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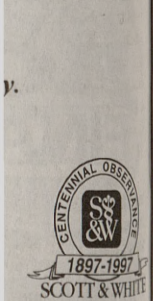
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# OPINION

TUESDAY April 23, 1996

## It's time for all good farmers to fight

Last Monday, some members of the Corps of Cadets did what they do best. They fought.



JEFF NOLEN COLUMNIST

Only this time the targets of aggression were fellow Corps members. Apparently some band members didn't take too kindly to the fact that some non-band-member cadets were walking on their practice field. Like most of the grass on this campus, the practice field is sacred ground that should never be touched by human feet (except for when some 300+ musicians march all over it).

Now I know that some people have been critical of the cadets' decision to turn violent over the disagreement, but I applaud them. Not only was the massive fisticuff a good thing, but I think that these cadets have pointed out the true path for correcting all problems on campus: physical violence.

Just think of the possibilities. Every time somebody does something wrong, he or she should be met with some sort of extreme physical punishment. Not only would this reduce the number of problems on campus, but it would also be very entertaining.

We could begin with some milder reprimands: hitting students on the knuckles with rulers for missing class or paddling them for turning in late papers.

More disturbing acts, however, would need to be met with a stronger deterrent force. Parking violators should be locked up in a room with the hillbillies from Deliverance. People who have overdue library books should be hit in the head with a metal bar once for each day the book has been overdue.

The most extreme forms of violence should be reserved for the most evil people of all: those who ignore tradition.

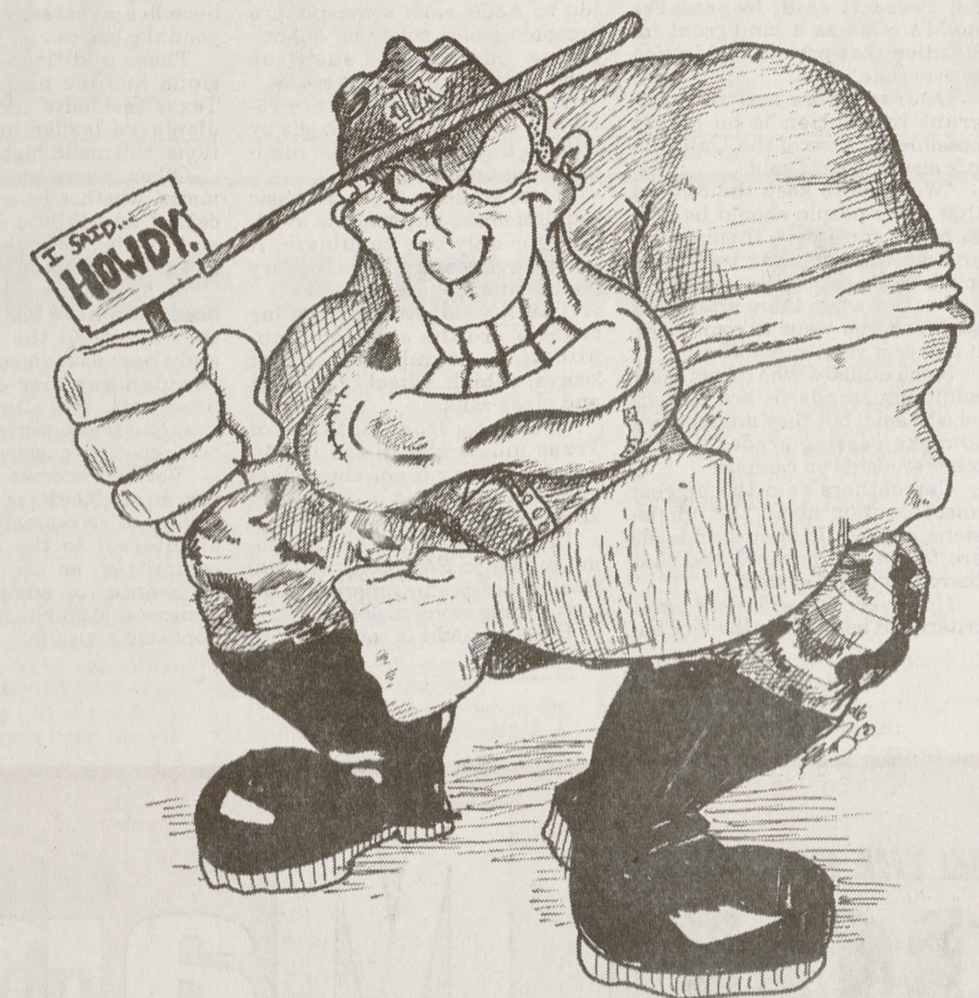
The greatest thing about this category of transgressor is that by punishing them, we would actually strengthen the pillars that built this University: the Corps and violence.

