

# Killing to save unborn 'lives' murders Americans' civil rights

Doctors are being murdered. Last Friday, another man who practiced legal abortions, along with a clinic security volunteer and his wife, was gunned down in front of a clinic. The reaction to it, or lack thereof, by some radical pro-lifers should have every American scared of where this country is headed.

**ELIZABETH PRESTON**  
Columnist



fleeing the scene on foot. He had shotgun shells in his pockets and more attached to his legs. He is married and the father of three children under the age of 10.

If Hill is guilty, he has inadvertently destroyed everything he claims to stand for. He was supposedly saving children by killing an abortion doctor, yet his own children are now virtually fatherless.

The Barretts and Britton were living, thriving people who believed in a woman's right to choose right or wrong for herself. If the ability to take a stance on a moral question becomes a life or death issue, what will become of our society?

America in its greatness is built on freedoms:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Greenpeace, loggers, devout theists or strict atheists. Murder cannot be justified by the saving of unborn "lives."

Even if everyone did agree that abortion at any stage of pregnancy was murder, and a doctor still carried out abortions, his murder would not be justifiable. A society that permits vengeance to rationalize actions and admires men and women who take the law into their own hands is a society on its way out.

In the same vein, if any pro-choicers shot a protester blocking an abortion clinic door, they also should be put away for life.

The irony of killing someone to protect someone else is horrible in its tragic intensity. As long as abortion is legal, clinics should not have to request federal marshals at their doors, doctors should be able to go to work without bulletproof vests, and the entire country should fight for these rights with the intensity that they stand on either side of the abortion issue.

A society out of control must be contained or it will fall.

Elizabeth Preston is a junior English major

Regardless of your stance on abortion, this past weekend's horror speaks to every one of us. Dr. John Britton arrived in Pensacola, Florida on Friday. Dr. David Gunn was murdered last year. One of the reasons he came was to take up his traveling practice. He lived in fear for his life and constantly wore a bullet-proof vest. He was wearing it when he died, but he was shot in the head.

James H. Barrett, the volunteer who was gunned down with Britton, also began work at the clinic as a direct result of Gunn's death. Barrett and his wife, June, who also was shot and survived, both decided to become escorts for patients because they believed strongly in protecting access to the clinics. The man arrested and charged with these murders, Paul Hill, was stopped as he was

Hill was described by people associated with him, including Don Treshman of Rescue America, as a "loose cannon" who "felt it was totally justifiable to hunt them [abortion doctors] down and shoot them where they ply their trade."

Treshman also said that while he does not condone this killing he can't condemn it, because, "lives were saved in Pensacola today."

This "life-saving" act is murder. Pro-life or pro-choice, we should recognize the fact that these victim's lives were not in debate. The question of where life begins is complex and very intriguing, but has nothing to do with the cold-blooded murder of men and women. A tiny cluster of cells that represents a life with glorious possibilities is still - arguably - not a human being because it can not yet survive on its own.

**America in its greatness is built on freedoms including the right to be wrong in the eyes of others. When even one of these freedoms is threatened, we all stand to lose our liberties.**

freedom of speech, life, liberty, religion, views and the right to be wrong in the eyes of others. When even one of these freedoms is threatened, we all stand to lose our most important liberties.

Americans must stand together and refuse to allow this destruction of fundamental liberties - whether they're pro-life, pro-choice, NRA members, gun control advocates, Beef Farmers of America,

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## EDITORIAL

# SUMMER OF QUESTIONS

Students must pay attention to A&M problems

Dear Joe Aggie - How's it going? It's too bad that you weren't here in Aggieland this summer. Instead of the usual summer doldrums, it was pretty eventful around here.

The most publicized event of the summer involved a few of our university officials getting busted for allegedly buying alcohol the wrong way. No one seemed to know what to do or how to do it when the school buys booze. Well anyway, five university officials were indicted for tampering with government records. They were charged with falsifying information on state vouchers, disguising alcohol purchases as purchases of food, soft drinks, and ice. That's how The Battalion reported it. It must be okay to say it that way; the Batt would never say anything to get in trouble.

