

## EDITORIAL

### HOWARD GRAVES

#### Epitome of the Aggie Spirit

Howard D. Graves lost his battle with cancer Saturday, and A&M lost a trailblazer and a friend. Graves should be remembered as a true asset to the University who selflessly served his country.

Two weeks ago, Graves resigned as chancellor of the Texas A&M System due to his failing health, but little did the student body know how severe his fight with cancer had become.

Graves graduated from West Point in 1961, and after studying at Oxford University in England, he served on active military duty until 1996. During this span he served as superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as well as assistant to the chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff William Crowe and Colin Powell. In 1999, Graves was appointed chancellor of the A&M System.

Graves worked until his dying day to help improve the lives of Aggies across the state. He created two new A&M campuses: Central Texas and San Antonio, which allowed more students a chance at receiving an education through the A&M System. He supervised the expansion of A&M's Health Science Center, which now includes five colleges of nursing at different A&M campuses. Without Graves, the A&M System would not be what it is today.

With these accomplishments, Graves solidified his place in Aggie history, but what makes Graves a true Rudder-esque legend is the way he worked.

"Howard Graves was the epitome of public service, a man who dedicated his entire life to giving back to others," said Gov. Rick Perry. Pastor Dwight Edwards of Grace Bible Church remembered Graves as a humble servant to the A&M System.

These are high praises from respected men that show how Graves truly exemplified the Aggie Spirit while improving A&M.

## THE BATTALION

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### MAIL CALL

#### Intelligent Design is a valid theory

In response to Midhat Farooqi's Sept. 15 column:

Mr. Farooqi's column fails to support his position that the fallibility inherent in the theory of evolution should not be included in high school texts. His discussion of the peppered moth experiments does not address the real issue: did the experimental techniques used taint the results found? The change in the moths did not represent a fundamental genetic restructuring. Simple mutation and natural selection do not produce the kinds of radical change forwarded by the evolutionary theory.

He also addresses Behe's thorough analysis of evolution. Whether or not Behe's theory is a conclusive argument for Intelligent Design is irrelevant. What matters is he points out many biological systems within the cell simply cannot be explained through evolution. This inability of evolution to explain certain cellular facts should be discussed within student texts.

Mr. Farooqi points out that an "intelligent person" would not design DNA with all the useless information present; however, Intelligent Design does not claim that an intelligent person is responsible for anything.

Evolution has many holes. Allowing students the freedom of thought and study around

this issue would be of great value to Texas education.

Stephen Addcox  
Class of 2005

#### Large vehicles are useful and safe

In response to Daniel Chapman's Sept. 15 feature:

There is plenty of use for cars the size of a Suburban or an Excursion. The first would be any business, especially maintenance services that uses the back portion for storage of equipment. Large families also have need for larger cars. I'm the oldest of five kids, and we tried a Ford Expedition once, it was too small. With the entire family in the car, we couldn't so much as go to the grocery store because there was no physical space left. Nothing smaller than a Suburban is practical.

Also there is the question of safety. I hope that I am never involved in an accident with fatalities, but I know that if I am in a serious accident, my F-150 gives me a greater chance of walking away from that than an economy car that gets 50 miles to the gallon. Gas may be expensive, and prices will continue to go up, but I can always make more money. My life is a little harder to replace.

Chris Farmer  
Class of 2004

# The naked truth

## Clubs pay tuition for female students who bare it all

As students at the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada, head to class this fall, that dreaded tuition bill will once again have to be paid. But for some students there is a new and nontraditional option for getting the money to pay the tab: stripping.

A local chain of strip clubs that exists both in Ontario and Michigan has posted an ad in the university's newspaper that reads, "We Pay Your Tuition." Robert Katzman, the owner and operator of the strip club chain, says his intentions are honorable. "We put an ad in the paper. If they want to call, that's up to them. There's nothing wrong with topless dancing ... especially if you're progressing in your life," Katzman said, according to the Ottawa Citizen.

Katzman should be credited for his technique in that he is, like any business, marketing employment to a population that is desirable for this line of work. However, a higher standard must be held when dealing with a public institution of higher learning. Seeking strippers in a college newspaper is inappropriate and detracts from the standards college students should seek to hold.

The function of a public university is to provide students with the necessary skills required for success in the real world. It is the university's obligation to provide a moral and intellectual environment to fulfill this function. Because of this obligation, the paper should refuse to take such ads. A simple advertisement recruiting employment for a lawful business is acceptable. Even at Texas A&M, a local strip club advertises employment opportunities. Katzman has obviously found an untapped resource to which he is trying to appeal.

Katzman sees nothing wrong with his tuition offer and believes he is offering students a reasonable and efficient employment opportunity that can help them pay for school. On top of the \$10 an hour rate the dancers make, students can receive \$1,500 to \$2,000 in tuition money upon employment, according to the Calgary Herald. This marketing technique used by Katzman is creative, but is inappropriate and misleading.

