

Opinion

For knowledge — not personal gain

Texans have a right to their past. Texans have a right to keep their shipwrecks, a link with history, from being violated by the greedy lust of treasure hunters.

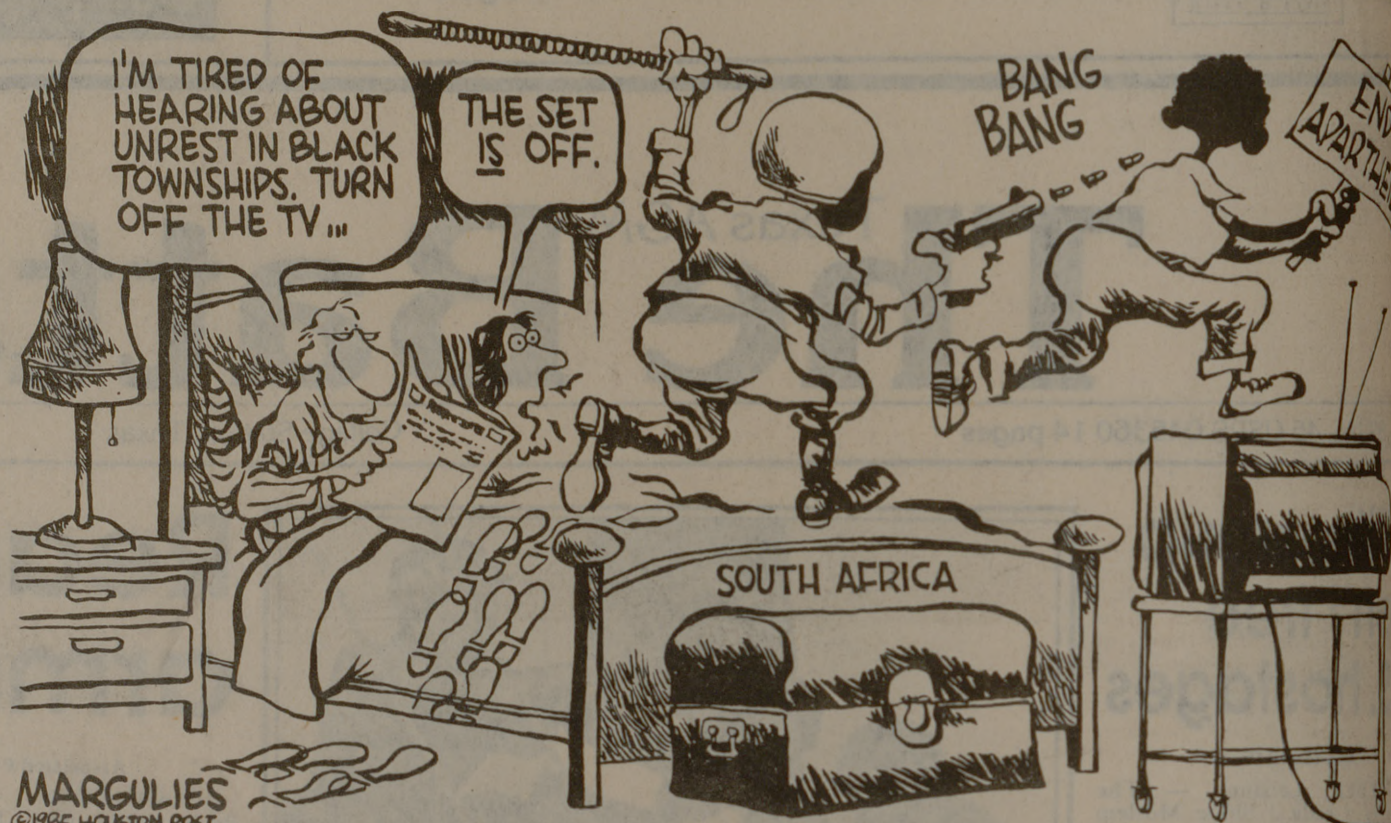
A congressional panel is reviewing legislation which would enable state governments to set their own conditions for allowing salvagers to recover shipwrecks. The authority, which now rests with the federal admiralty courts, seems to encourage treasure hunters, rather than archaeologists.

