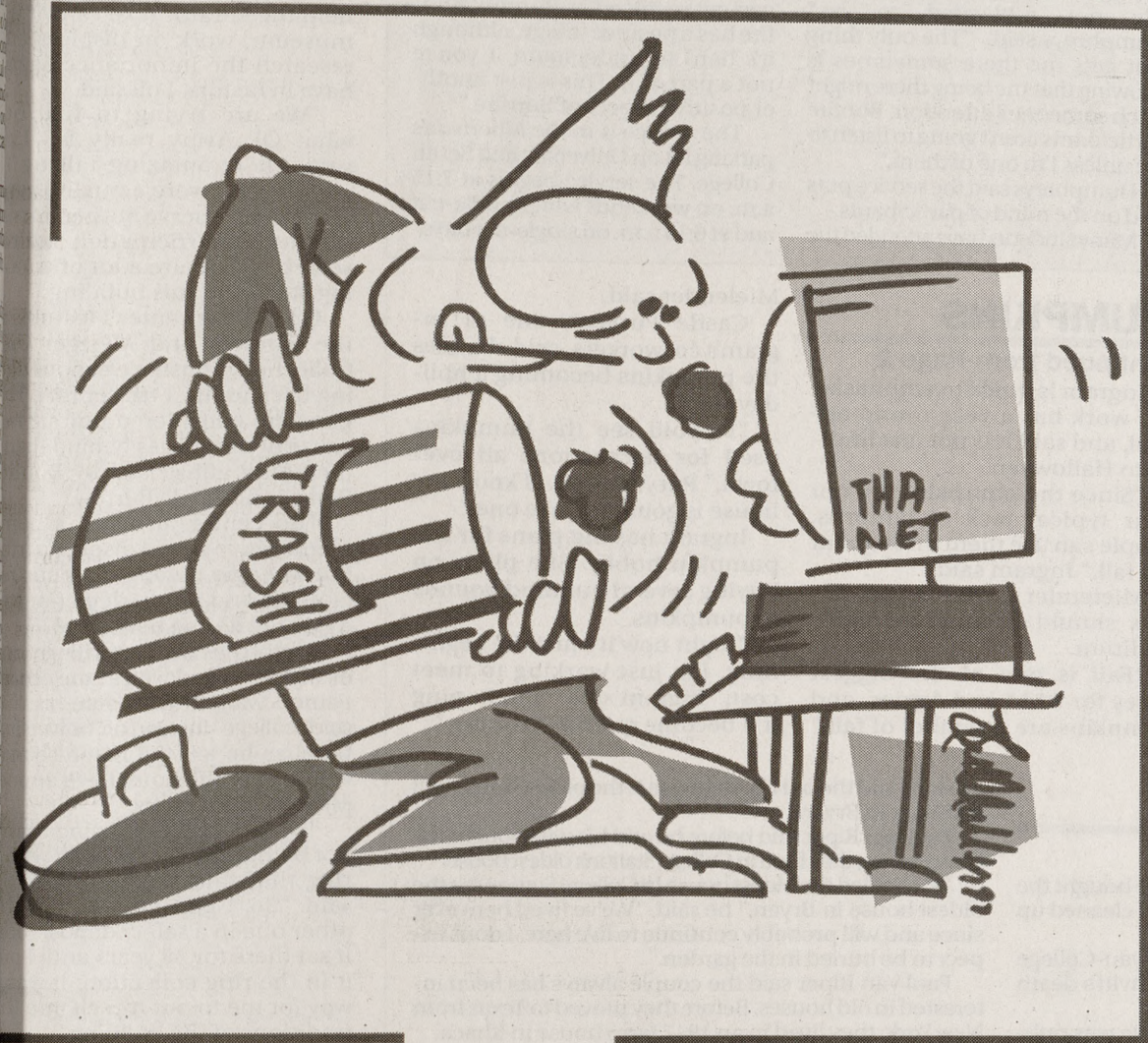


Taking in the trash

World Wide Web congested with self-interest, egotistical student homepages



DAVE JOHNSTON
columnist

Technology continues to expand in leaps and bounds. Three years ago, less than 25 Aggies had published Web pages through the University. Now, hundreds of students have a "presence on the Web." Student Web pages range from short informational sheets constantly under construction to enormous Web "sites," providing Web surfers with a complete multimedia experience.

