

New, improved electric gadgets shock younger generations

Nothing excites my friends more than the AT&T "You Will" advertisements for bizarre new electrical devices. The gadgets shown in the ads are every American's dream. Awesome technology interests the younger generation like nothing else because it connects people who otherwise would never see or hear each other.

JULIA STAVENHAGEN

Columnist



an old folks home for technology - but these old folks get old too fast. It took 10 or 15 years before technology went far enough to develop past the Commodore 64, but now the "very latest" in

In front of me, two gentlemen stepped into the radius of the electronic-eye door opener. Instead of whooshing open as usual, the door remained doggedly shut. We all stopped for several seconds, confused, concerned. Humans are adaptable creatures, doubtless, but sometimes it takes a few million years to adjust. I know this because not only did the people in front of me stop at the door, but waved at the eye, hoping to trigger it. Several seconds passed during which I was quite concerned that we were trapped forever in

conservatism. My dad still does not have an answering machine, but he is the most intelligent person I know. I'm beginning to suspect that there is something fishy about the millions of people scrambling to get on the information superhighway.

Computing networks give readers access to more written material than we could read in two lifetimes, but actually reading it takes as long as it always has. Patsy Cline is out on CD, but she doesn't sing any faster on the new technology.

What would the world have been like if Einstein and Oppenheimer had sent each other e-mail? Would they have reached some quicker scientific conclusions? Developed some other frightening pieces of technology like the one that scared Oppenheimer into discouraging the development of his own atomic bomb? More likely they would have exchanged recipes for potato salad, keeping e-mail in its original usage: entertainment.

Other breakthroughs like K-band fuzz busters, CD players and computer upgrades come out and turn previously-released technology into attractive, very expensive, door stops. There are computers now that make your new 486 look like an adding machine. First reactions range from "wow" and "cool" to "uh-oh" when reality sets in. Most people think of how far we have come in 20 years, but some wonder what we are supposed to do with the obsolete. Texas A&M has a surplus warehouse where all of the old computers go - like

technology is outdated in about a week. Offices on campus are running on computers from the early '80s. While we can't expect the University to spend millions on updating them, there should be some control in place to keep us from getting run over on the information superhighway by richer companies or schools.

Remember record players? Most people still have a collection of cassettes, but what's an 8-track? Those things from the Precambrian? The old must be quickly replaced with the new for the average audio-visual buff who wants to keep up. Dollar signs flash. What do we lose in this acceleration of time? Do computer networks contribute to the problems of illiteracy or growing up too fast in a fast world?

It may be possible that technology is developing faster than our ability to adapt to it. Last weekend, I was heading for the exit of Wal-Mart.

I was heading for the Wal-Mart exit. Instead of whooshing open, the door remained doggedly shut - we were trapped. Then, unthinkable, a man PUSHED the door open.

Wal-Mart like flies in amber. An older man approached, strode past us, then did the unthinkable. He reached out and PUSHED the door open, right on the vestigial handle. We escaped into the open night air. I nodded thanks to the man holding the door. It was his ancestors who discovered fire while mine were eating mud.

The dynamism associated with technological change usually irks those who tend toward

With a word processor, the time you save typing the information instead of handwriting it usually is lost while you wait for the machine to boot up, format the page, choose a font, eliminate the bugs, turn on, load and initialize the printer and print out the copies. In the end, your correspondence will not go through the mails any faster.

While new technology is visually spectacular and extremely entertaining, it helps us only by practically eliminating boredom - if you have enough money for the right gadgets. Instead of concentrating on HOW we read, write and communicate, perhaps it will help us more if we concentrate on the content of our communication.

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EDITORIAL

PROBLEM PRESIDENCY

Clinton must adjust administration's priorities

President Clinton and his administration are failing. Clinton has repeatedly blundered into national scandals about his personal behavior and financial dealings and complicated these problems by his failure to uphold campaign promises, establish consistent policies or foster the cooperation of the other branches of the federal government.

Clinton's biggest promise, that of guaranteed universal health care, has met constant resistance and controversy. His refusal to actively campaign for either his plan or a compromise bill that combines other plans stands out as an example of his waffling. The end result will most likely be a watered-down bill that does little to reform American health care and suffers from a lack of popular support.

