. I hope we are civilized enough, but I could see a civil war easily."

A 21-year-old white male stated, "I don't get much into it, but I don't understand why when it's a problem, it's always the white man's fault. I don't believe this is just a black-white thing, but also a rich-poor clash."

He continued, "I believe we are civilized enough to prevent a national civil outbreak but it could possibly happen. But it won't be between whites and blacks, but government. War is a part of politics, you know."

Another black youth explained, "Discrimination is like being punished for something you didn't do."

A 21-year-old white female stated, "We have given blacks enough breaks. And now they should let time and hard work be their guide."

And a 23-year-old white female asked, "Why should we judge people by their race, gender, and sexual preference for job placement? These have no bearing on job performance, nor should they ever."

Riots in the 60's, Houston's Moody Park incident, and this year's L.A. riots are all forms of radical protest. But are the Boston Tea Party, the Alamo, and the Battle of Gettysburg comparable? These were all factors of revolutions.

One of the most telling features of discrimination is its ability to feed on itself: if you are discriminated against, you have a low-paying job and therefore low-income housing, and a less chance to have the education to move up the company ladder.

And it's not only blacks but women, Mexican-Americans, Indians and other ethnic groups that want no less than an end to discrimination in all forms.

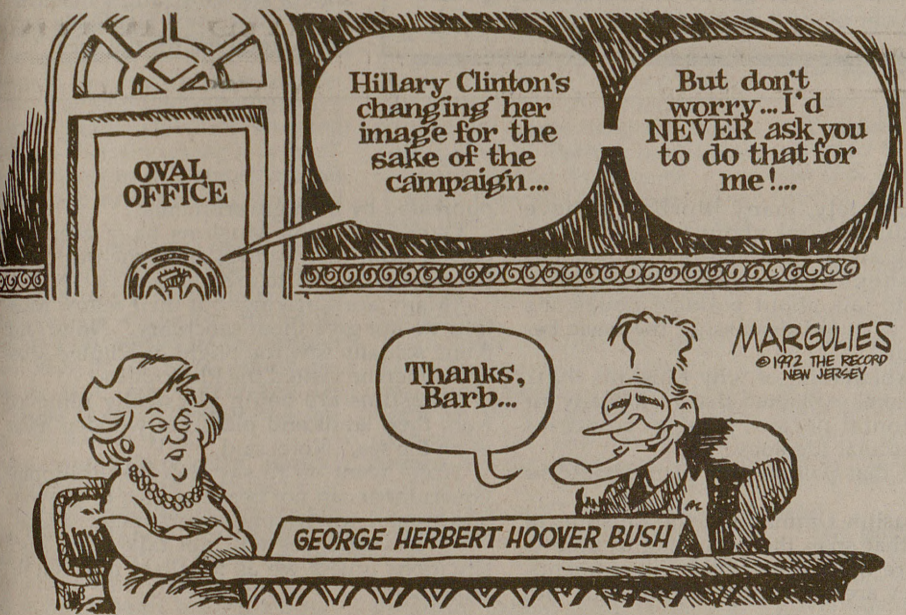
Our racial problems are for real and an every day part of our lives. America must face this domestic time bomb that has been ticking for the past 30 years. This isn't George Bush or Bill Clinton's problem. It's our problem. And ignoring the problem only leads to empty ideas and solutions.

Most Americans believe strongly that we as a nation are civilized enough not to experience another civil war. But let's not forget that war is an extension of political conflicts (both domestic and international). And sometimes small events can lead to catastrophe.

Anger is exhibited in various ways such as rap songs, rioting in the streets, the right to vote, or peaceful protest.

Richard Price is a white author who spent three years in the ghetto for his new novel, Clockers. The novel is about youth growing up in the crime-and-drug-infested streets. He states, "There but for the grace of God go I. And if I were born in the projects in 1970, where would I be today?"

Greco is a freshman general studies major and a columnist for The Battalion.



## Mail Call

### AIDS a problem affecting us all

As a new member of the Texas A&M community I am constantly faced with strange and unexplainable facts. One question is: why would The Battalion ever publish a letter as bigoted and misinformed as that of Michael Snyder (7/22/92).

Mr. Snyder attempted to address AIDS in the 90's; instead he revisited the late 70's when HIV was incorrectly labeled GRID (Gay Related Immune Disorder). No one "deserves" AIDS. Not a woman in Houston, nor the baby she or her spiritual sister may some day conceive. Not the gay, the IV drug user, the basketball player who slept around, nor the wife whose husband had a blood transfusion. We have (the educated portion of the population at least), I thought, gotten beyond the point where sick people were being "punished for their sins."