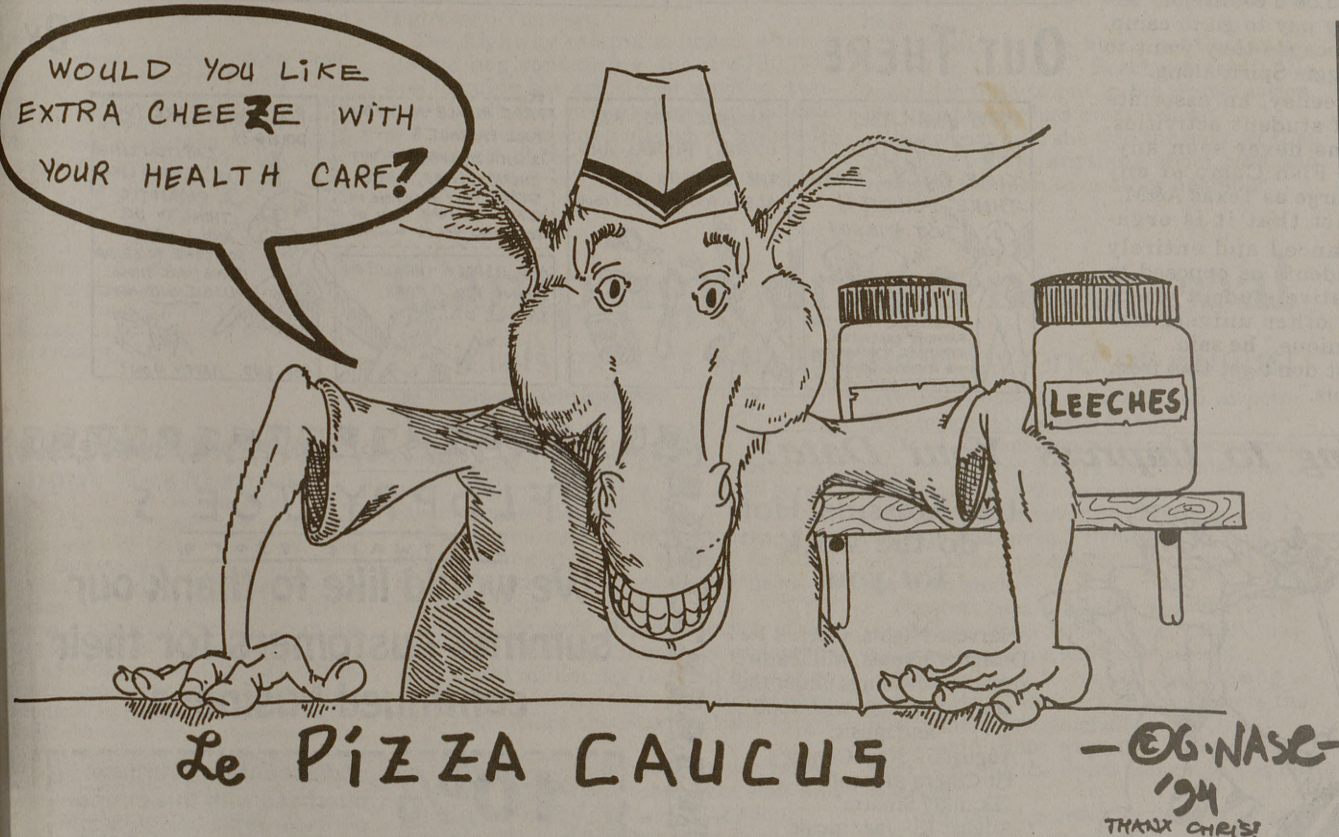
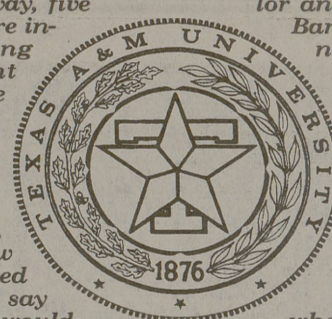
We also had quite an administrative shakeup at the University. Dr. Ray Bowen was named as the new president, succeeding Dr. William Mobley and replacing Dr. E. Dean Gage, who served as interim president after Mobley was named chancellor last year. Right around that time, Robert Smith,

the vice president for finance and administration, was reassigned. He spent much of the last year weathering scandals over the privatization of management of the new Sbis Underground and the Texas Rangers' investigation into the business contracts he and Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves negotiated with Barnes and Noble Bookstores.

Mobley later resigned as chancellor and was replaced by Dr. Barry Thompson, who was named by the Board of Regents just a few weeks ago, who just named a new chairman in Mary Nan West, who became the first woman to fill that position. Got all that? That's okay, most other people don't, either.

It is unfortunate when so much administrative activity occurs during the summer, because student input is very limited during this time. Less than half of the students are here, so the administration can act without worrying as much about the reaction of the students.

Of course, they can do this even during the fall unless the students pay attention to the issues and demand answers.



Le PIZZA CAUCUS - EG-NASE '94 THANK CHRIS!

# Wherefore art those sexy Romeos?

Humans' animal nature still hasn't evolved enough to make love simple

Last week I saw a really cool movie, which I will not describe except to say that it's about cool stuff being (like buses) and the hero got the girl. Afterwards, I noticed women who had just seen the movie - including, I must admit, myself - swooning and complaining of malady I think songwriters have described as the Why-can't-I-find-a-guy-like-that Blues.

**SUSAN OWEN**  
Guest Columnist



conning humans into pairing off and staying together was to make them fall in love. Great sex and emotional attachment became, biologically speaking, good survival strategies; and - Voila! - here we are in the 20th century, with romance novels and a thriving pornography industry.

You can extend this idea to explain major concerns of modern society, like the stereotypes that men are only interested in physical attributes and women demand deeper commitment (otherwise known as the "Hey, check out those gazongas!" and the "What the hell do women want, anyway?" attitudes.)

