

## Jonestown legacy: two more deaths

The Rev. Jim Jones lives on. The man's powerful hold over the members of the People's Temple didn't end on Nov. 18, 1978, when 912 of his followers died in a mass murder-suicide in Jonestown, Guyana.

Tyrone Mitchell had left college and joined his family at the Jonestown settlement. He became one of the followers, searching for utopia in South America.

Mitchell was at a dentist's office in Georgetown, Guyana, on the day of the slaughter. His family wasn't that lucky. Mitchell returned to the United States without his parents, grandmother, four sisters and one brother.

Last Friday, the legacy of horror and disillusionment left by the man who had shattered Mitchell's life and his faith finally caught up with him.

A little after 2 p.m., he opened fire on the playground of the 49th Street Elementary School in Los Angeles from a house across the street. One child was

killed. Eleven others were injured. Albert Jones, the playground supervisor, was repeatedly shot at as he tried to cross the playground to help the injured children. On his last attempt, he was hit in the foot.

Before police could get into the house, Mitchell took his own life.

Attorney Marcus Topel, who represented Mitchell at the grand jury investigation of the Jonestown massacre, guessed that the man was trying to recreate the mass death and destruction of the settlement's final hours.

Who could have known that Jones, who offered peace and love, who promised to lead his cult to utopia, would lead his disciples to death?

Five years later, with the debris of the shattered community cleared away, the poison he injected into one man's mind has taken its toll.

And Jones can add two more deaths to his record.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

## Gifted minorities get scholarships

**Editor:** Patrice Koranek's harsh and factless assault on scholarships awarded to minorities has done a great disservice to all students who have received "minority" scholarships.

Given: Many minorities do not attend inner city schools and therefore have the opportunity to receive a high quality primary and secondary education.

Given: Many minorities come from middle-income families who have the economic resources to send their children to college.

Given: Some, not many, scholarships are earmarked for highly talented and qualified minorities.

Talented, gifted, minorities — can it really be that these words refer to the same group of people?

Maybe not in the minds of those who wish to believe that Texas A&M is on some kind of minority roundup, but in the minds of those truly dedicated to finding qualified scholarship recipients this is a reality.

As candidates for the Texas A&M President's Achievement Award scholarship, the largest "minority" scholarship offered at this University, we were required to show evidence of an outstanding high school academic record, extensive extracurricular activities and community involvement.

As recipients of this award we have come to Texas A&M with the intent of taking advantage of the opportunities here to develop our talents and abilities to the fullest. It has been our pleasure and privilege to work with service organizations on campus, from Student Government to Student Y, from MSC committees to University special committees, in all instances contributing of our time and ourselves. We receive no special privileges and no diplomas on silver platters.

We are truly sorry that you "had to overcome a lot of obstacles to get to a major university," but it hasn't exactly been a cakewalk for any of us either. We are engineering, science, business and liberal arts majors, and some of us even hold part-time jobs. We find no need to shake our families hardships at anybody else and offer no excuses for our personal failures.

However, there is one fact that does upset us. As the city editor of The Battalion and a student of journalism, we surely expected Miss Koranek to do some kind of research into the criteria used for awarding "minority" scholarships.

In our communications with the Office of School Relations, which coordinates the President's Achievement Awards and is currently spending hundreds of man-hours evaluating applications, it has become apparent that she made no effort to contact them or any other University office connected with University scholarships. Since Miss Koranek has worked so hard in the past, it is our hope that she will now work just as hard to become better informed.

Given: Factless opinion can harm good programs, no matter what your background.

**Andy Hernandez  
Kevin D. Williams**  
(This letter was accompanied by 17 other signatures.)

## 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 also are welcome. Address all inquiries to the editorial page editor.

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### A Campaign '84 Preview.....

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**APR. 1**



In desperation, Jesse Jackson flies to the U.S.S.R. to find Yuri Andropov; he is unsuccessful, but frees 1980 Soviet Olympic hockey team from gulag.

**SEPT. 22**



In presidential debate, Reagan appoints special bipartisan commission to study if you are better off than you were four years ago. Mondale promises to stop promising. Sound goes out in middle of debate, no one notices.

**FEB. 28**



Walter Mondale wins Iowa, New Hampshire after promising to move them to a warmer climate; Glenn drops out to become shuttle astronaut.

**MAY 11**



Mondale, trying to woo crucial bloc of voters, promises to be "the best president left-handed Armenian bowlers ever had."

