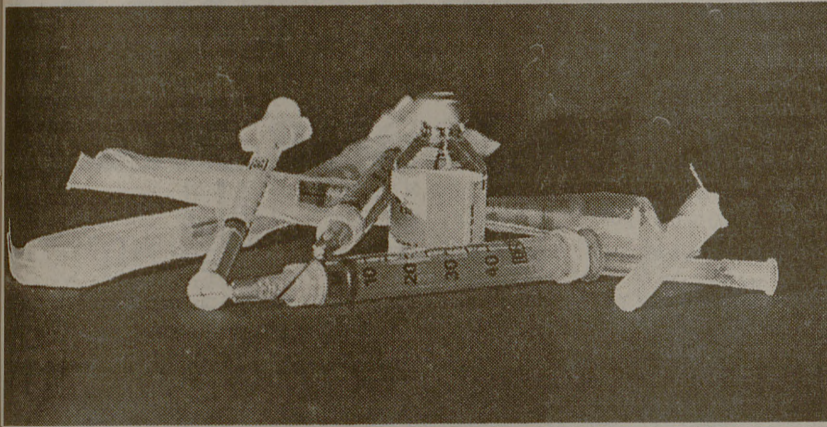


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EDITORIAL



NEEDLE EXCHANGES

Programs for drug users switch death for life

Programs that provide clean needles to drug addicts are proving successful in several communities across the United States in stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS. Unfortunately, similar programs have not been implemented in Texas because of misplaced public fears that free syringes might somehow encourage drug use.  
Strong evidence suggests that these fears are unfounded and a needle exchange program would be successful.  
In New Haven, Conn., drug addicts can exchange dirty syringes for clean ones courtesy of the city's health department. Outreach workers also hand out food, clothes, condoms and information about needle disposal.  
Since the program was started in 1990, AIDS cases have declined by 33 percent in New Haven. They have also referred 20 percent of their clients to drug treatment programs.  
Initially, opponents of the program

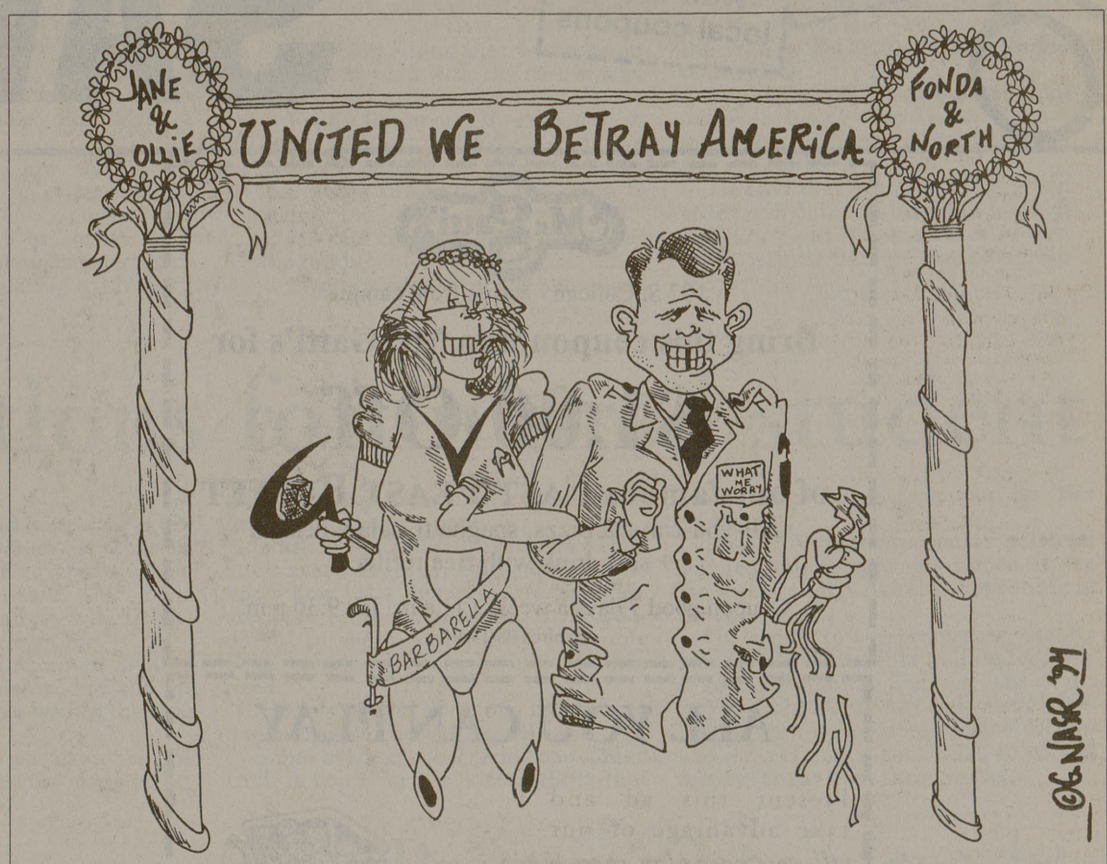
were more concerned about the effect of the program on drug abuse rates than on the spread of HIV. In most parts of the country, in fact, needle exchange programs are too often dismissed because of the perception that they promote drug use.  
This perception is false and is preventing the implementation of such programs where they might be very helpful in slowing the spread of HIV. In San Francisco, Calif., education and drug treatment plans coupled with needle exchange programs have proven quite effective in reducing both HIV infection rates and the number of intravenous drug users.  
The people whom these needle exchange programs serve are going to use drugs whether they have clean needles or not. We should not be content with allowing these addicts to kill themselves when their deaths might be prevented with a cheap disposable syringe.

