

# opinion

## Letters: Holocaust memorial

**Editor:**  
The mayors of Bryan/College Station have proclaimed Saturday and Sunday as Holocaust Memorial days; a time of reflection on the unparalleled crime against humankind committed by Nazi Germany from 1939-1945. Among the 14 millions of people murdered, six million were Jews who were singled out for extermination as a people.

I urge all readers of The Battalion to join the Hillel Foundation (Jewish Student Center), The Campus Ministers' Association and the Israel Club and participate in the events that will occur over the span of two days. These events are planned to educate the Campus community and attempt to bring and understanding of the enormity of the horror.

Our program begins Sunday night at 9 p.m. in 201 MSC with a Holocaust Memorial. The Memorial led by Campus Ministers and their students will feature readings of prose and poetry from Jewish and non-Jewish writers. There will be a moment of silence when the lights are turned off and students recite the names of the death camps. The Memorial will end with a community song of hope.

On Monday, there will be an all day reading of some of the names of the victims of the Holocaust and a photo exhibition in Rudder Lobby. The readers will attempt to read 16,000 names. To put this in perspective, it is important to realize that six million Jews were killed and if we continued reading the names at the same rate, it would take us 1 1/2 years to read the names of non-Jews who were slaughtered at the same time because they were mentally unfit, or were gypsies, or were anti the Nazi regime.

The Holocaust events will culminate

with the film, "Genocide," to be shown in Monday evening at 8 p.m. in 701 Rudder. This film, narrated by Elizabeth Taylor and Orson Welles, won the 1982 film award for Best Documentary. The film is a multi-image presentation which tells through the actual documented words of eyewitnesses, the story of the Holocaust. There will be a charge of \$1.50 to see the film.

I hope that everyone will find some time during those two days to join us in the events. Deeply inhuman crimes require us to take time to reflect on how to prevent them from ever happening again.

**Carol Parzen**  
Director, Hillel Foundation

### International Week

**Editor:**  
International Week is over now and we can only look back at what I consider to be the most meaningful event of my short career at Texas A&M. I had the opportunity to make new friendships and to learn about their countries and people.

I only regret the indifference shown by the domestic students, reflected greatly by the inadequate coverage of this event by The Battalion. Having a dog show on the front cover, while the poorly documented series of photographs of International Week mingles within advertisement of apartment complexes not only shows lack of commitment but also poor taste.

**Fernando Urrutia '83**

### Banner stolen

**Editor:**  
To the individual, or group of individuals, that stole the Israel Awareness Week banner from the MSC-Rudder Tower walkway Tuesday night — don't be too proud of your action.

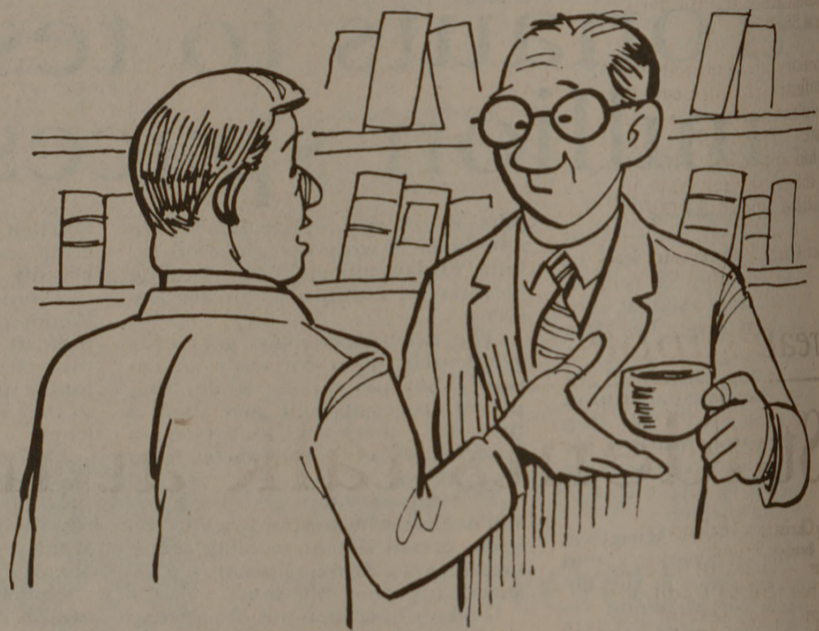
No matter what the reasons were for enacting such a "brave" act in the middle of the night, I don't accept your attempt to limit free expression on this campus. Although actions of this type, and even worse, may be totally acceptable in some parts of the world, here at Texas A&M, we pride ourselves on the free exchange of ideas and information. Just as our group has the right to exercise this freedom, so does every other group on campus — no matter what their beliefs. That is what makes democracy great.

If, by chance, your reason for stealing our Israel Awareness Week banner was to lodge some form of protest — there are many other, more acceptable forms of protest. In every democratic country, whether it be the U.S. or Israel, the right to protest is a basic liberty. But, when that right is abused, and the rights of others are encroached upon, it is no longer a protest — but anarchy.

Please feel free to return our banner at any time to 216 MSC. In the meantime, we will make another banner and again hang it on the MSC-Rudder Tower walkway. Even though you may not have the guts to return the banner you stole, at least now maybe you understand why we have the right to one.