Although many students put hours of work into their pages, the vast majority of personal Web pages are little more than shrines to their programmers. Most Web pages provide little, if any, content useful to anyone who does not know the page's designer.

Most Aggie Web pages are identical: "Hi, I'm Joe Student, Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of [insert original decade of intended graduation here]. Here is a picture of me next to my car/significant other/favorite alcohol/pile of PTTS tickets." The page also will include a link to the designer's resumé and favorite Web sites.

As long as students already are putting hard work and dedication into creating and posting Web pages, they may as well create something others can use and enjoy.

There already are too many sites without content; the world does not need hundreds of students adding to the pile. If Web publishers continue to emphasize themselves over information beneficial to others, the Information Superhighway will never meet its potential.

The World Wide Web was designed as an easier, cheaper alternative to publishing, but now, anyone who frequents an undergraduate business analysis class can post random information, from baby pic-

tures to the next *Wuthering Heights* movie.

As publishing has become more simple, it also has become evident it is difficult to publish something worthwhile.

Everyone has stories to tell, but most people seem to have a hard time determining which ones are worth relating to others.

No one is so self-absorbed they have no useful or interesting information to share with the world. Most people could offer information on a hobby people with similar interests might enjoy. For example, students could instruct others in how to play the guitar, offer photography tips, cite sources for rare books or give tips on how to evade PTTS.

Maybe this phenomenon of self-worshipping Web pages is a result of this generation's lack of consideration for others. When faced with the decision of providing useful information to others or telling millions of Internet users about themselves, many people would have a hard time choosing. Often, the final decision is based on which option would draw more people to the site and will make the designer better known.

The World Wide Web is a tremendous resource. The training and resources available gives people a great opportunity to contribute something to the world. The Web allows writers, political activists or researchers to reach a huge number of people at a low cost.

Unfortunately, it also allows anyone with a modem or a LABS password to reach a huge number of people at a low cost. The Internet is full of rich information, but it also is clogged with frivolous material, from movie trailers to photos of pets and dorm rooms.

With thousands of students, Texas A&M has the opportunity to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution.

Dave Johnston is a senior mathematics major.

It's the great devil worship, Charlie Brown

Halloween tradition tricks people into believing giving, receiving candy is ultimate goal

The only people in costumes you might be scared of at Texas A&M are Corps of Cadets members and PTTS agents. On this holiday of evil, however, there are more serious entities to worry about.

The seemingly harmless colors of fall — yellow, orange and red — signal Halloween's arrival and informs us we should celebrate. Of course, astute observers realize these are the same colors used to represent hellfire and brimstone.

Last week's time change resulted conveniently in an earlier fall darkness, just in time for Satan and his army to perform rituals on innocent children tonight.

These revelations may come as a shock, but that is to be expected. Naive about the real meaning of Halloween is exactly what the "dark forces" want.

Our generation was brainwashed early in life by evil propaganda, and I am not just talking



JOHN BURTON
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about the Reagan administration.

For example, the "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" television special is morally appalling. It has systematically conditioned us to believe Halloween is a "fun" activity in which friends sing songs and eat food. The residents of Sodom, however, also sang songs and ate food — and they were eventually rebuked by God.

The dispensing of free candy to children entices them to choose worldly vices rather than accept moral standards. It has been proven by Pat Robertson that children who accept candy on Halloween will grow up to be sexually promiscuous drug dealers who listen to rock 'n' roll music.

In fact, an Iowa fund-raising letter by Robertson proved the link between Halloween, witchcraft and so-called "women's rights" supporters. He proclaimed the "feminist agenda" is a "socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft and become lesbians." If more people had the vision and clarity of Robertson, the world would be a better place.

The same humanistic heathens who support

Halloween also have infiltrated the American public education system. Children across the country are taught such heretical subjects as science and literature. Some are even taught to question things and think for themselves, rather than blindly follow dogmatic leaders.

Friends, we cannot let this continue. We must force this system of institutional evil to change to a more acceptable practice. It needs to evolve, although evolution is not true.

But first, we must focus on today. Halloween's entire concept of "trick-or-treating" is communist, because children are not working for candy; they simply are receiving and sharing it. George Bush said communism is evil, so it should be obvious Halloween is evil.

We also need to consider crack cocaine. The word "crack" has the same number of letters as "candy." Is this merely a coincidence? I do not think so.