JOSEF  
ELCHANAN  
Columnist



North admitted to having organized the Iran-Contra arms sales, of having lied to former Congressional inquiries and of trying to sidestep and eventually break the laws of the United States, specifically the Boland Amendment, which stated that all government

assistance to the Contras should end. Since then, North has made multiple speeches about how proud he is of himself for those actions.  
Oliver North had fanatically attempted to destroy every piece of evidence that would lead the investigators to discover what had occurred. He never produced any original information, but would only support findings that the Congressmen already knew about. North had sworn an allegiance to defend the Constitution, and discussed this subject in Congressional Committee hearings. He failed miserably. Instead of protecting the American people and their Constitution, North backed the Iranians, the Contras and his own superiors.  
This same man, having supported such harmful activities, is now attempting to run for the U.S. Senate in Virginia. It is much easier to condemn Jane Fonda as a traitor who runs around in hippie clothing than to criticize a decorated Naval Academy graduate who promotes mainstream religious and moral values. It is much easier for people to forget that Oliver North admitted that, "... I misled the Congress," because he told those supposedly lousy Congressmen what they should do with themselves.  
North did have some points in his favor. He did want to support what he and his superiors thought were America's objectives, and he did claim to have been very proud of his actions. Yet Jane Fonda, upon returning from Vietnam, also claimed that she had supported what she believed were important American objectives, such as peace in Southeast Asia, and that she was very proud to have seen past what she considered criminal activities by the Nixon administration.  
Defining un-American activities seems to be a



very politicized task. If you are a liberal, you tend to believe that Jane Fonda simply exercised her right to free speech and did a service to the United States by helping to stop an immoral war. If you are a conservative, the winner of a silver star in the Vietnam conflict, who supposedly saved America from itself through his illegal activities, can be seen only as a hero as well.  
I guess if someone has always approved of Jane Fonda's actions or is considering voting for Oliver North, maybe they should read Sen. Daniel Inouye's closing remarks concerning the

Oliver North hearings. Inouye, a Distinguished Service Cross winner, pleads with America to look at our heroes for who they really are and to remember that, "Our government is not a government of men. It is still a government of laws."  
Oliver North broke our highest laws and made our government lie to the world. If you think Jane Fonda is a traitor, then Oliver North certainly has to be one as well.

Josef Elchanan is a senior business management major

Oftentimes it's not 'only a game'

Sports zealots lose sight of recreation, entertainment in competitions

FRANK  
STANFORD  
Columnist



This week has been a particularly fun and exciting for most countries of the globe. The World Cup Soccer tournament has been providing good, clean entertainment - not to mention national cohesiveness - for many countries who are otherwise out of the limelight regarding world sports events. It's a big chance for these countries to feel like real contenders in a major world event, and is taken almost as seriously as a war. But competitive sports are kind of a war anyway.  
Most Americans, including me, don't give a flying doughnut about this game the rest of the world calls "football." However, when I turn on the TV and see footage of ethnic Americans hanging out in sports bars to cheer on the motherland's team, I understand just how serious some people get over the outcome of a game. Many of these contests are treated as mock battles.  
In the 1980s the US Olympic Hockey Team finally beat the Soviet Union. There was no doubt that the game represented a true battle between the two "nuclear nervous" nations. A loss to "the West" was a far greater blow for "the Russkies" than if they'd lost to Finland or Greenland. Likewise, important games mean much more to the public if a centuries-old mortal enemy is the opponent. Ireland is far more interested in beating England than anyone else. The Israelis versus the Syrians or the Greeks

Although my parents taught me, "It's a game, just have fun," I knew many peers who learned differently. I've seen 8-year-olds cursed and even spanked for dropping a fly-ball or fumbling on the 10-yard line. Winning is the only accepted way to play.

most prominent buildings we have. The athletic dorms and training centers are far more elaborate than necessary, and if that's not enough we're spending millions to build more sports facilities across the tracks. The library is still the same, however, and many classes are still overcrowded.  
In addition to suffering from such skewed budget priorities, many universities fall victim to themselves by violating NCAA laws pertaining to illegal recruiting and compensation. Coaches are paid enormous salaries and are the darlings of the school until they lose a few games, then it's "see ya later coach." But we are all to blame; our fervor over football creates these problems. The only marginally innocent people are the players, who are pimped by universities and alumni all over America.

