en-age girl

than just skin deep.

earth these secrets.

Sunday's finish was overly reminiscent of the

ung female demographic

spond and visit with 12 girls in

small suburban town to un-

confronted with the usual

en-age stereotypes — boy-

ere so unwaveringly adult in

was so adult in some aspects it

How can it be that 14- and

ents not only in college but

ecifically the students of A&M?

A reader might venture to an-

ons as over-achievers that lends

nem to the comparison. Or that

e similarities are simply a mu-

To an extent, the reader

ge girls and A&M students

exhibit an affinity for achieve-

would be right. Many teen-

ual youth and exuberance.

wer that it is the girls' reputa-

Upon reading the article, one

— the likenesses are more

OPINION

round gar

teams that recefirst round.
for the first \$8 reserved segeneral admission to general admission as on-ticket holders today to resent son seats. Texas asses are not valid. asses are not val the volleyball laylor University A side from the ocdnesday has casional 6 p.m. to acq "whoop" that wanting to attend sounds like it

(little similarities between a and the student population of exas A&M. But do not be mis-

hout breaking 70. iust a matter of time According to Rolling Stone
1 to be patient and agazine, there is a "secret" life
1 game so that w d, I could start was sent out to interact, correnal round of the Express Champio emembered for iple bogey on hit shots like Hog craziness, an eagerness to t like Jean Van de please, a sometimes-desperate by one stroke, indeed for attention. However, ff the green and many of the girls' behavioral Woods was som characteristics went far beyond o walk off the gree stereotypes, if only because they Jimenez fell to nature. In fact, their behavior

a may have ove behavior of college students. pest streak in 46 ye 15-year-old girls can act like stupromise

R WOODS

ie to

ment. And it is also true that with his tremendous (college students have the ds has a wide selection good fortune to be young, good sense when to

ast six months. uck a 9-iron all the green.

would have been a 6-iron from 156 children's literature. cactly the macho

64. That would ha l boggling," Jim Funt Hogwart's.

ds ever played.

YOU FOR 9 GREAT E SPECIALIZE EXTRAORDIN

EarthArt lov. 5 column.

(questions?-e-mail us al

newcar@varsity-ford.com

what they want out of life. But these only superficially answers the question and sounds strangely like a bad Aggie joke - what's the difference between a teen-age girl

and an A&M student? The answer: maybe fewer

than one would think. Initially, one notices the talk of conformity that permeates both the worlds — teen-age girls and A&M students. Both groups speak of individualism in the face of conformity but almost unanimously conform to fit the standard. Sometimes both teens and students are innocently unaware of their eventual conformity.

Teenage girls value individual uniqueness but cling to trends.

"Most of [the girls] weren't fully aware of how pervasive [the need to conform] was as they blithely chatted about cele-brating individuality, while wearing the same flared jeans and Adidas shell-toed sneakers," Dunn said.

It is fairly the same with A&M students. There is a look about campus — a style, or theme to the clothing, and a uniformity of colors and brands that is rarely found outside of cliques, whether teen-age or not.

No one says, "you must

dress like this to be noticed, accepted or loved," but one almost senses it. Style and trends are always arbitrary. The enactment of those trends are not, however, which is what pushes people to ward conformity. Though many students think differently and imagine

they are original in their outlook, that rarely goes beyond the mind. People may think differently at A&M — to a point - but they do not usually look different. Another significant similarity between teen-age girls and students at the University is

optimism. Most students here are excited, but a little scared about the future that looms after graduation. It is the same for young girls. They know so much of the world but have yet to experience it — all they are sure

of is that one cannot be sure

of anything. If that does not

describe the typical college

student's fears about life after

the prevalence of a cautious

ERIC ANDRAOS/THE BATTALION college, what would? And both young girls and many of A&M's female college students, specifically, feel that the days of serious protest are

over, as far as feminism goes. Both seem to think feminism is a remnant of a pitiable history that they will never have to face. Because their mothers fought all the hard battles, the teen-age girls and college students already have a sense of female empowerment.

them, seems overbearing now. Perhaps teen-age girls and college students are not exactly alike, but they are all heading down the same path, and dealing with the same insecurities. All worry about sex, disease, pollution, the economy and future jobs.

But noticing the similarities between the two groups might just help all to understand Our problems are their problems — solving them together might just be easier than trying to work through them apart.

Beverly Mireles is a junior

each other just a little bit more.

