

OPINION

# Media hype bad for U.S. hostages

It's happening again. America is once again being "held hostage." The media is once again salivating over juiciest story since the Iran hostage crisis. And the question of how much coverage is too much is raised once again.

Naturally, the duty of the media is to faithfully report the critical events of the Beirut situation. But sometimes the media gets so caught up in this duty it fails to examine the long-reaching effects of such overplay of the news.

The terrorists aboard TWA flight 487 relish the exposure. If taking over a plane full of innocent people will grant them access to the media, then what better way to make their cause known?

Suddenly, America is saturated with "Crisis in the Middle East" stories. Newspapers, magazines, and of course television has been digging into every aspect of the story. Stories of fathers dying from anxiety, grief-stricken families, and pictures of tear-soaked relatives have all made the front pages. And all the attention is exactly what the terrorists want.

The networks seem to be trying out-do one another with crisis specials. "ABC News Nightline," which was born out of the Iranian hostage crisis, has found a new purpose.

The media can't ignore — shouldn't ignore — an event as internationally significant as Lebanon hostage situation. But it can use some discretion in its coverage. The hostages have enough problems, they don't need to have the media aiding their captors with a worldwide means to express terrorist views.

The Battalion Editorial Board



## No ride for off-campus students

# Bus service screeches to halt over summer

Let's take a test. Don't worry, you don't have to study for it and your score will not affect your GPR.

**Karl Pallmeyer**

There will be only one multiple-choice question and you may use as many answers that you think apply to you. This test is just for fun.

Here is the question: How do you get to campus?

- a). I walk
- b). I ride my bike
- c). I drive
- d). I catch a ride with a friend
- e). I take a taxi
- f). I ride the shuttle bus

g). I live on campus so I don't give a damn

Have you finished? Good, now let's see how you did.

If you answered "a" or "b" you either live relatively close to campus or you really enjoy exercise. If you answered "c" or "d" you are fortunate to either have a car or have a friend who does. If you answered "e" you must be filthy rich. If you answered "f" you must live in a specific area of College Station.

In the regular semesters the shuttle bus service uses 30 buses to bring some 13,000 students from all over Bryan and College Station to campus. The buses run about every 20 minutes from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. This summer only

two buses are running. One bus makes a run down Anderson and Marion Pugh streets every 30 minutes from 7:20 a.m. until 3:50 p.m. The other makes a run down Southwest Parkway, FM 2818 and part of Welsh St. every 35 minutes from 7:20 a.m. until 5:55 p.m. These buses serve none of Bryan and only a small part of College Station.

Many people are forced to answer "a," "b," "c," "d" or "e."

In the regular semesters the University budget includes bus service. This summer the University told apartment complexes throughout Bryan and College Station that if they wanted buses they would have to pay for them. Some apartment complexes realized they

could help their tenants and maybe attract a few more if they offered bus service so they agreed to this extortion.

If you live off campus and have not been able to ride the bus to campus you are probably wondering who to blame for the inconvenience. Don't blame your apartment complex; it is not their responsibility to get you to campus. Don't blame the University bus service; they realize how important the shuttle buses are to the student body and would run more buses if they had the money. The University is at fault; the budget should include bus service for the summer.

In the regular semesters about half of the students who live off campus ride the bus. This summer, of the 15,000 stu-

dents enrolled in summer school, about 13,000 students live off campus. This means there are about 6,500 students who could benefit from bus service. It doesn't take a degree in math to tell that if the University uses 30 buses to bring 13,000 students to campus in the fall and spring, they should use more than two buses to bring 6,500 students to campus in the summer.

By the way, if you answered "g" you probably should give a damn. You may live off campus next summer.

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

# Perils of a right-handed world

There she sat. Hand twisted around the pen, she reminded me of Quasimoto or Igor — not the human I knew she was.

**Marcy Basile**  
Guest Columnist

"She" is my sister, Andi, and she is a southpaw, wrong- (I mean right-) minded, a lefty.

As a small child I never cared that Andi was "different" from the rest of us. All I knew about was the "special" scissors Mom bought her for kindergarten. I was crushed when I found out that Mom went out of her way to buy Andi "special" stuff. All I got was the usual kid stuff, you know, Super-elastic-bubble-plastic, Lite-Brite and Spirograph.

