

Nothing like a good spanking

Lack of parental guidance, not exposure to violence, responsible for violent children

Corporal punishment has been in the forefront of parental rights for many years now. Parents, teachers and doctors have been debating whether spanking causes violent behavior in children.



BRIANNE PORTER

A new study by Zero to Three, a non-profit child-development organization, found that 61 percent of parents surveyed believe spanking a child is an effective form of discipline.

For many experts, this finding is frightening. This survey also brings another question to mind — is this an indication of America's violent nature?

It seems America's violent inclinations do not come from seeing violence, but from a lack of parental guidance.

America's violent tendencies have come under fire in many arenas of public life. Politicians in Washington, D.C., fought for stricter regulation of the video game industry. A rating system has since been put in place for the industry.

But according to a study done by the Australian government on America's violent video games, "The accumulating evidence does indicate that it is very hard to find [undesirable] effects and that they are unlikely to be substantial."

Yet, many people still argue these games are another bad influence on America's youth. Like corporal punishment, these games can cause youths to

lash out at parents and other students. At least that is what many people would like the American public to believe.

Since 1994, the juvenile crime rate has fallen steadily, while video game sales have increased 100 percent. The link between video games and violence is weak.

These experts also point their fingers at the movie industry. Experts advocate that Hollywood is to blame for these acts of violence.

In September, the Senate Commerce Committee invited the heads of major movie studios to testify about their marketing practices.

Since 1994, the juvenile crime rate has fallen steadily, while video game sales have increased 100 percent. The link between video games and violence is weak.

This action triggered the current debate over whether movies that have adult content such as sex and violence are aimed at younger children.

While some senators warned that the industry needs to clean up its act or it will become more regulated, parents need to take more active roles in their children's lives.

If America's youth had strong role models, the movie industry would not

be a problem. These role models would have an active part in children's lives.

Some experts, such as Dr. Kyle Pruett, professor of psychiatry at Yale University's Child Study Center, said spanking increases violent acts and causes children to become aggressors.

Many people believe that violence does not result from violent acts, but from the absence of positive role models.

With more parents working and more single-parent families, children look to older teen-agers for role models.

America's youth violence does not stem from video games, movies or from spanking, but from a lack of parental involvement.

Many parents are not there for their children and are not involved in their children's lives.

The experts do not need to look for what is to blame for the violent tendencies, but a better way to solve the problems of violence.

Studies have shown that Americans are not refraining from spanking their children just because the experts say so.

If parents want to discipline their children they will; expert advice has not changed that.

What will solve some of these violent tendencies is stronger role models and a more interactive family setting for America's youth.

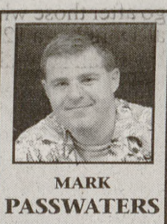
Brianne Porter is a sophomore chemical engineering major.



RICH HORNE/THE BATTALION

Bordering on blasphemy Proposed cloning of Jesus ridiculous, unjustified

The issue of cloning is one that has evoked strong emotions from the scientific community and society as a whole.



MARK PASSWATERS

The ethics of cloning human beings has been heavily debated, and a great deal of society opposes it.

Many feel that the creation of human beings should only happen through the natural process, "as God had intended."

If cloning humans is out, how about cloning the individual who more than a billion people consider to be God himself?

It should be common sense that, if cloning people is morally, and ethically wrong, cloning deities is not such a bright idea, either.

Still, a group of people out there is interested in cloning Jesus Christ.

The group, which calls itself "Second Coming Project," is interested in seeing how Jesus would make out in this day and age.

What causes this bunch of scarecrows to want to play with fire?

"I think it will bring about world peace," said one member of the group.

Are these people illiterate? The return of Jesus will not be all happy-happy joy-joy.

