Opinion Page 2/The Battalion/Monday, February 27, 1984

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.

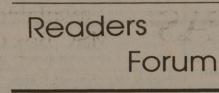
Given: Some, not many, scholarships are earmarked for highly talented and qualified minorities.

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" schol-arship 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 coordi-

A Campaign'84 Preview..... 64 CHECKEGOWAN

APR.1

SEPT. 22

Letters

Foreign students

I am writing in regard to the reception

for international students held by the

kindness in remembering that we for-

eign students are also part of this Uni-

versity. 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 for-

or organization hold receptions for us.

But Texans, as individuals, should real-

ize 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

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 dis-

tinguish this or only honor students?

H. E. Guerrero

Class of '83

due to the prevalent attitudes here.

Let's all learn from each other.

I am not suggesting that every group

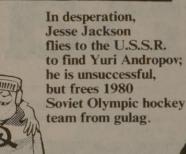
I warmly commend them for their

want friendship

Tau Kappa Junior Honor Society.

Editor:

eign students.



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

MAY 11

1

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

NOV.5

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

MAR.13

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REAGAN I

VOTES

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

Walter Mondale

ever had."

JULY 15 Mondale, trying to woo crucial bloc of voters, promises to be FRITZ "the best president left-handed FRITZ Armenian bowlers

> 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.

> > impressed (nay, awed) me most you gave to support your these fication A your argument were the manyeur humanists are out to get us.

> > I submit that not one person debate this has ever heard the term "stude ate may dis manist," not one person in 1000 Both ho define the term, and not one period at the 50,000 is one. If Mr. Hellwigsartion Act. are correct, then what aweom these people must possess!

> > Besides unsubstantiated da should also discuss sterling a serves 25 Hellwig's syllogism goes like in 46 states. manists are biased. Some human The leg scientists. Therefore, all scientific scheduled published by humanists are bias Or put another way: All Assocation

> > people who are able to write s can write editorials. Some religion can write editorials. Some relieve volving fur ple write stupid editorials. The pay \$7.9 b all religious people who areaber editorials and do write editorials stupid editorials. stupid editorials.

Absurd, isn't it? Most of the fund think so, except for the Chicke interst lo who are knocked unconscious owned coo manistic acorns.

John W. Mcluthe number interes more om the pr The co-o

Vassar delego praises SCON

Editor:

ency act at" for the SCONA 29 was an extraordina Also this rience. I came from New Yor House over pletely unfamiliar with the

but it managed to exceed my

tions. I confronted differing

no closed minds, for which I

nates 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.)

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.

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 my fellow delegates. I was particularly impressed conference was run entirely by ble, efficient student coordinat conference, a culmination of forts, displayed these qualities respect.

The experience was particula due to the nature of Texas A whole. The review by the Corps tertainment of the Singing Ca the square dance are all events soon forget.

Kathryn M. **Vassar** College

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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Editorial Policy The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opin-ions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not nec-essarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

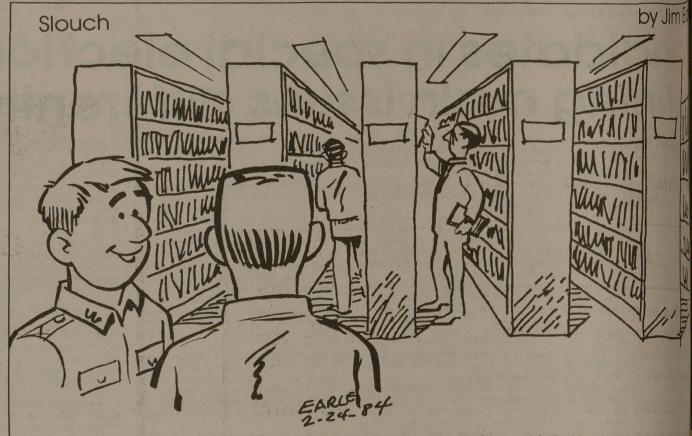
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

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 in-clude the address and telephone number of the

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