Treasure hunter Mel Fisher claims the new legislation would discourage excavation efforts. But Fisher's definition of "excavation" could be exchanged with "pilfering" or "looting." Treasure hunters concern themselves with the personal monetary gains they can find in a shipwreck, not with the understanding of the past that can be gleaned from them.

Texas doesn't allow private businessmen to exploit state historical monuments. Shipwrecks in state waters should not be treated differently.

States should be allowed to govern the recovery operations of wrecks in their own waters as they see fit. It's time to stop surrendering valuable connections with the past to self-serving glory-seekers of today.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Texas A&M not immune to disease of racism

The most horrible illness known to man is racism. Throughout history this disease has caused millions of deaths. It is something that needs to be cured.



Karl Pallmeyer

Racism is a belief that there are differences in intelligence and character due to race, that one race is superior to others and that supposed superiority must be maintained. Although most racists usually have some evidence to prove their point, the evidence is either misinterpreted or has no basis in fact to begin with. Basically, racism is ignorance.

Racism seems to grow in hard times. During the 1930s, Germany was in the most severe depression the world had ever seen. Adolf Hitler came to power and created a scapegoat for Germany's problems: the Jews. It was easier for the Germans to blame the Jews for their problems than it was to look at the real cause. Because of this racism over 6 million Jews were killed in concentration camps. As astounding as it may seem, some of the more severe racists refuse to believe the Holocaust ever happened.

Today in America some people also have chosen racism over a cold, hard look at the facts. When the news on television or in the newspapers is not what someone wants to hear, some people will say the media is controlled by the Jews and doesn't tell the truth. It is eas-

ier for these people to blame those who report the news than it is to criticize those who make the news.

When the quality of education decreases some people will say it is because integration of public schools has overloaded the system. It is easier for these people to blame blacks for overcrowding the schools instead of the government that doesn't put enough into the education system to make qualified people want to teach.

When the Social Security program is on the rocks some people will say it's because of all the blacks on welfare. It is easier for these people to think that only blacks receive welfare than it is to look at the number of whites on welfare or to realize that the Social Security problem is a general problem our government has with allocating the proper amount of money to the proper cause.

Racism is unbeneficial. A racist always is looking for someone else to take the blame for his problems. This causes a racist to ignore the facts. If a racist loses a job to someone of a different race, creed or color, he will blame that person instead of trying to better himself as a worker so that he might keep his job. By blaming someone else for one mistake, that person denies himself the opportunity to learn from his mistakes and to correct them in the future.

Racism is a problem in America. Some of these racists feel they have to join a group to further their cause. The Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party are probably the best-known rac-

ist organizations in the United States. There are also several other groups, including Aryan Nations and the National Alliance, that are dedicated to insuring white supremacy. There is even a local group, STORM (Students Tired Of Race Mongrelization), that wants to bring racism to Texas A&M.

During the anti-apartheid rally last

I broke out in a cold sweat. I couldn't sleep. And suddenly I saw the light. At first it appeared as a faint glimmer, but then it grew brighter and brighter.

month, STORM handed out copies of articles from the National Vanguard, a pro-racism newsletter, and fliers declaring "Apartheid is the Higher Morality." While Students Against Apartheid was speaking about the evils of apartheid, STORM was saying that apartheid was the only way to keep the blacks of South Africa in their place.

Students Against Apartheid is a recognized student organization and had received the University's approval before they marched. STORM had no permit to distribute literature and has not even applied for recognition so that they can have their views expressed on campus in an official fashion.

The members of STORM seem to have an unhealthy fascination with Nazi Germany. On their literature, the word "STORM" has an "S" in the shape of a

lightning bolt on either side. This "S" is the same as the "S" used by the SS troops of Nazi Germany.

