

## The Battalion Editorial Board

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## Activists' agenda targets children

### People's beliefs determine actions — not education



**JANET HOLDER**  
Columnist

Lately, groups such as AIDS educators, multicultural supporters and gay activists have screamed that education will solve the nation's social problems. In fact, a story ran in the Battalion on Monday about gay Aggies that said, "Many gays and lesbians at A&M say that the best way to stop discrimination is to educate." All these groups say that if people become educated then they won't get AIDS, they won't have prejudices, and they won't be unaccepting of homosexual lifestyles. Who are they kidding? Education is not the answer.

First of all, these various groups assume their causes are good ones. Second, the groups assume that people faced with certain information will support their cause because they see it is better than any alternative cause. These assumptions are wrong. Information does not cause a person to act in a certain way, belief systems do.

In the book "Search for Significance," professional counselor and lecturer Robert S. McGee said that all information and situations in a person's life are interpreted by what that person believes. Information flows through a person's filter system, or their belief value system. Then, their thoughts and emotions on a certain subject are added. From there, the person makes his or her decision on how to act.

A good example of this is the case of the five teenage girls from San Antonio who claimed to have sex with an HIV-infected gang member after being dared to do so. I am amazed that police spokesman Sgt. David Ramos said, "We're dealing with young, uneducated juveniles." These girls had enough knowledge about the AIDS virus to get tested after they had sex with the HIV-infected gang member. The girls knew the dangers, but still decided to have sex. It is possible that these girls valued the acceptance of the gang more than their personal safety. No matter the reason, it is not unusual for people to have information and still not make what some groups would call "rational" decisions.

Our society is bombarded with information from various groups to direct people to act in what a group considers to be a socially acceptable way. So many people say they use condoms, or say they love everyone regardless of race, color or sexual preference. But do they really? Maybe they are just giving in to the pressure to act in a socially acceptable way. In the Houston Chronicle, it was reported that sex researchers

suspect "single men may over-report how often they use condoms because they want the interviewer to think they are socially responsible."

In the same article, sex researchers reported that women under-report their abortions by as much as 50 percent. The article said researchers "assume the women are afraid the interviewer will think less of them if they admit to having had one or more abortions."

Again, it may be an underlying social value that makes these women think that admitting to one abortion is OK, but that admitting to two or more abortions is socially unacceptable. So all these various groups may try to pressure people to act a certain way. Whether people actually act that way is another matter.

People change when their belief system changes. For instance, a prejudiced person won't stop being prejudiced until he or she thinks prejudice is bad. No amount of information can ensure the person will change the way they think. Information can influence a person, but it cannot change a person.

If a group really wants to influence other people, it will try to contact people who are still forming their belief system: children. Right now, AIDS educators are teaching elementary school children. In Queens, N.Y., gay activists supported giving the first-graders books entitled "Heather has Two Mom-mies," and "Daddy's Roommate." However, parents revolted against the school administration for approving these books.

According to Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Charles Krauthammer, parents revolted against giving children these books because they don't want their children to be influenced by this information. "It is one thing to teach children that homosexuals must be treated with respect," Krauthammer said. "It is quite another to teach that there is nothing to choose between homosexual and heterosexual life."

The parents, then, are possibly saying that they don't want these new values to be instilled in their children. They may not want homosexuality to be the moral equivalent of heterosexuality. The parents may not want their children to be re-socialized by the gay activists.

It is said that children are our nation's future, and whoever holds the children holds the future of our nation. All of the activists from various groups know this, so they target the children. Ultimately, however, it will be the group which influences these vulnerable minds the most — their parents or the activist groups — that will determine the outcome of our nation. God help us.

Holder is a senior journalism major.

## EDITORIAL

### Force feeding

#### No need to require diversity classes

The Texas A&M Liberal Arts Council should reject the proposal requiring liberal arts students to take six extra hours in cultural diversity classes. Under this proposal, three hours must be in a course on racial, ethnic or gender issues in the United States, and not more than three hours may be used to satisfy any other core curriculum requirement.

While cultural diversity is an admirable goal, forcing it down the throats of students may lead to resentment. In addition, this proposal also increases the student course load and forces the University to hire more professors.

Many students see the requirement as "mandatory political indoctrination." If the current curriculum does not adequately reflect the contributions of minorities or other cultures,

then the current classes should be re-designed to include these contributions.

