

Opinion

No simple solutions

Terrorism doesn't have any simple solutions. The recent flexing of our military biceps in the Gulf of Sidra only angered Libya's ruling lunatic, Col. Moammar Khadafy. Backed into a corner, Khadafy has, and will continue to, strike back the only way he can — with terrorist activity. But finally our European allies are joining us in our efforts to combat terrorism.

The recent bombings of a discotheque in West Germany and a U.S. airliner over Greece have sparked worldwide awareness. After last year's attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports, America's allies offered little support in ferreting out those responsible, primarily because they were afraid of damaging ties to the oil-supplying Arabs.

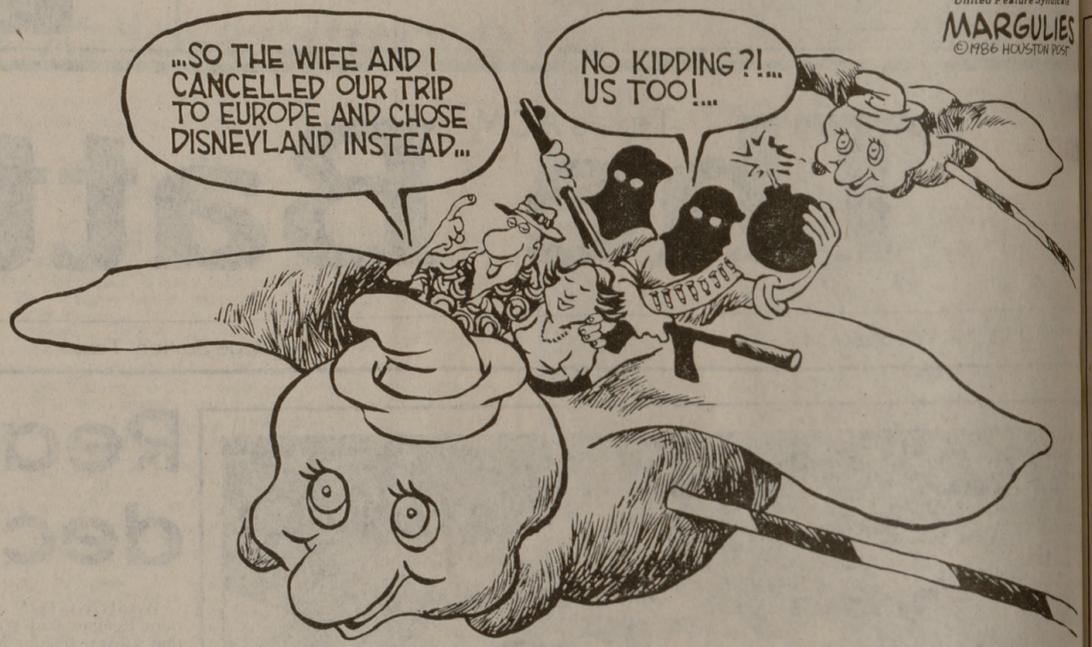
But with terrorist activities on the rise, European nations are recognizing it as a global problem. Terrorism affects all nations involved, regardless of who the initial targets are.

In the wake of last week's bombings, West Germany expelled two Libyan diplomats in connection with the discotheque explosion. France expelled two others accused of planning anti-American activities. Security has been increased in many European airports, including Athens, a known hub of terrorist travel.

This kind of cooperation is vital in the battle against terrorism. A unified front against terrorists will make their bomb-and-run tactics more difficult. If countries work together, terrorists will have fewer places to run. Retaliatory action is not always possible — stronger anti-terrorist precautions are our most effective defense.

Cooperating as true allies instead of allowing alliances to be overshadowed by self-interests is definitely a step in a positive direction.

The Battalion Editorial Board



A modest proposal for ending students' problems at A&M

I have heard many Texas A&M students discuss various problems they have faced during their college career. Problems with parking, classes, Q-drop, tuition, scholarships and dealing with the administration. These problems, for the most part, can be traced to the Board of Regents.



Karl Pallmeyer

The Board (or Bored) of Regents members are ultimately responsible for what happens at this University, even though they won't admit it on certain occasions. Since the regents are responsible for these problems they should be made to feel the full effect of them.

The cause of the biggest problems stems from the fact that there is no communication between the regents and the students. Students aren't allowed to speak to the regents during their monthly meetings and the regents aren't on campus often enough to give students the opportunity to speak to them. We need our regents here.

If they were forced to leave their homes in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Amarillo or wherever and live in College Station there wouldn't be so much distance between the regents and those whose interests they should be taking care of. The regents should be forced to leave their jobs, families and friends and make A&M the most pressing obligation

in their lives — just as it is the most pressing obligation in the lives of the students.