Feminism, for

Popular Harry Potter novels wrongly attacked

uck a 9-iron all of fascinating au-he 17th. True, he was thor. After writthe wind and the ing the first of her wound up in the now-famous Harry ls' took two extra Potter books while off the ball and living on welfare in for a tricked ing has shot to starm in the world of

Harry Potter's adventures have ound his middle caused flurries of activity in bookstores shot into a sever **as** the books have flown to the top the 14th that set three spots of *The New York Times*

ocked down a 3-48 Bestsellers' List. But as happens all too often, relitee into more congious zealotry has marred what would fect angle into the otherwise be excellent writing. For those readers who have not read so went high and Harry Potter books, they are about a om 196 yards on young orphan named Harry Potter who good was Wools sent to live with his resentful aunt Until he caught and uncle after his parents are killed reaks, he was heady he is to be sent to Hogwart's School of an 11 strokes between the hard wizardry, and the rest

of the books follow Harry's schooling can't believe how a The magic involved is the root of "Lee Westwood the problem for many protesting the Price, who played ooks. Many religious groups have on Sunday, said condemned Harry Potter books as danma under those of erously close to witchcraft.

ave been one of the These groups feel the books may inite children to dabble in the occult und eventually fall into evil. Infortunately, these religious

groups are making a critical error in their thinking. The fundamentalist Christians who make up these groups have made the all-too-com-

mon mistake of thinking di chotomously. Dichotomous thinkers see only two possibilities in

The most insidious attitude associated with dichotomous thinking is that if someone is not in favor of something, he or she must be against it.

a situation.

But that thinking is wrong. There is a fundamental, albeit technical, difference between not liking liking it.

feelings. Disliking is a presence of negative feelings. Those who dislike also do not have

positive feelings and so do not like.

However, those who neither like nor

something and dis-Not liking is an absence of positive

MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

Almighty is well aware of the difference between not being for something and being actively against it. And while Christianity cannot sup-

port a non-Christian ideal, it seems it

cannot condemn a neutral item with-

dislike are stuck in no-man's land, con-

stantly being mischaracterized by both

Harry Potter falls squarely into this

While the idea of sorcery as a

good thing is not supported by

used in the books is not anti-

Christian doctrine, magic as it is

However, some Christians are

and are instead con-

demning Harry Pot-

ter's non-Christ-

ian use of magic

as anti-Christ-

ian, dangerous

While

Christian

doctrine

makes a

point of creat-

ing a Christian/non-

Christian dichotomy,

Biblical lessons like

'hate the sin, love the

sinner" reveal the

and satanic.

refusing to recognize the neutrality

extremes as a supporter of the other,

when in reality they are neutral.

Christian either.

Instead of defending against anti-Christian behavior, these groups are attacking non-Christian behavior.

A parallel can be drawn between Harry Potter books and C. S. Lewis'

Chronicles of Narnia. In both cases magic is not explained away but is simply a part of the world the novels are set in. Like the Narnia books, written by the famously Christian Lewis, Harry Potter books have earned a reputation because of their adult sub-themes.

Narnia is an allegory for Christianity, with Aslan, the lion prince of the fantasy land, as the Christ figure. This mystical theme allows older readers to enjoy the stories on all of its levels. while children are drawn into the fan-

tasy of a realized, magical world. But by the definition of these religious groups, Lewis' Narnia books may incite children to dabble in the occult and eventually fall into evil.

There is a difference between what is right, what is wrong and what is on the sidelines of the rugby match that is religion in America. Leaving the field to tackle a spectator is not behavior to

be encouraged. All religions should learn this lesson, but Christians need to learn it before alienating their children from a series of books that can only enrich their kids' imaginations.

> Chris Huffines is a senior speech communication major.

Markets should fix health care

ach November the city of Bryan has its employees' health plan. This is the time when employees may make changes to their health insurance. It also is the time when the health-insurance company informs employees of coverage changes.



Many large employers use this practice it is not unique to the city. Neither is employees' expectations that the changes announced by the plan's operator mean one thing higher costs for fewer services

Years after Bill Clinton tried to reform the health-care system and discovered his feet were nailed to the floor, noise is again being made by Congress about reforming the health-care system. One wonders why legislators think 535 people could make a plan that most might agree with. Instead, it would seem that as the number of cooks rises, the chances of a palatable soup falls.

Government failed to reform health care eight years ago, and it will fail again. As government continues to grow and attempts to be all things to all people, failures like previous efforts to reform health care will become more common. People should realize government has limitations and take things like health-care reform into their own hands.

Government failed to reform health care eight years ago, and it will fail again.

