

PERSPECTIVES

Finding your inner child

Rediscovering the joy of one's childhood offers valuable tips for optimism, social skills

When was the last time you played in the rain or made a mud pie? When was the last time you played a game or looked for four-leaf clovers? It was probably when you were still playing Osh Kosh Gosh and watching "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."



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columnist

civil society. But there is a big difference between acting like an adult and acting like a boring, stuffy person. Being an adult does not mean that you have to look wistfully at a park swing as you drive by, not stopping to swing because that's "kids' stuff." Being an adult does not mean that you can not stop and play in the mud (just ask anyone at Bonfire cut). And I seriously doubt that getting drunk on Northgate and passing out is even half as fun as a rousing game of Red Rover. According to authors such as Deepak Chopra and John Bradshaw, allowing yourself to act and behave young in the appropriate circumstances can actually keep you young. My father is a perfect example of this. At age 57, my father still embraces life with the excitement of a child. As hard as he works, that is how hard he plays. At Indian dances, my father is easy to pick out: he's the one one grinning like a little kid and dancing like there is no tomorrow. He is quite a character and a whole lot of fun. I do not think it is any coincidence that he is incredibly healthy and looks years younger than he is. My father never let go of his inner child. And neither should you. Being a kid is fun. It relieves stress and releases tension. And in many instances, it is the best thing for your mind and body. Being a kid helps you remember what is most important in life, family. Do you remember how you could not wait to tell your

parents when you did something right? Your parents would probably be just as proud of your accomplishments today (waking up in time for class) as when you were a kid. So give them a call and let yourself indulge in some quality parent and kid time. Being a kid helps you forgive and forget. How many times did your childhood friends accidentally put paste in your hair or mess up your new drawing? Chances are, you made up with them every time and went back to being friends. Remember that the next time your roommate accidentally forgets to give you a message or your date spills Coke all over you. Being a kid gives you hope and makes you optimistic. How many times did you keep trying to catch a squirrel or climb the tallest tree in the neighborhood, without success, only to try again? Kids can be pretty inspirational when it comes to dealing with the biggest obstacles, kind of like finals or papers. Growing up does not mean that you have to let go of any of that joy. Growing up does not mean that you have to leave your inner child behind. Growing up simply means that you decide to become an inner parent to your inner child. So when school and work and relationships are getting you down, think back to elementary school and let your inner child come out and play. That wish you made on last night's star might just come true.

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Now, you are probably too old and mature for that kid's stuff, right? Oh, by the way, are your stress levels and ulcers doing? America is growing old before its time. We seem to be in such a hurry to grow up that we forget about the joys of staying young. Somewhere between kindergarten and college, we seem to lose our ability to enjoy life. It is as if the minute we throw away our comfy overalls and start dressing ourselves without Mommy's help, we grow away the quirky view of life that children have. It is as if the moment puberty kicks in, every childlike quality is taken away in order to be "mature." Of course, it is true that as humans mature into responsible adults, they leave behind many of the behaviors that are signs of being a child. Adults are not supposed to have temper tantrums or pull each other's hair (in theory). This type of maturity is necessary if we are to keep a

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Tolerating intolerance is often necessary to ensure free speech

Using law or public outcry to force an individual or group with prejudiced views to behave or speak in a certain way is not always the most productive solution. In addition to being hypocritical and anti-free speech, such coercive techniques often fail to address the underlying attitudes. Left to fester, these attitudes frequently emerge in more dangerous ways. Justice-fighters can avoid hypocrisy by abiding offensive belief systems while simultaneously engaging those who espouse them.