The reality is that many college students are skeptical and uncertain about their values. When combined with financial limitations, these immaturities can make a person quite susceptible to advertising schemes like Katzman's. The problem with this vul-



CHRIS LIVELY

nerability is that a student who otherwise would not even consider working in such a place could easily make an irrational decision.

The stigma society places on strippers and their work environments is expected given the line of work; strippers display their bodies as a piece of property for the public to see. It may be a legal and legitimate industry, but the strip club environment is really not one to be associated with academic excellence.

Not to say that there are no hard working individuals who make outstanding grades working in strip clubs, but the average newly-recruited stripper in college is probably more likely to get sidetracked in this sort of atmosphere. Offering scholarship money in a public university's newspaper is bound to attract at least a few people whose college success would be hindered by such an endeavor. If only one exposed student chooses and is negatively affected by this lifestyle, that is enough to outweigh all those who benefit financially.

While attempting to not only provide students with employment, Katzman intends to improve the image of his business by requiring that the students maintain a "B" average or higher, according to CNN.com. This measure is to ensure that strippers have not only good looks, but finely tuned intellectual minds. In turn, Katzman hopes this will make his strip club more reputable. It should be well known that good communication skills and reasoning abilities are not exactly high on the "How to be a Successful Stripper" checklist.

Katzman is a capitalist who wants more money. He cares about the well-being of his employees but does not consider the consequences such a job could have for certain individuals. His marketing scheme is misleading in that he is trying to portray his establishments as places of success and opportunity. He advertises that he will pay college tuition, but in fact is only paying part of it. He is using every legal means possible to attract any young and attractive potential employee he can.

Katzman has every legal right to advertise employment opportunities. However, he should try moving to another population rather than preying on young and financially desperate college students. He should also refrain from giving the college students the wrong idea about his industry. Stripping probably is not the best work experience for a college graduate to put on a resume.



MAHESH NEELAKANTAN • THE BATTALION

Chris Lively is a senior sociology major.

# CRACK harms children

## Children Requiring a Caring Kommunity fails to adequately address the real causes of drug addiction

One of the saddest social problems generated by substance abuse in this country is unwanted children who can have birth defects born to parents who are drug addicts. Such children must be cared for by the state or extended family and can have needs that are hard to care for. One woman, however, feels that she has come up with a solution to the problem of unwanted "crack babies" born to drug or alcohol addicts.

Barbara Harris, the founder of Children Requiring a Caring Kommunity, or CRACK (also called Project Prevention), believes the solution is to pay addicts to allow themselves to undergo long-term birth control.

The real problem with Harris' solution is not that she wishes to prevent addicts from having children they will surely abandon, but the means she uses to accomplish this goal and the fact that despite the program's good intentions, it still does not attack the cause of addiction.

According to Project Prevention, participants receive paperwork about the project, which states that participants can earn \$200 for undergoing one of several medical procedures used in long-term birth control. But the Project Prevention Web site outlining the program makes no mention of any other help being offered to the addicts.

In fact, the Project Prevention page states that they do not monitor where the

money is spent, "any more than the government monitors where welfare or other related money is spent." Although this may be true, just because the federal government follows a questionable policy is no reason why a nonprofit organization should do the same.

Project Prevention paying addicts for the birth-control procedure is unethical. While the idea of preventing pregnancy might appeal to some addicts, these women are essentially being given free money they can use to feed their addiction.

Wendy Chavkin, a professor of public health at Columbia University said in The Village Voice, "Whether or not to have a child is a profoundly important and private decision. CRACK is offering money (for addicts) to go out and get high in exchange for a fundamental human capacity."

This ethical problem could be avoided if CRACK or Project Prevention used other means to entice addicts to be part of their program, or at least tried to make sure participants did not take the money and spend it on drugs. But Harris may not be all that bothered by the ethical dilemma of her organization.

According to a British Broadcasting Company article, Harris was quoted in one of her first interviews as comparing people who are substance abusers to dogs, saying, "We don't allow dogs to breed. We spay

them. We neuter them. We try to keep them from having unwanted puppies, and yet these women are literally having litters of children." Although her concern for the children of addicts may be genuine, she may not have any for their parents, who also need help.

Harris — and those who bankroll her — seems to be fine with only treating a symptom of addiction, a problem the program shares with many other programs related to substance abuse. Many in the United States, including the federal government, seem to want to avoid the fact that programs such as Project Prevention will unfortunately always have participants because they treat effects, not the disease itself.

The way to end the disease of substance abuse is to reduce demand, but few pursue this route because it is time-consuming and hard to accomplish. It is easier to throw money at the participants, get statistics showing quick progress and go home at the end of the day feeling that they were able to help solve the problem. But really all groups such as Project Prevention do is allow the addiction to dig in deeper, while erasing some of the outward social consequences of addiction.

*"While the idea of preventing pregnancy might appeal to some addicts, these women are essentially being given free money they can use to feed their addiction."*

David Shoemaker is a junior management major.



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