

THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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EDITORIAL

Wake-up to reality

New policy a waste of time

The red pots are coming to a door near you, and they're not leaving until you get up. Although First Cut is still on the other side of summer break, the issue is very much alive over how on-campus, male Aggies should be awakened and motivated to attend "cut."

The tradition of banging on doors, blasting music and creating early morning mayhem in an effort to rouse the abedodded shows no signs of slowing down - creating rules to regulate it is a wasted effort.

Some believe the traditional way is the best way. There's nothing like having an axe handle crash against the door before dawn, accompanied by a wake-up call any Marine sergeant would be proud of. It's tradition, the way things have always been done.

Then there are those who believe wake-up is a silly tradition, at best. We're college students after all. We should be able to decide on our own when and why to get out of bed.

Many students work or have outside obligations that cause them to get to bed at odd hours. It's not fair to be awakened only hours after falling asleep for something that seems quite meaningless in the grand scheme of things.

The rules regarding wake-up procedures should be followed so that everyone can enjoy college. But ... they aren't. And they probably never will be. So, why are we even bothering to pass a new policy regulating wake-up calls? The old policy was continuously broken. Why would new regulations be regarded any differently?

Cut has been done the same way for quite a long time, and rules don't seem to be affecting it. Tradition does not always make right, and some things are well worth fighting against. But, this isn't one of them.

Fair or not, unless you're planning to hide behind your door with a bucket of water, the best option is either ear plugs or going to cut. That's life.

The world according to Max Winnebago

Noted pundit answers today's most pressing questions

Dear Max Winnebago: Why is there a statue of a man walking with a dog between Scoates Hall and the architecture building when dogs aren't even allowed on campus? - Wondering in Gainer



DAVE WINDER
Columnist

Dear Wondering: The unique sculpture is actually the Greek god Zeus walking his favorite canine, Prissy. It's just A&M's special little way of appeasing the gods. Another interesting sculpture that can be found on campus is the Menos (translated: huge piece of twisting metal) found behind the Halbouty building.

Dear Max Winnebago: I just wanted to know when you planned on graduating? I know being a 28-year-old man and a seventh year senior can be pretty tough sometimes, but don't you think you could actually get a degree eventually? - Anonymous

Dear Mom and Dad: I know I'm taking longer than you expected, but can't you get off my case? I'm sorry I can't be like my successful big brother, Roger. I'm really sorry I can't be the greatest son in the world all the time. It's time for you both to start using words that help and stop using words that hurt.

Dear Max Winnebago: I've been having a lot of trouble with women lately, so one my friends suggested I write you. Since you have been here at A&M since the Disco Age, we figured you must have some tips on how to pick

up girls? - Desperate in Bryan

Dear Desperate: Through my years at A&M, I have picked up quite a few women by using just eight pick-up lines. Memorize and prosper.

1. Baby, you got an hourglass figure with a paper bag face.
2. Since your friend turned me down, would you like to dance?
3. You're pretty ugly, but the bar's closing - so how about it?
4. Hey is that Danzig's "Mother"? Honey, they're playing our song.
5. Baby is your name Gillette, because you're the best a man can get?
6. Wow, your name is Cindy. My cousin's ex-wife's name is Cindy.
7. So, did you make that shirt with the Be-dazzler?
8. Nothing personal. I just want to sleep with you.

Dear Max Winnebago: Why does A&M's archeology department have the largest coprolite (petrified human feces) collection in the world? - Puzzled on Holleman

Dear Puzzled: A&M began accumulating specimens for study in the early 1980s after University of Texas researchers began bragging about their collection of used facial tissues from a Hungarian Flu breakout during the Middle Ages. Both colleges are now in the running to acquire the Pierce Institute's collection of ancient belly button lint.

Dear Max Loser: You stupid goober. When are you going to stop blaming me for all the troubles you have caused? The only reason you're still mad at me is because of what happened with Glora Jean Bradshaw. Grow up and graduate, you stupid dork! - Signed

Roger

Dear Spaz: I'll graduate when I'm darn good and ready. So don't go telling me that all my problems stem from when you stole Glora Jean Bradshaw from me. She broke my heart way before that even happened. You didn't steal her; I let you have her.

Dear Max: I just read your response to "Crying in Caldwell" who thinks her 16-year-old daughter, "Stacy," is having sex with her boyfriend who is at least ten years older. I cannot believe you had the nerve to tell her, "This is what's happening these days - don't blame yourself." - Ann in Hughes

Dear Ann: Did you happen to notice that "Stacy" and her boyfriend were taking the proper precautions? I hope my children will be as responsible as she is.

