

opinion

Letters: Confederate flag stood for tradition

Editor:

Although Steven Weiss may hold valid prejudices against the "slave sale" and Confederate flag bearing traditions honored at Texas A&M, he is decidedly biased in his judgement of the character of the South.

To the men and women who formed it, the Confederacy stood for their defense of the southern way of life, and we have a right to be proud of many of the traditions and values bequeathed to us.

To this daughter of the South, the Confederate flag embodies all the attributes that make the South, Texas, and this University such a special place.

Kim Norris, '84

Eating pets not cruel

Editor:

In response to King's letter to the editor in Monday's Battalion, I have one question for her: "Ms. King, do you eat meat?" If you are a vegetarian, I do not agree with your thinking, but I will give your opinion some respect. I will assume

by your remarks that you are a vegetarian and simply do not eat steaks and hamburgers.

Coming from a ranching background I know of many times animals were made pets and then slaughtered for personal consumption or sent to packing houses. There is nothing cruel or abnormal about keeping an animal as a pet and then eating it.

In case you are a vegetarian just remember that the next time you reach into the meat counter at the supermarket you may be picking up some little girl's prized and beloved show steer.

Mark Randolph '86

Fan hopeful for '84

Editor:

Don't let the t.u. game dampen your spirit! Our young team put the scare to them and Coach Sherrill and the team will beat them in '84. If not, then in '85.

The Band, Bonfire, Yell Leaders, Fish Drill Team, Corps March In, Coaches and Team, and Aggie Fans were all outstanding!

Keep the faith — our time will come!

Bill Leftwich

Metal detectors key to 'boosting' revenue

by Dick West

United Press International
WASHINGTON — If you are one of those tourists who feels unduly restricted by the new security arrangements at the U.S. capitol, look at it this way:

Each time you pass through a metal detector, you're receiving a free medical checkup.

It is true that visitors who start a machine beeping may be searched to determine if they are carrying potentially deadly weapons.

But that is a small price to pay for discovering that you may have a potentially deadly blood disorder.

Your family physicians probably would charge you an arm and a leg for the same information.

I discovered the beneficial side effects of metal detectors, also known as magnetometers, in the December issue of Omni. The magazine reports that anyone who touches off an alarm, but isn't carrying any metal objects, may be suffering from hemochromatosis.

That ailment is described as a hereditary disease in which the iron content of human blood reaches toxic levels.

Omni quotes one medical specialist as saying the symptoms of hemochromatosis often are mistakenly attributed to diabetes or cirrhosis of the liver.

If the iron deposits in your veins are large enough to get you mistaken for a terrorist, you may be sure that more than the liver is acting up.

Once you are released by the Capitol Police, the FBI and other minions of the

law, you probably should visit a doctor for therapy and prescriptions. There is, however, no charge for walking through a metal detector. In fact, it's mandatory, and has been ever since someone exploded a bomb near the Senate chamber last month.

I'm just wondering how long Congress will continue to provide this valuable service at taxpayer expense.

Granted, the lawgivers make up the legislative bodies that previously brought us Medicare, Medicaid and other goodies. But when the House and Senate adjourned last month, they left behind huge budgetary deficits, and no discernable means of erasing the red ink.