Some public figures who embrace Halloween values have fallen due to the public's outrage concerning the holiday, and rightly so. For instance, nobody can forget Barbara Bush's Halloween costume last year. She dressed as a campus food service worker (with pearls), and created her own stand called

"Kampus Knish Korner" ("KKK" for short). People got mad, and it was all because of the inherent evil of Halloween.

Globally, other holidays celebrate evil. In Mexico, El Dia de los Muertos involves wearing skeleton costumes or other grotesque figures, such as Rush Limbaugh. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will create a giant sucking sound of multicultural witchcraft invading our borders.

The situation only will get worse as the New World Order gains power. Currently, agents of Satan are taking our children's souls; they will want our guns next.

Halloween is a symbol of moral decay in modern society. We encourage our children to embrace evil values and reward them with candy, then we wonder why they drop out of school, listen to rock 'n' roll music and enjoy dancing.

Almost all children, and most adults, who participate in Halloween enjoy candy and consider the holiday "fun." Friends, something must be done about this "fun," because the road to hell is paved with good confections.

John Burton is a junior bioenvironmental



MAIL CALL

Unification of Greek systems beneficial

In response to Tasha Coble and Amalia Dardar's October 29th Mail Call letter:

I could not help noticing the irony in your letter concerning the purpose of historically black fraternities and sororities.

You stated "one of their principles is to unite and support the black community". That is a wonderful goal, but how does that contradict Anna Foster suggesting the PanHellenic, Pan-Hellenic and Inter-Fraternity Councils would benefit from working together?

Cooperation and collaboration between the three councils could be a great opportunity for everyone, including the black community.

Cooperation between the three councils would be a good way to promote cultural understanding. I find it interesting you berate Foster for her "ignorance" of African heritage, but believe there is "no need for them to play together."

If racial harmony and cultural understanding are goals everyone would like to attain, then how can you turn down an opportunity to move closer to those goals?

If you take offense at Foster's views of step shows and other aspects of African heritage, you should be jumping at a chance to change those views, not choosing to separate yourselves from those people who could benefit from an exchange of knowledge and ideas.

I thought Foster's suggestion was an interesting idea. How could cooperation between the two halves of the Greek system be a bad thing?

It would not diminish any aspects of any of the fraternities or sororities; it could only serve to enhance all of them.

Julie Traweek
Class of '98

Gender comparisons show blatant sexism

In response to Donny Ferguson's Oct. 29 column:

The column by Ferguson, even though he apparently is male, is extremely biased in favor of women.

It also slams men to the point I thought I was reading something written by an extremist leader of NOW.

I guess I could view the column as most of my female friends do, as humorous, but

the column was not written as satire. The column was an insult to intelligent Aggies, male and female.

It is wrong to say any one group is better than another. Sexist beliefs are no more morally right than racist beliefs. It is just as wrong to say women are better than men as it is to say men are better than women.

Ferguson mentions Marie Curie's discovery of radium, but fails to note her husband, who also was an accomplished scientist, put his scientific pursuits aside to work beside her in the long process of experimentation that led to the discovery with which she is credited.

To say only men watch ESPN and only women watch Lifetime is ridiculous and insulting, because most intelligent Aggies know better.

Also, it is not as if women do not watch sports. If that were true, Kyle Field would be half-empty every home game. Women are humpin' it just like the men.

I am willing to grant the author of this biased feminist article one thing; there are some stupid men out there. But there are stupid women, too.

I personally think the idea one group of people is more intelligent than another, as well as any person who believes this, is stupid and an insult to my intelligence.

Larry R. Hughes
Class of '01

Aggies celebrate holiday with poetry

"Halloween Dilemma"

Baptist Bears all around,
Something's wrong with this college town.

Halloween and stuck in Waco,
No place for fun,
Where else can we go?

No sugar here for us to eat,
So, we did not trick-or-treat.

On we ventured up 290,
Looking for a place to stop.
We came upon Austin and saw
The most seasonal color of
the fall.

They seem to worship this
horned beast,
Which we saw perfect for a
feast.

As we walked down Sixth Street,
All we saw was crazy freaks.
So, we did not trick-or-treat.

Then we entered Aggield,
Still no candy in our hands.

We came upon the MSC,
Where crowds were gathered
round Reveille.

All decked out in her maroon
cape,
This mascot won't be turned
into steak.

They threw candy at our feet,
And so here we did trick-or-
treat.

Carolyn Quinn
Jennifer Byrne
Cheryl Taylor
Class of '01

