

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
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READER'S FORUM

PLO: an organization both social and militant

By OUSSAMA QAWASMI

In view of the recent developments in the Middle East, I found it necessary to explain to the American public certain facts about the Palestinians and the PLO. It is now clear that there will be no peace in the Middle East without full recognition of the inalienable national rights of 4 million Palestinians.

The Palestinians (1.2 million in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 0.6 million in the Galilee district and 2.4 million in the neighboring Arab countries) have told the world that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is their sole legitimate representative and negotiating body and the framework of the Palestinian national identity.

The United Nations resolution 3236 established this right of representation for the PLO, and the UN resolution 3235 recognizes the Palestinian rights of repatriation, self-determination and independent statehood. The PLO, since 1974, achieved the observer status at the UN and full membership in several international organizations and agencies. It is recognized by 107 members of the world community, much more than the number that recognized Israel.

How does the PLO function? The Palestine Liberation Movement has a National Council (PNC) consisting of 293 representatives of different political parties;

trade, labor and professional organizations; women; teachers; student unions and refugee camps. The council determines and reviews all policies affecting the socio-economic and political affairs of all Palestinians. The majority of its members are educated and democratic in principle. The Council elects by secret ballot an executive committee of 17 members that head the different departments such as education, social, medical, welfare, political and military. These deal with the day-to-day affairs of the Palestinian people in exile or who are suffering under the brutal Israeli occupation.

Hundreds of schools, several cultural and media projects emphasizing Palestinian heritage and culture, orphanages, factories, clinics, welfare and other institutions are operated by the PLO.

Over 100 political offices in the world help Palestinian communities and represent the PLO in the host countries. The Palestine Red Crescent operates over 50 hospitals and 120 clinics in different Arab countries and occupied territories. "SAMED" is a PLO scientific, social, industrial, vocational and employment establishment that has vast exporting capabilities and employs and rehabilitates Palestinian and Arab youth. The Palestine Theatre and Folk Society operates several theatres and troupes that have participated in International Youth festivals.

The Palestine Writers Union includes several hundreds of Palestinian writers, scholars and poets who have participated in International Literary and professional conferences. Some members head research and educational academies and publish important journals and periodicals.

All the above exhibits the social and governmental face of the PLO. All these are democratic aspects of peoplehood and they form a sound basis for a people's statehood and self-determination.

The other face of the PLO is military. It is essential for any liberation movement including the PLO to be involved in violence and military activities. Now, they have to resist the military occupation of their land and protect their civilians in their camps and towns against continuous Israeli air raids and shelling. It is unrealistic to expect justice from an institution based on racist ideology; it even denies our physical existence and continued attempts to liquidate this heroic people for the last 30 years. Thus violence is an essential evil to eliminate oppression and exterminate racist institutions. But when the Palestinians have their rights restored, they will be fully occupied in setting up their democratic state.

Those who are concerned about violence must call for an end to supplying Israel with cluster bombs, fragmentation

shell, napalm, F-15 war planes and sophisticated instruments of genocide has been used against innocent civilians. In the past 7 months, over 100,000 Lebanese civilians and 70,000 Palestinians were displaced and made homeless. Villages were leveled; civilians were burnt or disabled for life.

Finally, one last remark on the PLO condemned the Camp David Initiative, which supposedly would solve the Palestinian problem. The UN resolution for autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip towards the establishment of a Palestinian State and disregards those Palestinians in exile. The term "autonomy" is used for Mr. Begin declares that there is no withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there will never be a Palestinian State and no withdrawal from Jerusalem.

Based on this interpretation, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza will be living on reservations, the same way the Indians live in this country. So what is offered under the "autonomy" can never be interpreted as self-determination.

No wonder the PLO and the free world condemned the initiative since it can best be described as a continuation of occupation and liquidation of Palestinian people in the name of



OPINION

Texas has a chance to control agencies

Texas legislators are asking voters Nov. 6 for a good power — a control over the bureaucracy.

Known as the "legislative veto," it permits House and Senate committees to oversee, and perhaps override, the rulemaking authority of state agencies while the Legislature is not in session.

Now the Legislature has power to change rules by law during the session, but the proposed amendment would allow the lawmakers to delegate that authority to committees during the interims.

The Legislature meets in regular session 140 days every other year.