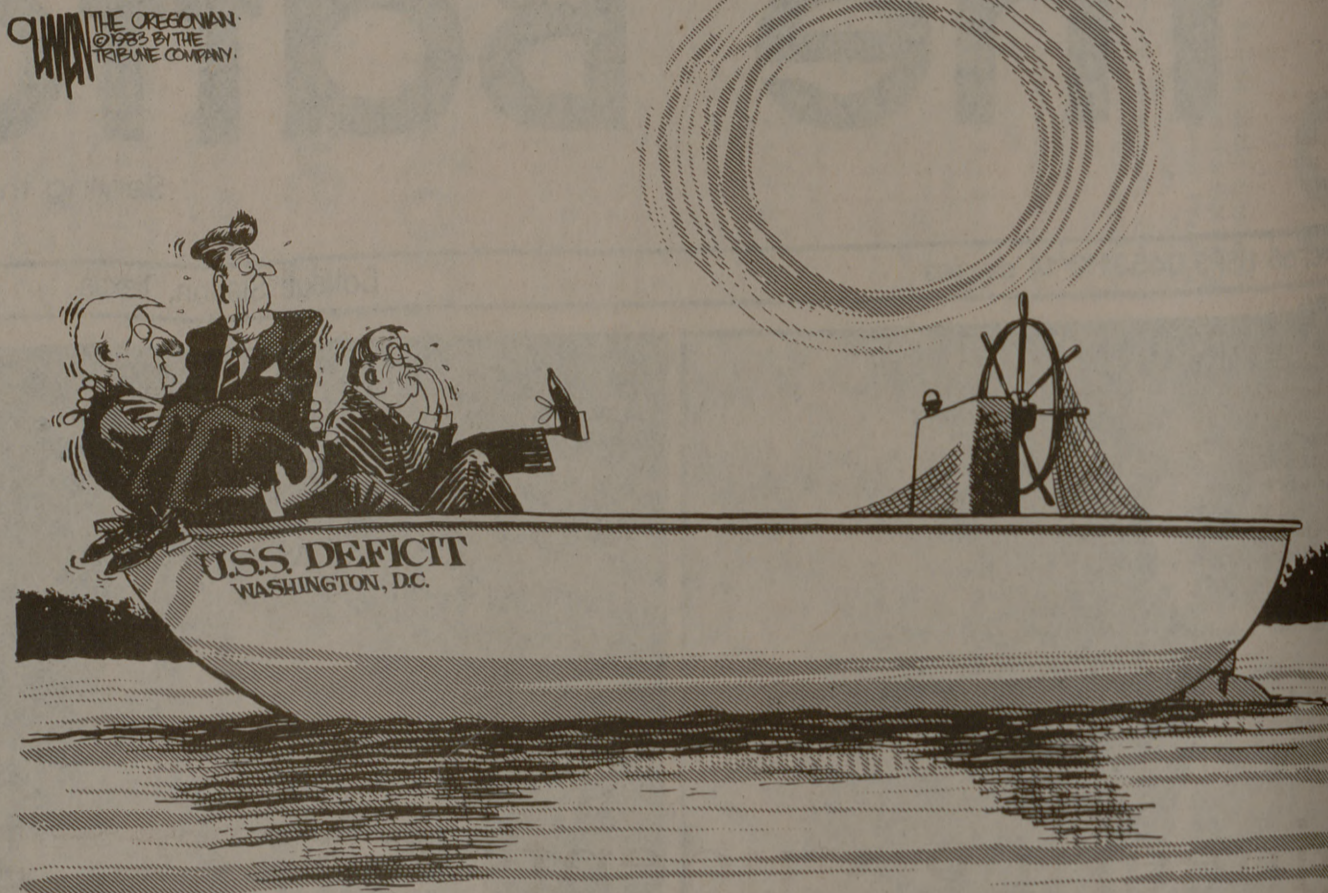
Here is a chance to increase security and revenue at the same time.

I am referring, of course, to coin-operated metal detectors, similar to the do-it-yourself blood pressure machines that are beginning to appear in arcades and other public places.

Admittance to the Capitol still would be by magnetometer only. Only visitors would be required to deposit a certain sum, say a 50-cent piece, in the slot before passing through.

The idea of charging admission to see our lawgivers in action, or what passes for action in Congress, might be repugnant to many citizens. Clearly, however, half a buck for a hemochromatosis checkup is a bargain.

All visitors to Capitol would profit from a cheap diagnosis. And the volume of visitors, particularly during the tourist season, is large enough that even a small fee would do wonders for the national debt.



Space technology program alternative to nuclear war

(Editor's note: Robert Dalglish is a sophomore electrical engineering major.)
by Robert Dalglish

On Nov. 21, after viewing "The Day After," many Americans suddenly decided that they were against nuclear war. It is hard to imagine any rational human being who is not. The problem that remains is how nuclear war can be avoided. The proposed answers are easy to understand but not all of them are practical.

reader's forum

The first, which is rapidly gaining popularity among Americans, is disarmament. As with any other anti-technology movement, disarmament will work. It removes the power necessary to cause damage. We can voluntarily remove nuclear power from our midst. This will not, however, solve our problem. Can we expect the Soviet Union, conqueror of Hungary, Poland, and Afghanistan, to stop their world revolution simply because we fear their power? Definitely not. We can rid ourselves of the technology we fear, but it will remain with those who do not share our sentiments. Our second option is to use all of our wisdom, compassion, and knowledge to avoid conflict. This is a sound philosophy and it has served us well in the past. It has, unfortunately, failed on occasion and since just

one error can be catastrophic when dealing with nuclear confrontations, we are led to our final option.

That option is one which you, as Americans, have laughed at all too often. It is the movement of man into space. In 1969, NASA had serious plans to accomplish this. Included in these plans were a 100-man space station, orbiting lunar stations, a station on the lunar surface and a reusable space shuttle. All of this was scheduled to have been accomplished by the mid-1980's. In 1969, we had the technology to take the first step in decreasing our absolute dependency on earth. We lacked only the desire. We have not lost the technology. We can begin advancing our frontiers into space at will.

