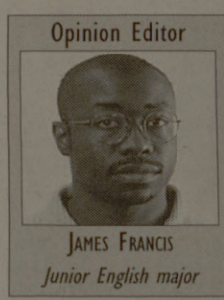


What a wicked game to play

United States' troubles resemble a Milton Bradley board game for children

America is playing with fire. Everyday, whether televised, broadcast or printed in black and white, news across the nation reflects growing ignorance of people in today's society. Through some of the heinous actions and situations people find themselves in are easily labeled "societal norms," individuals must learn not to accept the world is in today. As each day passes and more news is reported, Americans casual away from problems that could be interpreted as "the beginning of the end." It is these same individuals who trivialize the harsh reality of life and downplay the issue to a simple game of risk.



Opinion Editor
JAMES FRANCIS
Junior English major

come informed on the moronic events which take place every day. The first move is free, so pull a card and read it aloud. "Seven-year-old girl raped and slain by 18-year-old high school student in Nevada today — lose a turn," the card reads. People know, or at least they are becoming

Albert faces allegations of sodomizing an unwilling female participant. But one must also remember the Bill Clinton-Paula Jones story, along with drawn-out talks over a certain sports figure whose name brings refreshment to breakfast foods. Even further back, people must question if famed game-show host Bob Barker started this whole trend of men

All of America knows that DeGeneres and Heche are a dating Hollywood couple. What some people find disturbing is the fact that these two individuals are women and say that they find themselves in love with one another. But this doesn't represent the big picture. More people are worried that the careers of both women will plummet into the

sexuals and all other kinds of people who can be classified in the ever-growing categories of sexuality. Whatever an individual chooses to do with his or her life should be a one-sided choice — public opinion and scrutiny should not make a difference. Player No. 2 fell into "The Pit of Talk-Show Hell," so Player No. 1 goes on to win the game, landing

fried every ounce of vitality from their bodies. Even more disturbing aspects of the executions were the joyous reactions people exulted when the government attempted to execute four criminals in four days. In the end, life goes on and people will be people, but this doesn't have to be the opinion of every American in existence to-



To illustrate how easy it is to become a member of the societal ignorant, the following situations and occurrences invite all readers to a chance, roll the dice and be-

increasingly aware, that rape and murder occur in the United States' society too often. But when an incident takes place, such as the abuse and slaying of Sherrice Iverson, whose father Leroy was busy

gambling in a casino outside Las Vegas, citizens of this "great nation" must question the morals and mental psychologies of the people involved. The blame cannot be fully placed on the accused murderer, Jeremy Strohmeyer. Certainly, a father with a child has no business gambling the night away while his daughter wanders off to a hotel restroom by herself. It is a situation such as this one which places everyone on the path to destruction.

The dice read five and player No. 2 enters the game, landing on "Misconduct of the Rich and Famous." Kathy Lee Gifford's husband Frank stands accused of marital infidelity. Sports icon Marv

and women in the public eye whose lives are not as picture perfect as they seem from the outside view. When people take these instances to the extreme, they need to remember that individuals who have their own game shows, run sports programs or oversee the governing of an entire country are human first. It's sad that a report on the conduct of marriage between Kathy Lee and Frank would be a front page story, thereby replacing the coverage of a girl's untimely death.

Player No. 1 gains control of the game by rolling a five with the dice. A card is pulled and its title reads, "Ellen Degeneres and Anne Heche reveal lesbian love affair." Well, the word is out (literally).

abysms of names long forgotten. An Entertainment Weekly article went so far as to say that Heche will no longer be a believable actress in roles that pertain to heterosexual women. The overall scope is: there are heterosexual people, bisexuals, homo-

on "Execution Square."

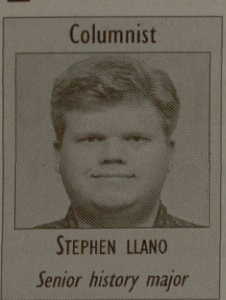
Three people were murdered in three days under Texas government. Although these individuals committed crimes deserving of punishment and prison time, no one can overlook the fact that Texas government had these people executed. Some individuals who heard of the executions cheered on the government in its aim to rid the public of undesirable. What many of these people don't understand is that the prisoners who were executed are a part of society as well. There can never be total good without a crack of evil and vice versa.

