

OPINION

Riots turn soccer into fatal game

The phrase "it's only a game" is frequently used to comfort distraught Little Leaguers and other youth, but in professional sports, the phrase seems inappropriate.

Thirty-eight people were killed at a riot started by British fans at the European Cup soccer final between Liverpool and Italy's Juventus in Brussels last Wednesday. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced Monday measures to prohibit alcohol and extend police powers at stadiums.

Since the riot, the European Football Union has banned English soccer clubs indefinitely from European games.

Thatcher's actions address the real problem — the fans — while the union's ban attacks the teams. The players should not be penalized for the destructive and senseless behavior of the fans. If necessary, the games could be played without fans, even though this might detract from the atmosphere of the event.

Five years ago, Scotland banned alcohol at soccer games and fan violence decreased significantly. We hope Thatcher's actions will remedy this blight on Europe's most popular sport and the union will recognize the importance of allowing British players to compete.

In professional sports, it's never "just a game," but when people die, it's not game at all.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Summer marked by turtle recall

In order for my body clock to change to the next season, I must encounter what I call a seasonal transitional period.

Cheryl Clark

Let me explain. Before I consider spring to be spring, I must smell the blooms of honeysuckle in the air. The fact that my allergies act up as I sniff every honeysuckle bush on campus does not faze me.

Before I consider fall to be fall, I must attend a football game in which there is a slight chill to the air. At Texas A&M that's hard to do. In my hometown of Dallas it isn't.

Before I consider winter to be winter, I must be past the Christmas season, have broken at least two of my New Year's resolutions and Easter decorations must be displayed in the grocery stores. I have a short winter season obviously. I don't like the cold much, just the snuggling.

And before I consider summer to be summer, I must see Harry.

Harry, our family's watch turtle, who also thinks he is a cat.

Every year for the past 13 years, Harry has made a home for himself in the flower bed on the left side of the porch. The left side mind you, not the right.

Harry is a snapping turtle living in a khaki-green shell with tan accents. His nose is pointed and when I was younger, I wouldn't touch him since he looked as if he would bite me. The fact he is only about 8 inches in diameter was ignored. Harry always looked grumpy in the morning.

You see, Harry is a fierce attack turtle. Sort of like an attack dog, but more on a creeping, ground-attack sort of basis. He protects our front yard, without a thought for his own safety, from the beginning of May to September. Our house has never been attacked from the front, thanks to Harry.

Harry is also a bit confused, like most of the other pets in our household. Since the cats rule the front yard, Harry thinks of himself as a cat. When Harry was a younger turtle in his prime, he would play chase and hide-and-seek with whatever kittens were around. Harry would usually win at hide-and-seek since the kittens weren't exceptionally bright.

In the morning, he insists on eating smelly, nasty cat food that comes from a can. The kind that starts off smelling bad when it's opened and smells worse after a night in the refrigerator Harry meows--yes, meows--impatiently until he gets it.

Whoever is feeding him usually drops a about a tablespoon in the flower bush and Harry rushes over to get to it before a cat does. For some reason, the cats don't fight too hard for the food since Harry looks grumpy in the morning.

A few summers ago, Dallas suffered a severe heat wave. Harry disappeared about halfway through the summer and we wondered if he would return. After all, he was probably nine or so years old and the summer was hot.

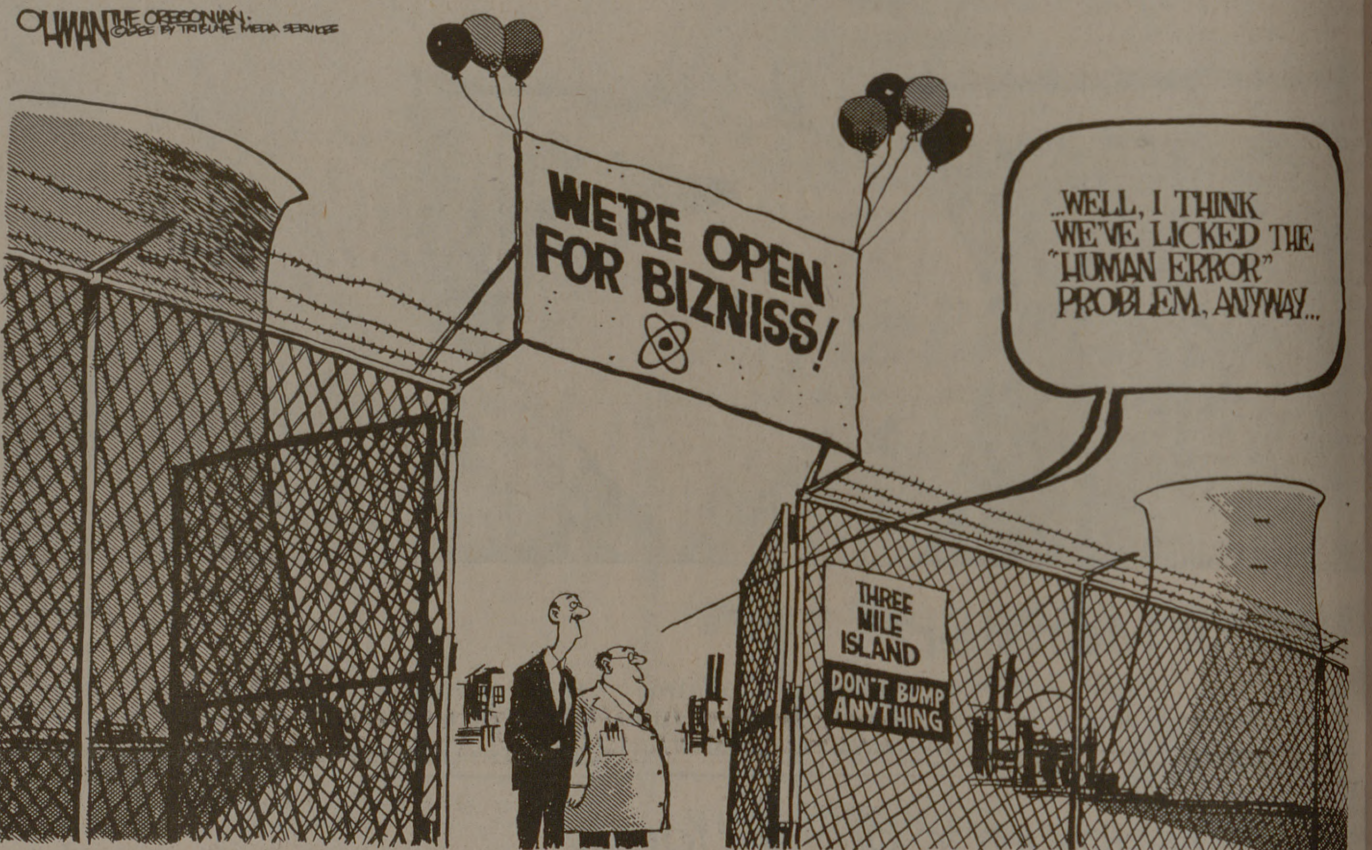
Harry did come back the next summer. And the next summer after that. And this summer.

