

opinion

Letters: Grenada invasion 'imperialistic'

Editor:

I am writing to express my disapproval of the United States' invasion of Grenada. Although certainly consistent with Reagan's relatively tough stance in foreign policy, it reflects a blatant ignorance of contemporary history.

Doesn't anyone in the decision-making body own a dictionary with which to look up the word "sovereign"? Who are we to directly intervene in another state's internal policy, regardless of that internal policy and regardless of support generated by "concerned" adjacent states?

Is there a difference between American and Russian aggression in fact? Are we not protecting our interests in the southern hemisphere just as the Soviet Union does along her regional borders, i.e. Poland and Afghanistan? The fact that we can, and do, move around within our hemisphere with impunity illustrates that perhaps we have not lost our imperialism. Further, our imperialism is not far removed from Russian expansionism.

History has not taught us many lessons, it would seem. This invasion of Grenada is not much more than a successful Bay of Pigs. And the damage done to the American world image will, in the long run, parallel such lines. Aggression is aggression whether committed by the "good guys" or the "bad guys".

Susan Canedy Wyland

Student vote needed

Editor:

It is time the students at Texas A&M University played a more active part in Brazos County Politics. For four (or five, or six) years this is our home.

The 36,000 students at Texas A&M are undoubtedly the backbone for the local economy and policies decided by the city councils and the county commissioner's court affect us every day.

This Nov. 8 would be a good time for the students to become more active. On that day the voters of Brazos County will decide the fate if the long debated unit system of road management for county.

The unit system would allow the county to hire an engineer and unite the four individual road maintenance fiefdoms that currently exist, thus saving the taxpayer money and providing better roads. The unit system is a common sense, money saving, modern approach to road maintenance that many Texas counties already uses.

Despite the inuendo and outright untruths spread by one of the county commissioners the unit system is not a politically partisan issue. The unit system is a good idea that would be good for Brazos County and the election deciding this issue provides an opportunity for the students to become more active in Brazos County government.

Kent Martin

(Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 28 signatures.)

Blame to be placed

Editor:

To Preston Abbott, Tracey Dieterich and John Gianotti — he who has no sin, let him pull the first trigger!

Jackie Fredrick '84

World condition bad

Editor:

In response to Mr. Westlake's letter (Nov. 1) I have a few things to say.

First of all its probably very easy for you to say things aren't all that bad — well how would you like to pick up a newspaper and find a picture of one of your classmates and find out that he was killed in Beirut?

Butter yet why don't you try talking to some of the families and friends of those killed in Beirut. I might even stoop to your level for the occasion.

Secondly, you were probably fortunate to make it past your 20th birthday, some of those guys killed were not. Are the things still not so bad?

And lastly Mr. Westlake, I'm sure if you were in hurricane Alicia's path this summer then you no doubt thought that disaster wasn't "all that bad."

Carole Taylor '86

Holidays supported

Editor:

I am writing in response to Marc Rogers' opinion letter on students speaking out. The first thing I have to say is Bravo Marc.

I agree with many points that Marc made throughout the essay. For one, I do think that national holidays like Memorial Day and Veteran's Day should be recognized.

I am from Virginia Beach, Va. and my father is an officer in the Navy. Living so close to the world's largest military installation, we recognize every military holiday ever dreamed up by Congress. Like Marc said, we should hear more about such occasions in the future instead of worrying about the next home game.

I was not old enough to be involved in the highly political campus scene of the 60s but I feel that maybe Texas A&M is a little too conservative when it comes to talking and taking a stand on political and moral issues.

Hopefully, Marc's letters will spark some positive reactions and not just a whole lot of sneer letters.

David D. Driskell '87

Word misinterpreted

Editor:

Many times we do things with the best of intentions and find our actions are misinterpreted by others. Very often this variation in interpretation of the same act or action is due to the varying backgrounds of the people involved in the action, which results in different groups of people.

The word, spook, has a number of meanings and one of these is associated with the traditions of Halloween. Another use of the term, however, is as a derogatory label for black Americans. Obviously black Americans at Texas A&M know this and are sensitive to the public use if a word that is often used in a degrading way towards them.

