

Heroes' memories now stored away

Did you realize that Monday was the World War I Memorial's last day to stand at the West entrance to the Texas A&M campus?

The Battalion Editorial Board certainly didn't.

Neither did many other people on campus.

But regardless of the lack of advance warning, the Memorial, donated by the Classes of '23, '24, '25 and '26 in memory of the Aggies who died in the "War to end all Wars," has been moved. And it won't return to campus until after the bell tower is completed.

On first glance, the Memorial appeared to be just a slab of granite marking the west entrance to campus.

But upon closer inspection, you could see the carefully sculpted stars and stripes, contrasting with the natural contours of the rock. Carved into

the front of the stone are the names of the Aggies killed in World War I.

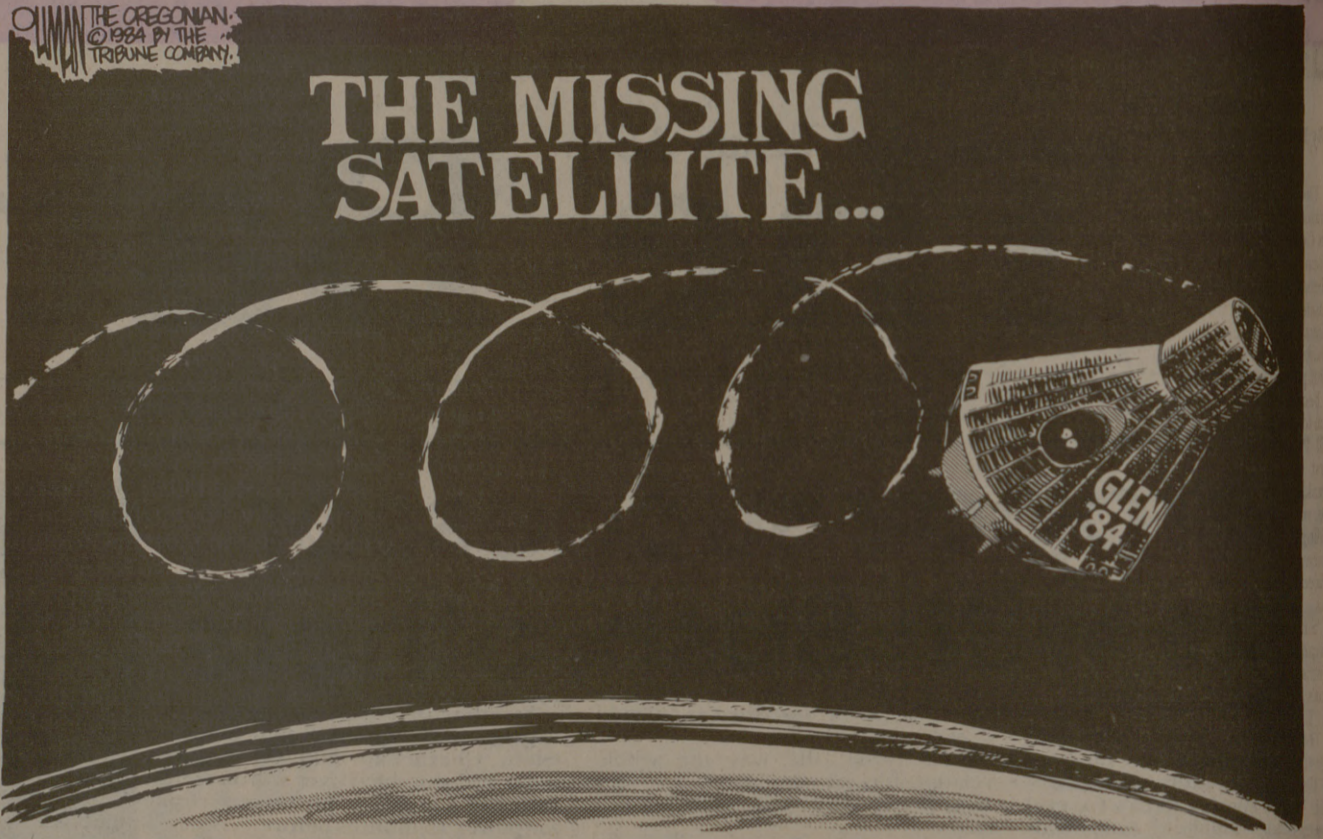
Even though people passing by didn't always realize what the Memorial symbolized, it still stood as a reminder of those who gave their lives in defense of democracy.

