

## Haughty versus Humble Hillary

Hillary Rodham Clinton. Upon hearing this name from the media, their friends or (heaven forbid) their wives or girlfriends, most men work themselves into the

most bitter of cringes. Florence Griffith-Joyner's fingernails slowly raked across a chalkboard or a particularly brutal case of constipation pale in comparison to the grimaces that Hillary's name produces.

Many women, on the other hand, simply shrug or even smile her name off.

To them, the first lady isn't the behemoth of liberalism and feminism the media and men make her out to be. She's just a determined, accomplished woman with a wealth of confidence.

The countenances of men and women at the very mentioning of Hillary Rodham Clinton exists as just one piece of evidence concerning the "gender gap." On one side of the gap are men (who traditionally vote Republican) and on the other side women (who usually pull the switch for Democrats).

Perhaps another piece of evidence of this gender gap is who stopped reading this column after the first line.

However, this column isn't about the gender gap, other differences between men and women or even irregularity. It is about Hillary Rodham Clinton and ... well, that's it.

Most know Hillary Rodham Clinton is very intelligent, although meeting with that new-age religion professor lady who asked her to carry on conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt and Jesus Christ wasn't too smart.

During the beginning of her husband's presidency, the media, as well as many conservative groups, vilified her for being overly ambitious and occasionally upstaging the president.

She didn't play her "role" very well. She didn't back up Bill on every occasion and sought recognition for her own achievements. Unfortunately, she believed the media.

Poll after poll denoted that Americans didn't like her and that she was damaging the president. So about midway through her husband's first term, she announced she would change her image.

And what a change it has been. The self-assured, stern-spoken, business suit-clad Hillary who once stood firmly juxtaposed with her husband is now so stiff, prim and confined that she doesn't even look comfortable.

A month after her make-over, I saw her on C-SPAN donning a thick monochromatic suit buttoned up to her neck and a skirt falling just beneath her knees.

She wasn't going over health care or giving a speech about children and poverty. She was giving an in-depth analysis of a gingerbread house. It would've worked if she knew what the hell she was talking about.

Although the first lady doesn't have specific duties, traditionally she picks a pressing cause and throws her weight to alleviate it. Nancy Reagan did it with drugs and Barbara Bush with illiteracy, for example.

Hillary Clinton seems to be following suit with proper child-rearing or something, but it looks so artificial, no one's taking her seriously.

I guess I'll just come right out and say it: screw the media, I want the old Hillary back.

The last thing we need is another Elizabeth Dole: a powerhouse of a woman who, whenever suggested, ducks into her husband's shadow because some deem it appropriate.

Women have come too far to be forced to take the backseat again. It should never be done, whether that woman is the wife of a president or a peon.



H.L. Baxter  
Senior geography major

Let's face it: You hate school. Almost everyone shares one common goal: to make an acceptable grade with as little learning and effort as possible.

College looks like a big party with the one sour note being your parents' unreasonable expectations for you to do well. Going to class is a major drag, and you have no intention of



Bryan Goodwin  
Junior English major

really absorbing anything your teacher says.

Oh, that may not be true of all your classes, but I'll bet there's not a business major born who really sees a future use for calculus.

So maybe you've found yourself in a major you really enjoy, and are planning on throwing yourself headlong into the learning process. Things are just dandy for you, except for those pesky core curriculum classes.

These mandatory classes are a terrible injustice forced upon you by the board of directors, or whichever secret governing body it is that decides these things. Now, for some God-awful reason, they want you to take classes that have intrinsic value, in order to produce a more well-rounded student.

But stop for a second: Are there really evil people laughing over printouts of your schedule? Doubtful. More likely, some of these classes actually do possess some intrinsic value that you are too short-sighted to see.

My favorite example is the engineering major who doesn't see a need for English. He probably didn't like Mr. Holland's Opus, either.

Renaissance men (people who are well-versed in a wide variety of studies, for all you biomed majors) are getting fewer and farther between every day.



