

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 30, 1978

## Guyana horror — message for society

Once the shockwave has passed from the bizarre, inexplicable and macabre mass suicide scene that played out in Guyana, some questions need to be asked and answers found.

The paramount question is, of course, why? Why in the name of anything did so many Americans murder themselves almost as though they were simply participating in a harmless, ephemeral rite of some kind? It is not enough to say that these people were part of a groupthink, mesmerized by a fanatic snake oil salesman calling himself a man of God. That many people don't kill themselves simply to remain faithful to the credo or tenets of a cult. There had to have been an incredible mind-altering undertaking going on for that many people to willingly swallow a cup of death in the name of the Rev. Jim Jones.

Is it possible that this Guyana nightmare is flinging us into the future at a pace faster even than the literary novelist and futurist George Orwell could have forecasted?

In his mind-numbing book 1984, Orwell foresaw pschoscience, the science of controlling the human mind. Today, behavior modification and forms

of experimental thought control are being toyed with. And some of them are known to walk a close line between therapy and torture.

David Goodman, a research scientist, has completed a study that centered on taking inventory of how many of George Orwell's fictitious predictions have come to pass as of 1978, six years away from the author's vision of a totalitarian nightmare.

Brace yourself. Of Orwell's 137 forecasts, 100 have already been realized, according to Goodman's research.

The Guyana horror may be a message. Certainly, it represents the ultimate manifestation of the social pitfalls in the murky blend of cultism and thought control. In this country, especially, cults are catching on. They are seducing young people in particular who seek something better, an escape from the realities or our times.

Guyana needs to be put under the microscope and studied carefully. Very carefully.

Bangor (Maine) Daily News:

## Why the MiG controversy now?

By JOHN VIRTUE

HAVANA, Cuba — Western diplomats in Havana are puzzled over why the United States has picked this time to make an issue of the Soviet MiG-23 warjets that Cuba says it acquired a year ago.

President Fidel Castro appeared angry — and aides said he was — when the issue of the swing-wing MiGs was raised at a news conference in Havana with foreign journalists last week.

### Commentary

Castro said the planes have been in Cuba for more than a year, have been flying for eight months and will be displayed at the Jan. 2 celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the revolution.

He said the U.S. intelligence agencies were "idiotic" if they hadn't known about the MiGs until two weeks ago, when Washington ordered SR-71 spy planes to fly over Cuba to check on the MiGs.

President Carter said he wants to know whether the planes are able to carry nuclear weapons — a violation of the U.S.-

Soviet agreement that settled the 1961 Cuban missile crisis. Moscow has denied the planes can carry such weapons.

"The planes are tactical, defensive," the angry Castro told foreign journalists last week.

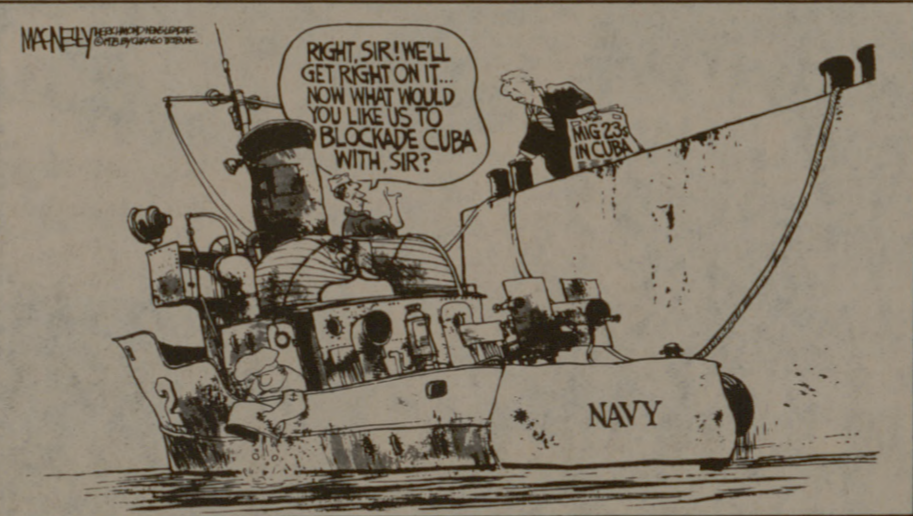
Some of the diplomats share President Fidel Castro's public astonishment that the United States claims to have just recently learned of the presence of the swing-wing fighters on the Caribbean island.

Western diplomats, western reporters based in Cuba and the average Cuban citizen say they have known about the presence of the MiG-23s in Cuba for many months.