What will be its fate? Charles R. Cargill, vice president for operations, says a committee has been formed to determine a new location for the Memorial. But the committee is disorganized and no location for the monument has been determined.

For now, the memorial to the former Texas A&M students who gave their lives fighting in World War I sits in an area maintenance building.

Heroes' memories shouldn't be stored away in University storage bins — not even for six months.

—The Battalion Editorial Board



'Hardware' influences U.S. foreign policy

By Art Buchwald

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The rumor in Washington is that Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and Secretary of State George Schultz can't get together on foreign policy.

There is a further rumor that Weinberger is influencing foreign policy.

There is a further rumor that Weinberger is influencing foreign policy more than Schultz.

"This shouldn't surprise anyone," Miguel, my friend at one of the embassies in Washington, told me. "Everyone in this town knows the Pentagon is in, and Foggy Bottom is out."

"Why is that?" I wanted to know.

"Because when a country has a foreign policy based on military strength, the secretary of defense is going to have a lot more to say than the secretary of state."

"That's how much you know. The secretary of defense only carries out the policies set by the state department," I said.

"It used to be that way, but it isn't anymore. Look at it from our point of view. When Weinberger goes globe-trotting he carries photos of new tanks, classy fighter planes, sleek ground-to-air missiles, and sexy helicopters. When George Schultz travels around the world he has nothing to show world leaders except pictures of his grandchildren."

"When Schultz talks to my colonel-president, all he tells him is that if he wants continued U.S. support, he has to get his financial house in order, hold free elections and stop beating up on the people. That's not the kind of stuff my leader wants to hear."

"Weinberger doesn't give lectures. As long as my colonel-president certifies we're anti-communist, we can have all the ground-to-air missiles we want. If you were running my country would you rather have a visit from Schultz or Weinberger?"

"Weinberger, of course."

"Our foreign minister is going to make a visit to Washington this spring and I have been setting up his itinerary. He just cabled me and wanted to know

why he had to visit the State Department.

"I told him it was tradition, so he agreed to a 10-minute stop there, on the condition he could spend the rest of the day at the Pentagon."

"That's not very diplomatic."

"The Defense Department has offered the foreign minister a ride on a nuclear aircraft carrier, a flight in a B-52 bomber and a military parade in his honor at West Point. All the State Department could come up with was a visit to Disney World."

"Don't your people realize the Secretary of State is the second most important position in our government?"

"Not under Reagan it isn't. Rumor has it that when George Schultz starts briefing the President on some intricate diplomatic problem, Reagan dozes off in his chair. But when Weinberger comes in with his bagful of military contingency plans, the president really perks up. Mr. Reagan loves simplistic solutions to world affairs."

"No wonder your people are tilting toward Weinberger."

"It's no contest when you have to choose between a Cabinet officer who has a \$2.5 billion budget and one who has a \$305 billion to toss around."

"Do you have any word on the morale of the State Department?"

"The rumor is that they're not too happy over there. The president still lets them write nasty diplomatic notes to Nicaragua, Cuba and Canada. And every once in awhile they can call in a foreign ambassador and read the riot act to him for shipping computers to Bulgaria. But it's hard to sell the foreign country leaders on a peaceful solution to a crisis situation when Weinberger will offer to solve the same problem with 100 helicopter gunships."

"I guess what you're saying has validity, because every time you see George Schultz on television he looks very nervous, and every time Casper Weinberger comes on the screen he doesn't seem to have a worry in the world."

"It shouldn't surprise you. Schultz deals in soft talk and Weinberger deals in hardware."

Letters

Peace between races

Editor:

In light of the fact that this is Black History Month, this passage on racial unity, written in 1938 by a prominent member of the Baha'i Faith, Shogi Effendi seems particularly relevant.