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columnist

into a certain behavior pattern. Certainly, if the Boy Scouts are breaking the law (as is being argued in some of the challenges to their policies), then of course they should be forced to change. The courts will determine if this is so and will take the appropriate actions. But beyond that, the views should be permitted to be expressed. This does not mean supporters of cultural sensitivity have to sit back and suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous comments. On the contrary, they can take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to engage the other side. If we use every legal tool and public pressure to change their surface behaviors, their attitudes go into hibernation. Denied verbal expression, those attitudes sometimes surface later, and more violently, much as long-pent up pressure produces a volcano. Allowed to see daylight, however, these attitudes come out over time and thus avoid reaching critical mass. The culturally sensitive then have the chance to approach the prejudiced, engage them in discussion, and hopefully, positively influence their views. In lieu of blind allegiance to and propagation of inclusiveness and political correctness, we should engage the Boy Scouts. Attacking the organization and bringing every conceivable legal response will only isolate the group and not produce change. The truly tolerant understand that inclusiveness is a two-way street; while we work to expand what we know to be right, we must understand and even allow the intolerant to peacefully coexist.

Adam Collett is an educational administration

Currently, the Boy Scouts are causing a flap by steadfastly refusing to permit admitted homosexuals to work for or participate in the organization. The concepts that fuel the outcry over those actions, political correctness and inclusiveness, have noble goals. But taken to an extreme, they suggest that the one thing that we can't tolerate is intolerance. It is both hypocritical and paradoxical to preach tolerance with one hand but to use the other to close the door to certain viewpoints. To remove this inconsistency, we must be willing to allow divergent viewpoints like those of the Boy Scouts, no matter how repugnant they may be. Those who oppose their actions and beliefs — I am one of them — have the right to disagree. But disagreeing while holding the moral high ground does not justify the present attempts to coerce the Scouts



MAIL CALL

Article misses true importance of rally
Though I am impressed that something as controversial and "liberal" as the pro-choice rally made front page of *The Battalion*, I am disappointed in the coverage. As a member of NOW and a participant in the rally I must say the rally was so much more than pro-Bryan Planned Parenthood. I realize this is an important issue facing Bryan-College Station and this campus, but it is not the only abortion issue. Melaney Linton, from Planned Parenthood, spoke for about twenty minutes of a

three-hour rally. The speech she gave was wonderful, but other things went on at this rally. There was no mention in the article of the march around campus, the heartfelt testimonials given by friends and relatives of women who have chosen abortion, the personal essays from students about why they are pro-choice, or of the horrible stories from doctors treating women who have had botched, painful, illegal abortions. I think *The Battalion* missed the heart of this rally. It was a gathering of young women and men sharing thoughts, feelings, and information, defending their freedom, defending a woman's right to choose.
Jennifer Woodson
Class of '01

Silver Taps anniversary truly honors tradition
On April 7, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Silver Taps. I have to say that during my four years, you cannot distinguish between ceremonies, but that night's hit me the hardest. As a kid, I remember hearing stories of how no one would talk until morning after a Silver Taps. But in years past, the lights that stayed on in the breezeway of the MSC have taken that away. I hear people talking all the time. Well, for the first time since I have been here, the lights were off, and I felt like we truly were honoring the tradition of Silver Taps. I would like to thank the Traditions Council and all other groups involved for making that possible. As I come closer to graduation in May, I feel the Aggie Spirit just hit me closer than it ever has. Now if we can just get rid of those trains. Keep the tradition alive.
Sammy Mobarak
Class of '98

