RTS IN BRIE

lay, November 29

s contin Battalion

coring w oring 92 poir ener to defe ate University A&M women's as hard-presse

rday, the Aggie atement as the Unimaginative game show plays down to viewers, motivating contestants with greed or a 103-52 vid me out of the 13-0 run and ma

points.

of the Year, lived

expectations w

think New York would arly 31-5 lead by Alearn to keep the loud, obent in the game oxious apes locked away. Howr, Regis Philbin is once again orward Prissy Judgeoning America's senses ies' early marking sensibilities with his "unique" r 16 points in grand of game-show fun.

Unfortunately, his new game

fter King Kong, one would

ones led the how, "Who Wants to be a Mil-ints, while A tonaire," has rocketed to the No. 3 spot in the boints. Wielsen ratings not by being novel, professional or 5, Big 12 Period Interesting but rather by pandering to the lowest mmon denominators of society.

rebounds and maybe unethical to rebounds and film while it would be illegal and maybe unethical to rebounds and film, Philbin and his "Who Wants to be a Milies outshot ionaire" game show must be stopped, for the fol-52.6 percent to owing reasons.

First, the name of the show is pandering and e marked the for^{pedantic.} Everyone who isn't as rich as Bill Gates or counterparts wants to be a millionaire. the Aggies have But as P. T. Barnum said, there's a sucker born)-point barrier ry minute. And "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" n win is the se s to a sucker every minute on the minute. gin of victory The title casts the show as a television lottery. while one has a better chance of being struck w lightning than winning the lottery, "Who anked Awants to be a Millionaire" evens the odds a bit.

th "Lifeline" phone calls and audience votes,

being on the john during a major earthquake.

Millionaire" is "Jeopardy" without the preten-

us, smart people and that weird answer-estion thing, "Who Wants to be a Million-

funny celebrities.

And while some may say "Who Wants to be a

" is more like "Hollywood Squares" without

Even more demeaning are the questions geared

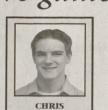
vard people with IQs just below household pets.

Cycloneme now has the same chance of winning money ranked Aggies de IS State 5-3, 15-6, 15-5t SUC-

ason story s fing 12 runtheir inish nfervhile

s also posted a ord at homethiss first for A&M. game of the disposed less than 1 &M posting centage 00.

s jumped to second game called a time te managed eld the Aggies s before Stri locker Woolsey end the game off to a slows ne, but slowly



HUFFINES

or how many teaspoons are in a tablespoon may be worth \$200, but even as a stepping stone to \$1 million they are fairly silly.

challenge would be nice.

Worst of all, the show is just slow and not entertaining. It uses expensive "Intellilights," the kinds found in major Broadway theaters, to execute one repetitive, annoying, futile effect.

It may be challenging for the contestants — af-

Asking contestants to name the capital of Iraq

ter all, stress does make it hard to think - but a

OPINION

Money for nothing

The set is minimalist at best, and not in an artistic way. It takes Philbin and the judges seconds that stretch into an eternity to determine if answer "A," "B," "C" or "D" is correct.

And Philbin...well, Philbin just is not gameshow host material. Even slaving away with cohost Kathie Lee Gifford, Philbin is too much.

In "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," it is all Philbin, all the time. He lacks the poise and polish of Alex Trebek or Pat Sajak or even Jimmy Kimmell. Being less skilled than the host of "The Man Show" and "Win Ben Stein's Money" is just sad

But Philbin is well-known. He has "star power." Never mind his particular brand of star power is more like a black hole, sucking good taste into another dimension.

But Joe Six-pack, Joe Joint and Mary Jane Homebody all know who he is, and is that not more important than quality?

'Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is trash, and it should not be allowed to continue in its present form. Philbin should be barred from walking into a television studio, much less hosting a television show.

> Chris Huffines is a senior speech communication major.

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ROBERT HYNECEK/THE BATTALION

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Sanctions against Afghanistan persecute blameless civilians

fghanistan and its **A**people have suffered too much already. Twenty years of non-CAESAR stop civil war RICCI has left millions of

Afghans dead, displaced or utterly impoverished. Furthermore, the Taliban, the fanatical group that controls most of

the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to help prop up a disintegrating communist regime. For 10 years, Americanbacked mujahedeen, or Muslim holy warriors, fought tenaciously to drive the occupying Soviet Red Army off their soil. Roughly one million Afghans were killed in the fighting, and another three million fled to refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

The Soviets' retreat from Afghanistan in 1989 did not denied all rights. Creating a system of gender apartheid, Taliban forces have prohibited women from going to school, working or even leaving their homes without the accompaniment of a male relative.

The Taliban also have imposed a strict dress code for women under which women must cover themselves completely from head to feet, with only slits in front of their eyes to allow them to see.

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A&M men's **Project illustrates** bened their h two games **students' charity**

know college students strong statt ometimes are called self-abong rallies, Aborbed, said to be looking out

y for themselves, but Project Marque Carliunshine proved these stereopoints and pes wrong this past weekend. ded 21 from The Aggie chapter of Project to lead A&T unshine traveled to Texas Chiln's Hospital in Houston and d by freshmanrew a wonderful fall carnival r the children.

al Gilchrist of the children. points and The smiles on the kids' ces, as well as the laughter were outreveard on the playground, told d gave up 15 hat a great time they were hav-A&T, compared uccess due to the planning on

credit - the roject Sunshine's part. s, and we nese college students who took th any off me out of their busy schedules &M senior a entertain children who needto take their minds off of the ay its second ospital, if just for a few hours. in Denton | I was truly proud to call myof North elf an Aggie that day. .m.