Specialized departments for minority and ethnic study should not be necessary. Often these isolated departments are havens for "politically-correct" activities. By segregating these studies from the mainstream, only those students who are interested will take these courses, and those most in need of cultural education will not.

To ensure that students receive this cultural diversity, A&M doesn't need to force students to take more classes. Instead, the required classes just need to be revamped. And if minority and ethnic studies must remain specialized departments, then enrollment in these classes must remain a matter of choice.

### About time

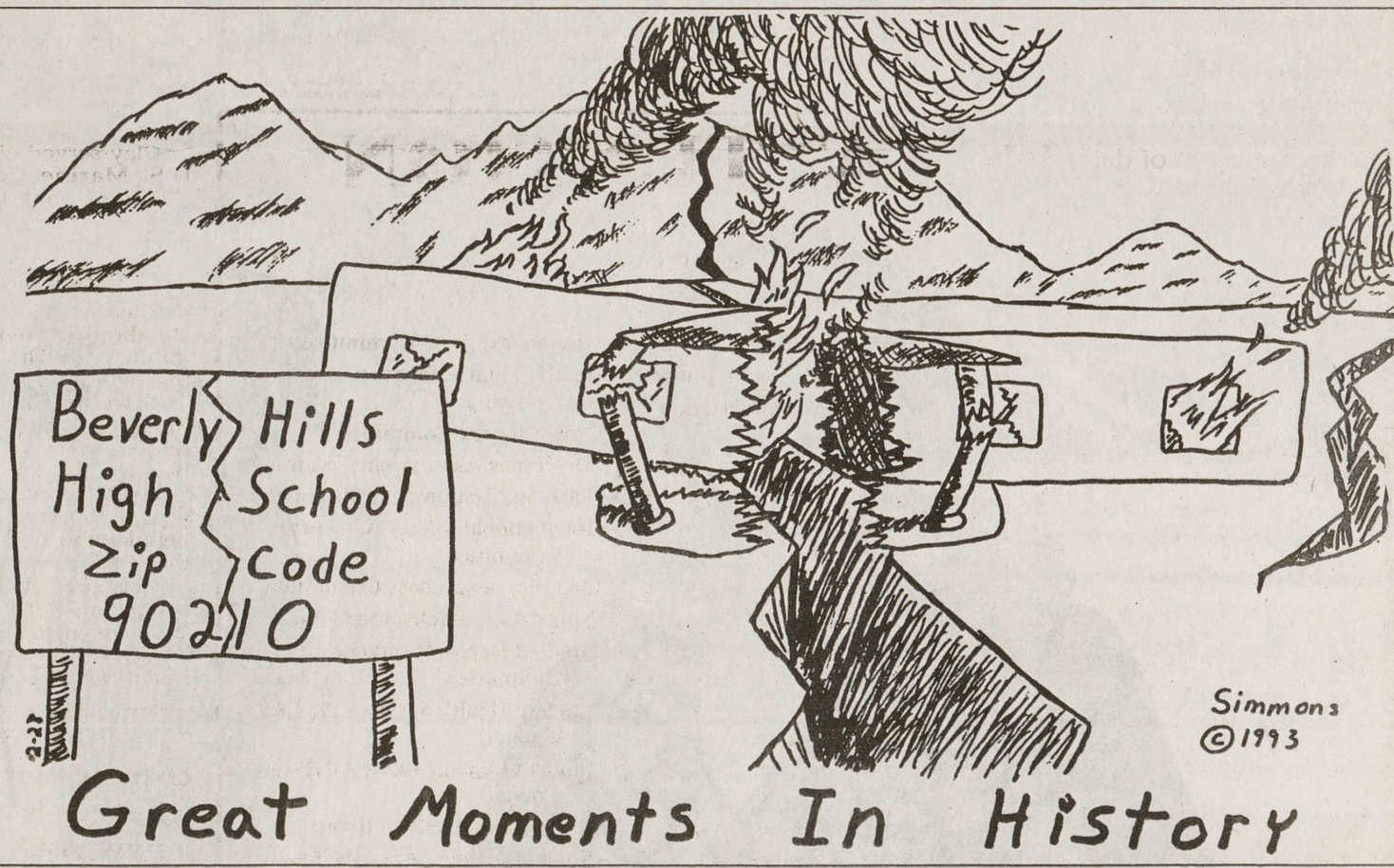
#### Legislative bill GPA-friendly

Another proposal affecting students passed today in the State House. The bill would allow a student who retakes a course to use the grade received the second time toward his GPA. Right now, both grades are used to determine GPA.