Deep within the definition of Aggiedom, there lies an agrarian blood lust. It's present in our yells: Farmers fight! Beat the hell outta everybody! Fight! Kill! Maim! Gore!

This pugnacity can also be seen in the actions of our beloved Corps.

This shouldn't be too surprising. After all, what would a good military organization be without violence?

So while the cadets are waiting for a war to start, they can practice their fighting abil-



ities on the two-percenters who endanger A&M's status as a world class university by not standing at football games. All students who don't rabidly follow every tradition should be killed. Corps members should have the right to murder anyone who doesn't go to Silver Taps or Muster, those who say "Hi" instead of "Howdy," and anyone who wears a hat, tiara or toupee in the MSC.

Not only would this practice enhance the fighting abilities of our fine young cadets, but it would provide A&M with a bunch of new, dead Aggies to dedicate stuff to.

After a few years of this bloodbath, the University should be rid of all its deviant elements: bad students, two-percenters and

anyone who doesn't blindly bend to the will of the masses.

Personally, I think that it will be a great day, and I would like to thank the Corps for leading the way to a bolder and brighter Aggiland.

Until this brave new world does come about, however, be careful. If you even so much as think about stepping onto a square yard of grass dedicated to Johnny Trenchfoot, Class of '00, there will be a belligerent Ag there ready to pummel your face into the dirt.

Fight 'em, Aggies!

Jeff Nolen is a senior psychology major

## Earth Week begs for global attention

"Hey Ags, your mom's calling you." That's right, your mother Earth is calling you home. She says to stop playing for a few minutes and listen up.



ELAINE MEJIA COLUMNIST

be finished on schedule in 1998. Currently the waste plants at the plants where it was produced, and it looms over communities as a potentially devastating accident.

The 26th annual celebration of Earth Day is upon us. Local groups have been planning for months to bring the University and the community an informative week packed with diverse events.

This week is not called "environmentalist week" for a reason — because it is much more than that. And it should be celebrated by everyone, regardless of his or her personal politics.

Whether someone supports more government regulation or less, believes the Earth is somebody else's responsibility or their own, it does not matter. Everyone can celebrate the beauty and the fragility of the Earth, and everyone can use this week to get started doing his or her part.

Earth Week is about the fact that 70,000 chemicals are in commercial use. Of those, 17,000 are present in pesticides, cosmetics, drugs, and food. Less than 30 percent of those 17,000 have been tested for possible negative effects on our health.

Earth Week is about the fact that once all the trash we throw away makes it to a landfill, it has virtually no chance of degrading, whether it is biodegradable or not. Each American generates .75 tons of trash each year. That's 4.3 pounds of trash every day, compared with only 2.7 pounds in 1960.

And Earth Week is about admitting that, although nuclear plants have been operating in the United States for over 30 years, we still have no idea what to do with our nuclear waste, and yet we keep on mindlessly producing it.

The first permanent nuclear waste site is scheduled to open in 2010 when 70,000 tons of radioactive waste is scheduled to be buried deep beneath Yucca Mountain, Nev. It is unlikely that the site will be finished by then, and it is even more unlikely that a temporary storage facility will

As consumers, only we decide what products fall into our shopping carts. And in the blink of an eye or the signing of a check, we can choose to keep potentially hazardous chemicals out of our homes.

Only we, as the Earth's inhabitants, can choose to produce less and recycle more. College Station has curbside recycling that just takes a phone call to set up. We can choose to buy products for which we can buy refills. We can avoid buying products with unnecessary packaging. We can leave our yard waste alone. We can start our own composting systems.

This week is not just about landfills, chemicals and nuclear waste. These are just three examples. It is also about the disappearing rain forests, delicate marine ecosystems, air and water pollution, and global overpopulation.

In overpopulated and overindustrialized Mexico City, school is canceled several days out of the year because simply breathing outside air on those days is too dangerous for schoolchildren. Birds drop dead from the sky after being asphyxiated from the air pollution above the city. Mexico City today, Houston and Dallas tomorrow, unless...

The responsibility to protect and save the Earth is ours. The organizers of Earth Week have been doing their part; now it is time for the rest of us to do ours. The first step is education, so don't let this week go by without learning something new.

The bottom line for those of us who believe our mother is in danger is that we must do something, anything. And for those of us who remain unconvinced, we have everything to gain and nothing to lose from keeping an open mind.

