

**THE BATTALION**  
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**EDITORIAL**

**... MANY HAPPY RETURNS**

Constitution deserves notice on anniversary

As America celebrates the 207th anniversary of the United States Constitution, it should take a moment and appreciate the significance, purpose and accomplishments of this document.

The words on this simple piece of paper has formed the nation's framework and has upheld the country's values longer than any other constitution in the world. This social contract carefully orchestrated has not only kept the nation in tact, but has faced many challenges and has answered many complicated questions.

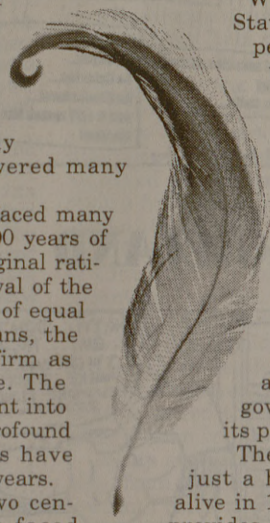
The Constitution has faced many challenges over the last 200 years of its existence. From its original ratification to its bloody survival of the Civil War to its guarantee of equal civil rights for all Americans, the Constitution still stands firm as an American cornerstone. The thinking and ideas that went into the Constitution were so profound that only 27 amendments have been added in the last 207 years.

Throughout the last two centuries, the country has faced many difficult problems and have relied on the age-old document for answers. The United States has looked to the Constitution to interpret issues

such as abortion, gun control, euthanasia and government rights. Because the Founding Fathers realized that the country would continue to grow and become more complicated, the document serves as an umbrella to encompass and understand all these modern day issues.

"We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility ..." are just some of the goals the writers of the Constitution set out to accomplish. The American people need to take a look at the Constitution and look at what all has been accomplished since the days of the original thirteen colonies. It's time for Americans to stop looking at the negative aspects of government and focus more on its positive achievements.

The Constitution is more than just a historic document - it was alive in 1798 and its alive today. It provides the nation with framework and without it ideas and rights would remain abstract. The Constitution is truly a piece of history that has resulted in real causes of action.



**Future will redefine world's workplaces**

Technological developments might revolutionize any industry, career

Some would say that work is the major component of the American dream. For those of us in college, most would say that our major reason for attending classes is to procure a good job and become responsible adults. Our whole society expresses the need for success through questions like, "What do you plan to do after college?" or "Will your major help you plan for a successful career?"

Your occupation is as important in America as mom, apple pie and baseball (although I'm not quite sure if baseball and work should be discussed in the same sentence).

Our major queries are, after all, "How are you doing?" or "What are you up to?" We are a people who are measured by our works, not by our motivations, and this leads to a desire to do things, to have things that are consecrated somehow as being important.

The pressure to find work out of college comes from young Americans' need to prove to their parents that they are responsible and can do the same things that all adults can - make money, get ulcers and get married, not always in that order. The only thing is, we have begun to discover that these driven maniacs of the previous generation are more ruthless, less wealthy and

**JOSEF A. ELCHANAN**  
Columnist

temperamental workforce all around the country. With everything from automobiles to computers becoming compartmentalized and easy to fix through changeouts, mechanics and technicians will also no longer be in demand.

If doctors and dentists think they are safe, they are wrong as well. Already, a robot is being developed that can mend broken bones. Virtual reality systems are also being used to study the human body inside out, a technology that can be applied to car engines and aircraft design.

OK, so maybe I should get out of my cyberpunk-induced dream world and back to reality. How are we going to make money, gain power and dominate this new world? After all, this passion and drive must be allowed to expel itself, right?

I am not so sure. Cooperation and partnerships based on mutual reliance seem more and more necessary to profitability. Companies are finding that they need to commit to their employees in a fair and just way.

With the possibility of automation causing a reduction in work time per person - or increased unemployment - people will have to find interests other than staying at work all day.

Our economy and our idea of ourselves go hand in hand. The debate about our country being in debt and our generation being weaker than the one previous did not coincidentally occur at the same time. What we do and how well we do it has caused a debate in America. When we talk to each other now, we question whether we will be able to compete, to do for our children what was done for us. Have we been bested by the other Europeans, Africans or Asians we left behind to form this country of freedom and democracy?

