

OPINION

Holocaust should not be forgotten

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, said Monday that Germans must accept their "historical responsibility for the crimes of Nazi tyranny."

He is right — we must never forget what happened in Nazi Germany over forty years ago. However, we should not hold Germany personally responsible for that madness; we should not hold any one nation responsible.

Kohl's speech came at a time of increased publicity about nazism. President Reagan outraged Jewish leaders last week by announcing his plans to lay a wreath at a German cemetery where SS soldiers are buried.

Obviously, some threat of that madness persists today. Many people think the past should be left in the past, eventually to be forgotten.

But as President Reagan said in a message sent to the Bergen-Belsen ceremony, the Holocaust is "a part of the consciousness of responsible human beings everywhere, no matter what age."

We must remember our mistakes of the past, so we can avoid ever making them again.

The Battalion Editorial Board

LETTERS:

Misquoted speaker not really a pervert

EDITOR:

Well, Now that you've made me a famous local pervert, I just thought I'd like to thank all of you for a) quoting me out of context, b) quoting me incorrectly, and c) using headline techniques that are right up there with the National Enquirer.

Point A: My talk of Monday night was about the use in fiction of language that some people may consider obscene. By using the general term obscenity you implied my approval of the use of obscene sexual acts and obscene behavior in fiction — essentially pornography. In fact, I didn't discuss these topics.

Point B: You quote me as saying that editors approve of the use of obscene language if used for shock and emphasis. I didn't say that. What you did was combine a later statement about how the overuse of obscenity makes it lose its shock and emphasis with what I actually said about editors — that is, editors allow the use of graphic or obscene language as long as it is appropriate to the story.

Point C: OBSCENITY OK IN STORIES SAYS LOCAL SCI-FI WRITER. Pretty graphic. Grabs your attention. It isn't GIRL RAVISHED BY UFO COMMUNISTS, but it's pretty good. Oh well, notoriety is almost as good as fame, even if it gets one picketed by the Citizens for "Decency."

While I feel strong enough about the points above to request you print this letter, I actually think the article you did on me was fairly complimentary and accurate within the limits described above.

Still, to become a professional journalist, I suppose one must start misquoting people somewhere. In fiction we call this the creative process.

Steven Gould

Reagan wants to heal wounds

EDITOR:

In reply to Cassavoy's attack on Reagan:

One would think that by the time Cassavoy became a senior, he would have outgrown his use of "fiction" to sway his readers; however, his blatant exaggerations and disregard for facts denies this.

It was and still is Reagan's intention to honor German soldiers at Bitburg of which all but two died believing that they were fighting for the safety and freedom of themselves and their loved ones. A belief for which countless Americans have died fighting for.

Reagan is not going to place a wreath

on the graves of the two Nazi SS men, Hitler's butcher boys, and in doing so make a statement in support of Nazism.

To visit the Dachau concentration camp is inappropriate in that all the media attention on a concentration camp would reflect badly on a people and a nation of which half had not even been born at the time of Hitler's Final Solution.

I have seen Dachau. I have seen Auschwitz-Birkenau where over four million people were murdered. I have seen bombed out remains in Berlin.

There are scars upon the land and in the memories of millions. They will never be forgotten. However, responsibility does not lie with the German nation of today but with a barbaric few of yesteryear.

Germany today is a nation sorely troubled by a past that no one will ever forget. Reagan's gesture of honor to the soldiers (all but two) at Bitburg is intended to show that the world does not hold the German nation accountable for what happened 40 years ago.

James Korenek Class of '85

Some disappointed by atheist speaker

EDITOR:

I am writing in reference to the MSC Great Issues Lecture Series that sponsored Madalyn Murray-O'Hair's visit to Texas A&M on 16 April 1985.

I am not writing to debate this issue of an atheist's view versus mine on the subject of "religion." However, I was sadly disappointed by the manner in which O'Hair expressed her case.

Her misuse of the English language was demonstrated by the needless use of obscenities directed at all types of people belonging to the human race and lack of sensitivity damaged my perception of the MSC Great Issues forum.

There is no doubt her topic is stirring to both sides of viewpoints on "religion." Regardless, her performance, I believe, was not in keeping with the quality lecturers that the Great Issues Lecture Series is capable of presenting. I, for one, was not edified.

Russell V. Pritchard, Jr.

A&M's campus needs cleaning up

Litter is a costly eyesore

I woke up Monday morning and stumbled into the kitchen to start the coffee brewing. As I looked out the window, I was greeted by the renewed presence of debris in the creek which runs behind my apartment.



Loren Steffy

At Texas A&M, we pride ourselves on our beautifully landscaped campus. But while walking across Aggieland I noticed many items similar to those in my creek.

Even noticing. Outside the Blocker Building, someone had neatly lined up his discarded beer bottles on the curb, about five feet from the dumpster.

Aggies may not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do, but littering is an entirely different matter. Eugene Ray, director of Grounds Maintenance for the University, said A&M spends approximately \$50,000 annually to clean up litter on campus.

