

OPINION

Tact doesn't come with seat

Freshman U.S. Congressman Joe Barton demonstrated Tuesday that tact and concern for democratic ideals don't automatically come with a legislative seat.

Barton attended a news conference to endorse the death penalty for spies. The Republican from Ennis emphasized killing convicted spies should not be primarily a deterrent for other spies, but because treason deserves the death penalty.

"Where I come from, what we'd do about it is just take 'em out and string 'em up," Barton said. His statement not only makes Ennis look like a community of vigilantes, it shows a disregard for due process of law.

Barton is correct in his statements that treason is a heinous crime and deserves strict punishment, perhaps even the death penalty. But a capital conviction for spying can come only through the proper judicial avenues.

In America everyone, even spies, is innocent until proven guilty. "String 'in 'em up" without even a fair trial is unconstitutional.

If Barton is going to play with the big boys in Congress, he has to learn to use tact in stressing his point. Hearing a congressman say, "Treason is a horrible crime that endangers everyone in the nation and therefore deserves stringent punishment such as the death penalty" has a more appealing effect than "Let's string 'em up."

The Battalion Editorial Board

Romance rampant during summer

The old saying goes something like: In the spring a young man's fancy turns to love. Trust Texas A&M to disprove the cliché.



Cheryl Clark

No, I don't mean that young men or women don't fall in love during the spring or during the rest of the year for that matter. But for some reason unknown to medical science, my astute observations indicate that summertime romances at this particular location run rampant.

You may wonder what is the definition of a summertime romance? Two people captivated with each other, who simultaneously lose complete control of their higher brain functions, are reduced to frivolous chatter, romantic sighs and passion-ridden glances. These people quickly develop tendencies to walk in the park holding hands, gazing at the stars and giggling like high-schoolers with their first crush.

No, I'm not talking about a heavy-duty, marriage-proposal type of romance. As seniors near their respective graduation deadline, those type of romances begin to crystallize.

I am talking about a Katrina and the Waves type of romance, walking on sunshine, "Like feeling alive."

The fun-filled, light-hearted type of romance that ends as soon as the summer does or when the boyfriend/girlfriend returns for the fall.

Perhaps you have experienced this type of romance. It begins at the Grove during intermission and just as quickly ends at the Chicken with a good mug of brew.

Folks, summertime romances are great. No conditions, no demands are made on either party. Both parties are too busy during summer school to meet the demands of a full-time affair. Summer school requires everything to be cranked up to warp speed to complete the sessions on time. Consequently, you have to put the romance into warp speed.

College Station is ideal for summertime romances. With the majority of students gone for the summer, people run into each other much more often. Running into people creates a crush which

leads to a state of like, followed by casual lust. The lust develops into an infatuation and before the infatuation can balloon, there you have it, the end of the summer.

Lets face it. During the summer in College Station, there is not that much to do. So creativity knows no limits as to what an infatuated couple can dream up. Isn't that the secret of a successful summer affair — impulsive, crazy adventures?

One friend remembered spending a lazy afternoon sitting in Kyle Field on the old Ag's side of the stadium. She and her friend sat and watched a summer shower. It was a rare, quiet moment between two friends, just watching, listening and smelling the summer rain.

A friend commented that during the summer men just seemed more attractive. Perhaps it's the colorful attire men wear this time of year — or lack of it. Or it could be the smell of Coppertone in the air acting as an aphrodisiac.

Whatever it is that makes men more attractive to her, she can't seem to curb the impulse to flirt. Like the radar on a plane, she zeroes on men casually strolling across campus. Men who are unaware that they are being scanned for a potential fling.

This condition is not unusual to my male friends either. One of them complained that what was missing from a perfect summer was a lady to take walks in the park with. He didn't understand this compulsion of wanting a summertime friend, but he knows that he is unhappy without someone. Just for the summer.

He didn't have many conditions she would need to meet. She needed to be a romantic like him, like to hold hands and like cute, furry animals.