He showed up in late April as my father was working in his flower bed. Harry's flower bed, not my dad's. Harry was a little slower and a little grayer than usual, but still demanded his breakfast like he has always done for the past 13 years.

He was meowing impatiently, making rustling noises with his little feet in the bushes, just in case Dad didn't hear him meowing. The cats ignored Harry because they have their own food in the kitchen and besides Harry doesn't play chase or hide-and-seek too much with them anymore.

Summertime is here.

Cheryl Clark is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.



Welcome to 'Texans A&M'

I was talking to a friend the other day. Despite the fact he is from Chicago and I am from a very small town here in Texas, we have been good friends since we were both freshmen. We were talking about the raise in tuition for out-of-state students. He said with the raise they ought to change the name of the school to "Texans A&M University."

Karl Pallmeyer

College is a learning experience. You take classes in a variety of different subjects to learn a little bit about the world — the way it works and the people in it. But there is a better way to learn about the world — by meeting people from other places.

Texas A&M is fortunate to have a large number of students from other places. In 1984 there were a total of 36,827 students enrolled in the University. Of that number 3,902 students were from other states and 1,613 were from other countries. These people come to Texas A&M for a variety of reasons. They feel they can learn something by going to school here. We can learn something by their going to school here too.

If you are studying computer science wouldn't it be interesting to talk to

someone who is from California's Silicon Valley? If you are studying American government wouldn't it be interesting to talk to someone from Washington D.C.? If you are studying business wouldn't it be interesting to talk to someone who lived on Wall Street? If you are studying a foreign language wouldn't it be great to talk to someone who was brought up speaking that language? If you are studying history wouldn't it be great to talk to someone who has lived in those places where history has been made?

You learn a lot about the world by meeting people from other places. How is Texas different from Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, Maine, Canada, Germany, India, Africa, China, or Russia? How is Texas the same as Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, Maine, Canada, Germany, India, Africa, China or Russia?

There are over 5,500 people from all over the world who go to school here. Next fall it's going to cost them much more to go to school here. Currently non-residents pay \$40 a semester hour in Texas. Next fall it will cost them \$120 a semester hour. Non-residents will have to pay \$80 more for a semester hour. With an average of 16 hours a semester, building uses fees, housing, books, food, transportation and other costs, these people will have to pay quite a bit of money.

Some people may argue that it is cheaper to go to school in Texas than in other states. That may be true, but if a person can't afford the price of home they certainly can't afford to travel to Texas and spend that money. Most importantly the value of education is intangible, it is not something that can be bought and sold like used cars.

If "Texans A&M" is to become "World Class University" it must reach out across the world, not just across the state.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

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Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily 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 include the address and telephone number of the writer.	
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In search of . . . guest columnists

The Battalion newsroom is a lonely place these days. Sure, the summer staff is settled in, and the usual rhythm of fingers tapping on computer keyboards echoes through the halls.

But what makes the newsroom seem deserted is the lack of correspondence from our readers.

Of course, the semester is only a few days old, and most returning and new students simply haven't had time to write us. However, our concern is not merely for lack of letters to the editor — they will undoubtedly

begin to trickle in as school gets into full swing.

Our concern is for the type of forum we provide for our readers. In the past, the LETTERS column was the only place where readers could express their opinions in The Batt.

So, we would like to officially extend an invitation to all students, faculty, staff and other members of the community to write guest columns.

A guest column is exactly that — a column written by someone not associated with The Battalion.

What we are looking for in our guest columns is more than simply a long letter. A letter responds to issues that have already been raised.

A column, however, presents new viewpoints on new issues. It could discuss the merits of a campus organization, provide insight into local or national events, or react to a new art form or dance craze.

So, if you have a new idea you would like to get off your chest, drop off your column at 216 Reed McDonald or send it to: Opinion Page Editor, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, 77843.

We reserve the right to edit your column for style and length, but every effort will be made to maintain the author's intent.

And if you want to respond to issues that infuriate or enlighten you, please send us a letter to the editor. All we ask is that you keep our Letters Policy in mind (it's printed in the staff box at the right of the page).

We'd love to hear from you.

Loren Steffy
Opinion Page Editor