

# OPINION

THE BATTALION

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## Bush denying children

President to cut \$7 billion from No Child Left Behind Act, which he introduced

It is undeniable in today's world that education is the silver bullet. Receiving a college degree has become the means for maintaining a good job, whereas only decades ago, a high school diploma was the standard. Yet children in our country are not receiving an appropriate secondary-level or even primary-level education. This problem calls for attention and aid from the federal government, but President George W. Bush and his administration are not answering the call.



JOHN DAVID BLAKLEY

child should be left behind and fall short of achieving an acceptable education, he must follow his words with action. The federal government must collaborate with states, many of which are scouring to find financial stability and in turn cutting from education along the way, as well as communities to provide adequate education for our children. The

states obviously cannot handle the task of educating the youth of our country single-handedly.

Bush told Congress and the American people in his Jan. 28 State of the Union address that "We must work together to fund only our most important priorities."

According to The Las Vegas Review Journal, the president is expected to propose shifting the Head Start program to the U.S. Department of Education. Head Start was founded in the early 1970s to serve the child development needs of preschool children and their low-income families. If the program is moved, it is bound to lose funding and many of its strong points, including nutrition, vaccinations, and most importantly, parent training. Apparently Bush doesn't consider these factors priorities. According to the Head Start Web site, parents of children involved in the Head Start program reported positive changes in their lives concerning their children, an increase in knowledge of available social services, and a decrease in negative attitudes toward public schools.

Reaching parents is the key to reaching the children of America who are not receiving the education and resources they need. By giving parents the tools to raise their children in a well-informed, nourishing manner, children receive a full upbringing in which their most important resource remains their parents. Parents should not lose their voice in their children's early education, but at the same

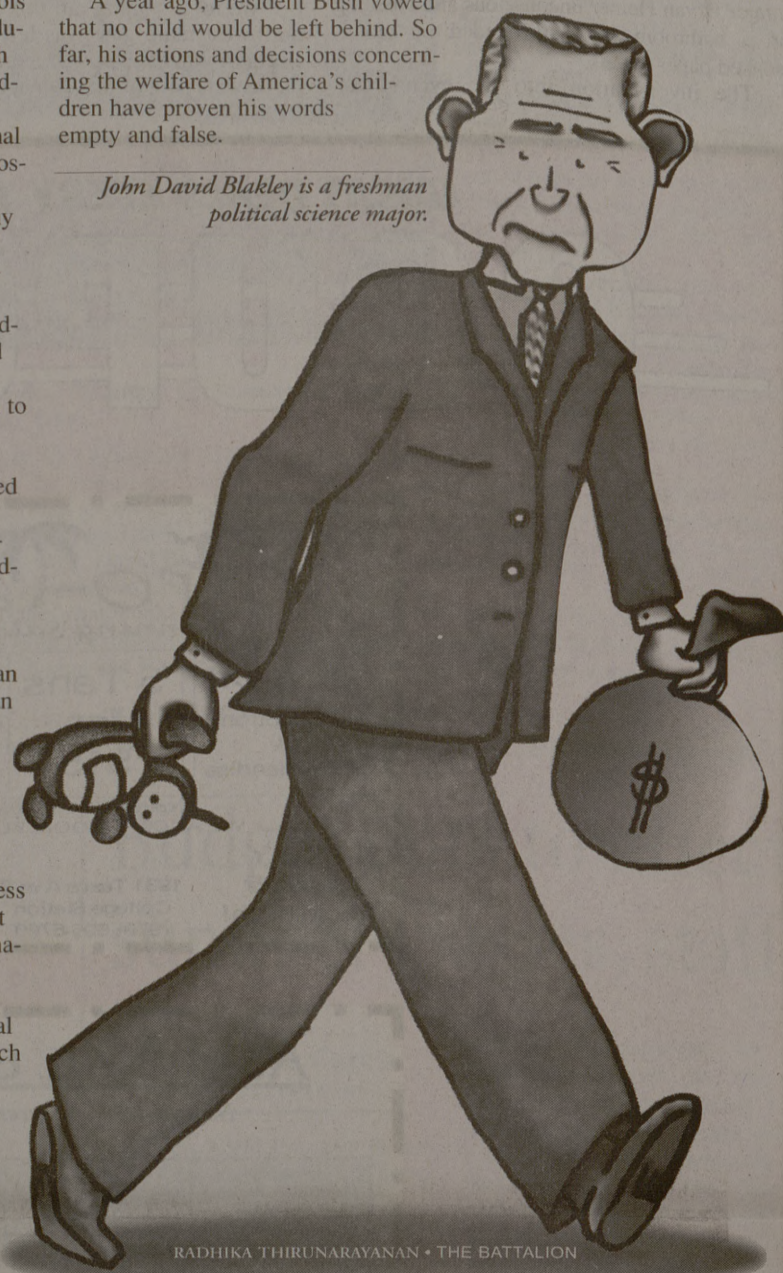
time, parents should have the proper tools to provide their children with a solid education. Head Start provides parents with these tools, but only as long as it is funded by our national government.