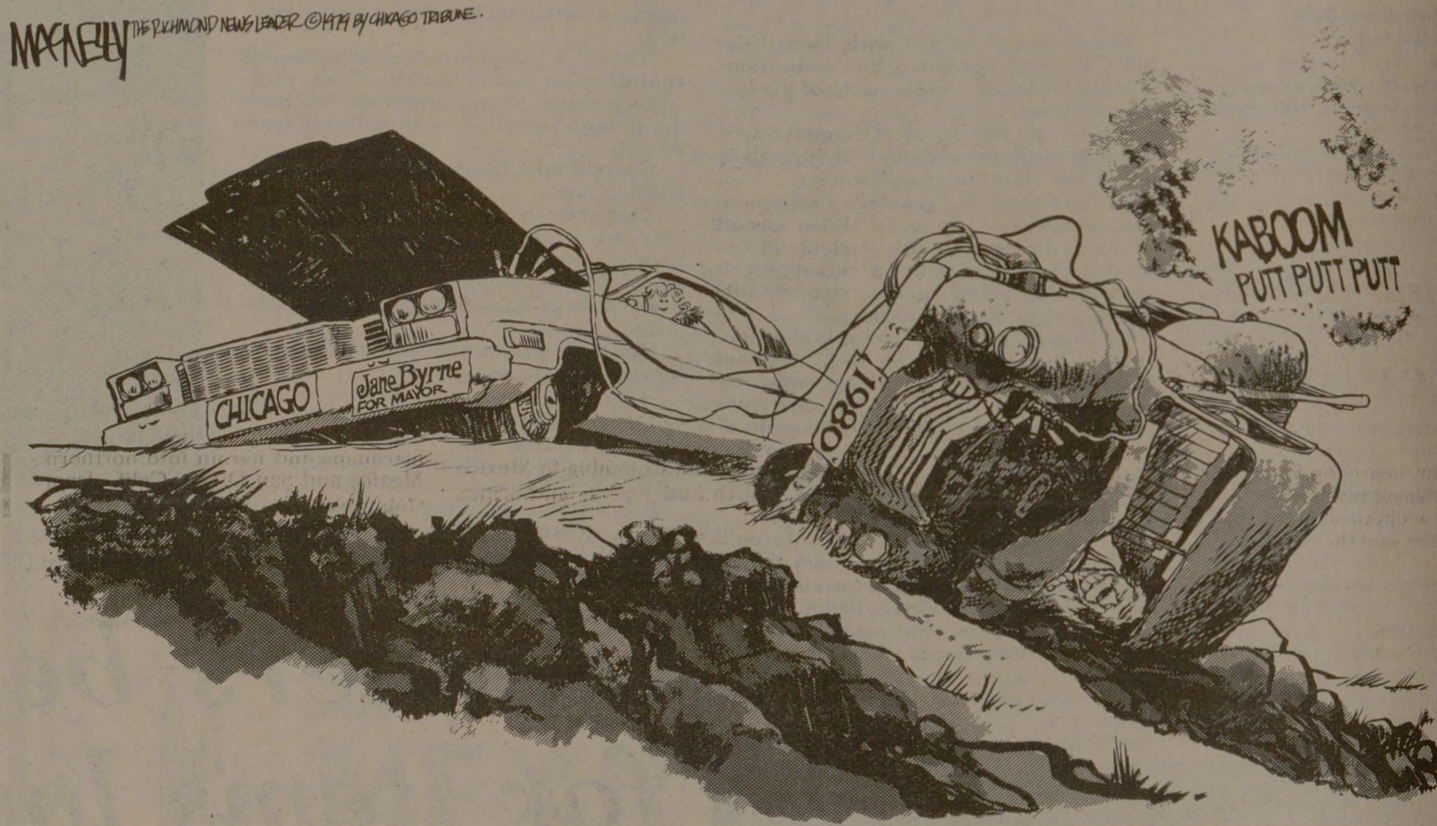
Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Salado, one of the sponsors of the proposal, explains: "The thinking behind it was to head off the possibility of our state being run by bureaucrats as opposed to being run by people who are elected."

Schlueter said there has been no particular problem with state agencies adopting far-reaching regulations the Legislature disagrees with, but the precedent set by federal bureaucrats is sufficient to cause the state to take precautions.

"Congress passed about 850 laws during one session, and federal agencies enacted more than 22,000 new rules and regulations," Schlueter said.