Start by recycling this fine newspaper you now hold in your hands.

Elaine Mejia is a senior political science major



### MAIL CALL

## Baxter botches bashing of Bible

As a student of history and believer in Jesus Christ, I feel compelled to reveal some of the many falsehoods presented in H.L. Baxter's Bible-bashing column of April 18. In it he displays his ignorance of both history and Christian theology, the very subjects of his piece.

For example, he states that "Without [the Bible], the world probably wouldn't have enjoyed the Crusades, the Third Reich or slavery." Yes, Christianity was the driving force behind the Crusades, but how can anyone believe that the Bible was used by the Nazis to justify the slaughter of the very race that authored it? Hitler hated the "Jew Book" and burned most of the copies in Germany long before World War II began. It is also known that the goal of the Final Solution was ethnic purity, not the settlement of some religious grudge (that's why millions of Gypsies and other Eastern European peoples were slain alongside Jews in the death camps).

Lastly, it is ridiculous to assert that slavery was a Christian idea. Native Americans practiced it long before the arrival of Columbus and his fellow Europeans. Baxter later writes that "Christians have used one sec-

tion of the Bible to pass the other off as a sham, even though the disregarded part is just as important to Christianity as the other" (here he is referring to the Christian belief of New Testament supremacy). In no way do Christians believe that the Old Testament is a "sham" to be disregarded.

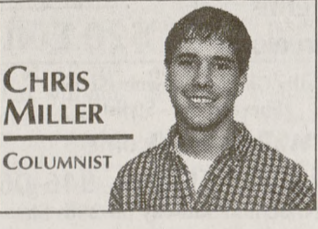
On the contrary, it provides the very basis for Christianity in the doctrine of original sin, which establishes the need of humanity for a Savior. Although Christians no longer rely on the Mosaic law for salvation, it is not therefore simply cast from theological consideration.

The child learning the Ten Commandments in Sunday school knows this — why doesn't Baxter?

Christopher Parker Class of '98

## Society makes up shallow expectations

I saw Gene Simmons on television the other day and he scared the poop out of me. For those of you that missed the genesis of the glamour-rock genre, Gene Simmons is the lead singer of a band called Kiss. Kiss was known for its gratuitous use of makeup (as well as its stingy use of talent). Well, it's back with full-dress, full-make-up, and full pot bellies poking out of the chained leather hung as tightly on their bodies as Cher's outfit on her video for "If I Could Turn Back Time."



CHRIS MILLER COLUMNIST

our great race wear makeup for one reason or another; however, I don't think it would be a generalization to say that the female gender wears it with much more consistency. In fact, society almost demands it from women. Why is that?

Some would argue that women wear makeup more than men because of the importance society has placed on the physical appearance of women. These folks would say that women wear makeup to look nicer and to be all around more visually appealing to men. Maybe so.

But men are ugly people. And women like their men to look nice as well. So why didn't society evolve so that men would be the gender that wakes up every morning to apply various colors of different liquids, powders and sticks?

I suppose the question is moot because that just isn't the way it is. But I think it is high time

someone recognized makeup for what it really is.

Women spend countless hours a week applying substances that wear off in a couple of hours. After the substances wear off they apply them again, wherever they are, no matter what is going on around them.

How many times have you seen a woman putting on her makeup while driving? How many times have you seen a woman touch up her lipstick during class? How many dates have you been on when a woman politely excuses herself to the restroom and comes back with cheeks that are just a bit rosier, lips that are just a bit brighter, and eyelashes that are just a bit longer? And in a couple of hours, the cycle begins again.

Many men assert that they prefer women who do not wear makeup at all. They say that women who wear too much makeup are much worse than women who wear none. This notion is a complete lie. Men like women who don't wear makeup and still look really nice. But if a

guy sees a woman whom he does not find visually appealing and who is not wearing makeup, he wants her to put some on.

So women are left with a Catch-22. They can choose to enter a never-ending cycle of make-up application that serves to depreciate their value as being naturally beautiful people and be criticized by men who say that they don't like too much make-up. Or they can choose not to wear makeup and be criticized by men who say that they are not naturally beautiful enough to go without it.

Just thinking about it all really makes me depressed. I am really questioning the quality of our society right now, especially the quality of my own life. Do I really have worth as a human being in this crazy world that values appearance so much?

Maybe not, but perhaps if I applied a touch of makeup I'd feel better. After all, millions of women can't be wrong.

Chris Miller is a sophomore English major



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