

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Maiming birds an injustice

Editor:
How much longer must this go on? The dead and dying birds carpeting our campus seem to me to be nearly as much of an eyesore and health hazard as are their droppings.

While I admit the presence in vast numbers of the birds constitutes a health hazard and a menace to foliage, etc., I see no justification in the rampant maiming of hundreds of birds. If they must be killed, kill them! I share this view with many I have talked to.

As an avid bird-watcher and animal and bird lover, I am reluctant to think that any creature must suffer. While I admit that grackles, cowbirds, and starlings are not the most attractive members of the bird world, they nevertheless do not de-

serve to suffer, unable to fly, or eat, or walk, dying a slow death. I have walked around campus and experienced the unpleasant and unsanitary sight and smell of the droppings under their nightly roosts. I know large flocks are a problem to contend with, and I condone attempts to kill or frighten them off. However, if such attempts do not result in death, but in maiming, then I think another alternative should be examined. It is more of a nightmare for me to walk among wounded birds than it is an unpleasantness to walk in their droppings.

It is man, in his attempts to perpetuate and dominate in his world, who has made nature submit and be conquered. Torturing should never be a part of this design. I have

hunted and I realize that not all shots can be well placed, that downed birds often scramble away to suffer a slow death. It is inevitable, but not just, and somehow makes me feel a bit tainted. There are others who share my views. We sympathize with the human race, yet we respect the natural world we live in and all of its creatures, be they raucous, ugly grackles or the tiniest delicate hummingbirds. Nothing should suffer so that we may reign.

And, yes, I am a little nuts. Nuts about the thrilling natural environ-

ment I live in, not so nuts about many of the people I must share it with — like the ones who maim birds.

I saw two of our "college students" — not elementary students, mind you — teasing a wounded starling outside my office window today — you know, slapping their coats at it, stamping their feet, stuff like that. Like pulling the wings off flies. Man's inhumanity to man is often not nearly as great as is his inhumanity to our world's lesser creatures.

Kim Sandland

Quiet bank makes for big bounce

Editor:
A situation concerning the banking systems available to students has come to my attention and greatly distresses me. My roommate has been carrying an account with Bank of A&M for over a year now and was recently forced to change the type of account she was carrying.

Because of this she had to order new checks, but was never informed of the cost of these nor sent a statement for the past five months. Because her account was reduced to cover this check charge, her next check bounced and she was notified of this and the \$5 service charge charged to her. A check she had written previous to the bounced one came in after this and also bounced. Her account was again debited by a \$5 service charge and the check returned without notice to her.

another \$5 service charge and again no notice. She then deposited \$25 and thinking she had this amount in her account wrote a check to TAMU bookstore which also bounced without notice.

Finally she wrote another check, still unaware of the service charges being charged to her account, which also bounced twice and she was finally sent a notice after the second run.

Because of this inefficiency and inconsideration for the needs of customers, she now owes Bank of A&M \$30 for service charges, \$11 to various businesses around town and is now unable to write a check on campus.

I am sure that my roommate is not the only student who has fallen prey to this type of situation, and I do think that a town that is two thirds students should have more consideration for their needs.

Stephanie Fuhrman

This check was then run back through, bounced again with

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"THE PERFECT SCHEDULE — NO MONDAY OR FRIDAY CLASSES! IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD TAKE MORE THAN SIX HOURS!"

Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line

• Limited to 100 lines

Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's name and phone number must accompany all submissions.

Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Ford — perhaps everything America wanted after all

WASHINGTON — In an odd, inexplicable way, the truth has begun to dawn on people in the final days of Gerald R. Ford's tenure that he was the kind of President Americans wanted — and didn't know they had.



David S. Broder

After a decade of presidential excess, they wanted a man of modesty, good character, honesty and openness. They wanted a President who was humane but prudent, peaceable but firm. Especially, they wanted one uncorrupted by the cynicism and lust for power which they had come to associate with Washington politicians.

Jimmy Carter's campaign was the successful projection of these idealized qualities of the post-Watergate President. It was also a series of promises — to reform the government, end bureaucratic waste, provide an energy policy, curb the nuclear arms race, cure unemployment, etc.

How well President Carter measures up to these character tests and how many of his goals he achieves remains to be seen.

But Gerald Ford — even while acknowledging in his last State of the Union address and in a series of valet interviews his disappointments in the fields of economics, energy, and governmental reform — gave people a quiet reminder that he has been exactly the kind of personality they prayed for in the presidency.

exiles; the third had been murdered.

Ford leaves on a tidal wave of good will, of which the cheers in the House chamber the other night were vocal testimony. As he recalled in his farewell interview with the Post, he had originally planned to wind up his public service this January by making the 94th Congress his last as the representative from Grand Rapids.

As it works out, he is leaving only 17 days "behind schedule," having served 29 months as President and with the country the better for his service.

He leaves with the nation at peace, the international scene as tranquil as it is ever likely to be, and the American people more united and confident than at any time in a decade.

Some of that is luck. Some of it is the healing effect of time on the scars of Vietnam and Watergate. But Gerald Ford also leaves the presidency itself healthier than he found it, and that is because he thought hard about what was needed there — and did it.

Take, for example, the matter of the President's relationship to his Cabinet. One central aspect of the "imperial presidency" was the subordination of Cabinet officers to the arrogant whims of the White House staff.

Jimmy Carter has talked a great deal about his desire for strong, autonomous Cabinet officers, and in

the final days before his tenure was still trying to determine what kind of White House staff appointments would encourage the decentralization of decision-making.

Yet, as James E. Connor, staff and Cabinet secretary, pointed out to a visitor the other day, no one has noted the example which Ford himself already demonstrated how to solve that problem.

Yet it is a fact that the new Cabinet has been spared the experience from officious White House staff members either in the departmental decision-making or their access to the President.

Ford cured this ill by open, conscious, shrewd strategies. He required, for example, that communication from a Cabinet member to the President could be no more than five days for "House" staffing. If the staff members weren't ready by the time the Cabinet member's paper got into the President's reading file, rather than pigeonholed endlessly in the House bureaucracy.

Ford himself set the example of devolution of decision-making. The face of heavy pressure on all major issues to the White House, he insisted, for example, the secretary of transportation decide the Concorde landing question and that the attorney general handle the government's response to Boston's antibusing violence.

In these, and other ways, important, he demonstrated the practice of the virtues of which spoke.

Oddly, neither he nor his associates made much of this fact in the recent campaign. But Gerald can leave office with some confidence that history will record he was, in truth, the President the country needed at this time, and that it wanted, even another name.

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HAIR UPDATE

TO QUOTE:
The update you see here is the pooling of resources — a long list of hairdresser friends from past research and names our College Board recommended. We sent them questionnaires on cuts/color. The treatment you'd get as a customer. The replies some so good they deserve special mention (NEWS NOW, next door). Some so much alike they make for major hair update. Three directions hair's taking longer, sleeker, or tousled. We've dropped a few names so you'll know where to go near you.

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