STUDENT LIFE

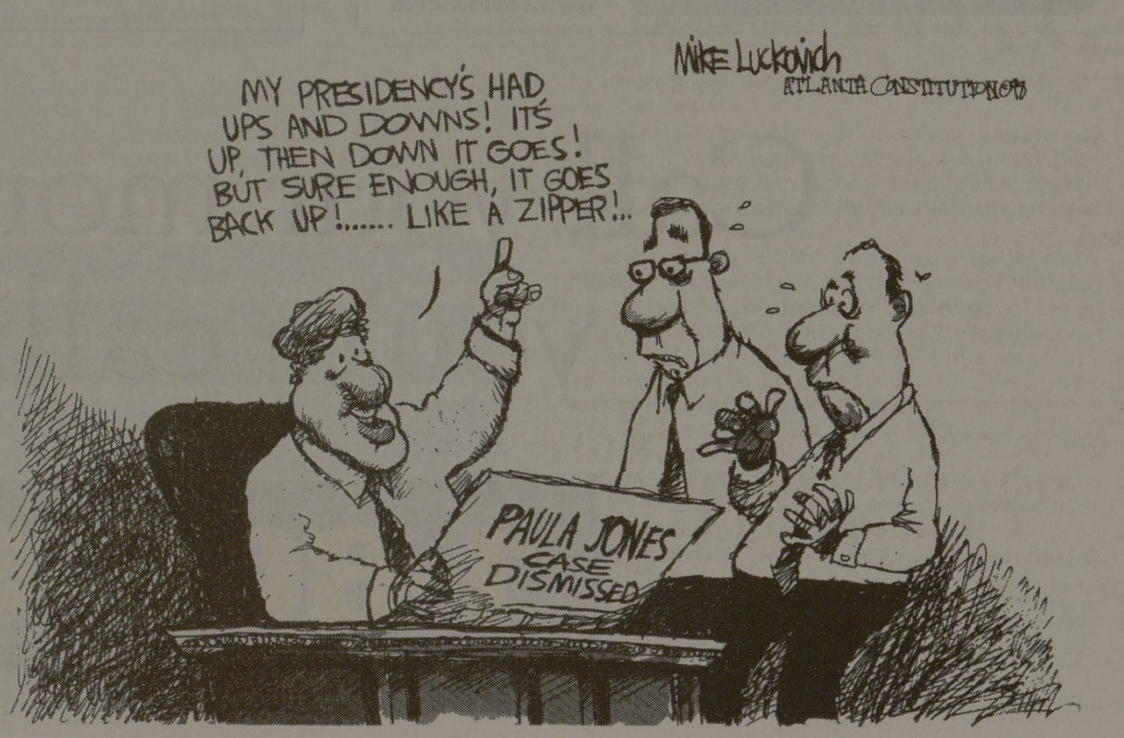
Resurrection Week serves as a reminder of religion's forgiveness

I sin. I sin every day. I've lied, cheated and stolen. But I'm going to heaven because of the resurrection of Christ. Some call me a bad Ag. Some call me a hypocrite. Others call me human. By grace I have been saved. When Jesus died on the cross, he saved us from our sins. And then, three days after his crucifixion, Jesus rose again. "I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!" — *Revelation 1:18*



APRIL TOWERY
columnist

west, so far has he removed our sins from us." — *Psalm 103:12*
Everyone is invited to accept the salvation and admittance to heaven that Christ offers us. We don't have to impress him with our worldly deeds; they will never be enough. All we have to do is R.S.V.P. to his invitation, so to speak, and say that prayer to accept Jesus Christ into our lives. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." — *Romans 6:23*
Because we are sinful creatures and we can never achieve perfection, we are condemned to death. But we are offered the gift of life because Jesus Christ died for us. We are given an option: life or death. "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life..." — *Deuteronomy 30:19*
Okay, I can see the Mail Calls already. People are wondering how I can quote the Bible as a valid source. Do I believe everything I read? No, of course not. But that's where faith and conviction come into play. People are arguing that they don't believe in God. Well, it's not about believing in God. Satan believes in God. Satan believes that there is a God who exists in this world, but Satan does not put his trust in God. It's all about faith. I'm not here to sit in judgment. Being a Christian does not make me perfect. It does not make me better than anyone else — Christian or non-Christian. It does not prevent me from sinning every single day. But it does give me the assurance that I am saved and I am forgiven. We have all been given the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ into our lives. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die..." — *John 11:25, 26*
Time is running out. Jesus will come again, and everyone on earth will spend eternity in either heaven or hell. But our choice must be made now. It is literally a matter of life and death. Will you R.S.V.P. to your invitation?
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