

opinion

Marines' presence needed in Lebanon

by Sana Hamade
Lebanese Student Association

No words can express the sorrow and the outrage at the cold-blooded murder of the U.S. Marines and the French paratroopers in Beirut. Only mixed feelings of pain and anger result from the cowardly terrorist act which claimed the lives of at least 230 American servicemen. Perhaps the only consolation is that those Marines died serving their country in the name of peace and freedom. Their deeds will never be forgotten and their sacrifice will serve as a milestone for a peaceful and independent Lebanon.

This massacre has produced strong desires for pulling the Marines out of

Lebanon. Many Americans are asking these questions: Why are the Marines in Lebanon? Why does the U.S. have to police the rest of the world? We answer the last question as George Will did several evenings ago on "Nightline": "Russia is a burglar running down the streets looking for an unlocked door to open, and the U.S. is the policeman who is trying to track the burglar down to catch him and free the people from its evil actions."

As to why the Marines are in Lebanon, their presence will bolster the Lebanese government as all foreign forces withdraw. The U.S. is also helping Lebanon regain its independence and restore its sovereignty. But what is more important is, besides protecting Lebanon's interests,

the Marines are there to protect the U.S. interests in the Middle East.

Why would the security of the U.S. be threatened in such a small and faraway country? Lebanon is the key to Middle

East. Syria has already become a home for thousands of Soviet military personnel and it has been provided a massive amount of Soviet weaponry. Once Lebanon falls under the tyranny of these hostile forces, the U.S. strategic position will be endangered.

The Marine role in Lebanon is essential to defend the free world against repression and terrorism. And the fate of Lebanon as a democratic country is heavily influenced by the interference of the U.S. The U.S. should play a more aggressive role in the Middle East. It should not give up any effort to bring order and peace to that part of the world. It should not hand terrorists any victories. If the U.S. turns its back and walks

away, it will only be admitting crediting those who advocate freedom, fanaticism and repression.

The U.S. should not sit back and let the Soviet Union catch one another. It is time for the U.S. to spread of communism and the those who support it, and play a decisive role. Every true Lebanese cause only them and the forces have come for the sake and in the name of democracy.

A few years ago, Lebanon was a source of civilization for the Middle East. It was a prosperous serving as a gateway between the West. Our wish is to see the

Reader's Forum

East. If it falls into the hands of Syria, which is supported by Russia, the door will be wide open for communism to reach out in the Middle East. That part of the world will become a slave to communism, and this is a direct threat to the Un-

Letters: The Butt makes us laugh

Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Gavin Jones' letter of November 1 concerning The Battalion and the Butt.

To say the least, I disagreed with your letter. To say the most, it was a joke. You praised The Battalion for presenting stories of interest. Let me refresh your memory with some of the headlines for the November 1 edition of The Battalion that the staff felt were "stories of interest": "MODERN DAY 'ARK' BOUND FOR KOREA" (front page), "PUSH-CART MAKES FAST FOOD FASTER", "10 FROM ECUADORAN FAMILY ARE AGGIES", "CITIES FEUD IN NEW MEXICO."

Well Mr. Jones, obviously your definition and my definition of "interest" are 180 degrees apart. The Battalion also failed miserably with their attempt to print a "humor supplement" (The Aggie Rag, remember? probably not). The only reason I read The Battalion is due to the fact that I've already paid for it (student services fee).

Now, I wish to express my congratulations to the staff of The Battalion. The Battalion does have a place at Texas A&M, Mr. Jones. It makes us laugh. The Battalion is one of the finest satirical publications I've seen, and I am anxiously awaiting my next issue. Finally Mr. Jones, you know what they say: "If you can't take a joke..." Well, you know the rest.

Brian Muzney '84

Let differences show

Editor:

I was absolutely astounded by the show of ignorance and intolerance exhibited by M. Weaver in regards to gay persons.

I do not understand how anyone could be so irrational as to state in one paragraph "I am sympathetic toward gays because it is true they may not have chosen their particular disposition," and come back in the next paragraph with, "you should seriously try to become a normal human being again...use your energy to become what God created you to be."

Gay persons are normal human beings. Although I am not personally gay I have had several friends who were. It is insulting to me when one states that gays at TAMU will ruin its reputation. Intolerance will ruin TAMU's reputation.

Such an arrogant and unjust application of religious beliefs is akin to the Catholic Church' persecution of Galileo.

To Ms. Brown I would like to say, "Congratulations! You have learned one of the Fundamental Truths of Life: It ain't always fair." People will continue to tell jokes about those who are different from themselves because they are either insecure, they want to make themselves look better of simply because they expect to get a good laugh from their audience.