Clinton, once touted as the "domestic president," felt support from many voters who felt that President George Bush focused too narrowly on foreign policy. Clinton's domestic plans, however, are jeopardized by his inability to properly manage interna-

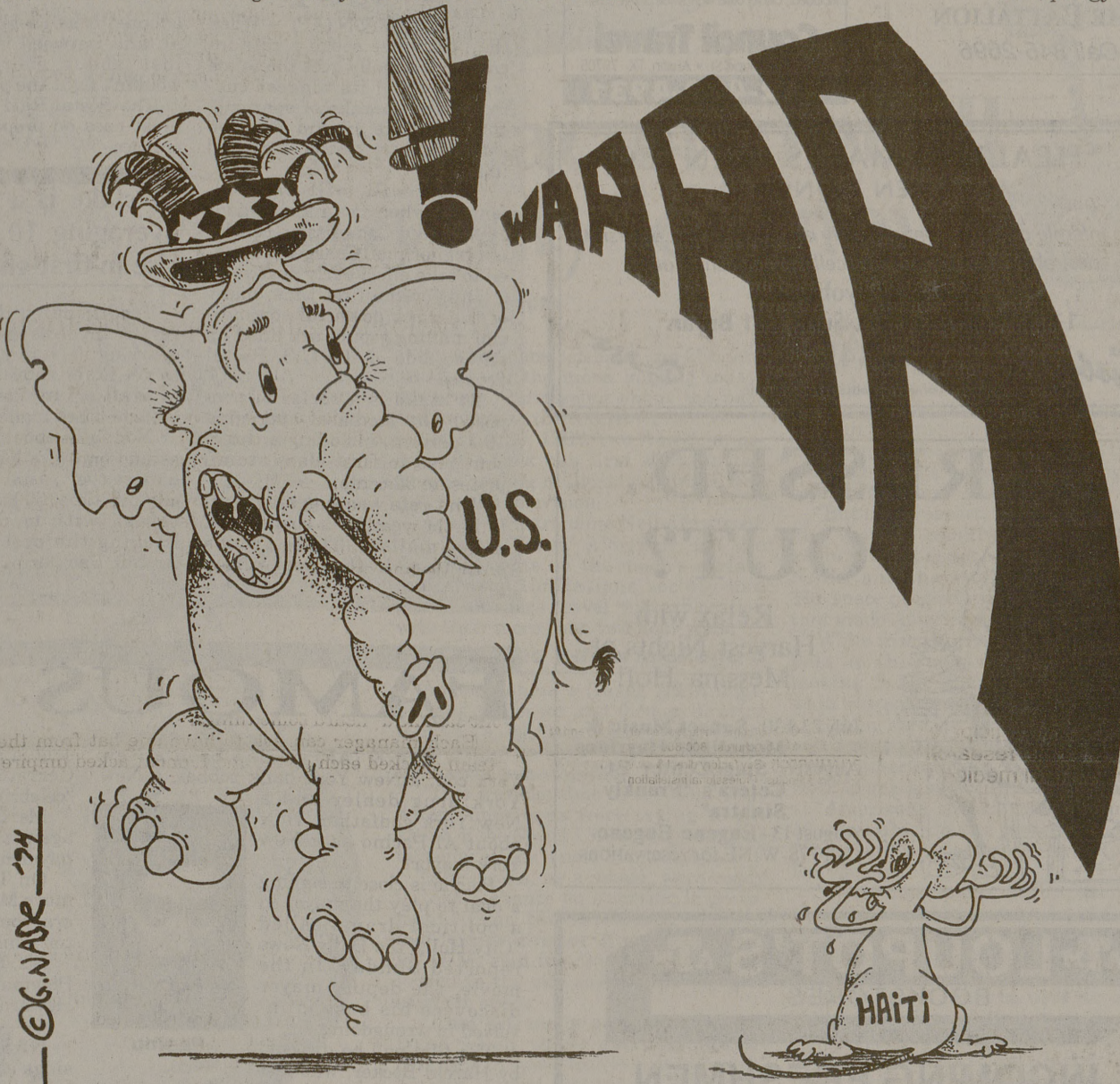
tional affairs. Today, the Haitian "policy" is a muddled mess of promises made and broken. Troop involvement in Somalia became an unresolved mess. His waffling on every issue that comes up is not only legendary, it is also incredibly ineffective.

Paula Jones' allegations of sexual harassment and federal investigations into the Whitewater project have pushed many of these official lapses off the front page and out of the public consciousness. Remember the gays in the military controversy? When Clinton attempted to implement this most controversial plan during his first month in office, he did it so unprofessionally that he managed to generally alienate both homosexuals and the military. The policy remains basically unchanged.

Clinton has allowed his personal problems to dictate where his time is spent and to compromise our country's standing in the eyes of the world. He needs to re-prioritize soon. If he doesn't, be assured the country will in 1996.



Clinton



'Stupid' describes people, behavior

Everyday choices illustrate difference between actions, intelligence

Frank Zappa, rest in peace, once said in an interview with Arsenio Hall, "Now, let's not put down ignorance, it's the one thing that makes America great."