According to the Democratic National Committee Web site, Bush is also proposing to freeze federal funding for the essential program Healthy Start. Healthy Start works to reduce low birth weight, inadequate prenatal care, and other factors contributing to infant mortality. Despite his proposal to discontinue funding of this program, Bush clearly stated in his State of the Union address his desire for Congress to pass a resolution to end what he calls "partial-birth" abortions, more properly termed late-term abortions. These abortions are performed in the unfortunate circumstances of a severe brain retardation, brain deformation, or death of the fetus, or when childbirth poses a high risk to the life of the mother. Bush has made it apparent that his agenda includes the end of the woman's right to choose in general. If an administration is willing to tell a woman she does not have the right to decide whether to have a child, how can that administration justify cutting a program such as Healthy Start? Bush's administration cannot remain adamant about restricting a woman's right to choose and still be taken seriously unless it is willing to implement programs that give mothers the means to provide prenatal care for their children.

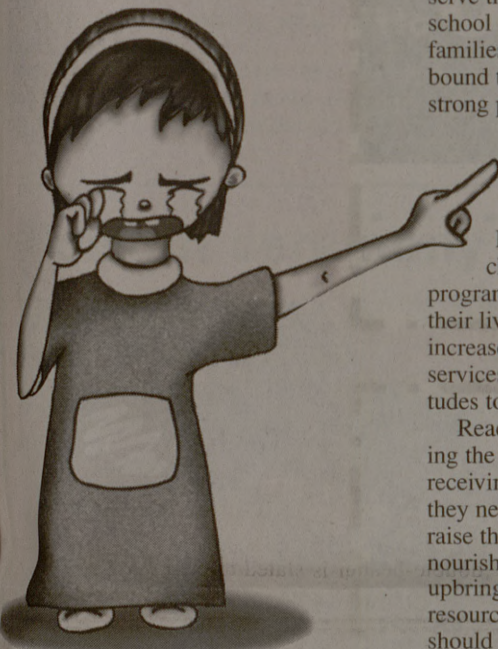
According to the Las Vegas Review Journal, the cost of Bush's controversial stock dividend tax cut alone, a cut which is inarguably partial to the wealthiest Americans, could provide comprehensive health coverage for all 9.2 million uninsured American children, and could provide Head Start for all unserved eligible pre-schoolers in need of the services. Clearly, under Bush's tax cut proposal, children will lose the most.

A year ago, President Bush vowed that no child would be left behind. So far, his actions and decisions concerning the welfare of America's children have proven his words empty and false.

John David Blakley is a freshman political science major.



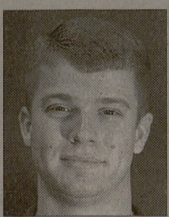
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## Sharpton not fit to be president

Political disasters define career

Al Sharpton, a man who has marched alongside picketers as they shouted anti-Semitic epithets, according to Jewish World Review, has officially declared he is seeking the Democratic Nomination for President in 2004. "Al who?" some might be asking, but Sharpton is a well-recognized figure from New York City whose only agenda is to further his political influence while paying lip service to the disenfranchised.



MATT CHESHER

black politicians and the boxing promoter Don King, according to Newsday. He was also jailed for 90 days after trespassing on federal property during protests of the U.S. Navy bomb tests on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques. He protested with a hunger strike, which supposedly showed support for the people of Puerto Rico, but it was just another headline grabbing sideshow.

According to the Washington Post, Sharpton has never held any public office and is the first black to seek the Democratic nomination since Jesse Jackson in 1984. The only positive thing that can be said of Sharpton running for president is that he is a minority face among a sea of rich white men.