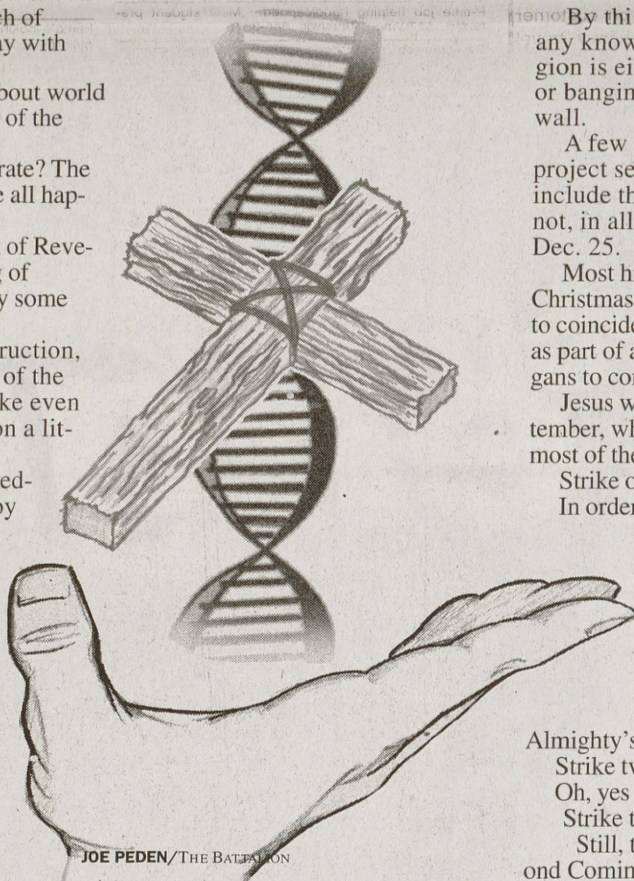
According to the book of Revelation, the second coming of Christ will be preceded by some pretty nasty stuff.

Death, universal destruction, famine and annihilation of the unjust are enough to make even the most laid-back person a little nervous.

The project's time schedule calls for completion by Dec. 25, 2001, so Jesus II can be born "exactly" 2,000 years after Jesus.

The carrier of the child will be artificially inseminated, so the conception will be immaculate.

The project goes on to state that it is not a requirement for the mother of Jesus II to be a virgin.



JOE PEDEN/THE BATTALION

By this point, anyone who has any knowledge of Christian religion is either laughing out loud or banging his head against the wall.

A few small problems that the project seems to have overlooked include the fact that Jesus was not, in all likelihood, born on Dec. 25.

Most historians agree that Christmas was placed on that date to coincide with the winter solstice as part of a deal to get English pagans to convert to Christianity.

Jesus was probably born in September, when the Romans held most of their tax censuses.

Strike one. In order for a conception to be immaculate, a woman's womb must be untouched. Using a device to inject sperm, "holy" or otherwise, does not qualify as a substitute for the

Almighty's will. Strike two. Oh, yes ... was not Mary a virgin? Strike three, you're out. Still, the members of the Second Coming Project are undeterred.

They are convinced they can get Christ's DNA off the Shroud of Turin or some other holy symbol that might hold a piece of hair or a drop of blood from the original Jesus.

Scientists scoff at the possibility of obtaining DNA from any such object that has been subjected to extreme heat and varying climates, which would contaminate DNA strands.

Further, the scientists note, this contamination can happen in a matter of weeks. Note to Second Coming Project: it has been 2,000 years.

Theologians doubt that the DNA would do any good, as how does one get the genetic material for the guy who created genetic material in the first place?

To put this idea in simpler terms, it is dumber than New Coke.

It is highly debatable that people have the ability to clone another human being at this time, much less the one whose father is responsible for the start of the universe.

Even if they do, society will not accept the jump from goats to gods.

Speaking of those unwilling to

accept such activities... how about God himself? Odds are, the Second Coming Project will not meet with favor in the eyes of all.

It is highly presumptuous, even in the mind of a skeptical believer in Christianity, to think that humans should dare tread on territory that should be clearly marked: God's. — Keep Out.

According to the Old Testament, man tried stepping on God's toes once before with the Tower of Babel.

That went about as well as a New Kids on the Block reunion tour.

Trying to clone his son would likely evoke a far stronger response.

In the face of tremendous odds and massive outcry, the Second Coming Project keeps working on what it considers to be a noble cause.

There is a chance, albeit slim, that it might succeed.

In that case, people need to get their sinning out of the way quickly.

They have 34 years until they are called on the carpet.

Mark Passwaters is a senior electrical engineering major.

