

TEETATTLERS

Parents should be alerted to alcohol violations

With the increasing number of irresponsible actions committed by today's younger generation, a debate has emerged over the causes of and potential solutions to these often unnecessary tragedies.

No matter how many differing variables are introduced into this debate, increased parental involvement is the one remaining constant that all sides agree on.

Following the lead of several universities, such as the University of Michigan, Texas A&M University has taken a proactive approach to insure parental involvement and support in dealing with alcohol-related violations occurring on-campus.

As of now, plans are in effect to send a letter to the student's parent or guardian from the Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Education Programs or the Director of Student Life when a student is found in violation of Texas A&M's Student Rules regarding improper possession or use of alcohol or an illegal drug.

This worthwhile endeavor by the Department of Student Life clearly demonstrates that Texas A&M has placed an emphasis on its students' well-being and is prepared to deal with an issue that remains problematic for universities across the nation.

A&M University Police Department crime statistics reveal that over 80 percent of total arrests in the past year were liquor law offenses, not including Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenses and public intoxication.

While opposition to such a plan may gain popularity with the student body, it would neglect the students' best interests. With the parental notification plan, Texas A&M is attempting to foster a partnership with the parents of troubled students.

Notification would include an outline of the suggested steps students may take to remedy the situation with the student and a request for parental support in the matter. Involving parents in such issues far from eliminates students from dealing with the resulting consequences on their own, but rather promotes a supportive foundation that insures the issue will be dealt with adequately on all levels.

This is not an ambush on students' rights, and A&M does not intend it to be.

Prior to the implementation of this plan, Texas A&M fully intends to notify all students and parents or guardians of this change in the parental notification policy.

Texas A&M has made all efforts to take various scenarios in account, proving that this course of action has been thoroughly examined.

The Department of Student Life has shown cultural sensitivity in planning for situations which might require notifying guardians of international students whose religious beliefs prohibit the use of alcohol.

When it would not be in the students' best interests to contact their parents, A&M again exhibits foresight by retaining the right to withhold information relevant regarding student use and abuse of alcohol and illegal

drugs from any parent or guardian if the University suspects the release of the information may cause harm to the student.

Accepting its role as a world-class university, A&M realizes that it must not only educate, but also take responsibility for the well-being of its students.

The notification of parents, while unpopular, is crucial to addressing the alcohol problems of this university and others across the nation.

Parents remain the closest people with any semblance of authority over potential offenders. As immature as it makes the student body appear, if more parents were made aware of their children's inappropriate behavior, the problem, in most cases, would be corrected.

Unchecked, the behavior can become a less than beneficial habit, self-destructive to the student.



RYAN GARCIA

Students can be responsible for own behavior

All hail the grand wisdom of the University administration.

Bow down before their superior knowledge and quietly surrender your rights upon admission to this institution of higher learning.

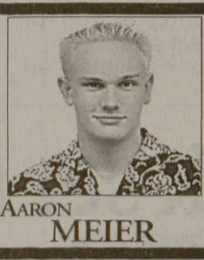
Once again, Texas A&M, in its continuing belief that "administration knows best," has decided to send letters to a student's parent or guardian when that student has violated student rules regarding alcohol and drugs.

Everybody loves a tattletale.

For the first 18 or so years of our lives, students have been under the supervision of parental units.

But at some point, hopefully soon after birth, the umbilical cord was cut indicating a sort of independence.

Apparently somebody did not tell the task force that decided to institute this policy.



AARON MEIER

"You're an adult now. You need to be able to take care of yourself."

But the University does not seem to think so.

It seems eerily like the reinstatement of in loco parentis that was done away with in the early 1960s.

What all that fancy Latin means is that back in the day when today's parents were drinking illegally in their own residence halls, the University acted in place of their parents.

The school could instill curfews and generally make life as miserable as possible.