"If Castro says the planes have been in Cuba for more than a year, then they've been here for more than a year," said one Western diplomat.

"Castro does not lie in public. He might not tell everything or he might shade the truth, but he never lies."

Last week three MiGs made a low-level pass over Havana, zipping by the old U.S. embassy building that now houses the only American diplomatic outpost in Cuba, the U.S. Special Interests Section.



Many Cubans mistakenly thought the jets were either the U.S. spy planes or warjets sent in from an aircraft carrier taking part in U.S.-British war games off the northern coast of Cuba.

But at least one American diplomat who was at the U.S. Interest Section when the MiGs went overhead swore they were MiG-23s — Castro's unique way of thumbing his nose at the United States.

### Letters to the Editor

## Is Russian flu worth the money?

Editor:

I am writing this letter to all the crazy people giving blood samples and taking the Russian Flu nose drops. Wednesday and Thursday at three locations on campus are places where you can actually make money by taking a slight chance to die.

Is \$50 worth a very slim chance of your life? Even if you don't die you can still catch the flu and be sick during finals. Is \$50 worth poor grades? These places are taking advantage of college students. We all know Christmas is soon and money is needed for presents.

This kind of experimentation should be done at the hospital on campus only, not in the middle of the Commons!! It's sort of sad to watch people subject themselves to this. I hope the people are not just doing this for the money.

Money is not everything! I just can't believe the way the University let's them do their experiments right out in the open.

There is a chance of getting the flu from the liquid they use in the nose drops. Just remember anyone can have a fatal reaction to the test.

I heard the chance was one in a million, sort of like "Russian Roulette." The swine flu shots got bad publicity after some people keeled over!! Think for yourself and only blame yourself!! Need money? Donate plasma!

—Joe H. Hickman, '79

### 'Student' credible

Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter written by Paul Schertz, of Nov. 17. In his

letter, Mr. Schertz exercised a right we all hold very dear, the right to disagree with another person. Mr. Schertz used this privilege to criticize Today's Student. His letter made mention of three areas that he apparently believes to be "wrong" with the paper.

First, he says, it is "a piece of misleading Christian propaganda." Second, he says that the paper has "cleverly" distorted the facts, and finally he says that Today's Student "has caused many readers to become misinformed on some very pertinent issues."

What is misleading about the paper? Who has been misled? To mislead implies a willful attempt to deceive someone, or to lead into a mistaken belief. How, Mr. Schertz, has Today's Student done this?

Also, what facts have been "distorted"? I have read the paper for over one year, and I am unable to think of a single instance where the writers have not presented the facts quite well. Lastly, who has been misinformed on issues presented in this paper? And, if misinformed, how have they been so misinformed?

Mr. Schertz has, in a very simplistic manner, made very serious allegations as to the credibility and reliability of Today's Student. Yet, he offers no evidence or "facts" to support what he says. What he has done is a very serious matter. To call someone a liar or a deceiver, simply because you "feel" like it, without stating any evidence, if there is any, is as unproductive as the name calling to which children resort.

As a reader of Today's Student, I would like to say that I am glad we have such a

paper on campus. I look forward to reading it and believe it to be a very informative newspaper.

—Galen Bowman, '79

### More stats on gays

Editor:

A recent letter to the editor questioned the credibility of a Today's Student article dealing with homosexuals. The article, reporting that the homosexual lifestyle is more prone to depression, hostility, rejection, and a high suicide rate, was accused of being factually inaccurate.

The rebuttal was based on a new book, "Homosexualities: A Study of Human Diversity." Unfortunately, there were a number of the book's statistics that were conveniently overlooked by the self-proclaimed "enlightened" Aggies.

—Twenty-five percent of the gays interviewed believe homosexuality is an emotional disorder.

—The average male homosexual reported sex acts with hundreds of men. Twenty-eight percent of white males had more than 1,000 sex partners, most of them one night stands with virtual strangers; 40 percent had more than 500; 25 percent as adults, had performed sex with boys under 16.

—Two-thirds of the men had contracted venereal disease at least once.

—Both males and females had been arrested more often than heterosexuals (these were not for sex offenses).

—Homosexuals contemplated or committed suicide more frequently, usually

resulting from broken love affairs (20 percent for homosexuals compared with 4 percent for heterosexuals).

—Homosexual males showed more signs of emotional damage in nine areas of psychological distress, from depression to paranoia.

—Among lesbians, there was a higher incidence of alcoholism.

—Of those "lasting" affairs, the duration was only from one to three years (almost a 100 percent divorce rate).

—Sixty percent of homosexuals cruise gay bars and baths more than once a month (the purpose of cruising is to pick up sexual partners).