Of course, this sounds nice but how likely is it that our space program will advance quickly enough to save us? After all, there may be a nuclear war tomorrow.

There is another reason for moving into space. Not only will the space program eventually allow us to survive if life on earth is, somehow, ended, but it may also prevent a nuclear or even a conventional war. We live on a crowded planet with power dangerously concentrated in centers controlled by short-sighted men.

Without space, our only frontiers are those which belong to someone else. The U.S.S.R. seeks to spread its influence

where else.

By advancing in space technology we can create another field of competition. We no longer concentrate only on earth but on developing new technologies, launching more profitable stations, and extending our influence to other planets. We threaten no one else. These threats are not only harmless, they can be beneficial. Has our economy ever been as stagnant as it was from 1950 to 1970 when we were not using new technology and the space program more seriously?

We cannot ignore our present problems on earth. We must continue to seek peaceful resolutions to our conflicts. Without the space program, our problems will probably get worse. Our population is increasing, our power is increasing, we must find ways to support our cause. You recently been forced into a situation where our present situation, but we are not prepared for it. We do not offer suggestions. Think about the space program

Reagan aiding Israel militarily

by Helen Thomas

United Press International
WASHINGTON — "He gave away the farm," was the joking observation of reporters at the windup of President Reagan's two-day meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

And reporters are still trying to figure out what Reagan got in return.

Clearly, the president has decided that the United States must bolster its military posture in the Middle East and has put a lower priority on diplomatic possibilities.

The threat of Soviet military power and its backing of Syria with equipment and advisers was strongly emphasized as the motivating factor for the new closer relationship with Israel.

Reagan and his aides are seeking ways that they can bring home the vulnerable Marine peace-keepers from turbulent Beirut. They are especially anxious for this to happen before Reagan's expected re-election campaign gets rolling.

His pollsters have found that despite the president's rising popularity the tragedies involving the Marines have been a sticking point with many potential voters.

Reagan was not happy with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, particularly when Americans saw the bombardment of Beirut in the summer of 1982. A chill in relations set in between the two countries, particularly when Menachem Begin was at the helm.

But all that seems by the board now. During their talks, Reagan agreed to U.S. and Israeli joint political-military cooperation in the Middle East, pledged to ask Congress for increases in military aid for Israel and to write off some of the \$850 million in loans into outright grants.

In addition, the president agreed to lift an embargo on the sale of cluster-bomb shells to Israel, to provide up to \$300

million in U.S. aid for development of the Lavi aircraft in the United States and \$250 million for procurement of Lavi parts.

In terms of economic assistance, the president said the United States and Israel will begin negotiations shortly on a free trade agreement intended to help ease Israel's trade imbalance. Israeli firms also would be allowed to compete for contracts to participate in the production of U.S. weapons systems.

Other areas of cooperation spelled out by Reagan were: combined planning, joint exercises and positioning of U.S. military equipment in Israel, with an administration official saying the list of military concessions is "illustrative, but not exclusive."

Reagan said that the main focus of their meetings was "the agony of Lebanon and the threats to our common interests."

"Adequate security arrangements for Israel's northern border must be assigned the highest priority," Reagan declared.

In terms of economic assistance, the president said the United States and Israel will begin negotiations shortly on a free trade agreement intended to help ease Israel's trade imbalance.

But the problem is larger than that. There is the continuing factionalism in Lebanon, the Syrian occupation with no signs of an early withdrawal, and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza with Reagan indicating no new initiatives to break the stalemate, although he has branded it an "obstacle to peace".

Some Arab leaders are bound to wonder why all the Christmas bounty for Israel.

James Zogby, director of the American-Arab anti-discrimination committee,

said, "The United States will be complicitous in all Israeli actions against the occupied Palestinian territories."

"For all intents and purposes," Reagan administration has sealed off any U.S. role as negotiator or arbiter in the Middle East.

Reagan still hopes that the peace plan he offered on Sept. 17 can be revived, although it has been rejected on all sides.

He said that the Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel remains the cornerstone of the peace process with the U.N. resolutions in the aftermath of the 1967 and 1973 Arab wars.

Whether Reagan's decision for a military alliance with Israel will enhance peace in the Middle East or draw the United States into the mire of long-standing disputes remains to be seen.

Slouch

by Jim E...



"Can we get rid of our Thanksgiving decorations now?"

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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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.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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