Fortunately, all the debate means nothing. We will define ourselves through our actions. The jobs of the future will be uncertain as every moment passes us by. People will continue to ask, "What do you want to do when you graduate?" You do not have to answer this question, you simply have to do your best to gain from the future.

Josef A. Elchanan is a senior business management major



**Find your values - and live for them**

Lowell Bennion writes about recognizing priorities for 'The Things That Matter Most'

**ERIN HILL**  
Columnist



"Somebody said years ago that man is an infinitesimal bit of nothingness standing on the brink of eternity ... but each of us can carve out of the larger world a life of our own. We begin to get possession of life when we concentrate not on the whole of reality in which we feel insignificant, but when we select certain things that we are determined to live for."

So said one of my heroes, an educator and scholar from Idaho named Lowell Bennion, who taught at the University of Utah and the University of Arizona.

At a time when rhetoric about values is everywhere - but the values themselves seem to be disappearing fast - Lowell Bennion's words are refreshing.

"You need to find your values and live for them," he once said and shared some of his values, both religious and secular, in an essay called "The Things That Matter Most."

Though they are not new, they make sense. In fact, they make more sense. They can make a person's life fuller and more meaningful. I would like to share some of his secular values.

First visualize a pyramid.

At the base of it are the values of health and economic adequacy. Our success in these areas can determine how well we are able to cultivate other values. While material possessions shouldn't be most important, it is difficult to get excited about art when you are hungry.

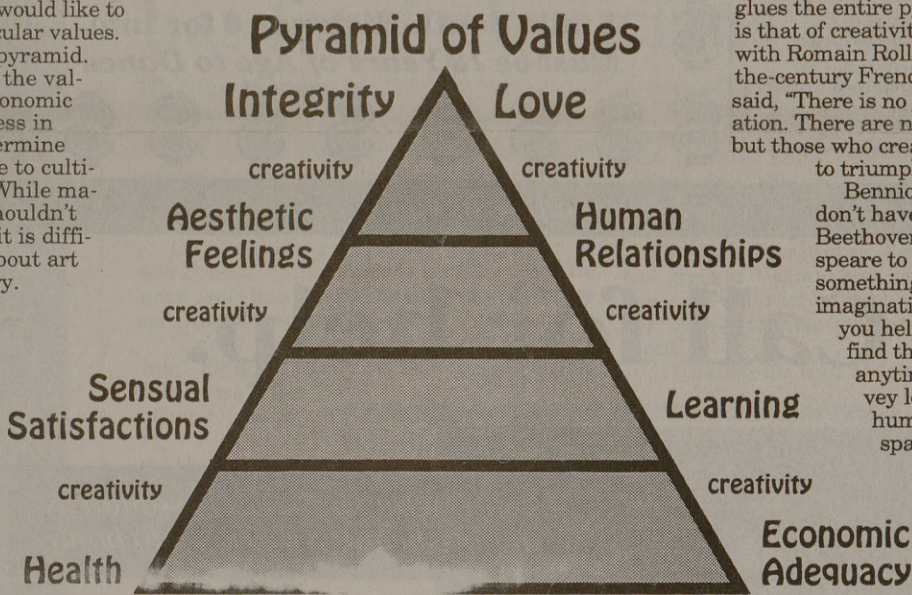
And when you are hungry, eat right, exercise and take care of your body. Good health can provide a strong foundation for your happiness.

Up one side of Bennion's value pyramid are what he calls sensual satisfactions, not to be confused with sensual. Value your hearing, sight, ability to touch, taste or smell, he says.

Eat slower and taste your food. Take an early morning walk and listen to the world waking up. Sleep in flannel sheets. Wear silk.

On that same side of the pyramid are aesthetic feelings. Learn to enjoy the arts: music, literature, architecture and art. They aren't just for folks in the College of Liberal Arts.

On the other side of the pyramids are the values of learning and human relationships. Get excited about ideas, says Bennion. And give your best to your relationships, not just what is left over after all other demands have been satisfied.



