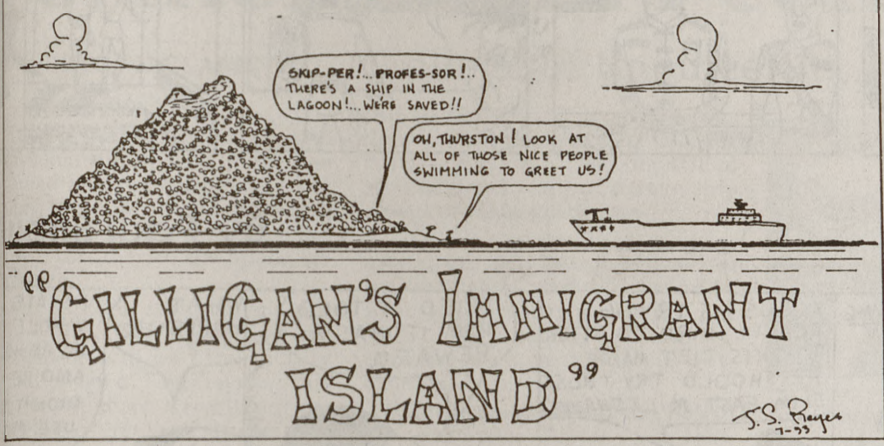


AFTER WEEKS OF DELIBERATION, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS FINALLY ANNOUNCED ITS PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE THOUSANDS OF CHINESE BOAT PEOPLE FLEEING TO THE U.S.



The Battalion Editorial Board

Jason Loughman, editor in chief

Mark Evans, managing editor
Stephanie Pattillo, city editor
Dave Thomas, night news editor
Mack Harrison, opinion editor

Kyle Burnett, sports editor
Susan Owen, sports editor
Anas Ben-Musa, Aggiefire editor
Billy Moran, photo editor

The Battalion



100 years at Texas A&M

EDITORIAL

Youth violence

Treat causes, not just symptoms

The dramatic rise in youth violence has become one of America's greatest social epidemics. In Brazos County alone, the number of violent crimes committed by children ages 10 to 17 has increased at least 20 percent from 1988-1992.

According to national statistics, about 10,000 Americans ages 10 to 14 are murdered or kill themselves every year. More than half of the people arrested for murder in 1991 were under 25.

This youth violence is a byproduct of social conditions, and the causes must be treated if we are to salvage the future for our children. The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention have embarked on an effort to learn what puts children at risk of being involved in violence. By attacking the social elements that contribute to youth violence, the CDC is taking the best possible approach to treat these young people.

These children weren't born delinquents; they learned their violent behavior from their environment.

Gun accessibility is one of the causes that must be addressed in order to curb this violence. One in 20 youths has taken a weapon to school. These children don't realize how dangerous their weapons are. The CDC has found that simple access to guns can make a disagreement end in death.

Education about the gravity of gun possession must begin at home.

Parents need to explain to children that guns are not toys, but deadly weapons.

Unfortunately, sociologists have determined that the growing number of dysfunctional families has contributed to the rise in youth violence. With little guidance at home, these children remain vulnerable to their violent surroundings and are not taught about the dangers of guns.

The increase in gangs has also contributed to youth violence. Because many youths nowadays are products of dysfunctional families, they flee to gangs for security and acceptance. For many youths, gangs have replaced the family, and as a result, there is a lack of positive role models for these youths.

We must focus on mending these dysfunctional families by combating the problems of poverty, domestic violence and alcoholism that often plague them. With the mending of the family, perhaps the rise in gang participation will cease.

Until the family gets back on its feet, the CDC and other concerned groups are teaching children nonviolent social skills from age 3 in the hopes it will make a difference when they're grown.

By learning to resolve conflicts nonviolently, resist peer pressure and distinguish violence in the media from violence in real life, the youths of tomorrow might not perpetuate the current cycle of violence we now live with.

Black vs. brown vs. beige vs. ...

Self-imposed limitations slow blacks' advancement

"He went to being called a Colored man after answering to 'hey nigger.' Now that's a big jump anyway you figger ..."



TRACEY JONES
Columnist

The dominant social system reeks of structural racism against many minority classes. The subtle racism is evident in the large urban centers' housing projects and public school systems and even in small towns' judicial system.

Racism is even blatantly displayed in explicit racial slurs and violent, racially motivated criminal acts, commonly known as "hate crimes."

With such conspicuous racial violence, it is often difficult to recognize the impositions that minority groups can place on themselves. Some groups, such as the Jewish and Asians, have erected value orders that are conducive to the groups' mutual social, economic, and political progress.

However, African-Americans are yet to dismantle the pernicious value systems and ideals that severely hinder their socioeconomic growth as a whole.

For instance, black children who excel academically are frequently ridiculed and sometimes ostracized by their peers. Educational attainment is therefore minimized — where satisfactory educational facilities exist. A vehicle for escaping economic hardship and fostering self-esteem and self-worth is dismissed as trivial, as "selling out."

Education has become associated very strongly with the Anglo culture in some parts of the black community and those who wish to learn are accused of "turning white."

No one group has a monopoly on knowledge and its attainment; it is available in abundant quantities for everyone to utilize.

Another harmful obstacle plaguing the black community seems to be the self-inflicted isolation based on color differences and multi-racial characteristics. Many times darker skinned people separate themselves from or are in conflict with lighter-skinned people because they are perhaps not "black enough" or the mulattos are "better looking."

