

Opinion

Tension no excuse for game violence

Tension will be high at The Game Thursday — it's for the Cotton Bowl. But this should be no excuse for violence to erupt.

Two recent outbursts of violence among Aggie sports fans have tainted the hospitable reputation of Texas A&M. Incidents such as attacking another university's cheerleaders or people who wander on to the field are inexcusable.

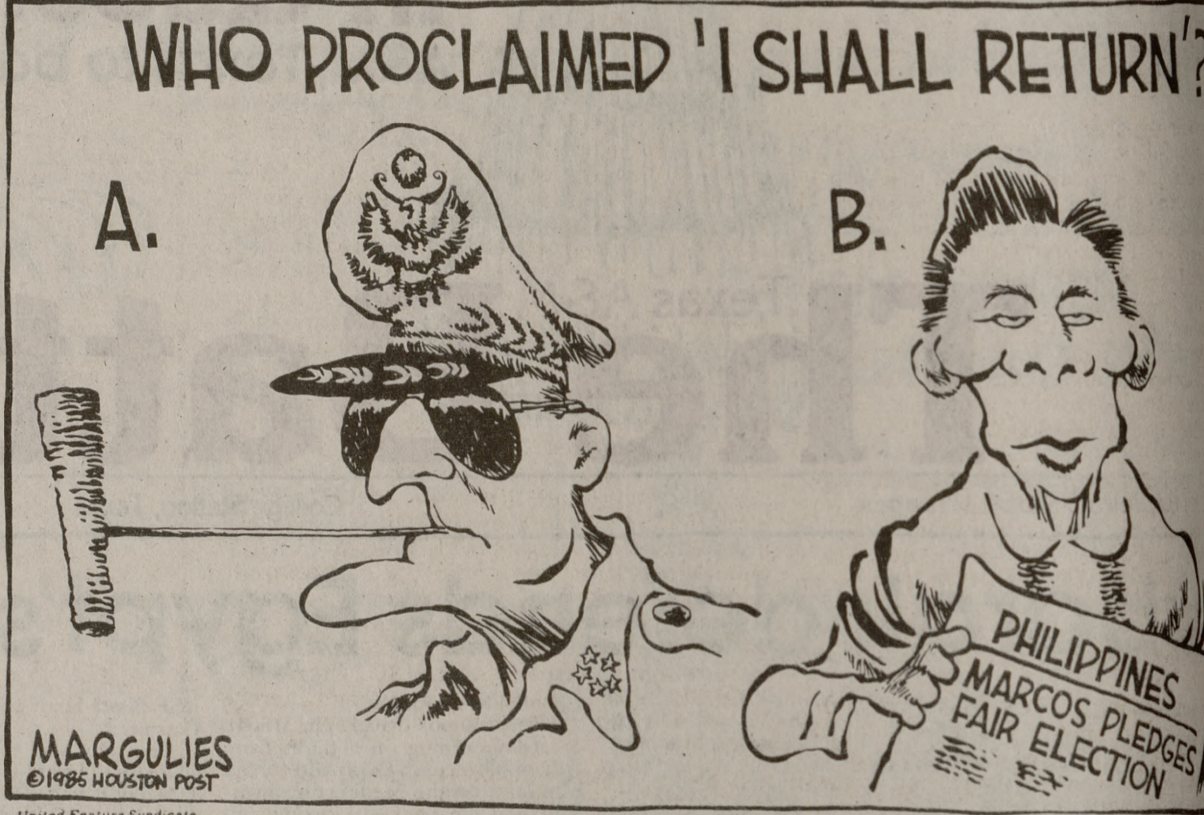
Harassing people — especially non-Aggies — because they don't follow our tradition is ridiculous.

Remember Thursday that we are hosts not harassers.

Even antics like throwing ice or yelling obscenities could eventually lead to a riot. In the '20s a riot broke out at a Texas A&M-Baylor game in Waco. The result was tragic — one Aggie died, others were injured. We hope Aggies are beyond that now.

When we have to rely on violence to enforce our views we need to seriously reconsider those views. After all, it's only a cotton pickin' game.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Visit with old friend brings B-CS cultural void to mind

I got to visit an old friend Friday night. That friend was Dr. G's.



Karl Pallmeyer

Friday night Dr. G's was the scene for Rock Against Apartheid, a concert to benefit Students Against Apartheid. The owner of Dr. G's agreed to let his place be used for the benefit. The Killer Bees, an Austin-based reggae band, agreed to play for reduced cost so that most of the proceeds could be used to help end apartheid.

Over 400 people paid to get into Dr. G's Friday night. At least 100 people hung around outside of the building be-

cause it was too crowded to get in. The size of the crowd shows two things. First, and most importantly, it shows that there are a lot of people in the area who believe that apartheid is wrong and should be put to end. The second thing it shows is that this town needs some quality entertainment.