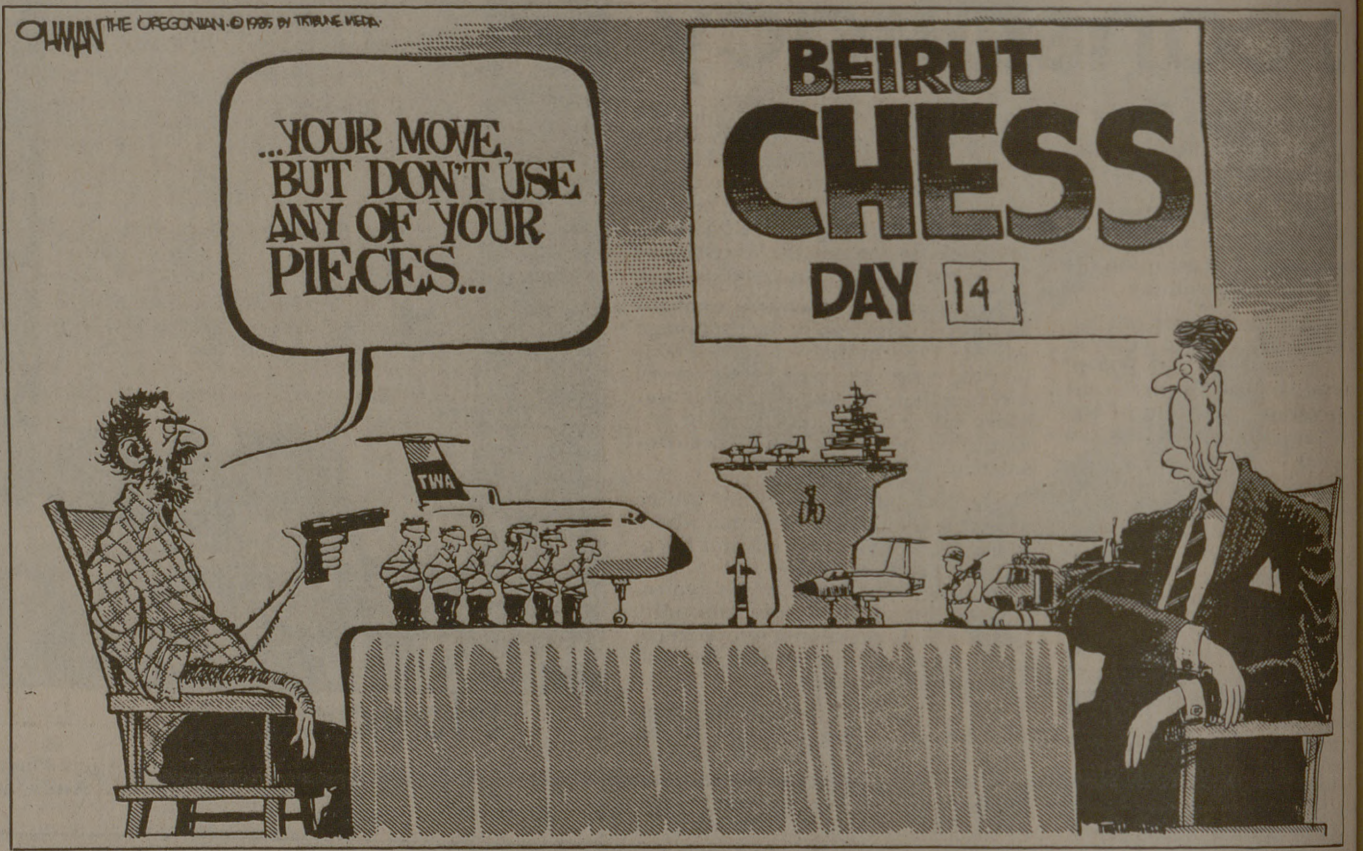
As I wrote this column, more people came up with their own versions of a favorite summertime romance. They all remembered their romance with warmth and a sense of magic linked to the interlude.

But they all agreed that what makes the romance special is that it ended. How you end it is the important thing to remember. End it on a good note and later in life you will be able to recall special moments with an old friend. And that is the point of a summertime romance — special memories.

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



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Despite ratings, the hostage crisis show must go on

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

At some point in time, and no one knows exactly when, the coverage of hostage crisis becomes as important as the event itself. Whether we like it or not TV news is diplomacy and diplomacy is TV news.

I was therefore not surprised to find Farley Glitchfield, news director at the Sky Network Company, in the SNC situation room looking at a bank of monitors.

A voice came over the loudspeaker. "The U.N. Ambassador of Israel refuses to discuss what his government intends to do with the 700 Shiite prisoners his country is holding."

Glitchfield said, "Did you tell him his government's position is vital to Bob Haircomb's lead hostage story tonight?"

"Yes, I did, and he said things were too delicate for him to go on the air with any statement."

"Then dump him and go to one of the Carter White House people. How are our negotiations going with the terrorists in Beirut?"

"The competition is trying to sabotage us. ABC is telling them they can get much better Nielsen's if they give them an exclusive interview. CBS is dealing with another faction that claims it controls all TV rights to the hostages, and NBC is refusing to let us use their satellite unless we share our tape with them. Nabel Kamal, the moderate terrorist leader, says when it comes to negotiating exclusives, he will only deal with you."

"Get him on the phone. Nabal, I haven't spoken to you since your people blew up our consulate in Tripoli two years ago. Didn't we treat you right when you hijacked the 747 over the Dead Sea last April? And remember five years ago when you took over the USIA library none of the other networks

would put you on the air? . . . Who let you read your demands on camera? SNC did, that's who. You owe us, Nabal. The other networks are sucking around because you have control of the hostages. But just see if they'll give you the time of day, much less prime time, once the crisis is over . . . No, Nabal, we're not interested in a joint press conference. What kind of a news operation do you think we run?"

"You have two hours to think it over. If you don't reply affirmatively we're pulling all our TV cameras and lights out of your headquarters."

The person sitting next to Glitchfield in the situation room said, "That's the way to talk to him. I hope he knows terrorism doesn't pay unless you deal with us."

"You have to talk tough or they'll walk all over you in a crisis situation. By the way, whoever dubbed Kamal a 'moderate'? He has car-bombed more than seven buildings in Beirut."

"We had to call him moderate to distinguish him from those who wiped out all the Palestinians in a refugee camp last month. Our new guidelines are if they talk to us, then they're moderate terrorists. If they don't, they're radical killers. If Nabal won't play, do you want us to put on the back-up terrorist leader tonight?"

"Does he have anything to do with the hostage crisis?"

"I doubt it, but nobody's going to know that."

"Put him on standby," Glitchfield said. "Who else have we got?"

"A terrorist expert from Georgetown University, an Oxford professor who wrote a book about hijacking, a former CIA Mideast operator — and Henry Kissinger."

"We had Kissinger last night."

"It doesn't matter. People like to see Kissinger on TV during a national cri-

sis. Hello? . . . Just a minute. It's the White House. They're asking if we have any new information as to what's going on."

"I told them we'd call if there was anything to report. Why do they keep bugging us when they know we have a hostage show to put on?"

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