One theory says that in order to improve the chances of having healthy offspring, males are conditioned to seek healthy females - beauty being a sign of health. Correspondingly, females are vulnerable while pregnant and when the child is young, and so they seek a strong male who will be around long enough to offer protection.

In today's overcomplicated society, this means the instant visual stimulus of pornography is popular with males, while romance novels, which develop a relationship over a longer time, sell by the truckload to silly females.

All this may suggest some possible lines of defense the next time you're accused of being a "typical male" or "typical female." "Hey, baby, blame it on my genetic programming," or "Excuse me, I haven't finished evolving." Try it in the Chicken and let me know how it works.

So these urges I have to find a big strong man to protect me, despite my modern appreciation of more intellectual qualities, are in fact not my fault, and I refuse to feel guilty or hypocritical about them. Some day, evolution will catch up with us, and Fabio will be out of a job.

If love evolved when we became hunters instead of gatherers, what evolutionary gambit will evolve to keep the species alive now that we punch keyboards? We moved out of the trees about 15 million years ago; we moved into cities only a couple of thousand years ago. As Morris says, it will take millions of years of natural selection to change our animal natures again.

So until then, my out-of-date animal nature and I can just go cruising around looking for guys who like to leap on moving trains and defuse bombs in their spare time. Of course, that's not the kind of behavior that really attracts a woman; we're much too sensible for that. Maybe I'll just stay home and watch my John Wayne movies again. And try to evolve.

Susan Owen is a senior journalism and Spanish major

So, where do you find a guy brave enough to crawl under a speeding bus, strong enough to rip open elevator doors, and brave enough to counsel frightened hostages? OK, OK, guys don't get a lot of opportunities to show off that stuff. Besides, as a modern woman, what I look for in a man is sensitivity, intelligence, communication... And what happens? Show me the action flick and I come out grunting like a cavegirl. You'd think the species hadn't evolved at all.

Actually, it's just that our instincts haven't caught up with our level of civilization. Part of that emergent sophistication is love. The sexual-emotional attraction that binds two humans together, arose as a method of survival when mankind moved out of the trees. Look around. You see another species that loads this kind of grief on itself? Believe me, there's a reason. The ancestors of man were apes that lived in forests, munching their fruit and quietly minding their own business," quote zoologist Desmond Morris. A change in climate and reduction of the forests, Morris speculates, forced them to start hunting food on the plains with the other carnivores. Those guys had already adapted to hunting, however, and were leaner, stronger and had much sharper teeth.

So mankind got smarter. Evolution gradually extended the length of our childhood, allowing the brain to continue developing after birth, Morris says. Other species mature much more rapidly, requiring little or no care. Human children are vulnerable longer and need supervision and education; the brain grows rapidly for six years and is not complete until about the age of 23. The female, then, stays put protecting and watching the young while the larger, stronger male hunts food for the family. In other words, your typical John Wayne movie. This is a situation unique to humans - the survival of our species depends on heavy parental duties that have to be shared over a really long period of time. Evolution's way of

seems that in the area of watering, A&M is not so conservative. I ride my bike all around campus every day, and I can attest to the fact that those in charge of watering deserve a great big medal for practicing the most wasteful watering techniques in existence. This includes watering during the hotter hours of the day, every day; using fine mist sprinklers that spray the water high above the ground (into the air); and, my favorite, watering the sidewalks and streets. (Is this supposed to help the concrete grow better?)

I also had one more thing to say. I find it quite hypocritical of A&M to have its agricultural extension station out in my hometown of El Paso advise the urban public on how to practice water conservation techniques, while back in College

Station it squanders water like there was no tomorrow.

Frank Silva  
Class of '95

## Homophobia, ignorance constitute social threats

I am writing in response to letters by Susie Carter (July 13) and David Muralt (July 27), which assert that homosexuality is a dangerous lifestyle, that deviant sexual practices are exclusive to the gay population, that AIDS is the "gay plague" and that, basically, homosexuality is going to bring about the downfall of civilization as we know it. Aren't there enough

problems in the world to worry about besides whom someone chooses to love? The struggle should not be against gays, lesbians, bisexuals or the transgendered population, but rather liberation and equality for all peoples.

Homophobia and ignorance are rampant in our society and cause problems such as gay bashing, an increased tendency for gay teens to commit suicide and legalized discrimination based on sexual orientation. The two letters expressed particular ignorance when "quoting" certain statistics. One percent? Try 10% and believe it! Lesbians and gays are your educators, next-door neighbors, accountants, clergy, politicians, entertainers, doctors and the list goes on.

As a teacher, it particularly offended me that David Muralt claims to be a "Cit-

izen for Excellence in Education." Such radical right wing, close-minded views will not bring about the excellence we strive for. Only by teaching our children and society as a whole to respect one another and individual differences will we succeed in making this world a better place to live for all people.

Kris Anthony  
Houston

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Address letters to: The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647

### MAIL CALL

### Physical Plant should check water-saving tips

I am writing to advise the staff of The Battalion that it be sure to send a clip of water conservation checklist featured in its July 27 issue to the groundskeeping department of A&M's physical plant. It

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