Africana.com correctly suggests that Sharpton's true reason for running for president is to gain an advantage within the Democratic Party and to even displace Jesse Jackson as the top black power broker.

Compared to great civil rights activists of the past such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sojourner Truth, Sharpton is a shallow racial opportunist. The Democratic Party will have to do better if it hopes to overcome Bush in 2004.

Matt Cheshier is a senior economics major.

It's a sad joke that (Al Sharpton) is aspiring to hold the same noble office as Lincoln, Roosevelt and Reagan. The Rev. Al Sharpton thrust himself upon America's political scene in the late 1980s with the case of Tawana Brawley. Brawley, according to USA Today, falsely claimed to have been kidnapped and raped by several white assailants as a teenager. Sharpton was the high profile adviser to the Brawley family who even accused prosecutor Steven Pagnones of taking part in the rape. Pagnones successfully sued Sharpton for defamation, receiving \$65,000 in damages.

Sharpton never retracted the charges or apologized for his actions. Al Sharpton, even today, will not admit that he was wrong and that his thoughts of being a glorious civil rights crusader clouded his judgement.

The reverend has been an FBI informant against mobsters, several

### Battalion coverage needs work

I find it interesting that the editors of The Battalion could not completely put two articles about a national tragedy into the paper, yet they were able to fit a full article about the Olsen twins not coming to Texas A&M on the front page.

If there's a more credible source of news in Texas, I haven't found it.

Matt Norman  
Class of 2002

Half of The Battalion's front page articles continue on page NOWHERE.

Believe it or not, today (and everyday) is an important newsday, and this type of mistake happens frequently.

At least once a week, I cannot find the continuation of at least one article.

It was silly of me to think I could rely on a daily newspaper to cover this weekend's national tragedy. If The Battalion is going to

publish a paper, it must do it correctly.

This isn't a time to put forth "C" effort on what should be an "A" paper. I know you may not get paid or treated like professionals, but you never will provided this is the caliber of product you deliver.

Aleisha Perrod  
Class of 2003

What do a University President, a Texas Senator and all the Class Council Presidents have in common? They have all had to defend themselves against a student publication in the past three weeks.

I am glad they have written in, because when I have turned to the back page in The Battalion, I have seen that I am not the only one on this campus who thinks the Battalion reports the news with an inordinate amount of spin.

Most stories read just fine without the sensationalism that is regularly added by The Battalion's writers.

Please stop publishing a

tabloid and writing it off as a newspaper.

John Boehm  
Class of 2005

### First Amendment also for celebrities

I find irony in reading a column that tells adults simply because they are famous, that they should not be protected by the First Amendment and should just shut up. The irony is not in the blatant disregard for our fundamental rights, but for the fact that it is coming from a college student.

The article blasts various artists for taking a stance against war with Iraq from someone who is pandering to George W. Bush and the other chicken-hawks in his administration.

People must stand up for the rights that were given to us by the founders of our country and stop nonsense like this. From the U.S.A. Patriot Act to the Total Information Awareness program, our civil liberties are

being trampled at the federal level, and now we have to read an article condoning such egregious injustices.

McCarthyism in The Battalion, laughable yes, but obviously this article goes down that road.

Justin Hill  
Class of 2004

### Forum nothing but rhetoric

The TAMU Christian Faculty Network claims that the purpose of their Veritas Forum is "the pursuit of truth." I attended Dr. Fritz Schaefer's Forum talk, "The Big Bang, Stephen Hawking and God," on Monday night. The talk gave no evidence of any pursuit of truth, as least not of any scientific truth.

Rather, we were given a high school-level description of the Big Bang based on 20 to 50 year old documents and then treated to quotes from a half dozen well-known scientists and a few lame jokes.

The quotes were taken out of context so as to suggest that the quoted scientists believe in the Christian God, and it was strongly suggested that most scientists do. Some probably do, but not most, and not Stephen Hawking. Most scientists believe that scientific laws work at all times and in all places. They don't believe in miracles.

Toward the end of the talk, Dr. Schaefer got to his real message, the necessity of worshiping God through Jesus Christ. The selling of the Jesus message is appropriate in a Christian church but it is not appropriate in a public university lecture. Especially when it is disguised as a scientific talk in the pursuit of truth.

Bob Presley,  
Professor of Oceanography



MIKE LUKONICH