**Ephraim Seidman**  
Coordinator, Israel Awareness Week

## Slouch By Jim Earle



*"It's on tax day that I have my strongest reservations about all of the wonderful services our government provides us."*

## Bonzo, Reagan follow Star Wars

by Art Buchwald

President Reagan was relaxing in his office at 5 p.m., after putting in a hard day's work, with his best friend Bonzo. The president was sipping a scotch and water, and Bonzo was drinking a banana daiquiri.

"You know what worries me the most, Bonzo?" the president asked.

Bonzo looked up, all ears.  
"This whole concept of MAD — Mutual Assured Destruction. We can no longer go into the 21st century building bigger and bigger weapons. We have to figure out a way of making nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete so our children and your children will no longer be faced with the specter of war."

Bonzo started to clap his hands.  
"If our scientists put their great minds to work, we could develop a sure-fire system to destroy the greatest force of evil in the world."

Bonzo jumped off the couch and onto a chair, where he started angrily beating a map of the Soviet Union with both hands.

"The question is, how can we do it?" the president mused.

Bonzo put his hands on his head, which he always did when he was thinking. Then he let out a squeal and went to a drawer and took out a photograph of a chimpanzee and jumped on the president's desk.

The president said, "What have you got here? Why it's a photograph of Ham, the first chimp who went into space. What are you trying to tell me Bonzo?"

Bonzo kept pointing out the window towards the sky.

"Ham is dead?"  
Bonzo shook his head again. Then he hopped over to the TV set, turned it on

and put an Atari Star Wars game on screen. Bonzo, who amused himself all day long playing video games, started to shoot down objects as they flew across screen.

"Stop horsing around Bonzo," the president said. "This is very important."

Bonzo hopped over to the president and tugged him on the sleeve, pulling him towards the TV set.

The president let Bonzo drag him to the set. "Just one game Bonzo, and let's get back to my problem."  
Bonzo pointed to the TV screen then pointed to the map of the Soviet Union.

The president realized Bonzo was trying to tell him something. "Don't me, Bonzo. I think I'm getting it. Could you put something in space we can shoot down Soviet missiles from there. Is that what you're driving at?"

Bonzo squealed again and threw his arms around the president.

"That's it!" the president said. "All we would need is some powerful death ray that could zap the missiles as soon as they were launched. But how?"

Bonzo went over to a radiator and touched it.

The president looked at the radiator.

"Radiator? Heat? A heat-seeking death ray that would make their missiles inoperable!"

Bonzo squealed again and hugged the president.

President Reagan rushed over to the telephone and got the Joint Chiefs Staff. "I want everyone in my office tomorrow morning."

Then the president poured another banana daiquiri and said fully, "Bonzo, you've done it again."



## Letters: Nuclear power plants

**Editor:**  
In response to Rube Williams' editorial entitled "Nuclear energy — the Great Debate": Rube, just how safe is nuclear energy? Is nuclear fuel only hazardous to those who "stroll through a containment building" or somehow manage "to eat uranium"?

Have you ever wondered why so many states have refused to let the federal government bury nuclear waste in their backyards? Radioactive waste, even in the smallest quantity and in the most stable burial grounds, is a highly dangerous entity.

Furthermore, given mankind's present state of cognitive imperfection, is it not possible that a series of mistakes could be made in the building, inspection and operation of a nuclear power plant — a series of mistakes that could lead to a nuclear disaster? Was the Three Mile Island accident a mere anomaly and must we, the public, live with the threat of repeated (and possibly more disastrous) anomalies?

Can nuclear energy proponents begin to understand why people all over the globe are frightened and why some cry "No Nukes!"? Why nuclear power is no longer seen as an energy panacea and why many people are turning to the soft energy paths (and are making them work).

In mankind's stream of energy consciousness, nuclear power has played a

crucial part. A part presently controversial and certainly fading.

**Larry Mutter**  
**Dennis Burns**  
**Susan Bulmer**  
Graduate Students

*Editor's note: This letter is being rerun today because of a typographical error in Wednesday's Battalion.*

### Photo results

**Editor:**  
I would like to apologize to all of those individuals (ie. Corps of Cadets members, Christians, liberals, conservatives, atheists, feminists, chauvinists, art critics, artists, and civilians) who have had their toes stepped on by The Battalion, the Battalion or by any other publication in the world.

But now that you have your apology, be glad someone stepped on those toes. Because if we didn't have art, satire, and other assorted "toe crushers" (regardless of perceived quality) many people would have closed eyes and minds.

So ... the next time you and your enlightened mind read an article or see a picture that slaps you in the face, get

angry ... and be happy someone thought enough of the world to make you mad.

**Grant E. Wood '84**

### Photo again

**Editor:**  
This letter is in response to the letter from Michelle Lynch concerning the photograph of the female cadet with the tuba in Friday's paper. Let me state that she obviously lacks any sense of humor and was apparently looking for an excuse to illustrate her "chauvinistically blatant" writing skills.

Her "Gloria Steinem" approach to the otherwise amusing photograph made me and probably most of the readers nauseated. If you really desire a school with women in the band, why don't you go toot your horn down at t.u. or some other so-called "Great University."

The Battalion is definitely not "the lap dog of the administration." You probably did not even realize that The Battalion's editorial comments represent the feelings of the students and not of the administration. I congratulate The Battalion for printing a picture which was obviously intended for the enjoyment of those individuals who believe in the traditions that A&M has to offer. Apparently the April Fool's joke was on you Miss Lynch!

**Ronald Claiborne**  
Spence Hall

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory resource for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-2611.

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