

# Needed: Old-fashioned discipline

If my parents were raising my brother and me in the '90s, they would definitely be in jail. What use to be considered standard discipline — or old school discipline — is now considered child abuse.

The lack of respect that children have for their parents has left America to wonder, "What in the heck is wrong with these kids today?"

The new philosophy of rearing children is more laid-back. It has swept over the nation as the '90s answer to parenting. The child basically takes on the role of the parent.

If these children don't get that Sega Genesis or the latest toy, they do the next best thing: let their fingers do the walking. Any parent that teaches their child how to use the Yellow Pages could end up regretting it. One phone call could have the authorities beating at your door hauling you off in handcuffs.

The charge? Child abuse. Had my brother and I known it was so easy to do, my parents would have been handcuffed on a daily basis. My mom would have been called from across the house to turn the channel on the television. My father would have been forced to give us piggy back rides on demand.

No corny family pictures, no boring Sunday school, no kissing Aunt Thelma at Thanksgiving either. No retrieving a belt so that our father could spank us.

If we had only known this strategy, we would have been living better than those kids on *Different Strokes*.

The truth is that my brother and I were raised in an environment in which we were continuously reminded of what was right and wrong. We never questioned our parents because questioning them usually brought on a more painful consequence.

We never thought our spankings were warranted but regardless of our offenses, our penalty made us remember that doing it again was not worth the pain to our backsides.

My brother and I have come to the real-

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ization that the reason we didn't end up dropping out of school or becoming criminals was because we were reminded everyday that right was right and wrong was wrong.

There is a name that we give for the type of discipline my parents used: Old-School Discipline. O.S.D. is the kind of discipline that puts the parents in control of every aspect of their child's life until the child is able to think for himself.

It's the kind discipline that gets children familiar with the word "no," and makes them appreciate the word "yes."

The modernized version of O.S.D. is called N.S.D., or New-School Discipline. This type of discipline puts the child in power. Parents then must deal with unmanageable brats who end up running the parents' lives.

When these two types of disciplines collide, it's not pretty.

In the winter of '94, a collision took place when my little cousin tried to burn our house down with matches.

This child, obviously indoctrinated in N.S.D., was about to meet his match.

My parents tolerated a few minor instances of misbehavior. When he threw a tantrum about eating pizza instead of spaghetti, my parents simply adjusted to make him happy.

The small fit over watching his favorite show, despite the fact that the adults were watching a movie, was overlooked.

However, when he took a book of matches to the home my parents had worked hard for, the founders of O.S.D. had to take action. O.S.D. was about to take the driver's seat, and our little cousin was about to be locked down

into a car seat while my parents navigated.

My parents debated about what action to take. After all, this wasn't their child. However, when personal property became an issue, it was time for the O.S.D. tag team to start regulating.

My father cleared his throat and attempted to tell my little cousin to calm down. Those words had never been spoken to him, and he disregarded the statement.

It was when my mother stepped in and grabbed him that he was a bit shaken.

She went on to give her lecture — keep in mind she grasped him like a turkey about to be scalped for Thanksgiving — and explained that in her home people under 18 years of age followed certain rules or else were asked to leave.

From that moment on, he thought before he spoke or acted and looked at my mom before any sudden moves. It was that degree of respect that was all too familiar to my brother and me.

Needless to say, our little cousin has not been back to visit. Perhaps he learned something that day, or maybe his parents did.

With 90 percent of today's parents using N.S.D., America will soon be filled with bratty, manipulative grown-up children who

have missed out on being well-rounded and stable individuals.

My brother and I often joke about how our parents raised us. In all seriousness, we owe our parents a lot. Their O.S.D. is what made us who we are today.

We've already decided that no matter what happens, our children too will be products of this same style of child-rearing.

If more parents don't adopt the O.S.D. style, the question won't be "What in the hell is wrong with these kids?"

The question will be "What in the heck is wrong with the parents?"

*Pam Benson is a senior journalism major*

# DISCIPLINE

# Common ground not found in cultures course

While all the students were eating their turkey and dressing, I hope they gave thanks for the small miracle that occurred

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neering or Ethics of Engineering for the three hours of their humanities requirement. Most of them will choose Ethics of Engineering.

There is nothing wrong with

this requirement, but it illustrates the point that it is a bunch of bad bull to claim a requirement is harmless just because there are big lists of course offerings.

It is a prime example of manipulation and skillful press relations.

Bowen understood the accepted curriculum could change over time. There are some rational courses on the list. I doubt they would stay there for too long.