That policy changed, but this new policy seems to want to bring it back. So why does A&M want to run off and tell mommy and daddy when students drink in the residence halls?

A memo from Dr. Brent Paterson, director of the Department of Student Life, said the idea is to protect the health and safety of the students.

This is the same school that does little to cure the fact that its on-campus medical facility is known as the "Quack Shack."

In today's *Battalion*, Paterson said the purpose of the memo is not for the individual student, but for the good of the University community as a whole. This idea is as laughable as last semester's grand idea to require all Northgate bars to have a kitchen as a way to reduce drunk driving.

Because when Johnny Freshman gets a Public Intoxication citation for doing the backstroke in Fish Pond, we all feel the the very fabric of our universe ripped to shreds.

How can the task force draw a line saying when it comes to alcohol and drugs, students should be treated as children and have their parents notified, but when it comes to other matters, say for example, accidentally sleeping through class, they will treat students as adults?

The plan treats students differently than it would treat everyday citizens.

If an 18-year-old received a Minor in Possession (MIP) citation from a non-university law enforcement agency, the parents would not be involved. This is because it is a matter between the adult — note the word "adult" — and the cop writing the ticket.

A further display of the omnipotent administration is a clause that makes an exception to the policy if notifying the student's parents places them at risk.

What exactly is "at risk?" Would seeing the vein in my dad's forehead pop out qualify me as being at risk, or is it something more quantifiable?

When mom and dad find out their money is going to late night drinking binges or dime bags of pot, every student is placed at risk.

The University needs to return to what little sense it has left.

No good will come from rattling out alcohol and drug violations on campus.

As an adult, it is the student's responsibility to make the decision to either tell mom and dad or keep quiet and learn a lesson about prudence.

The University should not be making that decision for us.



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

And when a potential problem can be alleviated with the help of the family unit, it would be a shame for parents to learn of their children's possible substance abuse for the first time when it drives them to harming themselves or committing suicide.

Ryan Garcia is a senior journalism major.

Maybe if this group kept at it, they could institute an A&M PTA and our parents could come to Open House every semester, meet our teachers and make sure we know our homework assignments.

Face it, there has to be a time when people, whether they are students or not, are made accountable for their own actions.

One of the basic tenets of going to college is,

Aaron Meier is a senior political science major.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

President's comparison of self to governor lacks logic

Since the completion of his impeachment trial, President Clinton has one to great lengths to ensure that his legacy will not be one that people will refer to by prefacing it with a "dick" or mentioning "certain blue dress."

These efforts have brought us the Clinton in Kosovo, and even a break with Vice President Al Gore.

Within the past week, Clinton has made what can be considered his most "off-the-wall" move, stating that Gov. George W. Bush, the man who may well replace Clinton in the White House, is a clone of himself.

Clinton says everything about Bush, from his attitude to his political stance, is eerily reminiscent of himself. So a "clone" people passionate conservative" now equals a "clone Democrat?"

What an interesting political time we live in.

But this brings us to an important question — is President Clinton grasping at straws, or are there really that many comparisons between the two?

Would it be an even better idea if Clinton hoped that people thought he was more like Bush?

Let's examine various areas of each man's life.

Family: Bush is from a well-known and established family with a record of public service. His father was the President of the United States, and his mother runs a literacy foundation. One of his brothers is the governor of Florida. Clinton never knew his father, and his

brother is in a rock band. A very bad rock band. Advantage — Bush.

Education: Both Bush and Clinton are graduates of Yale. Bush got his master's degree at Harvard Business School, while Clinton went to Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. Bush hung out with Yankee snobs, while Clinton hung out with English snobs. In a close one, advantage — Bush.

Military Service during the Vietnam War: Bush heroically reached new heights by zooming around Houston in an F-102 belonging to the Texas Air National Guard. Clinton, in England at the time, reached new heights without the use of an airplane. Think about it. Advantage — Bush.

Partying Record: Bush admits that he drank too much in his younger years, and he may or may not have danced naked on a table.