Thank you again to Project unshine for all your hard and ication to the children of xas Children's Hospital.

Kyra Barnett

Class of '99

NNY BRO located at e Hair Salo **Religious unity is** 5-4455 lever dangerous 20% discou

(Westgate (near Barracu

d.

In response to Stephanie Dube's with this ad, 17 column. 4321 Welborr

his article about the dangers

MAIL CALL

of religious unity is not backed up with objective proof. One analogy that she used was the situation with Galileo's persecution for believing that the Earch revolved around the sun.

Dube said that "if Galileo had been willing to water down his knowledge for the sake of unity, truth would have been lost."

But Galileo did recant his beliefs after bringing out his theory, and today people believe that the earth revolves around the sun. The truth did not get lost.

Also, the Phantom Menace and Matrix analogy is completely irrelevant to this discussion of religious unity

This seems to suggest that by having religious unity, not only would truths more than likely not be lost, but we would also have peace and tolerance between different religions (no more religious wars), which would be a benefit.

It would be wise, in the future, for Dube to make sure all of her facts and analogies are straight and relevant to the discussion, for a writer's credibility is in question if she distorts or mistakes intended evidence for her claims.

> Marc Willis Class of '03

Aggie family caring, dignified in tragedy

I am an "Old Ag" living halfway around the world, in Okinawa Japan. I have watched first with horror, then with pride as the events of last week unfolded.

have cried tears for those who have fallen, and prayed prayers for the families at this difficult time.

I have sat and listened with pride as students and University officials alike try to explain to others our traditions and what it means to be a part of the Texas A&M family.

You have demonstrated dignity, caring, and love, to the "outside" world at a time when it can be difficult to be under such extreme scrutiny.

I am a fourth generation Aggie and have always been proud to be a part of Texas A&M.

Thank you for giving me even more reason to wear my Aggie ring with pride and know there is no other place in the world quite like Texas A&M.

> Lezlae Frazier Grubb Class of '89

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and in-clude 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 Mc-Donald with a valid student ID. Letters may also

The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111

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Aignanistan, maintains a state of terror that includes gross oppression and abuse of Afghan women. Now, adding insult to injury, the already devastated people of Afghanistan face international sanctions because the Taliban refuses to stop harboring suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire opposed to the United States' Middle Eastern policy, is wanted for allegedly bombing two American embassies in 1998. The United States has demanded he be extradited and is largely responsible for the United Nations' imposition of economic sanctions. While the United States insistence on bringing a possible terrorist to justice is warranted, now is not the

turing bin Laden. Instead, the world should be trying to stop Afghanistan's civil war, which may soon create a humanitarian disaster. According to U.N. humanitarian director for Afghanistan Eric de Mul, warfare between the Taliban and opposition forces has trapped thousands of refugees, who are now in danger of dying of hunger, disease and freezing weather as winter approaches.

right time to focus on cap-

A ceasefire is necessary to provide refugees with desperately needed relief, and sanctions are likely to endanger the already volatile peace process, thus jeopardize the lives of countless innocent civilians

Sanctions also will hurt efforts to improve the Taliban's appalling treatment of women by further polarizing and isolating Afghanistan from the world community. The United States should sacrifice its immediate desire for revenge for long-term considerations of the welfare of Afghans.

Afghanistan's people have been tortured by war. In 1979,

mean an end to the terrors of war for ordinary Afghans.

The diverse ethnic factions which pulled together to oust the U.S.S.R. soon turned on themselves in a struggle for power. It was in the midst of corruption and lawlessness that the now-infamous Taliban was swept into power.

Sanctions draw attention away from the most serious problems in Afghanistan and will unfairly punish the already suffering civilian population.

Backed by Pakistan and drawing its members from Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, the Pashtuns, the Taliban initially won the people's respect for restoring enough stability in the country for commerce to be re-established.

Soon Taliban forces gained control of 90 percent of Afghanistan.

Then the true nature of the Taliban reared its ugly head.

It became apparent the Taliban's grip on power would be maintained through intimidation and terror.

Members of Taliban claim to be building a pure Islamic state, yet their actions have enraged and disgusted much of the world's Muslim community.

Worst of all is the terrible crime the Taliban has committed against Afghanistan's 12 million women. According to Amnesty International, women, who once had limited freedom in Afghanistan society, now are

The Taliban's "morality enforcers" publicly beat and humiliate women who are found to be breaking their stringent moral edicts.

Most devastating to women, however, has been the segregation of health services.

The Taliban have forbidden women to be treated by male doctors, while at the same time preventing most female doctors and nurses from working

Special hospitals have been created for women in which services are wholly inadequate. Amnesty International reports Afghanistan now has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.

It is important for the Western world to understand the Taliban's treatment of women is opposed to the principles of Islam, which espouses equality and development for women.

Rather, the Taliban's actions are an extension of a historically chauvinistic culture and are a means of asserting dominance over Afghanistan's population.

The danger of economic sanctions is that they will be used by the Taliban to justify their harsh policies in the name of resisting 'imperialistic powers" out to see the country fail, much as leaders in Iraq and Cuba have done.

Sanctions draw attention away from the most serious problems in Afghanistan and will unfairly punish the alreadysuffering civilian population.

Peace is what Afghanistan needs most.

Once peace is made and Afghanistan has an official government, it will be easier to improve the condition of women in Afghanistan.

And for the United States, the prospects of capturing Bin Laden, America's most wanted man will be brighter.

> Caesar Ricci is a junior plant and soil science major.