"Let the whites make a supreme effort in their resolve to contribute their share to the solution of this problem, to abandon once and for all their usually inherent and at times subconscious sense of superiority, to correct their tendency towards revealing a patronizing attitude towards the members of the other race, to persuade them through their intimate, spontaneous and informal association with them of the genuineness of their friendship, and the sincerity of their intentions, and to master their impatience of any lack of responsiveness on the part of a people who have received, for so long a period, such grievous and slow-healing wounds."

"Let the Blacks, through a corresponding effort on their part, show by every means in their power, the warmth of their response, their readiness to forget the past, and their ability to wipe out every trace of suspicion that may still linger in their hearts and minds."

"Let neither think that the solution of so vast a problem is a matter that exclusively concerns the other. Let neither think that such a problem can either easily or immediately be resolved."

"Let neither think that anything short of genuine love, extreme patience, true humility, consummate tact, sound initiative, mature wisdom, and deliberate, persistent, and prayerful effort, can succeed in blotting out the stain which this patent evil has left on the fair name of their common country."

Clearly, achieving racial unity should be the concern and responsibility of the predominately white student body at Texas A&M. It is encouraging to see Aggies slowly awakening to the needs of an ever-changing world.

Now is a good time to reflect upon our character and, through friendly association with all peoples, strive to eradicate the racism, nationalism and religious bigotries that are disrupting the foundations of peace throughout our

common planet. The world is ready for a change.

John Wendt
Soil and Crop Sciences Graduate Student

Heterosexual reaction

Editor:

Mr. DePalma and friends,

We would like to voice our heterosexual reaction to your continued comments on behalf of the gay community at Texas A&M.

Heterosexuality is a term used to define the biological function that the human species must undergo to reproduce, thereby propagating the species.

In today's society, sex is portrayed as a voluntary emotion, not as its actual biological function. Consequently, homosexuals have taken it upon themselves to take advantage of these views and proclaim that homosexuality is "normal." It is not.

Homosexuality is misguided reproduction that has been catalyzed by society's changing views. Homosexuality serves no useful purpose except to give personal and physical gratification. We humans are living animals who must physically join with opposite sex to reproduce and survive. We would like to make it clear that sex (heterosexual) does provide gratification besides its biological function, and also that we mean "normal" as a typical biological occurrence, not as generally accepted views of society.

In his articles, Mr. DePalma mentioned that The Battalion, as a representative of the university, put down homosexuals. If he would have read the disclaimer that said, "opinions...do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or the Board of Regents..." he would have realized he was wrong.

You have chosen to live the life you want. You have to take the flack from those groups very opposed to gays, as any group takes flack from their opposition.

It is your chosen lifestyle, you have not been forced to live this way. You are persecuted by those who cannot justify your lifestyle, have alternate beliefs, or are simply opposed to your way of life.

You cry for equal rights as if being persecuted as a race. Homosexuality obviously not a race, since reproduction is not possible.

The reason people write "X is a f--- and tear down your pamphlets is because you make such a grand issue of something that many people have no concern for. We think the phrase 'let it live' applies and is used more than you think, Mr. DePalma.

Remember, "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and they call you names — so quit crying!"

Pete Walton
Robert Hicks
Kenneth Bates

Statements corrected

Editor:

David Swanson's letter in Wednesday's Battalion began as a reasonable article but quickly became unsound with the production of "scientific evidence."

If Swanson had taken the time to search the "evidence," he would have found that while there is a definite increase in the strength of the earth's magnetic field, it means, in all probability, that the field is headed for a reversal.

Further, a study by Subir Banerjee and Donald Serowl shows that the increase and reversal have occurred up to 12 times in the last nine million years, the last one occurring about 710,000 years ago, making the earth slightly older than 20,000 years.

In June of 1979, John Eddy and Aram Boornazian brought forth evidence that the sun was shrinking by one arc seconds per century. Soon after measurements were taken by Irwin Shapiro of MIT, Sabatino Sofia, and Leo Morrison. All came up with a shrinking of less than 0.3 arc seconds per century. A five-foot per hour shrinkage rate, suggested by Swanson, would put the sun about 51 million miles away from the sun at the time of creation.

Perhaps if Swanson would actually confirm his information instead of relying on glittering generalities and unsupported assertions, he could produce a stronger argument.

Better luck next time, Dave!

Steve Kilian
Class of '84



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.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials are welcome. Address all inquiries to the editorial page editor.

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