The business of government is to make public policy and administer it. The business of government is not to micro-manage every sector of the U.S. economy. Every other business is driven by supply and demand. Why should health care be different? When the price of name-brand cigarettes rose precipitously, many smokers switched to generic brands. The resulting dip in profits led cigarette manufacturers to introduce promotions and sales for their products. What would happen if people switched their patronage from health-care providers with few benefits to health-care providers whose financial arrangements were more reasonable?

If the demand for high-dollar health plans plummets, those plans will have little choice but to give up some of their profits to retain, or regain, patients. Patients also should question their doctors' judgment about the kinds and number of tests, asking that they look for problems systematically instead of launching massive fishing expeditions costing thousands of dollars. Doing so would help make health-care costs more manageable.

One of the distinct disadvantages of the current health-care system is the lack of choice. Most people only can afford the health-care plan subsidized for them by their employer. Often these plans specify participants only may use "in-network" providers, who have agreed to a particular fee schedule. The family doctor who has cared for several generations of a family is an endangered species. As plans find new ways to cut costs, the single-practice physician finds the going Health-insurance companies are in busi-

ness to make money. Generally they try to charge the highest rates and exclude the largest number of illnesses possible. Companies also find ways to cut down on the amount they pay to providers. One common practice is to pay providers

slowly throughout the year. At the end of the plan's fiscal term, they offer providers a percentage of outstanding claims in return for immediate payment. The doctors are left with a choice between a smaller lump sum now or the prospect of spending months and workhours tracking and collecting outstanding claims. Understandably, many opt for the discounted payment.

The whole system encourages antagonism between providers and their patients. Each sees the other as the problem. Doctors and patients should unite in an effort to force health-care providers to institute fair and humane practices. It is hard to understand why these two groups miss the fact they are not each other's enemies and are both getting raw deals from insurance companies.

When the Coca-Cola company changed the formula of its main product in the early '80s, consumers gave them a clear message about who was boss. Doctors and patients have an ideal coalition. Insurance companies are supposed to serve both. When they wake up and find that their ex-clients have decided to leave them out of the loop, they will have to take notice.

Does the health-care delivery system need first aid? Certainly. Can the government fix it? Probably not, nor should they try. It is not the government's responsibility to right all the wrongs plaguing citizens. It is the responsibility of the citizens to refuse to be abused.

Ann Hart is a senior English major.

Drowsy driving

POPETS - FOUNTAINS - WM PRETS - FOUNTAINS - TAPESTRES SACRED ART - TAPESTRES Standard that could prove David Lee does not provide t an accident occurred as a

HOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS Pe one you have proposed under Unfortunately a law such as

A person can be sued for negligence and the burden of proof is much less. Before we consider knee-jerk reactions to tragic events, we must first attempt to understand the limita-

tions of our legal system.

How does someone know that they are too tired to drive? A good defense attorney would destroy that argument in a criminal trial.

I am not trying to downplay cently occurred, but we must look for more effective solutions, instead of having the government pass more and

Are DWI laws effective? Tell

Aggies still never quit playing hard

In response to Al Lazarus' Nov. 8 column.

I would like to take my hat off to Al Lazarus, and then throw it back in his face just as he has thrown all of the football team's pride back in its face. There is nothing worse than picking up The Battalion every week and hearing

someone trash talk our own football team. Obviously, Lazarus doesn't know what the Twelfth Man or school spirit is

I came to this University all the way from Wyoming because of the tradition, and the fact that Aggies never quit.

I watched every second of pointed, yes, but I am not giv-

The team didn't give up either. Nothing made me and my friends prouder to be Aggies than when late in the fourth quarter I watched Ja'-Mar Toombs barrel down the field with no helmet on, fighting for extra yards, even while

knowing that the game was over. That is what it means to be an Aggie.

David Voorhees

editor. Letters must be 300 words or less phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy Letters may be submitted in person a O13 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call

College Station, TX 77843-1111

not enforceable

response to David Lee's

TVERD 6 HOLLOW LOND EVOND a reasonable doubt ect result from someone be-

w.varsityfordcstxlould not be enforced under ne legal burden of proof, "Beout our specials of ond a Reasonable Doubt" Rangers and Merculy what would be the probable NNLOAD COUP That is why our legal system for service specials as civil law. wned specials change ause? Droopy eyes?

We have enough laws that are not enforceable.

the tragic events which have re-

that to the thousands of families that lose people every year in drunken driving accidents.

MAIL CALL

Daniel Snow Class of '89

out hating the sinner.

the 37-0 loss to Nebraska this weekend. I was disaping up on the team

013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University

Campus Mail: 1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647