I congratulate the Roadrunners for having taken the action they did to

change the name of their annual event once they became aware of the fact that the label "Spook Event" was offensive to other Aggies.

Those of you who take pride in being from the South and signify this by displaying the Confederate flag need to reflect on what this symbol is perceived to stand for by black Americans.

If we are sincere in our proclaimed to make our neighbors who happen to be labeled as black Americans welcome here at Texas A&M, we need to become more sensitive about their perceptions. The Roadrunners Club has set a good example for the rest of us to follow.

William P. Kuvlesky
Professor of Sociology

Gays want dignity

Editor:

In response to M. Weaver's letter (Gays Reconsider), I would like to quote an anonymous writer here in Aggieland. These are his words:

"Stop harassing us. Let us live our lives publicly, bothering no one and then we can attain dignity. Have society outlaw your sexuality and then see how much integrity you can proclaim. You think about that before you start denigrating something you know nothing about. We don't exactly love the idea of not being 'normal,' and people like you make it even worse."

Like any other gay, I was born gay, I'm comfortable being who I am, and that's the way God wanted me to be — a normal human being.

Ed Filho

Parking spaces small

Editor:

This is in response to the issue of restriping the parking lots. I am one of many people who own a large car. As it is right now, I cannot park in the red area behind Law Hall without taking up two parking spaces, which I will not because it would aggravate other good Ags.

The spaces are too small and there are many scratches and dents on the doors to prove it.

In order to get out of a vehicle in this area, you must hold the door and squeeze out, which does not always work. Try doing this with your arms full of groceries. It is very difficult.

If the parking lots do get restriped, where are people with larger cars going to park so that theirs won't get damaged?

As for \$400 a space to restripe, are they kidding? Why don't they use that money to build an additional parking lot? Or if there is not space for an additional parking lot, what about a parking garage? They are expensive; but with all the tickets given out, I'm sure it can be affordable.

Also, if the parking lots do get restriped, people with larger cars may have to take up more than one space because their cars will not fit in one space. This would only make the parking problem worse than it already is.

I do not know how the rest of you fellow Aggies with cars feel, but I do know that I did not pay a \$27 parking fee to get my car damaged. When I paid that

fee, I was going to be guaranteed a "safe" place to keep my car.

Let's be reasonable; something does need to be done about this parking problem, but restriping is not the answer.

Shelia Pitik '85

Bike safety scored

Editor:

I've read and heard several comments about the biking problem on campus. I am aware of the problems and would like to clear some things up.

Bikers: contrary to popular belief, hitting a regular pedestrian on the street is only worth 100 points in competition biking, not 200. The only time the 200 is awarded is when the pedestrian sees you coming prior to impact.

This results in a double score. Stopping at a stop sign, of course, subtracts 10 points from your raw score. When traveling on sidewalks (the University's fine handicap facilities makes all sidewalks accessible), pedestrians are only worth 50 points base and one point is awarded for each mile per hour traveled (double that if done with no hands).

One can see, however, that mph credit only becomes significant at speeds over 30. Note that the PCA (Preditorial Cyclists Association) considers points earned by any sport, safety is important, so the PCA highly recommends that all its members wear protective gear.

I hope that I've cleared up some of the confusion, and I would like to say that A&M bikers are some of the highest scoring bikers anywhere. Just yesterday I saw a cyclist barrel through a crosswalk and take out one "crosser" with each handlebar. As he rode on, I could see him filling out his score card. Keep up the good work, Ags!

One more note. To those bikers who think they're better bikers simply because they consider the safety of others important... you're worth 500 points. Thank you.

Brian Massey '87

Job hunting difficult

Editor:

A large photograph hangs in the Placement Center of a hot, perspiring, Aggie crowd. Below it, the caption read: The Way We Were. As I admired this photograph in a hot, perspiring, Aggie crowd, it occurred to me that the photograph was mislabeled.

It should read: The Way We Were, Are, and Ever Shall Be. Our new sign-up system with its five page instructions, secret numbers, IDs, and bidding points, could stand some improvements.