\$50,000 is a lot of money to waste picking up after irresponsible people, especially with the budget crunches plaguing this already-financially-troubled University.

If everyone picked up his own trash, perhaps we could even get some pencil sharpeners for the first floor of the Plant Sciences Building or maybe keep the Floral Test Garden. How nice to be able to pay someone to plant flowers instead of picking up trash.

Littering is not always intentional, but those who frequently pitch an empty

produces, but the Japanese are not buying much of what the U.S. makes. It's all here in Fortune magazine if you want to read about it.

Leave it at the mouth of the cave," the voice said. A half hour later the rescue team was getting impatient.

"Nakajinko, are you now persuaded that Japan lost the war?" "I am puzzled," the voice from the cave said. "If we lost, how can we export 25 percent more cars to the U.S. than we did last year?"

"Because we had a voluntary quota, and once it was lifted we decided this was the best time to flood the U.S. market."

The voice from the cave said, "Didn't Premier Nakasone realize this would anger the Americans?"

"He's trying to make up for it now, by asking all the Japanese to buy American goods."

Nakajinko yelled, "I'm not coming out if I have to buy American goods. I still remember Pearl Harbor."

"As a Japanese veteran you will be exempt from buying American goods. We want you to come out of the cave so we can declare World War II officially over."

"American goods aren't made as well as Japanese products," he yelled. "Every time I stole something from the U.S. Army Quartermaster depot, I had to take it back."

"Nakajinko. This is no time to discuss the merits of U.S. and Japanese manufactured goods. We have a trade mission in Washington trying to iron out things right now."

"Does that mean there is going to be another war?" "Of course there isn't going to be another war. Countries don't go to war over trade differences."

"That's what the Japanese cabinet said on December 6th, 1941," Nakajinko cried. The American liaison officer shouted through his bullhorn, "Look, if you don't come out in the next 30 minutes we're going to have to shoot you."

"Why? Because my country won't order any telecommunications equipment from you?" "It has nothing to do with telecommunications equipment," the American yelled. "It has to do with your people's refusal to buy Alka Seltzer."

"I think I'll stay here until the Americans and Japanese resolve their differences."

"Why, Nakajinko? Why?" "Because if they don't, I'll just have to find myself another cave."

How far will trade war go?

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The last Japanese soldier from World War II was holed up in a cave on Okinawa. A team of Americans and Japanese with loudspeakers were trying to persuade him to come out.

"Corporal Nakajinko, it's all right to surrender. The war is over." "How do I know if you are lying to me?" said a plaintive voice from the cave.

"I can assure you, Nakajinko," a Japanese official yelled over the speaker. "All hostilities have ceased."

There was about three minutes of silence and then the voice said, "Who won?"

The official yelled back, "The Americans. The Japanese laid down their arms 40 years ago."

"This could be a trick. Prove to me that the United States won."

"The Americans now have a trade deficit with Japan of \$37 billion," the officer shouted.

"How can the Americans have a \$37 billion trade deficit if Japan lost?"

"Because the Japanese rethought their strategy in 1945 and it made more sense to invade the United States with automobiles than with soldiers. The Americans are buying everything Japan

more letters:

A 'believer' thinks atheists without love

EDITOR:

The front page story about world-renowned atheist Madalyn Murray-O'Hair on April 17 made me realize just how irrational of a "thinking" person O'Hair really is.

Life live to the fullest, O'Hair? What about helping these children live their lives to the fullest? What solution do you propose for the mentally ill or the elderly, or society's other "misfits"? Snuff them out too?

You say "An atheist loves himself and his fellow man instead of God." Where is your love and compassion for those less fortunate than you? I say that an atheist hates himself and his fellow man and God! Atheists know no love and you are living proof!

5K run for charity a great success

EDITOR:

Crocker Hall would like to thank all the participants for their support in the Run for the Children. This 5K run, sponsored by Crocker Hall and Bud Light, was held this past Saturday with all proceeds going to the Christian Children's Fund Village of Hope. The run

was a great success, and a second annual Run for the Children is already being planned.

Crocker Hall Dorm Council

Where were Aggies during Muster?

EDITOR:

People: Aggie Muster was Sunday. Remember? April 21, San Jacinto Day? Most of you didn't.

Tomas Rokicki

Another biker leaves mark on pedestrian

EDITOR:

You are a female with long, light brown hair. I am a male wearing fatigues and in the band. When our lives touched for the first time on April 18, 1985 at the south end of the Academic Building. It was, oh, so brief. Luckily.

Unfortunately, I was in a crowd, and you were on a bike. You uttered one brief, unprintable expletive and our fates were sealed, for true to the laws of nature, two objects cannot occupy the same place at the same time.

This slight injury, however, is not my reason for writing this letter. I am incredibly perplexed as to why you were careening through a crowd of pedestrians and, of most importance, why you didn't stop.

It would seem to me that the basic tenets of Aggie Spirit, not to mention common courtesy would suggest that you stop and see if you'd hurt anyone. Please understand that I hold no hard feelings toward you, and all may be forgotten with a simple apology.

Silas R. DeRoma, '85

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