He had a point, didn't he? There sure are a bunch of stupid people in this country, and the world in general. Everyone has an opinion of which people are stupid. But let's not get them confused with drivers who cut us off on the freeway, or the cops who write us parking tickets. There's a fine line between stupid people and those who do stupid things. Whenever someone cuts me off on the freeway, I yell at them. But isn't yelling at someone who can't hear me just as brainless?

There are many people who do stupid things. For instance, turn on your television every night at 10. So many people are moronic that I can't even watch the news anymore. For instance, after the Chicago Bulls won the NBA national championship for the second time, the city rioted. The hometown team won, and to celebrate, people became violent. Not every person who participated in that riot is stupid, but what they did was ridiculous.

Another example: Dan Quayle misspelling the word potatoE. Our former vice president is not a stupid person. Not everyone will agree with his views about politics or how to play golf, but he is considered to be - generally - an intelligent person. He did misspell a word that could be on a third grader's spelling test. Even the student Quayle corrected knew the "e" was wrong. Likewise, how smart was it to make such a big deal about his mistake? Could a bigger mountain have been made out of that molehill?

On the other hand, there are stupid people in this world. They may have some intelligence, but it's not evident - and they don't try to prove me wrong. I don't understand these people or the things they do.

For example, I don't understand ministers who beg for money on television. How can they offer salvation for a price? Where is the money going? Are they going to the

same hell they preach so much about?
Reverend: Does Jesus deserve a Porsche?
Congregation: Hallelujah! Amen.

Reverend: Yes, he does, and he asked me to drive it for him. Those followers aren't stupid. They act stupid by not realizing they're being taken by con-men. Other stupid people are prejudiced or racist. Ignorance such as this is rampant when it comes to social relations. Those who judge others because of their religion, sex, or skin color, instead of by their character, do not make sense. For instance, the czar-wanna-be of Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, has been quoted as saying, "[We must] deal with [ethnic minorities] as America did with the Indians and Germany did with the Jews." For this idiot, stupid is not a harsh enough term. I don't necessarily disagree with his comparison, but how is it that idiots like him can dismiss others in this way? Sure, I am judging Zhirinovsky, but it's plain we've seen him before - named Hitler ...

Other stupid people: those who killed Andres Escobar, the Colombian soccer player, because he scored a goal against his own team and caused the upset loss to the United States. They killed him because of his mistake which caused failure, as opposed to the Chicago fans' violence after their team's complete success.

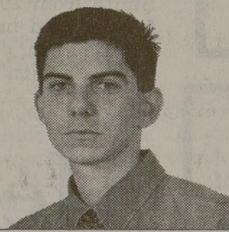
Stupid people also abuse their husbands, wives or children. The people doing the abuse are stupid. Those who are being abused are caught in a hard place because they love the person who beats them. They think that it is their fault for being abused or that the person will eventually stop. They are being foolish by taking the abuse, but often don't know what to do about it. Every morning I look in the mirror and sometimes I see a stupid person. The person in the mirror has crossed the line from smart-aleck to idiot on a number of occasions. Judging other people is an extremely self-righteous thing to do.

We've all done some stupid things. But by paying attention to the things happening in this world, we can decide how smart we want to be.

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CHRIS S. COBB

Columnist



MAIL CALL

Abortion irresponsible, kills unborn humans

Is it responsible behavior to trash your unborn child through abortion because its conception was a mistake? Is it responsible thinking that an unborn child should pay with its life for the irresponsible behavior of the parents?

Is a fetus not a human being? Author and speaker Cal Thomas, states, "The argument over whether the unborn child is human or not has been bogus from the start. If it is not human, what is it, a Buick?" A woman who has conceived a child is not a potential mother. She is a mother. Her counterpart is a father.

Take off your blinders, B-CS, and start realizing that we are killing our children - an estimated 1.6 million each year in the United States alone - through abortion.

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Brazos Valley
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Amy Cochran
Class of '95

Students should watch move-out inventories

I learned a valuable lesson this past semester while moving out that I would like to share with the rest of

you. I was not present for my move-out inventory from my apartment. Big mistake! It is possible for the managers to charge you for whatever they want if you're not there to witness and document everything for yourself. I said I cleaned something, they say I didn't, and it boils down to their word against mine. I learned the hard way. Afs, be present at that move-out inventory or you WILL get screwed! Also, be as detailed as you possibly can when writing your move-in inventory. They can't charge you \$45 for that spot on the carpet they've charged the last three residents for if you have it documented! The Off-Campus Housing office says they see this kind of thing all the time, so beware!

I also learned there is a complaint file in the Off-Campus Housing office, where you can check out any company or property that you're considering signing a lease with. I feel checking this first might have saved me time and money. And properties that want to cheat Aggies sure won't get a dime of my money, and hopefully not yours. In the future, I plan to review that file and go with a property that treats Aggies fairly.

Finally, I would like to thank the Off-Campus Housing office for being so courteous and helpful.

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