What is not black enough?
And the lighter skinned people tend to socialize together

because the darker skinned people are perhaps "too black."

What is too black?
What does this even matter? Because being anything is just a state of mind. And that's what we should be concerned with.

People of mixed races are also teased because they are not "true" blacks; thus, they are not pure enough to be a part of the black community. As a result, people who could help advance the cause for social quality are left out or left behind. Either way, valuable help is not utilized.

The silliness of certain beliefs need to be eliminated if African-Americans are to further their quest for social and economic equality.

We need to understand and pinpoint the attitudes and policies that encourage black enterprises, socially aware organizations, significantly improved school systems, black political power, increased job training programs and renovation of low-income housing.

We need to instill in our children that knowledge is not exclusive to one group; they in turn are worth positive gestures being bestowed upon them as well. Education can be greatly encouraged by relating the material to the children's backgrounds and point of reference.

Overall, we need to develop an attitude of deserving healthy, positive things. Why be commending of every group but your own? When we as adults and young adults start to display this, the children will have role models in which to emulate.

Racial barriers that exist within the black community itself must be torn down before socially higher racial barriers within the dominant society can be addressed.

Leaving behind notions of being better or worse because one is darker or one is lighter and ceasing to define positive, socially altering institutions as "not open to blacks" will help us to find a common ground in which we can work toward a similar goal.

Regarding a political-economic basis, we need to be headed in the same direction if things are to change not just for a selected few, but for all blacks — brown, yellow, pale, light, dark brown, pure black

Jones is a senior psychology major



MARGULIES
©1993 THE RECORD
NEW JERSEY

COLLEGE STATION, TX
JULY 19
1993

MAIL CALL

Stock's departure creates void at A&M

Much has been written about recent tenure decisions within the Psychology Department. Some of what has been written appears to apologize for the system as it exists. The attitude appears to say we cannot jeopardize the quality of research for the sake of learning.

What we fail to remind ourselves is that TAMU is an educational institution, and the students are here to learn. I have found that I learn when the instructor knows how to teach. That is why I find Dr. Wendy Stock's comments so relevant.

I had Dr. Stock as an instructor for two classes, and she supervised my clinical work in the TAMU Psychology Clinic. In both areas her influence on my conceptualization of psychopathology and therapeutic approaches to

clients is significant.

I credit her with setting the foundation for my future work with people in need of clinical help. Her expertise in women's issues is probably the most important contribution she has made for me.

But for all the other students at TAMU who never had her as an instructor, you too will be missing an important person when Dr. Stock leaves. Her support for women on the TAMU campus is immeasurable, first as a faculty advisor for NOW and also as an advisor and provider of comfort for the women corps members who filed sexual harassment charges against fellow corps members. Few people have stood up for women in this way.

In both situations Dr. Stock has been criticized. I find this wholly ironic. We expect Dr. Stock to do our dirty work for us, and we want to be able to criticize her for how she does it. We

want an excellent and safe educational environment, but we will not speak up for it. We always expect someone else to do it for us.

Who will fill the void Dr. Stock leaves behind? Who will speak up for students when it is politically incorrect to do so? Who will question the tenure system when we lose more excellent instructors? Who will have the courage to challenge worn out assumptions that do not put people first?

Farewell, Dr. Wendy Stock. I will miss your knowledge and courage.

John M. Velasquez
Graduate student

Future student thanks Aggies for hospitality

During the past week I was fortunate enough to have attended a Lady Aggies Basketball Camp. I realize what an inconvenience this influx of students must have been for all of ya'll. Thus, I would like to thank you for your patience and hospitality. Being a transplanted Aggie, having a chance to "come home" is a real treat.

I would also like to thank Coach Hickey, all of her staff, and the Lady Ags for all of the care and attention

they gave us (my shooting game thanks you). I look forward to joining ya'll in three years as a student.

Gig'em.

Diana Higdon
Marietta, Ga.

No special treatment for Corps of Cadets

I was very pleased to read that The Battalion had taken steps to have information concerning some of the alleged crimes committed by members of the Corps of Cadets released to the public.

The concern for the privacy of the cadets is entirely misplaced, regardless of what the legal situation is. The cadets are, after all, not regular students, but members of a specially privileged group.

Had they not been members of the Corps, and had the Corps not earned such a well deserved reputation for using psychological pressure and physical violence against its opponents, they would have been prosecuted in a court of law, and would most likely have received jail sentences.

Texas A&M must finally take an honest look at the Corps. It is an outdated club for young men and some

young women. The ideals it espouses are out of touch with the times. Indeed, its models are reactionary.

The Parsons Mounted Calvary is, after all, named for a Confederate Army unit from Texas which participated in a rebellion against the United States. This is hardly the kind of model which should be presented to A&M students.

The Corps only brings A&M bad publicity and it serves no good purpose. The University should declare it just another student organization, like the Spanish Club, and deny its members any form of special treatment.

Michael Kraft
Bryan

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff.

Columns, guest columns, and Mail Call items express the opinions of the authors.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows in the Mail Call section. Letters must be 300 words or less, and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

Contact the editor or managing editor for information on submitting guest columns.

We reserve the right to edit letters and guest columns for length, style, and accuracy.

Letters should be addressed to:
The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald / Mail stop 1111
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843