Texas government did not put these individuals to sleep (as animals are "lovingly" laid to rest) — the government

day. Citizens must reach within themselves to push away the "easy-outs" of societal mentalities. If one person opens his or her eyes to what's truly going on in the world of today, that's one less individual blinded to the hidden truth. Game Over.

Minority philosopher examines race-relations for the future

As the century draws to a close, many people will look ahead in awe at the coming years. The year 2000 is three years away, but this time we won't stop the guesswork about what advances society and civilization will accomplish.



Columnist
STEPHEN LLANO
Senior history major

tury is the color line," W.E.B. DuBois said in his book "The Souls of Black Folk." The former NAACP chairman did not live to see the culmination of the Civil Rights movement, or many other advancements Americans have made against discrimination. But a quick glance through the pages of history between 1900 and 1997 seem to confirm DuBois' thesis.

signs, food and traffic signals govern the actions of people from one moment to the next. The color of someone's skin is always noticed.

But humans can provide more than a Pavlovian response to stimuli. Color is only what society, in other words people, make of it. To realize that only a few individuals have dared to step across the color line is to realize public failure — anyone who calls him or herself an American and a lover of liberty should be crusading for the cause of civil rights.

Students at Texas A&M have no right to point fingers at other individuals of this country.

This is the part where readers shake their heads. "Not again," he or she says. "This liberal columnist wants there to be a problem to complain about."

But A&M has more than a relatively simple color line — A&M has a color wall. There is hardly any form of interaction between races on campus. The very fact that minority students are not readily visible at University functions constitutes a race problem. "Race problem" doesn't mean "lynching" or "riots." It can be as simple as secluding oneself in comfortable racial surroundings.

Separation of races at A&M affects each and every student. America has a history that recently draws on diversity as one of the key strengths for advancement. If centers of higher learning such as A&M are turning into racial enclaves that do not interact, the question of what the future holds is uncertain. Perhaps the color line moves off farther than this century.

But people must realize there is

time left for redemption. The problem with this century might be the color line, but the cure is relatively simple: there needs to be more interaction. Because minorities are by definition a smaller group of people means the challenge of diversity is by definition a great challenge. The difficulty in stretching comfort zones and reaching out is great, but it is attainable. The cost of allowing people to grow and develop without knowing how other human beings live is a breeding ground for racial animosity.

There are three years remaining to see if DuBois was entirely right. But instead of worrying about the past which that cannot be changed, society must turn its attention to a future century to be written the way we as people see fit.

Campus Voice



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog



MAIL CALL

Advertising portrays women in false light

In response to Mandy Cater's June 3 column on sexist advertising:

Women are misrepresented in the popular media. However, the viewing public should be able to see through the charade by comparing the images to the reality of the (real-life) women they know (including themselves).

If women are happy with themselves, then advertising images lose their desired effect. Advertising is like religion — it only works if you believe it does. Advertisers are merely exploiting (some) women's self-image insecurities for monetary gain. If such insecurities did not exist, then image-based advertising would be fruitless.

Advertising images themselves are false. Cindy Crawford's famous mole was airbrushed out of her ads for several years early in her career.

And as for those bikini models: take away their fake breasts and what is left — normally-endowed, beautiful women in bikinis with self-image insecurities. The same argument applies to male-based advertising (i.e. drink beer & get the girls). Male insecurities also are exploited for gain (e.g. is your hair going gray/falling out?).

The result will always be the same: content individuals will not be swayed by advertising. The bottom line is there are two kinds of people in this world: suckers and lollipops. Be a lollipop.

Bradley Peikert
Graduate Student

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 opinion editor.



Reaction to the Student Center summer policy:

Student workers that support the university should be able to have access to the facilities."

Heather Kinder
Urban planning graduate student

For the latest news on this developing story, see: bat-web.tamu.edu