Mail Call

Satire missed in column

In response to Oct. 18 Mail Call. Two letters were printed Wednesday in what seemed to be outrage that the rights guaranteed in the Constitution could be taken away from stupid people. My first reaction was, "Could people actually read an article that was so filled with hyperbole, extreme examples and satire and believe it to be true?" I also pondered if these critics did not laugh even once while reading the column. These letters were even more absurd in their chastisement of *The Battalion* — the column in question plainly stated that what was to follow was satire. It even ended saying that this article should not be taken seriously. True satire would have never stated that it was satire because humor is an individual response. But because readers were warned of the impending burlesque and then took it as a serious piece, this is the perfect commentary of the world today. Please, read the entire article before writing a scathing response. Be sure it is written in jest or as a serious piece before responding.

Jason Cole
Class of '03

Bennyhoff's column on Oct. 16 was well written, I thought. It was fairly true about Americans, no matter how offensive it was to some people. It is rhetorical satire meant to

be extreme — like a Dennis Miller rant. I think the kind of people that he is talking about who disrespect their freedom of speech are people like the ones who wrote in Wednesday.

It seems to me that people are hoarding their mail calls to *The Battalion* staff so they can sound more intelligent than the next. You only responded to his "pseudo-intellectual rambling" with one of your own. I hope you got the satisfaction of flashing the clipping to all of your friends, bragging how "you showed him."

There seems to be an awful lot of mail calls with people just correcting the staff at *The Battalion*.

Jeff Leins
Class of '04

Location of photo offends

In response to Oct. 18 photograph. Can *The Battalion* be any more tasteless? They printed a story about an Ebola virus outbreak next to a photo of a clown! What kind of a message is *The Battalion* aiming for?

Paul Springer
Class of '97

Bars are not responsible

In response to Eric Dickens' Oct. 17 column. I think the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) is forgetting the mean-

ing of self-responsibility. Northgate bars have hundreds of people come in and out of their doors every night.

It is apparent that both Wagener and his friends knew they were doing wrong while drinking that night because they were the ones who were sneaking drinks to each other.

Does that mean that they should be held accountable since they were the ones breaking the laws?

It is a common sight for a friend who is of legal age to purchase a drink at the bar, walk out of sight and then pass the drink off to one of their younger friends.

Bartenders are supposed to be able to tell when people come to the bar after too many drinks and that is when those people should be cut off.

However, bartenders cannot always make a drink and then watch to see where that person goes to drink it or if it even stays in that person's hands.

When are people going to stop pointing fingers when they do something wrong and take responsibility for their own actions.

Why does not TABC or the College Station Police Department take responsibility for what happened that night?

It is almost like there are more of them in the bars nowadays than there are people enjoying themselves.

Ryan Mills
Class of '02

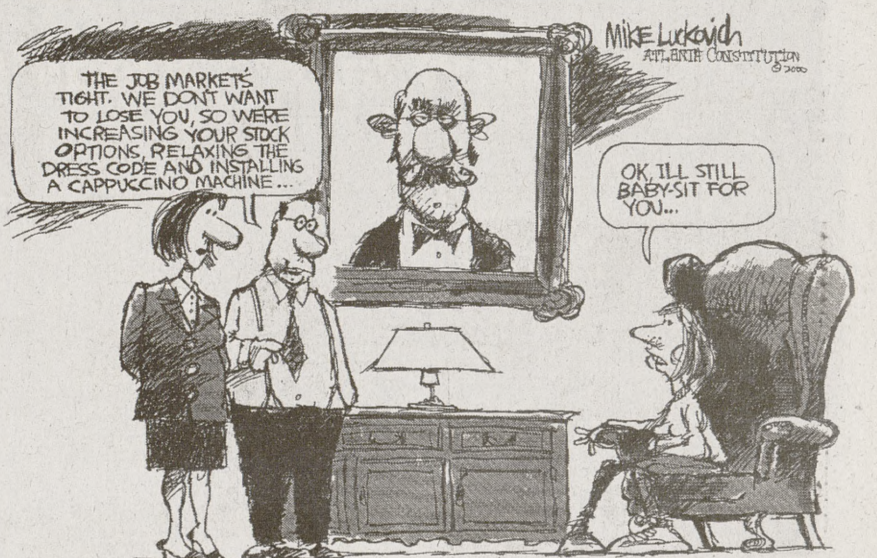
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