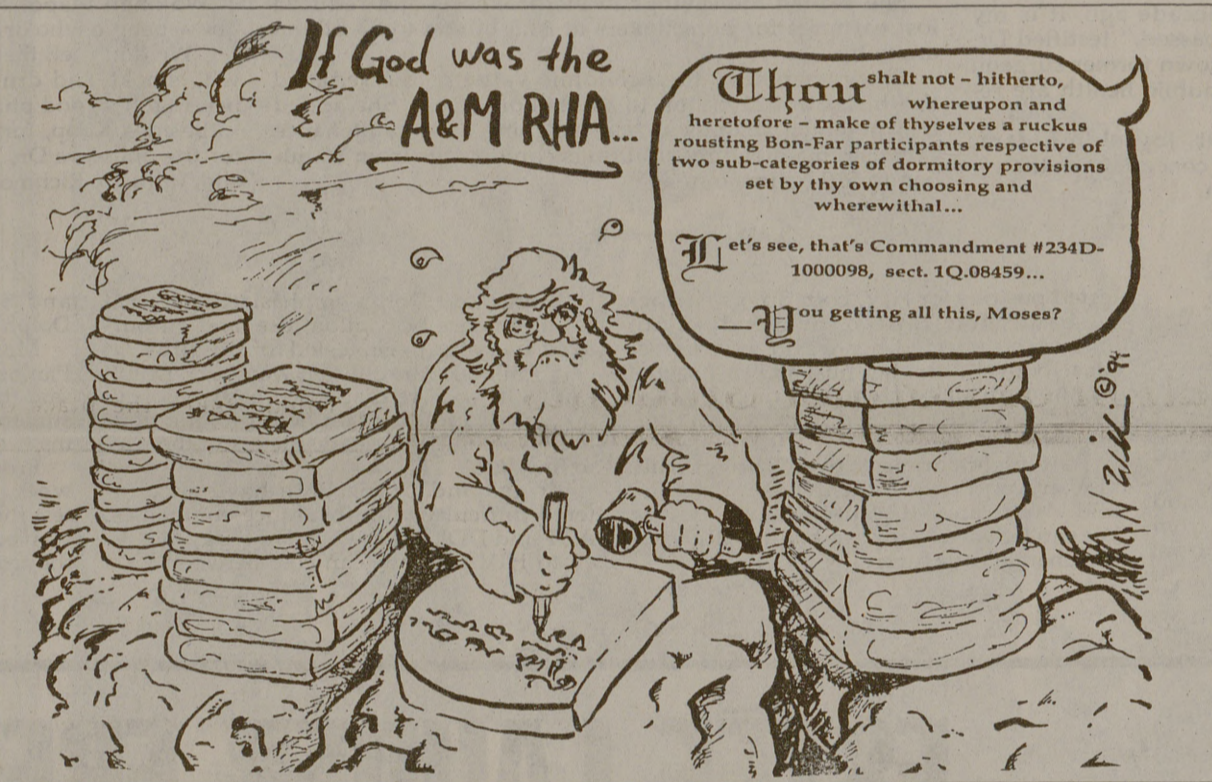
Dear Wimpebago: I don't know where you get off telling people that you actually owned me. That's the same reason I left you for your brother, you insensitive jerk. I'm glad I dumped you back then. It makes it much easier to laugh at you now. You're scum. - Glora Jean

Dear Glora Jean: You're just mad because a 16-year-old girl from Caldwell has taken your place.

Dear Max Winnebago: I'm a humor columnist for my school newspaper, but not many people find me funny. So I made fun of my parents for some cheap laughs, and now they won't pay my tuition. What can I do? - Signed J.D.W. in Fowler

Dear J.D.W. - Don't come crying to me. Who do I look like - "Dear Abby"?

Dave Winder is a sophomore journalism major



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Opinion based in religious belief deserves equal consideration

In the recent past, courts have severely restricted the rights of religions. The "establishment clause," which the founding fathers devised to prevent the government from favoring one religion over another, has become a justification for viewing all religions with suspicion. But the Freedom of Restoration Act, prohibiting the prosecution of churches as individuals, was passed in 1993 thanks in great part to the odd alliance of Senator Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican, and Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat.



ERIN HILL
Columnist

This act is much needed, but it comes too late for the American Indian tribes who were forced to abandon the use of peyote in their religious rites (as if they

could just go out and find new ceremonies). The court's inappropriate ruling treated the American Indian tribes without the special considerations guaranteed in the Constitution. The founding fathers never intended our government to be hostile to religions, and the Freedom of Restoration Act restores liberties and means progress for all religions in America.