At the anti-apartheid rally, the members of STORM were wearing caps similar to the ones worn by the Hitler Youth. A symbol similar to that of the National Vanguard was on the caps the STORM members wore. The symbol of

the area is not known since they usually don't come out in the open with their beliefs and refuse to take responsibility for such things. Those who know the members of STORM, however, say that their leader has a collection of automatic weapons and that the group often goes out to remote areas to practice their marksmanship. Private ownership of automatic weapons is both illegal and unnecessary. A person can buy a semi-automatic weapon and convert it to a fully-automatic weapon with little difficulty. An automatic weapon is not well-suited for hunting but is well-suited for warfare. That makes one wonder about the intent of groups like STORM.

Groups like the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazi Party, Aryan Nations, National Alliance, National Vanguard and STORM believe that the white race is supreme and should remain pure. These groups feel that whites are being subjugated by other races and are fighting to stop that subjugation. These groups are trying to disguise their racism as a just cause. Racists believe that a person's greatest duty is to serve his race above all others. We as humans should strive to make our world a better place for everyone regardless of race, color, religious or political beliefs. We as humans owe allegiance to only one race — the human race.

Whether STORM was involved with these and various other racial actions in

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

Mail Call

A job well done

EDITOR: I am writing concerning the front page article which appeared Oct. 23, written by Jens B. Koepke, concerning the debate between Ned Fritz and Steve Stagner on Proposition 1 and 2 (the Water Bill).

It is extremely rare for issues as complicated as this to be reported with accuracy, understanding, and attention to detail. It was an outstanding job by an obviously outstanding reporter. I am certain that the membership of the Texas A&M Regional Studies Club and Greenpeace join with us of the Sierra Club in extending our congratulations and thanks for a job well done!

David R. Gross
Publicity Chairman
Brazos Sierra Club

Unfair journalism spurs bitterness

EDITOR: In the past couple of weeks the media have been making a HUGE fuss about the taking of the Achille Lauro and the related events. The biased media have been using this incident to discredit the Palestinian cause, ruin the Palestine Liberation Organization (as if the media were an arm of the Israeli government) and ridicule Arab people.

Numerous articles, editorials and especially cartoons depicting Palestinian Arabs as bearded thugs with big noses printed in The Batt are all a witness to this racist campaign.

Did The Battalion (and other papers) treat the savage bombing of Tunis by Israeli bombers, in which some 90 Tunisians and Palestinians, including many civilians, perished, in the same manner? Did you give the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, in which over 40,000 Lebanese and Palestinians were killed, the same treatment? Did you ever dare to depict the Jewish groups and individuals committing these atrocities as criminals and thugs with big noses and curly hair, as you stereotyped the Arabs?

There was an incredible amount of coverage given to the killing of Leon Klinghoffer (which we don't condone), showing his family and hometown and interviewing almost everybody in the community from the rabbi to the neighborhood

In contrast was the case of a prominent Arab-American. On Oct. 11, Alex Odeh, West coast regional director of the Arab-American anti-Discrimination Committee, was assassinated by terrorists (supporters of Zionism) in Santa Ana, Calif. The previous morning he gave ABC-TV an interview in which he defended the Palestinian cause and criticized one-sided news coverage of the events concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Did you give an inch of coverage to that? Did you condemn and attack the perpetrators of this murder? Did any reporter talk to his grieving family? Was Odeh's life any less valuable than Klinghoffer's? This is double-standard journalism. More than being unfair, this hypocritical.

Now you know why we are bitter. Wouldn't you feel the same if you were always getting the short end of the stick?

Saeed and Elaheh Mirzaee

A few suggestions for Page 2

EDITOR: In response to Loren Steffy's "Letter to the Readers" on the difficulties of organizing the opinion page, I thought I'd make a suggestion or two. I just finished putting together a newsletter which, though unsuccessful, taught me something about trying to assimilate several letters or articles into a fixed amount of space — which usually requires cutting the letters.

An editor friend suggested that, a layer space be allotted for a specific set of letters or articles, an area which would always exceed the amount of material to be included therein.

The extra space to be suggested could be filled up with short quotations, or bits of memorabilia, and such. For an editorial page, it could be taken up by notes from the editor.

Bill Clark

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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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.

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