Now that I'm grown (some of you will debate that) I realize that Mom got Andi "special" things because if Andi didn't get "special" things life was going to be miserable around the Basile house for a long time.

Mom's dilemma still haunts us.

A few weeks back my sisters and I (there's four of us) went out to breakfast. Usually when we go out to eat, we cook outside (it's sort of embarrassing going out in public with my sisters). Well, true to her ways, Andi caused more than one scene.

Somehow she ended up on the inside of the booth — death to anyone sitting next to her.

"Oh darn," Andi said with a sweet-

ness only Erica Kane could match. "I forgot. I'm left-handed and need to sit on the outside." Yeah, I bet she forgot.

"Donna (my other sister) you need to move so I won't elbow you in the ribs." Sure, she's nice in public — if we had been at home it would have been a totally different approach.

As those on the other side of the table began to shuffle, people began to stare. I slowly sank into oblivion. And they wonder why I never invite them out to eat!

After everyone finally settled down and the food arrived Andi reached for the syrup. With her left hand. She was positioned on the outside of the table and was fairly lunging for the boysenberry syrup. It's not as if she could have asked or anything. No, she had to jump up and down in her quest for processed sap.

Naturally, we refused to help her until she conformed to "our world." Or at least asked for help.

I really, truly believe that if Mom hadn't brought home those "special" scissors, life with Andi would be much more bearable. As it is, I have to put up with the perils of a left-handed person in a right-handed world.

At least I didn't fail cut and paste in kindergarten.

**Marcy Basile is a senior journalism major.**

# 'The Cosby Show' dispenses black television stereotype

Thanks NBC, for opening up our eyes and minds with "The Cosby show."

**Rod Richardson**  
Guest Columnist

The Nielson ratings list "The Cosby Show" as the number one prime time show on network television. This weekly series has been a tremendously in the fight to eliminate the negative appearance of the "typical" black on television.

"Cosby" has been fortunate in the sense that it has not been labeled as a "black show." Despite the fact that the cast is predominantly black, it does not fit the mold of previous television shows depicting black families.

Shows like "Good Times," "The Jeffersons" and "Sanford and Son" were all successful in the ratings game; but they all fell short in the war to dispel the stereotypes who love dancing, barbeque, watermelons and Cadillacs.

I really enjoyed watching "Good Times," but there were times when I would hear my white classmate talking about the show and I would wonder whether they thought all black people were happy living in the ghetto.

I thought "Sanford and Son" was a decent attempt (decent only in theory, not actually in the script) to demonstrate how the father-son relationship can work with love and understanding, however, this idealistic meaning got lost among the "Sanford junk."

Why do some white residents still get stirred up when a black family moves into the neighborhood?

I think it's quite possible that many of these concerned citizens are looking for the answers to their questions in the

wrong places. Economic lines are the lines that blacks are rapidly crossing and "The Cosby Show" happens to revolve around a black doctor/husband and a lawyer/wife. They have four daughters and one son to go along with a certain degree of financial security.

This is realistic. Bill Cosby actually has four daughters and one son. He has been married to his wife, Camille, for 21 years and Cosby recently admitted on "The Donahue Show" that the hit series is an extension of his real life.

"Cosby" has pulled a fast one on America.

Not black or white America — all of us. The show sets a black family in a positive situation without a lot of singing, dancing, sex or watermelon antics.

On the other hand, "Cosby" still represents middle-class America on the screen with all of its day-to-day joys and pains. The family goes through ups and downs just like everybody else, and we (the viewers) can accept that.

Whites who have stereotyped blacks for so long can now see that just as whites can move up the "socio-economic ladder," blacks can do the same. I find it refreshing to watch a show that does not depict a black family from Harlem or in the ghetto.

Now don't get me wrong, I know that many of the negative black images depicted on television do exist; I'm just saying that there's nothing wrong with emphasizing or just showing the more positive image as well. It just so happens that blacks are individuals who can have strong family commitments and strive to achieve a respectable socio-economic position.

Members of lower income families

can watch "Cosby" with the hope that through the education process and other equal opportunities, they too can "move up."

Bill Cosby believes that good people should be accepted just as that and America has accepted his show for the same reason — it's good.

**Rod Richardson is a senior journalism major.**

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