## Politics and morals don't mix

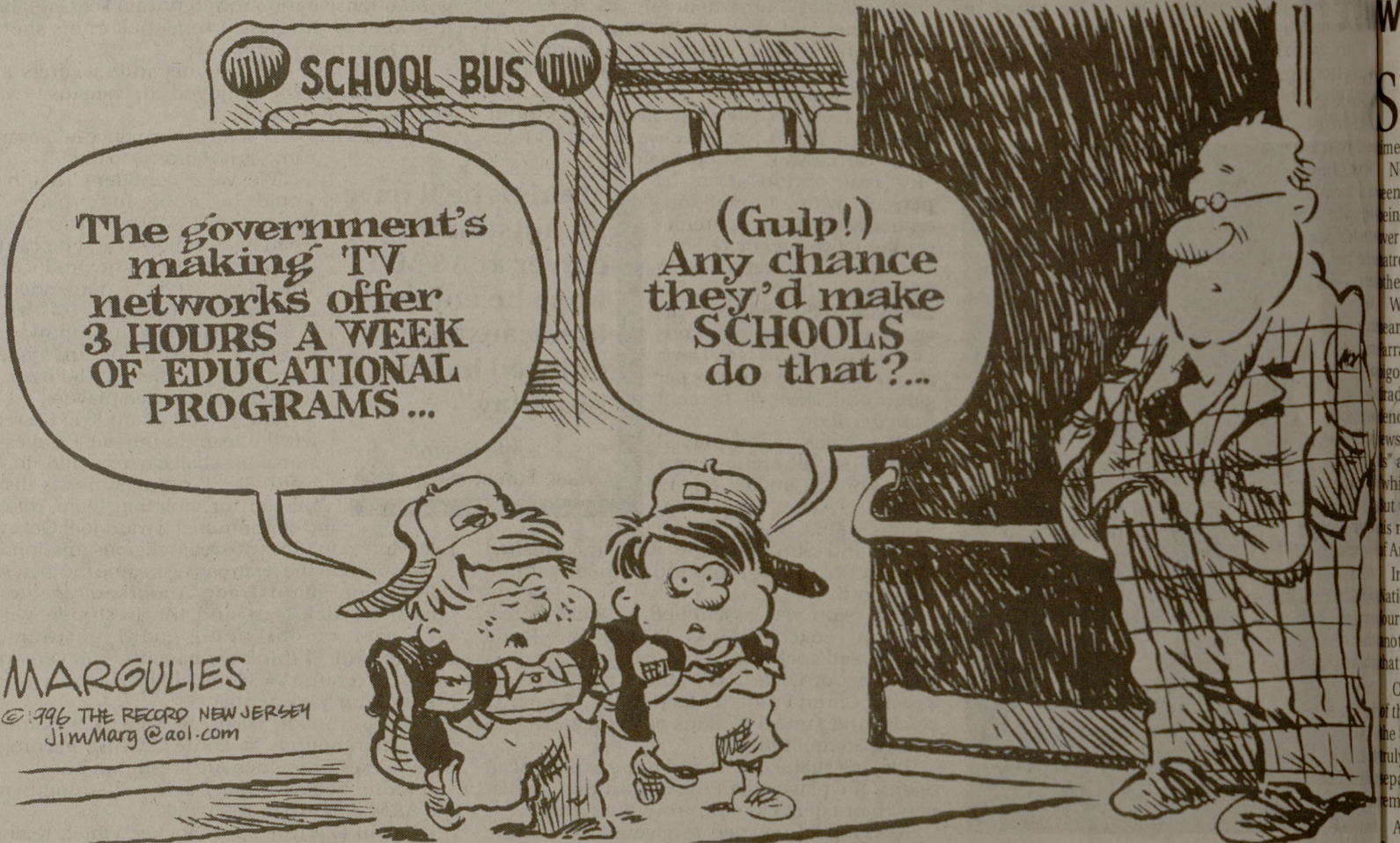
[In regards to Jenni Howard's column on Friday], too bad everyone doesn't see beyond the fancy political rhetoric and realize what the politicians (for whom we vote) can actually do for us.