I have the following suggestions. First, make more copies of the schedule books available. There must be five Ags for every one of those five inch thick books; you waste a lot of time waiting for your turn.

Second, the Placement Center needs more personnel and larger accommodations; the main desk is understaffed and the lobby is cramped.

Third, if any department feels it has the staff, space, and time to handle the interview process, then the Placement Center should be bypassed completely. It has been my experience that department supported sign-ups and interviews in-

volve less time and paperwork involved.

I hope these suggestions will be implemented the day when a photograph of a perspiring Aggie crowd at the Placement Center will proudly hang on with this caption: The Way We Were. William C.

Bonfire help strong

Editor:

We, the residents of Brazos County would like to express our appreciation to all the guys out at the cut sight, Richard and Crocker Hall's Y, and the entire population of Camp for their support of our efforts for building the hell outta bonfire.

Marcy
Patrice
Deene

SMU game not lost

Editor:

I would like to applaud the Aggies for their victory in the SMU game. There was a three point difference between Aggie and SMU.

To those whom the words, "you win or lose, it's how you play" are meaningless, they are meaningless, they are meaningless, they are meaningless.

Each player put forth a great effort, which was matched by a man in the stands. The "never" burst forth from the first yell. The 12th man showed that we will struggle forward together, both off the field.

I had the privilege of bringing to a game. After the game, when marked that he had been to Tulsa, etc., football games, but "never seen anything like today" have not been prouder if we had 100 points. Because a mere win is soon forgotten, but a thorough is built upon making ourselves for the next obstacles.

So be proud Aggies, we gained from the game than SMU will. Charlie

Aggieland spirit

Editor:

The author of this poem wishes main anonymous, but the signature the bottom supports his view.

When the Greeks start talking,
They say quite a lot.
But in Commander Abbott's view
They ought to be shot.
They didn't work bonfire,
Silver Taps was a joke,
They never said "Howdy,"
If ever they spoke.
They asked to be equal,
To not be denied.
But the way I see it,
They're just along for the ride.
Oh, we can accept them,
But I say if we do,
The Spirit of Aggieland
Will no longer be true.

Stephen C. Taylor
Ronald A. V.

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. 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 telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611.

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Speakes endures credibility damage

by Helen Thomas

United Press International

WASHINGTON — White House credibility has suffered a damaging blow with the invasion of Grenada, and it may take time to recover.

There are indications that at least some aides believe that the way information concerning the invasion and U.S. motives was blacked out, then doled out, much of it misinformation, was a "colossal blunder" that may come back to haunt them.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes, in particular, has had his reputation on the line. He was not informed of the invasion until an hour after it was under way.

It was a big secret for Americans mostly since there are strong indications that the Cubans, the Soviets and the Grenadians were aware of the preparations and the 20-ship armada in the Caribbean some 24 hours before the invasion.

Speakes is telling reporters that he has been assured that in the future he will be brought in on the takeoffs as well as the landings.

There are many aspects to the events of the last week that called into question the administration's desire for full accountability. The civilian powers completely deferred to the military on mak-

ing decisions on how and when information should be transmitted to the public.

In other words, the White House turned over to the Pentagon its control of information outlets on the important matter of keeping the public informed.

For two days, the public was denied an independent, non-government view of the war because reporters were barred from Grenada.

The force of news organizations helped force the issue and did resolve in correspondents finally being permitted to cover the war as independent observers.

It was a Canadian correspondent who reported the United States had hit a mental hospital, killing some of the patients and orderlies. Although the hospital was shelled on the day of the invasion, the Pentagon did not report it.

The Pentagon also has been slow to announce any casualties it has inflicted on the invasion and Cubans who resisted the invasion.

Speakes said that he had been unfairly singled out since spokesman at the State Department and Speakes also were involved in passing along false information.

Speakes told reporters that had he been given the truth, "I would not have revealed it, but I would not have lied, nor would I have misled."

"Now, was that bomb three hoax or not? Was that a bomb, or was it not a bomb?"