All of these wonderful things lead to the two most important values of this pyramid: integrity and love.

Integrity is trying to integrate our living with our convictions, living the way we believe we should and doing what we know to be right. For example: it's important to be honest, not because it is the best way to get rewards but instead because we believe it to be right. Rewards may or may not follow.

Love, the other key value, is the mother of all social virtues. Tolerance, patience, kindness, forbearing, forgiveness, empathy and compassion come from love. We definitely could benefit from adding this value to our lives.

Love doesn't mean we have to do for people what they want us to either. "It is an unselfish interest in the welfare of another person," said Bennion.

For Bennion, the value that glues the entire pyramid together is that of creativity. He agrees with Romain Rolland, a turn-of-the-century French writer who said, "There is no joy but in creation. There are no living beings but those who create. To create is to triumph over death."

Bennion adds, "You don't have to be a Beethoven or a Shakespeare to be creative; do something with your imagination. Anytime you help a person to find their own worth, anytime you can convey love to another human being or spark his mind, you are playing a creative role."

Lowell Bennion has played such a role in my life. He has certainly sparked my mind. I admire him because he has made his life one of meaning and purpose, and has helped others to do the same.

I have tried to find my place in a world where often little makes sense. Perhaps you live there too and know what I am talking about.

By making sure that the things that matter most are not at the mercy of those things that matter least, and by finding values to live by, I have begun to carve out a small world for myself out of the larger one. I hope you can do the same.

Erin Hill is a senior English major



**MAIL CALL**

**Who cares how others wear their backpacks?**

I'm writing in response to the Sept. 19 letter by Cindi Matkins and Chris Carney. My letter's intent is not to anger or offend anyone, but to merely inform readers of the benefits of double-strapping.

First, the backpack is ergonomically designed to be worn on both shoulders, thereby equally distributing the load across the shoulders and back. As an engineering major, I usually carry more than just "three spirals, a five pound text, and a half dozen pencils (and a calculator)" to class every day. My textbook collection rivals any set of encyclopedias in bulk and weight. Such cumbersome materials, though, are by no means limited to engineering majors. When I walk across campus, I often feel like I'm carrying my Army rucksack (By the way, I have yet to single-strap my ruck on a road march).

Second, it's human nature to seek the easy way to do things. I "suck it up" enough in the classroom without

having to suffer while in transit. A Marine Corps sergeant once told me, "It's easy to be 'hard', but it's hard to be smart." I think that's a pretty applicable statement.

Finally, who cares? Maybe I like having symmetrical wrinkles on both shoulders of my shirts. Whatever the reason, who cares? I don't. If you want to carry your backpack on one shoulder, hooah, that's cool, too. I sincerely appreciate your growing concern for the personal appearance and well-being of all us double-strapping Aggies; thanks for coming out. In closing, I hope everyone finds this letter as insignificant as theirs. Gig'em.

John K. Baker  
Class of '94

**Cartoon depicts close-mindedness, ignorance**

I have never been so disgusted in all my life. Sept. 14, someone decided to attack every woman who currently retains the right to choose.

What I mean, specifically, is the filth on the last page: the cartoon depicting abortion as the slaughter of children. Ha, ha, funny; Ditto, Rush.

I can't believe that there are Aggies out there that are so oblivious to the rights of women that they would try to make them feel guilty about using them. The right to choose an abortion

is the right of every woman, whether or not she believes in abortion, she still has that option. What kind of a world are we coming to when we begin to limit the rights of our people? It seems to me as if anti-choicers want to digress back to the era of poll taxes and grandfather clauses because that's where their belief to limit rights belongs. I, on the other hand, want to keep progressing to a time when everyone will be treated fairly. When they will be able to exercise the entire faculty of their rights without fear of being killed or injured by an angry, gun-toting anti-chooser who cannot live with the fact that their opinion is not universal. I can understand that there are some closed-minded people in this world, because I know that they are ignorant and do not understand the other side of the argument.

René F. Aguiluz  
Class of '97

Jennifer Elaine Ybarra  
Class of '97

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

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