Whether you belong to the Christian majority, decency and respect tend to be afterthoughts in a sea of self-centered goals.

This is undoubtedly part of what discourages young people from voting. If "morality" is most precious to them, they realize that this frayed moral fabric is impossible to mend through political par-

## Learn it or leave it

Students should make the most of opportunities to learn



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Well-rounded people are more interesting. A balanced course load will make you more knowledgeable in general; for example, society is filled with allusions to the classics that you just won't catch unless you have the proper background.

Ever wonder why everyone in the theater is laughing but you?

Chances are, you're missing out on a lot of life's little ironies, and what you missed because you were snoozing in class would've made you a better conversationalist.

So where's the problem with making yourself more interesting to other people? Whoops, lost all the engineering and meteorology majors on that one.

Okay, try this: You make great grades in all of your major-specific courses, but your grade-point ratio gets dragged down to an unseemly 3.8 by the classes you have to share with the huddled masses. You really can make good grades in all those classes! Well, maybe not kinesiology, but all those book-learning courses are potential 4.0s. How? Try actually learning the material in your classes this semester.

Applying yourself like this will serve you in the long run as well: Everyone writes.

Whether you end up as a secretary or a CEO, you're going to be judged on your mastery of the written word. Remember, logarithmic equations aren't going to

impress people who think you're a functional illiterate.

Pay attention in composition and you'll come out with the ability to communicate your meanings clearly. Pay attention in lit and you'll impress people with your keen knowledge of the classics. Pay attention in math and you'll... well, you'll be good at math.

Unbelievably, there are dozens of subjects this philosophy works for.

Newton didn't study physics because it was completely devoid of interesting material; he did it out of that great foundation for discovery that lies within us all: human curiosity.

Exercise a little of it yourself this semester.

## MAIL CALL

participation (of any kind). When we care for others, we realize how the present state of our nation is so destructive.

Our solutions do not come from the vote we cast but from the daily lives we lead.

If we choose to change our short-sighted goals, we create an effect far greater than any vote cast could make...we create

Daniel Huckaby  
Class of '98

## Students should recycle cardboard

This year more than 8000 on-campus residents will move into

their new homes and bring with them boxes and boxes of stuff. The boxes are very valuable to Bryan's Twin City Mission, whose primary fund-raiser is recycling.

We need Aggies to support this program by putting old boxes into the recycling bins located around campus.

Recycling bins will be available for boxes until tomorrow.

Cassandra E. DeLarios  
Class of '96

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call  
013 Reed McDonald  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX  
77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111  
Fax: (409) 845-2647  
E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the

## EDITORIAL

### THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorials board members. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff. Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors. Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

### Editorials Board

- Michael Landauer  
Editor in Chief
- Amy Collier  
Executive Editor
- Gretchen Perrenot  
Executive Editor
- Heather Pace  
Opinion Editor

## GIVE A HOOT

Battalion readers should do more to prevent the litter caused by inserts.

One Battalion into the fall semester and we're already plagued with those dreaded inserts that litter the ground near every Battalion stand.

The Battalion has fielded several complaints on the issue and has taken steps to improve the situation. But unfortunately, the easiest solution requires each individual to help. It's a simple request: Don't drop the inserts on the ground when you pick up a copy of The Battalion.

Although this is the simple solution, the reality is that most people will pick up their paper and let the inserts fall to the ground. There is nothing The Battalion can do to stop that.

The inclusion of inserts is a necessity, not an option, in order for The Battalion to provide a quality newspaper to the students. Approximately 97 percent of funding for the campus paper is from advertising revenue. A popular form of advertising is the insert.