The GPA is considered to be a reflection of a student's knowledge. If students pay the money to retake a

class and learns more than he or she learned the first time, then his or her GPA should be adjusted to reflect that gain in knowledge.

This long-overdue bill, sponsored by Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, would take effect in 1995. Hopefully, the Senate will show the same consideration towards students when the bill reaches the floor there.



### Aggie Code of Honor lives despite bad bull

This letter is directed to the Aggies who called Saturday night, May 1 to tell me that they found my wallet in the 7-11 parking lot at Southwest Parkway and Welborn. I forgot to thank them because I was so perplexed at how my wallet had found its way to a place that I had not been to that day.

I expected to find no money in my wallet when I picked it up at the 7-11 counter, but I was shocked to find all \$52 intact. I came to this University because I liked the traditions and the atmosphere, and I have seen more bad bull than good bull. These Aggies have restored my faith in the Aggie Code of Honor.

Leonard Ware  
Class of '94

### Stop deforestation, save campus greenery

As more and more cement walkways through edges of grass and planters spring up throughout campus, I wonder whether one day there will be absolutely no vegetation at Texas A&M. The most recent of these supposed improvements occurred just a few days ago in front of the Anthropology/Archaeology Building (formerly the Old Engineering Building). This was due to the fact that a "street" had formed over the grass as hurried people saved a whole 2.5 seconds getting to the library more quickly.

As I extrapolate to a concrete campus, I wonder about the possible solutions to this problem. Perhaps we can even still save the planters between the Academic Building and Harrington. In order to save what greenery we still have, I have a few suggestions for the A&M groundskeepers:

- (1) Put electric fences around the planters.

- (2) Keep these areas perpetually muddy.
- (3) Use PTTs personnel to ticket offenders.

(4) Hire unemployed graduates to jump out of trees and whack grass-walkers over the head.

(5) Use ordinance from the military "right"-sizing to mine the pathways.

Perhaps these measures will not solve the "deforestation" problem on our campus, but the few extra seconds taken by some individuals might. Just imagine with me a cemented University, while you try to rationalize your route with the insignificant time you save.

Jerry Petersen  
Graduate Student  
Class of '91

### Rollerblading's good, but not in the MSC

Recently I've noticed that a new trend is starting to get a little carried away. The new trend is in-line skating, or rollerblading. I don't have a problem with the sport itself; in fact, I enjoy donning the blades and going out for a spin every once in a while. The problem that I do have, however, is the people who cruise through the Memorial Student Center on their skates. Maybe it doesn't bother others, but I thought the MSC was a memorial to former students who gave their lives in

the world wars. I just feel that it is disrespectful to ride through the MSC. Many people will say that rollerblading is a form of transportation, just like walking. That's fine, but do you know anyone who rides their bike through the MSC? I have a feeling there are a lot of old Ags that would give you more hell than I am. Let's just respect what who lost their lives for the freedom of both the people of the United States and the world.

John Bewley  
Class of '96

### Senators support bill to ban some smoking

A recent proposal by Dr. Mobley prohibited smoking in all Texas A&M University buildings. On Wednesday, April 21, the Student Senate presented a bill that called for the prohibition of smoking in all University buildings, including resident hall dormitory rooms. On both occasions, the Resident Hall Association was not consulted of their opinion.

There are physical hazards from second-hand smoke that faculty, students, and visitors are subjected to on a daily basis. However, we feel that since each student leases a dormitory room for his or her personal use, then he or she should be able to take part in any legal activity within his or her room. How can Texas A&M University justify restricting

the legal rights of those students living on campus?

When this proposal takes effect, there will be no need for roommate preference of a smoker or non-smoker. This could place a non-smoker in an undesirable smoking environment. Obviously, this will lead to unnecessary conflict.

We support the ban of smoking in all Texas A&M University buildings with the exception of resident hall dormitory rooms. All students who have an opinion about this situation should contact their elected senators.

Casey Childress  
Class of '96  
Northside Senator

Todd Rice  
'96 Class President  
Northside Senator

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Due to space restrictions, guest columns will not be accepted unless the author contacts the opinion page for prior approval before submitting columns.  
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