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British calm the key to diplomatic crisis

In the recent plague of terrorist acts and reprisals, Great Britain is to be commended. It has handled the tense, dangerous situation at the Libyan embassy in London calmly, maturely and quite diplomatically — in the typical British manner.

Libya is well known for its uncivilized behavior, but on April 17 it broke all codes of diplomatic behavior. A gunman sat in the Libyan embassy in London and shot and killed a British policewoman and injured 11 people.

The British government responded in a sensible fashion by breaking relations with Libya and ordering all Libyan diplomatic staff members to leave the country by April 30.

The Libyans expressed "surprise and indignation" at this decision.

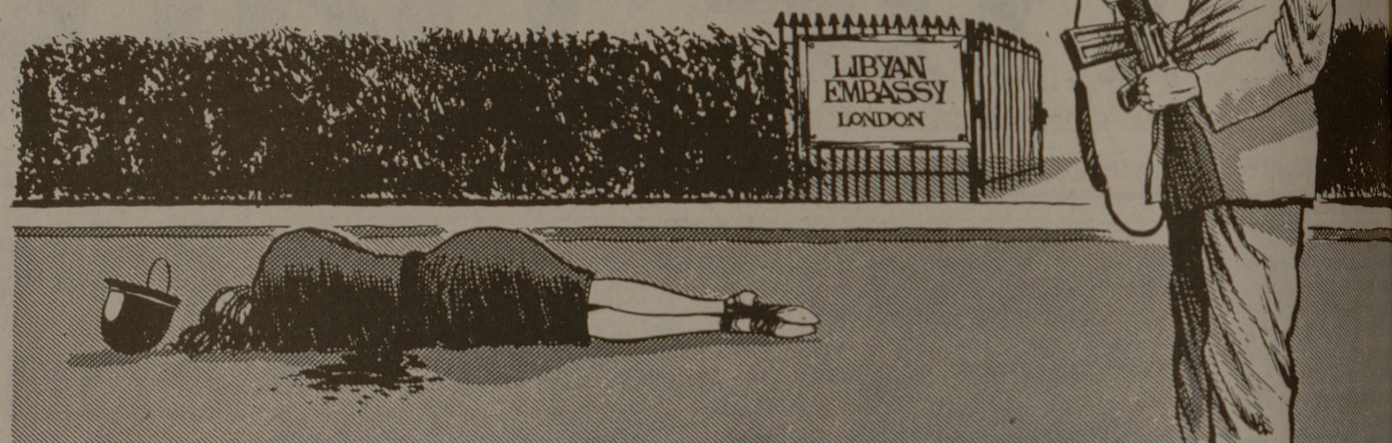
What else did they expect? A more unstable government than that of the British might have reacted emotionally and bombed the embassy.

An act of terrorism such as shooting from an embassy — ordinarily a haven from international chaos — deserves a reprisal of some sort. Because the gunman probably has diplomatic immunity and was hiding in the embassy, the British government's hands were tied. The Libyan government rejected British demands for the evacuation of the building to allow a search for weapons and explosives, so the British could only surround the embassy with security forces while coming up with a course of action.

It's too bad Col. Khadafy's actions aren't that sane.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Find the person that has...
A. Rights that guarantee freedom under diplomatic immunity.
B. No rights.



Ed Board presents diversity of opinion

There seems to be a growing misconception around Texas A&M about the purpose of a newspaper's editorial staff.

The Battalion has received several letters from readers — mostly students — who are concerned that the Editorial Board is not accurately reflecting the beliefs of the student body.

It's not supposed to. Glance up at the top lefthand corner of this page and take note of the word OPINION spelled out in bold black letters.

A formal definition of an editorial board goes something like this: An editorial board presents ideas, based on fact, to its readers in an attempt to stimulate thought and/or discussion on specific topics of current interest.

Those six unseen faces up on the second floor of Reed McDonald don't just while away the hours thinking up ways to infuriate the student body.

They make countless decisions every day about what news goes into the next day's paper and what doesn't, what news is of highest importance and what can be stuck back on page 17, and many more that you aren't aware of and probably don't care about anyway.

They try their best to make sure that all possible information is presented in each story so that the readers — yes, that's you — get to see all sides of a situation.

Because of the nature of the work they do, they're a little more qualified than the next guy on the street to offer ideas on various topics as a result of their familiarity with the situations.

There is one very important reason for printing the editorials they come up with. Every reader is not capable of and really has no desire to thoroughly research every current issue — that's why they read newspapers and watch the nightly news.

By opening up the newspaper of your choice, you can get a fairly accurate picture of what is going on in the world along with a few opinions on hot topics.

The editorials do not force anyone to accept particular views — that's up to you as a reader. You can use it for comparison or consideration, or completely disregard it.

Now take a look at the LETTERS section of this page. Often what you see is a result of an editorial board statement.

The people who write letters to The Battalion are responding to many things — things that range from rebuttals to editorial comments on stories that have appeared in the paper to general opinions from people taking advantage of the option to air their own opinions.

If the editorial board reflected the beliefs of the student body — or any other body for that matter — its initial purpose would be defeated. Independence from outside groups is the fundamental premise that sustains freedom of the press. What you would be reading is



robin black

what you want to hear — a stale regurgitation of what you already know and what you already believe.

If it's a reflection you want, look in the mirror tomorrow morning after you get up.

A newspaper editorial should encourage you to re-examine your beliefs. Whether those beliefs are reaffirmed or altered to any degree is up to you.