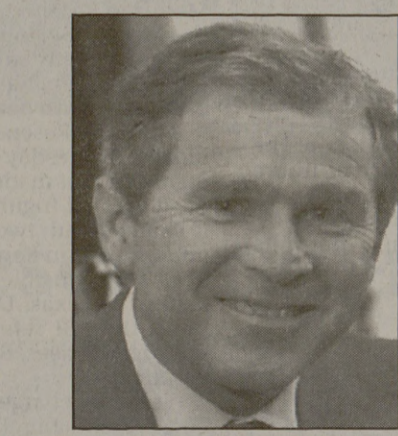
Clinton says that he did not inhale. If there was public nudity, then neither deserves the advantage. If everyone kept their clothes on, the advantage belongs to Bush.

Washington Experience Before Running For President: Bush was one of the heavies behind the scenes in his father's administration, making many of the tough decisions.

Clinton was involved in George McGovern's campaign for president in 1972. McGovern had Watergate on his side and was still blown out. Advantage — Bush.

Experience in the Private Sector: Clinton taught law classes in the early 1980s after losing the Arkansas governorship race and was a middling lawyer.

Bush became wealthy in his own right, and he became a major owner of the Texas Rangers. Teach law to people who have not seen daylight in 14 years, or



hang out with Nolan Ryan? Advantage — Bush.

Marital Status: Bush is happily married to a beautiful woman and is the father of lovely twin daughters.

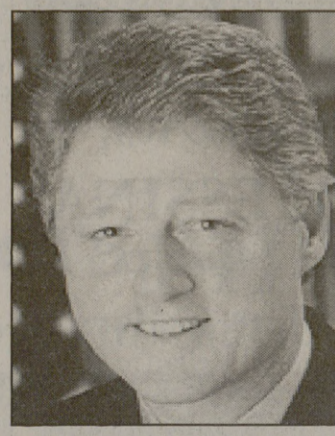
Clinton has a wife in New York and an intern doing things that would be interesting on a resume. Blue dress or not, the advantage goes to Bush.

Experience in Public Service before running for President: Clinton was a popular governor of Arkansas. Bush was a popular governor of Texas. That is like a Pop Warner team playing the Denver Broncos. Advantage — Bush.

Knowledge of Whitewater: Bush knows that there is some in the rapids of the Red River. Clinton, through his lawyers, denies any knowledge. No advantage.

Ability to Communicate With Other Nationalities: Bush speaks fluent Spanish. Clinton gets money from people who speak Chinese. Advantage — Clinton.

George W. Clinton or Bill Bush?



Abraham Lincoln: Bush knows Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. Clinton knows Lincoln's bedroom brings in big bucks from contributors. It is important to know your history, so the advantage belongs to Bush.

Vice Presidents: Bush does not even have the Republican nomination yet, so he has no selection. Clinton has Gore. Advantage — Bush.

Red Badges of Shame: Bush has admitted that he drank quite a bit during his youth. He has since changed his ways. President Clinton has been impeached for lying under oath and obstructing justice, but does not see this to be a very big deal. Advantage — Bush.

To this point in time, Bush has at least shown himself to be a decent human being who believes in most of what he says.

He has also not disgraced the office that he has held with his personal proclivities. Many Americans, whether they sup-

ported impeachment or not, were embarrassed by what was revealed during Clinton's scandal. The best way to prevent a repeat performance is to elect someone who probably would not act so foolishly.

As a result, morality and the personal integrity of the candidates has become one of the most important issues in the 2000 Presidential Campaign.

The reason for this can be traced right back to William Jefferson Clinton and his actions.

George W. Bush has come up with very high marks on this issue in the eyes of the public and has translated that into a commanding lead in the polls.

Bush — a Clinton clone?

Maybe it would be wiser for Clinton to be a Bush clone. After all, this seems to be the new route to the White House.

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