

Waco Tribune-Herald

Editorial

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Cookies won't crumble

As institution, Scouts bigger than narrow-minded assault

The letter to the editor by Erin Pack on the opposite page shows what it means to have a nationwide, diverse, vibrant and enduring institution such as the Girl Scouts.

It means being a place for differing opinions, differing cultures, differing backgrounds, differing income levels.

It means changing to meet the times — acknowledging that the challenges facing youngsters aren't the same that they were a generation ago.

It means being involved in the community, making it a better place as young girls make themselves better persons.

Girl Scouts is a lot more than selling cookies or spending time at Camp Kachina. It's about learning to make sound decisions and choices. That, residents of Greater Waco can be assured, is also what Nobody's Fool is about.

Local abortion foes have called for a boycott of cookies sold by the Bluebonnet Council for having its name associated with Nobody's Fool, the Planned Parenthood summer conference on sexuality and decision-making. It is important to point out that a host of local agencies and organizations participate in or sponsor Nobody's Fool, including the ***Tribune-Herald***.

These participants and partners do so because Nobody's Fool focuses on abstinence and self-esteem, as well as basic education about the human body. Naturally, those are interests and emphases of the Girl Scouts.

Certain local groups seek to demonize Planned Parenthood for a variety of reasons including the abortion services it performs. But groups that support Nobody's Fool and Planned Parenthood know that the agency's central mission is to make sure that all women have health care and that they have the means to prevent excruciating dilemmas like unwanted pregnancies. These matters are naturally of vital concern to groups like the Girl Scouts.

Enough people understand this in Waco to more than make up for a boycott in which, unfortunately, important children's programs under Girl Scouts could suffer.

We hope and trust that people in the Waco area, of varying ideologies, will support the Bluebonnet Girl Scouts this season. As with Nobody's Fool, the program is too good, the challenges too great, to let broad-based efforts be harmed by the guerrilla tactics of narrow minds.