Bowen said that he could not ensure the long lists would be there in the future. In this, he was correct. The list could be down to 51 courses with little more than a stroke from the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee's pen and a "yea" from the Faculty Senate.

The bottom line is that we do not need these classes. This is not to say that we do not need to get along better with our neighbors, because we do, but these courses will not help.

There are better ways to find common ground with one another than through forced feeding. Texas A&M must focus on real solutions.

While required multiculturalism classes are dead for now, this idea of stupidity in the name of diversity is not dead.

I have just recently seen a draft from the Diversity Task Force of Texas A&M. It recommends that we no longer use the word minority because it is incorrect. The recommendations suggest using the word "AHANA" (African Hispanic Asian Native Americans).

It recommends changing some insensitive traditions, such as use of the phrase "Highway six runs both ways."

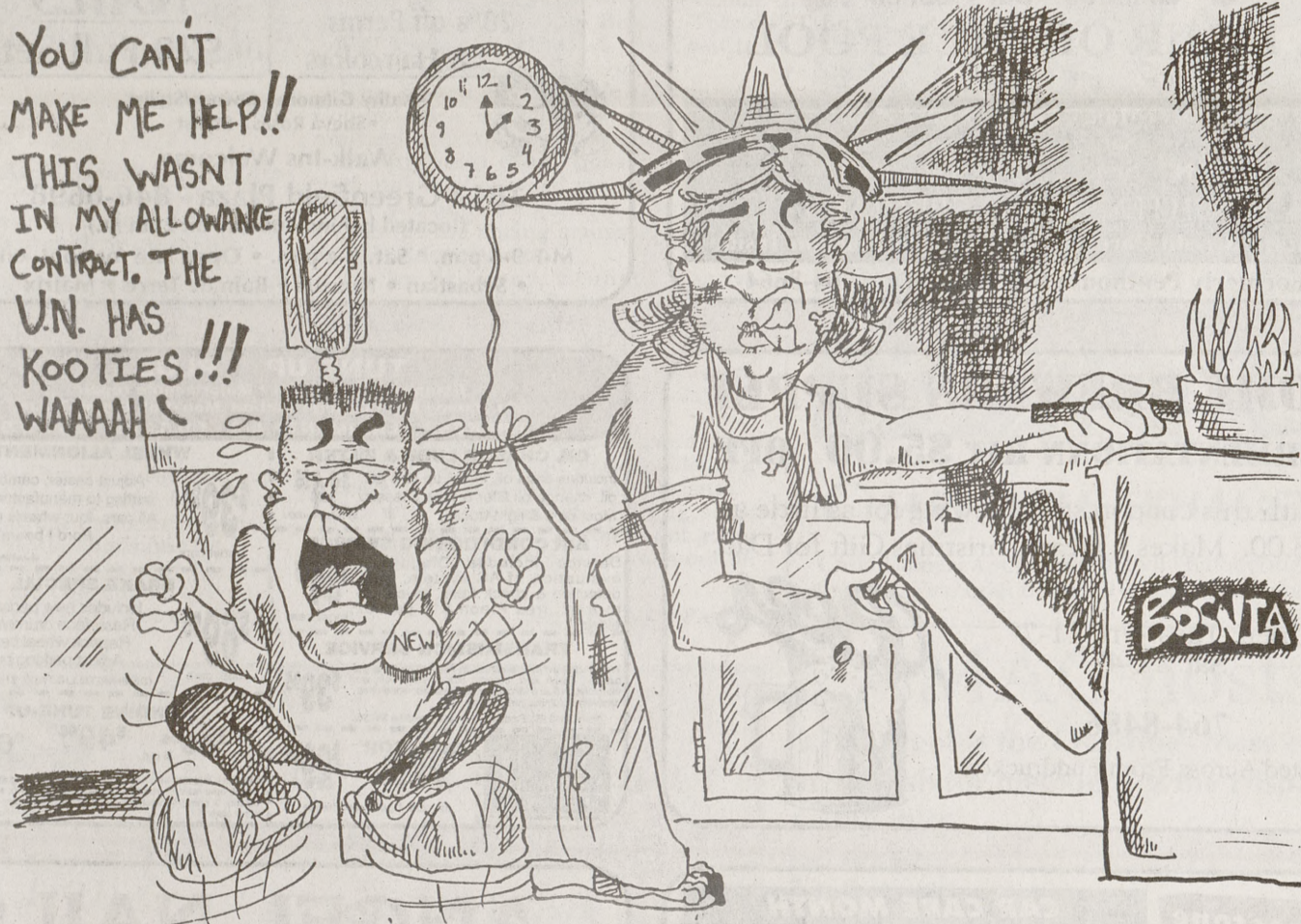
The draft recommends that no students be selected for leadership, including those from the Corps and MSC groups, unless those students have demonstrated a commitment to diversity.