There's also been a resurgence of "family values" in executive branch rhetoric. Hillary Rodham Clinton has spoken of a need for values, and President Clinton said no government agency can substitute for a family's care. Even outside the collective imagination of the older generation (which always thinks we're going to Hell in a handbasket), the general belief, as violence and crime increase rapidly, is that the fabric of our society is unraveling.

Americans are worried, but there is still a reluctance to consider spiritual solutions. Those who offer them are forced to be apologists for their beliefs. More and more religions and religious people aren't taken seriously in the intellectual hubs of our country.

In his book, "The Culture of Disbelief," Stephen Carter, a law professor at Yale and confirmed liberal, concludes the same thing: intellectual elites in America view religion as something akin to a hobby and best left that way - something that rational people don't participate in.

John Leo of U.S. New & World Report agreed: "When religions bring their moral concerns into the public arena, the elite ...

Those who offer spiritual solutions are forced to be apologists for their beliefs. More and more religions and religious people aren't taken seriously.

shared moral beliefs." From the ideological left, Jeff Greenfield of the Universal Press Syndicate said about the religious right: "I'm tired of people ... seeing the Ayatollah Khomeini behind this movement. Religion and politics were bound together in the civil rights movement and anti-Vietnam War movement; there's nothing wrong with people on the right doing the same thing ..."

Carter said if one disagrees with Pat Buchanan or politicians like him, it should be his opinions that one disagrees with, not that he invokes the name of God when voicing them. And if one wants to criticize President Clinton, it shouldn't be because Hillary wore a crucifix in the Inauguration. (They came under fire by some who deemed her necklace inappropriate.)

It should be okay for religious beliefs to influence one's opinions, whatever the religion - mainstream faiths aren't the only ones to be considered seriously. And it should be okay to wear whatever you like when your spouse is sworn in as the President of the United States.

At the same time, people shouldn't act like idiots in the name of God, assume that

regions are the only birthplace of values or insist that churchgoers are inherently better people. Opinions of a religious nature are neither less nor more important than any others, and they simply shouldn't be disregarded without consideration.

No one is arguing for a national religion. In the past such notions have led to the enforcement of certain beliefs at the expense of others. In our enlightened attempts to prevent the establishment of an official religion, the proverbial pendulum has swung in favor of absolute secularism. By allowing it to stay there, we may be doing a great disservice to ourselves. The separation doctrine has been misinterpreted.

Writer Steve Roberts said that we ought to "... redesign a 'wall of separation' that lets the most positive religious values into public life..."

It is no longer wise to pretend that religions and the values that may accompany them have no place in public debate or public lives.

Erin Hill is a senior English major

COLLEGE STATION, TX
 Feb 8
 1994
MAIL CALL

Hype men's hoops

After having read The Battalion for the three short weeks of the semester, we would like to express our tremendous disgust at the terrible coverage that our men's basketball team has been getting.

On Feb. 3, the day after our team upheld their perfect record in the Southwest Conference by beating Baylor on the road, they received a small

corner on the back of the sports page. As if that weren't degrading enough, the article began with a headline implying that the victory could be credited to the injury of a Baylor player, rather than the skills and tremendous effort of the Aggie team.

We are football fans, too, and do care a great deal about the recruiting for next year, but it is basketball season, and our team deserves all the support, recognition and respect that our

campus can give them. We know that the day before was football signing day, but we are tired of football always coming first in our media, when our basketball players work just as hard as the football players.

We hope that the student body shows the team that we do care about them and their outstanding efforts by coming to all of the home games left this season. We hope to see you (and The Battalion sports staff) in G. Rollie White on Feb. 9, 16, 20 and March 1 and 5 as we beat the hell out of our opponents!

Kristi Mersbach
Class of '94

Katie Harris
Class of '94

Beutel stance on pill the right decision

I am writing in response to Paul Herrera's letter that appeared in Mail Call on Feb. 4 concerning the distribution of the "morning after" pill at Beutel Health Center.

I am sure that the directors of the health center had more in mind than trying to "legislate morality" (a cliched term which may as well read "Don't make me feel responsible for my actions.") when they decided not to carry the pill.

Let me explain. I pay a relatively small health center fee of \$25 every semester. From this money, other Aggies are able to get free examinations and

low cost medicine. I certainly don't have anything against a small amount of money going to cure fellow Ags of a cold or the flu, but I would rather not have it going to "cure" pregnancy.

Now, as long as the morning-after pill is legal, I can't do anything to stop someone from going out and buying it with their own money - but I hope you understand that I don't want one penny of my own money furthering the slaughter of unborn children.

Tim Behne
Class of '94

Editor's note: To clear up any confusion, the morning-after pill is not the same as the RU-486 pill, which is illegal in this country.