Humor is a very relative thing. The same joke told by two different people can be merely a funny joke in one case and a mean spirited attack on a specific group in another case.

I am aware that many of the gay jokes, black jokes, etc. told here are told in an offensive manner. These you will just have to learn to live with as others do. However, please remember that some people laugh at gay jokes for the humor and not out of prejudice. I have laughed at gay jokes, but I also laugh at Aggie jokes and California jokes (my home state).

I respect Ms. Brown for her stand and hope that she will serve as an encouragement to all Aggies to dare to let their differences show. Unless this happens TAMU cannot be a "World Class University".

Yvonne Degraw

Gays outnumbered

Editor:

In response to G. Brown's letter, Oct. 26, on "Basic Aggie" gay, I would like to say that if she is not embarrassed about proclaiming her sexual preferences, then I will be embarrassed for her.

Excluding the other 999 gays at Texas A&M, I can't think of anyone else who enjoys hearing about this abnormal act. It may be okay for you all, but in the long run, you are outnumbered.

Did you ever stop to think that maybe

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All the News You Need to Know

The Reagan Administration

"God Bless our President"

VOLUME: LOW TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1983 (1983, 100) LARRY SPEAKES, EDITOR

INTERNATIONAL

GRENADA:
We won!

LEBANON:
You writing a book or something?

CENTRAL AMERICA:
What's it to you?

OUR OPINIONS

Gut the Freedom of Information Act

MEDICAL STUDENTS OKAY: RON

Remember: GOOD AMERICANS DON'T CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT!

Thanks to the President, All of the Medical Students

The Battle for Grenada. Edited for National Security.

Ode to Voss and Tagliabue

Roses are red, Violets are blue. Rocks don't write poetry and neither should you.

Donna Scheider

T. Harrington

Editor:

This is in response to the childish "poem" lambasting Greeks that Messre. Tagliabue and Voss submitted to The Bat-

the students you spoke to were being "receptive" because their professor was in the room? That may or may not have something to do with it. I didn't know that you had to be gay to speak in front of a class and come out feeling rewarded. Also, if you are not bothered about admitting your preferences, then why should you be bothered by the responses which you expect to receive? By opening yourself up to students and professors each semester, you are setting yourself up for ridicule; therefore, you should learn to accept it. Don't play martyr!

Being a basic Aggie may involve standing at all football games, attending yell practice, and eating at the Cow Hop, but I beg to differ — you're not a basic Aggie.

T. Harrington

Silver Taps moving

Editor:

Last night I witnessed one of the most

Strengthening U.S. dollar catches flabby competition

by Art Buchwald

I went to the Monetary Health Fitness Club the other day to see the different currencies work out.

Most of the currencies were flabby and breathing hard. The only one that seemed in great shape was the American dollar. Its muscles were bulging and it was shadow boxing in the ring.

Secretary of the Treasury Don Regan, the dollar's manager said, "We have a real slugger now. In the late '70's the dollar was the weakest fighter in the world. Everyone was killing us. But now we have the world champion."

"That's great. Who is that getting in the ring with it?"

"The French franc. It hasn't won a fight since Mitterrand became president."

The bell rang and the two currencies started at each other. The dollar jabbed to the face and when the French franc took a wild swing, the dollar ducked and hit the franc in the stomach, then the head, then a mean right squarely on the jaw. The franc was groggy and almost fell to the canvas.

The French minister of Finance ran over to Regan and said, "Stop the fight. You're killing my boy."

Regan said, "Let them continue for a little while longer. It's good practice for them."

A few minutes later the franc was being counted out, and the dollar was hardly perspiring.

honored and special traditions that Texas A&M has initiated — that of the Silver Taps ceremony. With silent respect, many students appeared to take part in this time honored tradition. As darkness crept over the group, a three-gun salute was fired. Then the strains of a bugle playing Silver Taps could be heard. The ceremony was witnessed in total silence as were the walks to and from this solemnity. I strongly urge more people to take part in such a beautiful and moving memorial.

Donna Scheider

Poem was childish

Editor:

This is in response to the childish "poem" lambasting Greeks that Messre. Tagliabue and Voss submitted to The Bat-

talion last Friday. I use the term loosely so as not to further grieving and Shelley; they and many must surely be spinning like top moment. Without even trying, the butors proved that their minds quarter-inch deep and only half wide, will never be mistaken for chasms. Consider the following epic another contribution to the literary Hall of Fame.

Ode to Voss and Tagliabue

Roses are red, Violets are blue. Rocks don't write poetry and neither should you.

Mike Mc

The Battalion

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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 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) 843-2611.

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