I can only hope those who developed this strategy will now turn to something that might actually work rather than constantly disguising whining for innovative ideas.

The classes, the most divisive issue in the multiculturalism debate, are no longer relevant to the discussion of race relations at Texas A&M.

The debate will continue, and if progress is to be made, those pushing a politically correct agenda must understand one thing: Nonsense will not fly, and lunacy must not be tolerated in an academy of learning.

*Lydia Percival is a senior journalism and political science major*



## MAIL CALL

### Bowen's decision sound, appropriate

I support President Bowen's decision not to enforce the multiculturalism requirement. The University is a place for higher learning, not sensitivity training.

If cultural sensitivity recognizes that each culture is capable of fulfilling our higher needs, this requirement contradicts this by implying that course work based on one culture and history is somehow deficient.

Any liberal arts course work, if properly taught, should be relevant to everyone, regardless of the culture it represents. The fact that "dead white men" — a term I find extremely offensive — are prominent in Western civilization does not mean that

none of their contributions were of universal value.

Intercultural understanding should be a fringe benefit facilitated by the environment, not forced by the curriculum.

The freedom of the students to choose courses in liberal arts should not be compromised by the behavior of a few hardcore bigots.

*Antonio Chaves graduate student*

### Baxter's scientific source unreliable

I am writing to respond to H.L. Baxter's column which pitted "scientific evidence," based on a recent study by Dean Hamer, of the genetic basis for homosexuality against the "blind

faith" of the Bible which forbids the practice of homosexuality.

First, Baxter failed to mention that the first phase of Hamer's study, published in 1993, is being investigated for alleged fraud by the Department of Health and Human Services' office of research integrity.

A co-author of that study has charged that Hamer, a homosexual-rights activist, selectively reported data in ways that enhanced the study's thesis.

Dr. George Rice, a neurologist in Toronto, has tried unsuccessfully to replicate Hamer's study, reporting, "It is not a phenomenon that appears to be present in gay males in Canada."

David Faulker, a co-author of the second study, admits that the results of the second study are even weaker than those of the first study, since fully 22 percent of the non-homosexual brothers had the same markers to which Hamer is attributing homosexuality.

As a colleague of mine once said, "If you torture data sufficiently with statistics, you can get it to confess anything."

Baxter alludes to a "myriad of studies" supporting what he

knows to be true, that sexual orientation and all psychological phenomena have biological links.

There are indeed a "myriad of studies" taking place currently, but they are not giving politically correct answers, which is why such a weak study by a researcher being investigated for fraud is given such media attention.

If Baxter does indeed believe that all behavior has biological links, then maybe he can excuse those of us who reject homosexuality behavior, since our response must also be due to a genetic defect.

Second, Baxter's caricature of Christianity as being based on "blind faith" is a poor straw man argument.

The entire appeal to Christian faith in the gospels and the book of Acts is based on the sufficiency of the evidence to warrant belief in Jesus Christ and his teaching.

The person who has made this reasonable step of faith now has a very rational basis to have hope for the future, which is uncertain from a human point of view, because of one's warranted confidence in the one who controls the future.

I greatly prefer my faith, based on the abundant evidence for God's existence seen in nature through eyes to science and historical evidence for the deity of Christ and His resurrection, to the blind faith Baxter puts in shoddy science that happens to support his preconceived beliefs.

*Walter Bradley professor of mechanical engineering*

### Abstinence: The other 'safe sex'

I read with interest "Beutel offers suggestions for AIDS prevention," written by Emily Pruitt of the A.P.Beutel Health Center.

In the article, Pruitt offered four suggestions to help protect against the HIV/AIDS virus. Among the suggestions were "Get tested" and "Never share needles of any kind with anyone."

Why did Pruitt avoid suggesting "Abstain from premarital sex" or "Abstain from intravenous drug use?"

Why are people unwilling to encourage others to avoid conduct that may ultimately lead to

death. That's what premarital sex with a carrier and intravenous drug may do.

I continuously hear, "Well, high school and college students are going to have sex, so they should at least use a condom." My reply is simple — not all students have sex.

Admittedly, most do. But those who choose not to engage in premarital sex are assured of not contracting HIV/AIDS through that means.

Call me old-fashioned — I'll claim that label any day. But I'm alive and I play on staying that way for a long time.

How about you? I challenge all A&M students to take a stand for their lives.

*Mark Shomaker College Station*

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