We'd be living in a narrow-minded society if we never considered anything different from what is already entrenched in our minds and hearts.

If the truth be told, the rest of The Battalion staff — myself included — often disagrees with the Editorial Board, and by no means do we hesitate to voice our response around the newsroom.

And if you disagree with the Editorial Board, that's great. Write a letter to the editor — that's what the editors really want.

Robin Black is a sophomore journalism major and staff writer for The Battalion.

GOP enjoys Democratic free-for-all

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

"Isn't it a lovely thing to watch?" a Republican campaign manager said.

"What?"
"The Democratic free-for-all. Mondale is socking it to Hart, Hart is socking it to Mondale. And neither one of them is laying a glove on Jesse Jackson."

"Why should anyone lay a glove on Jesse Jackson?" I asked.

"No reason, except when someone runs for president of the United States you're supposed to rough him up a little, so you can see how he behaves under pressure."

"What issue could Mondale or Hart attack Jackson on?"

"They could mention Jesse's support by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, for starters. The good man has threatened the lives of Jews, excommunicated a black reporter from black race, and compared himself favorably with Adolf Hitler, whom he called a 'wickedly great' man. You would think Mondale and Hart had something to work with there."

"Jackson can't help what his surrogates — I mean supporters — say."

"Aha," the campaign manager said. "But Farrakhan is one of Jackson's closest friends, and Jackson refuses to disavow him. Just think what Hart and

Mondale would say if the Ku Klux Klan gave their official support to Ronald Reagan, and the Grand Dragon warmed up every White House audience for Reagan."

"You want Jackson to get rid of Farrakhan?"

"Heck no. The Islam leader is ripping the Democratic Party to shreds. If Jackson refuses to dump him over the side, and Farrakhan keeps holding his crazy press conferences, the white liberal voter is going to be scared to death."

"Every so often a kook like Farrakhan comes along and the media can't give him enough coverage. At the moment he seems to be getting more and more time on television than Jackson. If you vowed to beat up a reporter from the Washington Post and called Hitler a 'wickedly great' man, you would get a lot of attention too."

"I still don't see what Farrakhan has to do with Mondale and Hart."

"You must be pretty dumb. Jackson is going to San Francisco with a number of swing votes. He could put one or the other candidate over the top. So both Mondale and Hart have to cater to him. But if Jackson is still carrying around Farrakhan as baggage, then Mondale and Hart will lose the independents and the liberals."

"In November, for every black voter

Jesse brings out, we get a white Reagan, or one who stays at home

"I don't see why you have to race into the Democratic primary

"You can't lay this one on the liberals. Jackson asked for a racial attack and Farrakhan said he'd like on any black reporter who didn't attack Jackson. So by keeping both white candidates looking like I remind you that Jim Watt was out of the government for just one slur. It was a cream puff coming with the stuff Farrakhan has said in the past few months."

"But Farrakhan isn't in the

ment."

"If the other candidates have with Jackson, he could be."

"So your game plan is to link

han to Jackson to Mondale or Hart."

"We have no game plan as far as son is concerned. As long as Jesse sticks by his best friend we'll be on the sidelines and enjoy it. The Democrats' problem, not ours. I can say at this time is 'Let Farrakhan Farrakhan.'"

Letters:

Political Forum takes undeserved credit

Editor:
MSC Political Forum seems to be taking all the credit for getting Sen. Gary Hart to speak at Texas A&M. I happen to know differently.

The co-chairman of Aggies for Hart, Orland Defrates, contacted the Hart Headquarters to see if it would be possible for Hart to come to Texas A&M.

Defrates realized he lacked funding and the means of obtaining space in Rudder Tower and approached several members of Political Forum.

These members, who were in the process of contacting Hart's office, agreed to help Defrates. While Political Forum took care of funding and reserving room, Defrates was able to get a commitment from Hart.

I am upset because Political Forum is taking credit when other organizations have been instrumental in getting speakers at Texas A&M. Either The Battalion did not include all the details, or Political Forum led The Battalion to believe it was the only organization involved in securing Hart's visit.

In fact, it was both Aggies for Hart and Political Forum that arranged for Hart to come to Texas A&M.

Nicholas Finan
Class of '84

Liberal bias in article

Editor:
Once again The Battalion has ignored the views of the wide majority of Texas A&M students.

I'm referring to Thursday's front page coverage of "Political Awareness Day." Except for a brief mention of Democratic Presidential candidate, Lyndon H. LaRouche, the entire article was devoted to free publicity for repugnant liberal causes.

Throughout the article, The Battalion endorsed sexual deviants living a Godless, immoral lifestyle (Gay Student Service); murderers of helpless infants (Texas Abortion Rights Action League); and Texas Mobilization for Survival, a group which seeks to leave our nation defenseless against the massive military build-up of a monstrous Soviet dictatorship.

The most repulsive of these three groups was quoted as saying "most Texans want abortion kept legal." I'd venture to say that that statement was an outright lie.

The liberals are correct on one point; this is an apathetic campus. It's time for

the conservative majority here to

up and be heard.

One way to do this is to swamp Battalion with letters, since the page is the most popular section of paper.

A spokesman for the GSS said Texas A&M is becoming more For God's sake let's prove him wrong.

Woodrow W. Coppedge
Editor's note: Articles in The Battalion are objective reports of events and do not reflect opinion. A report of an event does not necessarily constitute endorsement of the event or that sponsored the event.

Slouch by Jim Earle



"I admit it's a lot of trouble, but I always know where my bike is!"

The Battalion

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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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