Another complaint of Mr. Snyder was that the government was spending monies that it did not even have on AIDS research/education. I have a news flash: the government spends in excess of \$1 billion dollars a year that it does not have. I am of the opinion that I would rather spend money they do not have on AIDS education/research than on, say, Texas's Super Collider.

Finally, Mr. Snyder states that "If more Americans had common sense, this AIDS) would probably be a minor problem." That statement is partially true (though probably not in the manner that Mr. Snyder intended). If all of the Moral Majority types would get out of the way of education attempts, we might be able to

reach our children with the information they could use. Giving kids condoms does not encourage them to go out and have sex any more than wearing a safety belt encourages you or me to go out and wrap our car around a tree.

The Netherlands has brought the spread of AIDS in their country under control, yet the Bush administration forbids federal funds for one of their very effective programs (needle exchange). Yes, AIDS, could be, if not minor, at least less severe, if we were allowed to try to reach people with more than words.

Mr. Snyder and everyone else out there, please think before you label AIDS as a "their" problem. Dr. Richard Keeling (a national expert on HIV education) says that by the year 1995 everyone in America will either:

1. Have a friend with or who has died from AIDS,
2. Have a family member with or who has died from AIDS, or
3. Have AIDS themselves.

If AIDS has not touched your life in the past, you are lucky; all luck eventually runs out. Be smart - the only "safe sex" is abstinence; if you do not practice that, practice "safer sex" - use a latex condom and Nonoxyl-9.

William R. Wilson  
Graduate Student

### Oppression?

Moslems; the oppressed, the victims, the enslaved .... Mr. Ben-Musa has been shelling us with the image of a people that have been long oppressed and humiliated by Christians all around the non-Moslem world.

He is right, Moslems are oppressed. He, however, always forgets to mention

two very relevant facts. First, all around the Moslem world, Christians, Zoroastrians, Hindus, and other non-Moslems are also oppressed, suffer tremendously and long for freedom. Second, Moslems themselves, all around what constitutes the "umma" are oppressed by those apostles of fanaticism and hate who disfigure the face of humanity.

Mr. Ben-Musa, you're pointing at America's oppression. For what? For giving you this tribune to exercise your freedom? There are a lot of people around the world who can only dream of such an oppression.

George Nasr  
Graduate Student

### Citizens must evaluate issues

I am a conscientious and concerned citizen who observes politics quite closely. As Americans get ready to vote in the November election, I have become extremely interested in what the respective candidates, President Bush and Gov. Clinton have to say about the economy and well-being of this country.

As a well educated college student, I am waiting to hear their views on the economy and unemployment before I decide who to support. President Bush is facing great amounts of criticism due to the recent recession and sluggish recovery of the economy. However, he has improved relations with foreign countries which will open new markets for American businesses, creating many jobs for Americans, and bringing long range benefits for this country.

On the other hand, Gov. Clinton has

been preaching "change" during the past two weeks. But, what does he exactly mean with the word change? Does he mean implementing socialized medicine and increasing welfare, thus increasing taxes, or does he mean motivation industries to produce more by tax reductions, thus creating more jobs?

A great deal of pressure is put upon us (college students) by the candidates; they will say and promise anything to win our votes. However, as well educated people, we should think carefully about what they have to say about the main issues, the economy, and the high rates of unemployment, and then we should evaluate how their promises can affect the status of this great country.

Therefore, my advice to you, Aggies, is: before you decide to vote for President Bush or Gov. Clinton, ask yourselves, "How will his ideas and promises affect my family, my country, and me?"

Nathaniel Garcia '93

### Voters' attitudes part of problem

Dennis Muzza '93

In reply to Brian Coats' concern about the state of the national government and lack of leadership all I can say is: It doesn't have to be that way. This is a democratic country and the people have power and responsibility to change the system.

Mr. Coats wants the leaders to forget about political differences and just do what is right for the people. But isn't doing the right thing for their constituents what keeps politicians in office? How else are they, or anyone, supposed to know "what is naturally and inherently

### Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters are welcome.

Letters must be signed and must include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. They should be 250 words or less. Anonymous letters will not be published.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee a letter will appear. Letters may be brought to The Battalion at 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or faxed to 845-2647.