Individuals bringing past complaints have failed to understand this point. One student body presidential candidate

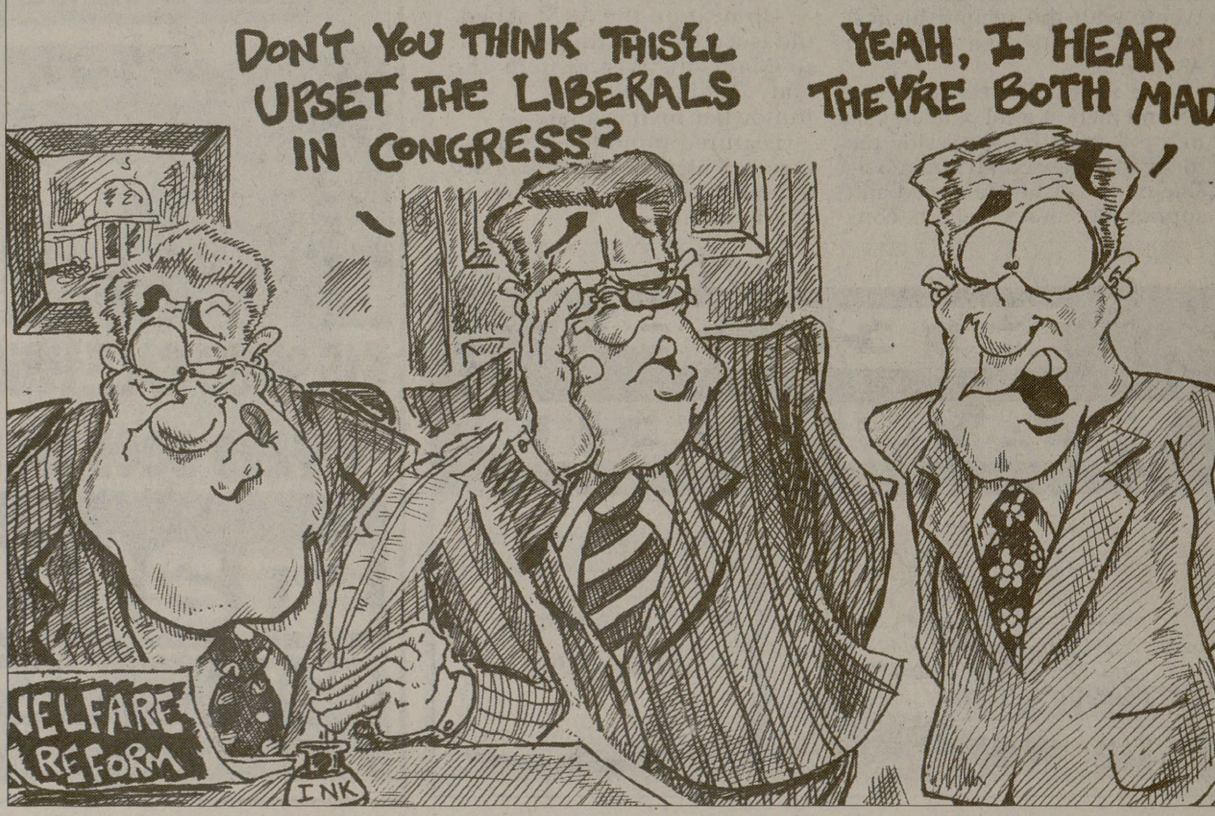
went so far as to include an issue on his platform, saying he would do away with the inserts.

Unless another way can be found to offset the high price of the inserts provided, trying to do away with them is not a reasonable approach. That's why The Battalion takes its price directly to each reader.

However, it's important that The Battalion's part in this is not to be a department that makes an effort to consolidate advertising with inserts onto a single day, designating one day for inserts each week, advertising is helping to solve the problem.

Other ways to keep the inserts off the ground are constantly being discussed. At times have been provided for the willing to do something with inserts other than throw them on the ground. But for now, The Battalion can only ask for help.

Battalion readers should responsibly and help keep campus grounds clean. Students should pick up and recycle inserts after they read them if they choose not to read them.



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