Going to Dr. G's Friday was like going back home, I was filled with memories of all the great times I used to have.

I remembered the time I saw the Lotions. The Lotions were the first band to play Dr. G's.

I remembered the time I saw Joe "King" Carrasco. Joe "King" even jumped up on the table where I was sitting.

I remembered the time I saw the Fabulous Thunderbirds. That was right before their original bass player, Keith

Ferguson, left the band.

I remembered the time I saw Bo Diddley. After the concert I got to shake his hand and kiss his daughter.

I remembered countless times when I saw the Dishes, Four Hams on Rye and various other local or area bands.

I remembered the time I saw John Sebastian. Sebastian was the leader of the Lovin Spoonful, one of the best folk-rock bands of the 1960s.

I remembered the times I performed on open stage nights.

I remembered the time I went to a anti-nuke rally and met Dr. Red Duke's daughter.

I remembered all the times I drank and danced 'til I dropped even though I didn't remember most of those times the morning after they happened.

I remembered the time Dr. G's closed

down. It was sad day for fun in the Bryan-College Station area. Although there are other places that occasionally offer live music, none can match the atmosphere of Dr. G's.

There are a lot of clubs in the area, but you can't go to *this* one unless you are wearing a polo shirt, or you can't go to *that* one unless you are wearing a cowboy hat, or you can't the *other* one unless you are wearing spandex and spikes. Now that Dr. G's is gone, there is no place for people without an *image* to go and have fun.

There needs to be more places like Dr. G's. Dr. G's was a place of love, friendship, fun, music and peace. If Reagan and Gorbachev had met at Dr. G's instead of Geneva that might have got something accomplished. If there were places like Dr. G's in the world

there might not be apartheid, war, ine and hate.

A special note to all my fans:

Thursday night is the night of the Game. Whether we go to the Cotton Bowl will be decided at Kyle Field far this semester I have restrained from writing anything on the football team, Jackie Sherrill, except for a side note about Jackie's astronomical salary in Friday's column. If we beat Texas on Thursday, I promise to write an article praising Jackie and the football team.

We shall see.

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

Terrorism must be fought with more than empty rhetoric

International terrorism has baffled world leaders and held television viewers hostage. The blood bath in Malta Sunday night, which resulted from a commando raid of a hijacked Egyptair jetliner, is just another barbaric atrocity in a long line of brutal terrorist attacks that have hypnotized the public and frozen decision-makers since the mid '60s.

Worldwide terrorism continues to grow — from 142 incidents in 1968 to 850 in 1978. The 444-day captivity of the American hostages in Iran in 1979, the suicide truck-bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut and the recent hijackings of a TWA jetliner and the ocean liner, the Achille Lauro, are graphic examples of how terrorists have mesmerized the world.

Until now, world leaders have offered only empty rhetoric to combat the terrorism problem. President Reagan welcomed the hostages back from Iran, saying, "Let terrorists be aware that when the rules of international behavior are violated, our policy will be one of

Jens B. Koepke
Guest Columnist

swift and effective retribution."

Yet countries infrequently have provided "swift and effective retribution." More often, they have been humiliated and embarrassed by terrorists and been forced into concessions.

It is time that countries develop a blueprint to combat international terrorism. Nations should combine political pressure, technological advancement and military power to stem the rising tide of terrorism.

At the root of most terrorist outbreaks are real grievances, such as unequal distribution of wealth, inability to freely participate in the political process or systematic governmental oppression. "There is considerable historic evidence," writes W.T. Mallison, a terrorism expert, "that no governmental attempt to suppress terrorism has been successful in the absence of a political program designed to eradicate the causes."

Of course, all political problems are not easily solved. The Palestinian question and the strife in Northern Ireland are good examples. Because both sides in those conflicts are battling over the same piece of land, no matter how one

decides, one group still will be angry.

Along with addressing grievances, nations should find ways to penalize countries that assist and harbor terrorists. A 1978 agreement between the United States and its allies to suspend air services to countries that harbor hijackers was quite effective. Even hard-line Arab countries that supported terrorists were reluctant to continue their aid, if the price was having their airline communications disconnected. Such a boycott is effective because it isolates a country, both economically and in terms of international travel and communication.

In addition, legal remedies should be used. Terrorist acts should be made a violation of international law, punishable in a world court. This would circumvent the extradition squabbles and international wrangling that now occur every time a terrorist is apprehended. Punishment must be sure and harsh. A U.S. Department of State study said that of the 146 international terrorists arrested prior to 1976, 140 of them were released without punishment. Of those, 47 were permitted to escape or released

because one country chose not to arrest them for crimes committed against another country.