But it didn't start in universities. It didn't even start in high schools like Permian High in Odessa or Judson High in Converse, where football IS the king of the community. It's parents - usually fathers who instill in their sons that winning is everything, to lose is to die ... even in Little League.  
Although my parents taught me, "It's a game, just have fun," I knew many peers who learned differently. I've seen 8-year-olds cursed and even spanked for dropping a fly-ball or fumbling on the 10-yard line. Oftentimes praise pales in intensity to punishment because perfection and winning are expected. At this point the child learns that winning his game is the only accepted way to play and eventually attaches that sentiment to teams he's not playing on. Screaming at the TV and domestic violence rise significantly during football season.

Most of you either know, or feel effects of these attitudes, or you may even agree with them. But there are only two outcomes to this way of thinking: A champion athlete who has never had to learn how to lose at anything, or the capable contender in life who is afraid to play for fear of defeat. We occasionally hear of rich, powerful and sometimes famous "winners" who find it very difficult to cope when they "lose" at some aspect of their lives. A number of successful celebrities have fallen victim to this syndrome and have perished in popularity and even life as a result. On the other hand, students who have made a few 'C's in their life are more likely to handle getting one than a senior with a 4.0.  
Either development can be avoided by some simple thinking about what's really important in life, and passing that to your children.

Frank Stanford is a graduate philosophy student

Jane Fonda, Oliver North match in un-American behavior

Most of us weren't around for the 1960s, but all of us are very familiar with the story of Jane Fonda. A rich, famous actress, Jane fell in with radical organizations galore, spending such of her time learning revolutionary slogans and punishing the American public through her displays of ignorance concerning historical and political issues. While Fonda did attempt to help minority groups and those in poverty, she had one issue that became identified with her for the rest of her life.  
The Vietnam conflict heated up in the late 60s, and radical Hollywood insiders attempted to use their name recognition and money to stop the war. Fonda joined organizations that promoted dishonorable activities of soldiers, including groups that assisted draft dodgers and the sabotaging of military activities.  
These activities certainly bordered on what one could call un-American activities, but nothing that could not be forgiven. Then Fonda went too far. During July, 1972, she went to North Vietnam to celebrate its "victory" over American imperialism. She talked to North Vietnamese soldiers and promoted their cause as just. She came back to the United States and said that prisoners of war who claimed to have been brutalized by their captors were "liars and hypocrites." Later, she admitted that it probably happened, but, "what could they expect?"  
Many people still believe Jane Fonda is a traitor to her country. Confused, "Hanoi Jane" had allowed herself to be used against her own people, and will have to live with her mistake forever.  
There is another story to be told about a traitor. This individual is not much smarter than the previous one, just luckier. He was a pawn in the international power game, and was almost crushed by the machinery of the system. Lt. Col. Oliver North made it because he was too small a fish for Congress to fry. He was naive and outspoken, a defused threat to the country who could testify against bigger men.



Bandwagon mentality accepts invalid ideas

I was deeply saddened by the column entitled "No rules define 'good' parenting" in the June 29 Battalion.

Frank Stanford begins with a simple piece on who has a right to be a parent, but it quickly devolves into a fatalistic look at America, with Christians once again to blame.  
Stanford seems to purport that since our societal values and standards are declining we should give in and go with the flow of said change. Of course, the "Traditional" household (read "Christian") is holding back such "evolution." I would consider such a flippant attitude regarding life a devotion for our society, which has accrued a vast sea of ideas and beliefs. Just because America is a heterogeneous nation does not mean that all its

varied viewpoints are valid or veracious. Ideas such as these can be tolerated, but if we so easily abandon our own teachings, as Stanford would have us do, truth really would be relative. Whatever the trend of the day, we would be like puppets jumping on the bandwagon of popular culture.  
How sad it truly is that such ideas are tolerated in a way that puts children at risk. Stanford offers no evidence to the contrary. He simply offers attacks on his cited research from Walter Barbee, which turns into attacks on Christian beliefs. Stanford portrays Christians as ignorant, intolerant, and abusive. The new bandwagon

mentality, exemplified in the article, reveals the key problem with today's culture. The general populace wishes to live in a world free from absolutes. This lack of accountability is the reason this same-sex parenting topic has become an issue. It is also the same reason that Christians are so often chosen as the fall guys, the scapegoats for society's problems. No one likes to be told that they are wrong. That is why it is easiest to assume such a careless attitude regarding what we hold as truth.  
Contrary to Stanford's column, our country is not predominantly Christian. That's the reason that such a

practice of abandoning any sense of culpability for our actions has become an ever-increasing and ever-frightening reality.

Craig McKenney  
Class of '96

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