Well adjusted? No more sexually active than heterosexuals? Satisfied? Let those who are truly enlightened draw their own conclusions.

Our thanks to Today's Student for its accurate journalism in reporting the much concealed and distorted truth about the "not so gay" lifestyle.

—Johnny Stimson, '80

Editor's note: this letter was accompanied by 60 other signatures.

### 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

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### CAMPUS

#### Fellowships worth \$2,500

The National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta will award several fellowships for graduate study for the 1979-80 academic year. The amount of each fellowship is \$2,500. Any member of Alpha Lambda Delta who was graduated with a cumulative average of Alpha Lambda Delta initiation standard is eligible. Graduating seniors may apply if they have achieved this average to the end of the first semester (or first quarter) of this year. Application blanks and information, deadline for which is Jan. 5, 1979, may be obtained from Administrator Toby Rives in room 108 of the YMCA building. His phone number is 845-1228.

### STATE

#### Houston man named to council

John Lindsey of Houston has been elected chairman of the new 15-member advisory council for the Texas A&M University System Press. Lindsey's election highlighted the organizational meeting of the statewide panel formed to help provide guidance for Texas A&M's scholarly publishing house. The session included a briefing by Frank Wardlaw, who founded the press in 1974 and served as its director until his retirement Sept. 1. He will continue to be associated with the press as a consulting editor.

#### 'Speed' ring broken up

Bellaire authorities raided a home in that Houston suburb Wednesday, arrested four men and broke up what was described as the biggest methamphetamine — speed — manufacturing operation in Harris County history. The names of those arrested in the 2:20 a.m. raid were not released immediately. Sheriff's deputies said they confiscated 40-50 pounds of speed and enough chemicals to make about 50 pounds more.

#### Davis jury boosts hours

Houston jurors in the murder solicitation trial of T. Cullen Davis have voted to lengthen their working day by 1½ hours in hopes of avoiding a marathon court session like the one in which the Fort Worth millionaire was acquitted of murder last year. The seven men and five women, who had been meeting from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with a 90-minute lunch recess, Tuesday voted to convene court an hour earlier and trim their lunch break by 30 minutes. Jury selection in the case began Oct. 30 and it is estimated that the testimony will last well into December. Davis is accused of seeking to arrange the murder of the judge in his stormy divorce.

### NATION

#### FBI mail covers called illegal

A federal judge in Newark, N.J., ruled Wednesday that FBI mail covers invoked to protect the national security are unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Lawrence A. Whipple said the FBI cannot scrutinize the mail sent to groups they believe to be subversive or working against the national interest. A mail cover is a procedure whereby the postal service sets aside all mail sent to a particular address and records all the information which appears on the outside cover. Whipple issued his ruling in a lawsuit filed five years ago by Lori Paton, a high school student from Mendham who was the subject of an FBI mail cover after she wrote to the Socialist Workers Party for literature for a term paper. Paton sued the FBI, claiming her rights were violated.

#### Lost boys found, one dead

A Jackson, Wyo., rescue team aboard helicopters Wednesday located two missing boys — one dead and the other "barely alive" — who became lost with their father during a weekend elk hunt in the snowy north Wyoming wilderness. "One is just barely alive. They had some Air Force helicopters out there and they tried to get him to the hospital," said Jane Imeson of Imeson Flight Service, which coordinated the air search for the two lost boys. The search for the pair, lost near the base of 10,500 foot Wetstone Mountain, had intensified with a dozen aircraft working aloft and teams of cross-country skiers and horsemen searching the ground.

### WORLD

#### 8 Spanish boaters killed

A seaborne guerrilla unit machine gunned and dynamited a Spanish fishing boat off the Sahara coast Tuesday night, killing eight crewmen, Spanish Navy officials said Wednesday. The attack took place about four miles off Cape Bojador. The navy said guerrillas in rubber rafts opened machine gun fire on the fishing boat Cruz del Mar out of the Canary Island of Lanzarote, which was dragging the Canary-Sahara fishing bank. First reports said the guerrillas then boarded the vessel and set off a charge of dynamite. There also were reports that they fired mortars. The navy said eight fishermen were killed and three survived.

The survivors were rescued by another Spanish fishing boat, the Chico Grande, and then transferred to a Spanish destroyer cruising in the area.

### WEATHER

Sunrise was at 7:02 followed by a sunny day with a high in the low 70's and the low in the mid 40's. Winds light and variable at 5-10 mph. Sunset will be at 5:23.

### THE BATTALION

#### LETTERS POLICY

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.

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