To catch more terrorists, countries must make technological improvements in security and intelligence systems. Wherever possible, airports should install state-of-the-art security equipment, including three-dimensional scanners and detectors that can spot plastic explosives. All passengers, even VIPs and diplomats who are rarely checked, should be searched and bags double-checked. One of the world's safest airlines — El Al — hand searches every passenger and assigns sky marshals, "the 007 Squad," to all its most sensitive flights. As a result El Al has not had a plane hijacked since the early 1970s.

Good intelligence has always been one of the best ways to beat terrorists. The Federal Criminal Office in West Germany has amassed a computerized collection of 10 million bits of information about radical groups. This data bank has helped the German police all but shut down the Baader-Meinhof gang and the Red Army Faction. Israel maintains the world's most effective and feared intelligence network, the Mossad, with computerized tracking of terrorists' whereabouts and movements and a long list of informants. This reliable intelligence network has allowed Israel to track down and kill all of the Palestine Liberation Organization architects of the 1972 Munich massacre. Information in computer intelligence banks should be shared between countries and supersensitive listening devices and improved bomb-detecting equip-

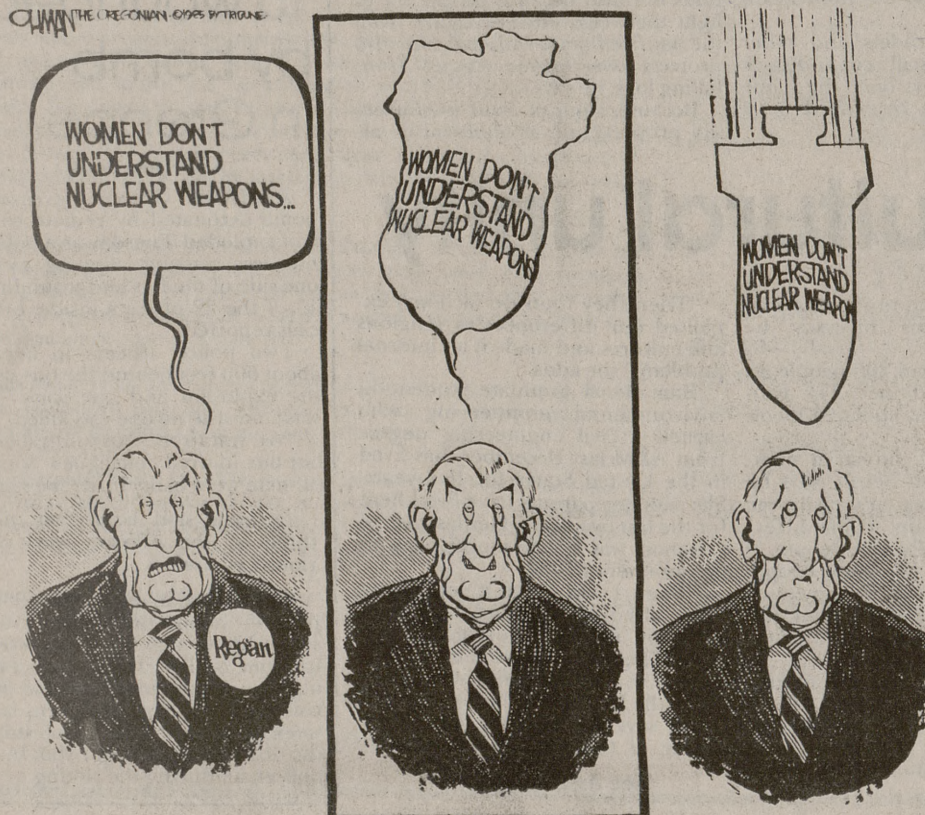
ment should be added to the arsenal of intelligence organizations.

When terrorists do strike, countries must be able and willing to launch military rescues and execute military reprisals, in addition to negotiating diplomatically. The 1976 Israeli raid on Entebbe and the 1977 West German operation in Mogadishu show how a carefully planned and well-executed counter-attack can successfully end a hostage crisis. Every country should develop special units, trained to carry out operations, and station them close to hot spots of terrorism.

After a crisis has been resolved, punitive military reprisals against the perpetrators should be considered to deter terrorists from further attacks. Between 1976-1980, more than 2,000 Arabs killed in Israeli retaliatory raids during the same period, 143 were killed by terrorists. Although reprisals may cause a revolutionary to gain fervor and become more entrenched, they will send a clear message that the country deals with terrorists and their supporters harshly.

The world has had some success against terrorists, such as the capture of the Achille Lauro hijackers but they have been hollow victories. Nations must begin to develop a comprehensive plan of political, technological and military strength.

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