Following the precedent, 34 states currently have some form of legislative review of agency rules, and it seems to be working well.

Use of the legislative veto is a new trend in controlling bureaucracy, and Texas would do well to follow the trend.



LETTERS

Freshman finds candidate seminar disorganized and disillusioning

Editor: Upon this occasion of the upcoming freshmen class elections, I find it appropriate to comment on some of the observations I have made.

Being a very concerned member of the freshman class and valuing my voting privileges beyond description, I took the initiative to attend the "Meet the Candidate Night" seminar Monday so that I might indeed make the best selections in my voting. I attended this meeting with high hopes of talking with the many qualified candidates so that I might discuss fully the issues I had taken note of (from their platforms) and thus decide on the most qualified person.

Unfortunately this was not the case. Instead I entered a very disorganized room filled to the brim with candidates running for one office or another. Understandably, the number of candidates makes it impossible to get to know everyone; still, the impersonal atmosphere was none the less disillusioning. Perhaps this could be taken note of in future elections.

Aside from this problem I feel the following comment is warranted. The number of "concerned voters" like myself present at this Meet the Candidates session was surprising. That is, surprising in the sense that very few showed up! Is it too much to ask that we come greet the candidates who are seriously trying to represent us for the entire year? After all, these people are going to hear for us, see for us, and speak for us during all of 1979-1980.

Also, of the supposed 600 or so members of our class who will in fact take the "trouble" to vote, it will be interesting to know on what grounds they made their decisions. Certainly they did not take advantage of the opportunity to meet personally the candidates when the opportunity arose!

Come on freshmen Ags, and all Ags for that matter, take a little initiative and VOTE!

— Miles Ouren

An analogy

Editor: My letter to you today is written on the nine-hundred eighty first anniversary of the tumultuous upheaval of values and tradition at the Technical Albanian Mapproad University (T.A.M.U.). TAMU was the first and foremost place to get a quality education in road-building.

The students at TAMU were quite tradition-oriented until a wave of leftism swept .03 percent of the campus. This minority became incensed that male Albanian Rockhounds (which carried rocks for road-building classes) were provided with fireplugs to use after they have carried rocks for three years. The minority, led by Mona Zonkerhouse, called for fireplugs for female rockhounds also. This was in spite of the fact that the female rockhounds carried only a small proportion of rocks per capita compared to the male rockhounds.

Well, Mona and her cohorts enlisted the help of the Albanian Canine Lovers and Users (A.C.L.U.) to get the fireplugs that were ultimately granted. The female rockhounds spent their time looking ridiculous trying to make correct use of their

fireplugs. Then, to further their aims, the minority called for female rockhounds to be allowed to participate in the annual erection of a huge roadmarker which symbolized the burning desire to build better roads than their arch-rivals, teapissus universedadus (t.u.). The roadmarker erection was traditionally reserved for the male rockhounds because they could work longer and carry more rock than the female rockhounds.

Due again to pressures exerted by the leftist factions, the female rockhounds were allowed to work. Unfortunately, during a critical maneuver with a piece of the roadmaker, the female rockhounds couldn't hold enough weight causing the roadsign to fall and kill all the rockhounds, ruining the future of TAMU.

If you can't wade through all the B.S., here's my point:

t.u.: Where girls are girls, and the boys are too.

Texas A&M: Where the men are men, and a few girls want to be.

BEAT THE HELL OUTTA T.U.

— Scott M. Reid, '81
Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 16 other signatures.

A&M's gone mellow

Editor: In the past, the Battalion letters were cluttered with letters taking the editor on this issue or that issue even if the author clearly did not understand his position, or the position she/he was taking. Aggies were very easily upset.

Now the days of reactionaryism (left or right) are gone. Aside from the shots at Teddy and complaints about the ball, mellowness has come to A&M. Even Today's Student, which has sought controversy with such zeal, now make up issues which might not have existed otherwise, has become so mellow that it isn't even fun to read anymore.

Such mellow attitudes certainly tense situations, and I'm sure A&M's collective blood pressure has gone way up as a result. I was very nearly injured all this, and thus have decided to form an Unofficial COalition of Apathetic Aggies (UNCOLA). I would tell you where we meet, but I'm sure you know where we meet, but I'm sure you know where we meet, but I'm sure you know where we meet.

— Scott K. Me...

the small society by Brickman



THE 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.

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