**NOV. 5**



Coincidentally, on day before election, R.R. brings home Marines from Lebanon, balances budget, names three women to Supreme Court, signs ERA, proposes nuclear freeze and has James Watt jailed.

**MAR. 13**



**JULY 15**



## Letters

### Foreign students want friendship

**Editor:** I am writing in regard to the reception for international students held by the Tau Kappa Junior Honor Society.

I warmly commend them for their kindness in remembering that we foreign students are also part of this University. In all of my years here, this is the first time I've seen an organization other than the International Students Association take an interest in the friendship between American and foreign students.

I am not suggesting that every group or organization hold receptions for us. But Texans, as individuals, should realize that we as students have come to view Texas A&M as a second home and that we have all come with the intentions of establishing friendships with Aggies.

Somehow, this does not come about as frequently as it should, apparently due to the prevalent attitudes here.

I want to point out that most of us are not ignorants, illegal aliens or any other stereotype professed by uninformed persons. Are average Aggies able to distinguish this or only honor students? Let's all learn from each other.

**H. E. Guerrero**  
Class of '83

### Right to privacy: be consistent

**Editor:** I read with interest the editorial in the Feb. 23 issue of The Battalion concerning the possibility that convicted killer James David Autry may have his execution publicly televised.

Whereas Jim Maddox feels that such a presentation may serve to deter crime, the prison officials expressed hesitance at the idea of televising the execution. To this, the auspicious Editorial Board stated "Thank God for human decency.

If we can't find it in our attorney general, maybe we can find it in our prison officials. Is there no privacy left?"

You know, you crazy guys at The Battalion will never cease to amaze me. You complain of a lack of human decency and a lack of concern for personal privacy.

How strange, then, that in the past two weeks, a man who was seen masturbating on the fourth floor of the library building and an individual who was seen fondling himself in the browsing library were reported in the Police Beat column.

Tell me — where is your concern for personal privacy? Certainly you don't apply such ethics only when they suit your personal opinions, do you?

I am not advocating individuals to stimulate themselves in public. But I am questioning the value of reporting such indecencies.

Does it make the world a better place to live? Will it help the public to aid the police in apprehending the reprobate? I doubt it.

So please, in the future, when you decide to preach ethics and morality to your readers, practice what you preach in all aspects of your journalism, not only when you feel that it suits the occasion.

If I want yellow journalism, I'd prefer to have to go to the checkout stand at the grocery to buy a National Enquirer rather than find it in a "professional" student publication.

**Clay P. Gomez**  
Class of '84

### Humanism not a major threat

**Editor:** "The sky is falling!" cried Chicken Little. "The humanists are coming!" cries Gerald Hellwig.

What I thought might be an interesting interpretation of the church-state separation soon evidenced itself as just another half-baked, misguided attempt to dump all of society's ills on "secular humanism."

Mr. Hellwig, I'm glad you reported this growing menace to society. What

impressed (nay, awed) me most in your argument were the many exhortations you gave to support your thesis. Humanists are out to get us.

I submit that not one person has ever heard the term "secular humanist," not one person in 10,000 defines the term, and not one person in 50,000 is one. If Mr. Hellwig's assertions are correct, then what awesome these people must possess!

Besides unsubstantiated claims, should also discuss sterling Hellwig's syllogism goes like this: Humanists are biased. Some humanists are scientists. Therefore, all scientists published by humanists are biased.

Or put another way: All people who are able to write editorials and do write editorials. Some people write stupid editorials. Therefore, all religious people who are able to write editorials do write stupid editorials.

Absurd, isn't it? Most of us think so, except for the Chicken Little who are knocked unconscious by manistic acorns.

**John W. Mc...**

### Vassar delegates praises SCONA

**Editor:** SCONA 29 was an extraordinary experience. I came from New York, completely unfamiliar with the conference but it managed to exceed my expectations. I confronted differing views, no closed minds, for which I thank my fellow delegates.

I was particularly impressed that the conference was run entirely by a capable, efficient student coordinating conference, a culmination of the efforts, displayed these qualities with respect.

The experience was particularly due to the nature of Texas A&M as a whole. The review by the Corporation of the Singing Cowboys square dance are all events I will soon forget.

**Kathryn M. C...**

Vassar College

## Slouch



"Every time I come to the library I have an urge to experiment with the 'domino theory'."