If the regents are going to stay here they should be forced to take classes. One of the biggest problems with the regents is that they don't understand what it means to be a student in today's world. To ensure fairness the regents should be stripped of all their degrees and forced to become undergraduates in a subject they know nothing about. They should be involved in the learning experience of all students and not get any special treatment.

The regents also would have to give up their wealth. They should have to struggle to make ends meet just like the rest of the student body. It would be interesting to see Royce Wisenbaker, Lowry Mays or Joe Richardson juggle 16 hours of classes, two jobs and maintain a social life without going crazy.

To help the regents fit in with the student body they should undergo plastic surgery. A good plastic surgeon will be able to take years off even the oldest regent. You wouldn't be able to tell Joe Reynolds or William McKenzie from typical freshmen.

The regents would better understand the special problems women students face if some of them were women. Because no women are on the board, some of them should undergo sex change operations. John Mobley, John Coleman and Henry Cisneros would look pretty good as women. They might even want to join the band.

Considering the regents' status against the Gay Student Services, a couple of them should be forced to take an alternative lifestyle. This may seem to be a little drastic, but sometimes takes drastic measures to shake off prejudices and accept people no matter how different they may seem. Who knows the regents might even enjoy themselves.

Recently the board refused to take position on divestment of A&M funds to South Africa. Even though the regents have the final say on all A&M's financial decisions, regent chairman David Eller said that divestment was not within the purview of the board. He should be made to feel the full effect of his lack of decision.

Eller should undergo plastic surgery to change him from lily-white to black. Then he should be sent as an exchange student to South Africa, where he would learn a little something about the evils of apartheid. If he knew A&M's money was being used to oppress and kill people just because they aren't white, he might want to do something to stop it.

The Board of Regents has made some progress in the past few years. The biggest reason for this progress is Bum Bright — he left. Has anyone noticed how well the Aggie football team has done since? Has anyone noticed how badly the Dallas Cowboys have done since he bought into the franchise?

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

The conveniences of airport living

Since the Reagan administration has put parts of the United States up for sale, everyone is bidding on our more valuable properties. A British company has tendered an offer through the N.M. Rothschild Bank to buy Dulles and National airports. The Brits are willing to pay \$1 billion. This seems like a lot of money if you're thinking landing strips. But it's a spit in the bucket if you're talking real estate.



Art Buchwald

Jeff Doranz, America's leading developer, hopes to outbid the British for the two airports. He believes that air terminals have a great untapped potential for mass housing.

"If you bought Dulles and National airports, would you tear down the present terminals?" I asked him.

"On the contrary, the terminals are very decorative and fit in with our housing and shopping architecture."

"Will you still permit planes to take off and land?"

"We will not only permit it, but encourage it. What we'll be selling with our condominiums is access to the airports. We're aiming our sales at the person who is always on an airplane. As a matter of fact we want to put flashing signs at the ends of the runways which will say, 'If you lived here you'd be home now.'"

"Where on the field do you plan to construct your housing developments?"

He took out his blueprints. "Right here, along both sides of the runway. We want to make this place a family community. On warm nights we hope people will sit in their back yards, drink beer and wave at the passengers as they whiz by."

"The houses don't leave much room for the pilots to land," I pointed out.

"The pilots don't need much room as long as the townhouse gaslights act as beacons for them."

"Will the frightful noise be a negative

factor for your homeowners?"

Doranz said, "Why should it be? Residents will have pride of ownership in what the airports do. When they hear a roar overhead they'll sleep better knowing People's Express is bringing another payload safely home."

I studied Doranz's blueprints. "What's this circle located in the middle of the runway at National Airport?"

"That's the golf course."

"You are seriously building a golf course on the National runway?"

"Where would you build one if you owned an airport? As the primary developers we don't have much space to work with. We have the Potomac on one side and this highway on the other. The only place for golf links is here, unless the government wants to sell us I-95."

"How do you play golf with the planes taxiing up and down all day long?"

"Golfers who buy into the development will have priority over the planes. Our flight tower will be instructed to hold up on all landings and takeoffs until the members play through."

"Where are you going to put the shopping center?"

"Here on the first three floors of our 40-story hotel and office tower. We have to build up because we can't spread out."

"Does that mean you will raze all these giant repair hangars?"

"Of course not. We're just going to move the planes out and the cars in. Airplane hangars make marvelous parking garages for automobiles. When you buy a terminal you have to use every inch of the ground for revenue. The reason airports are losing money these days is they spend too much on servicing planes."

"Tell me the truth, Doranz. If you buy National and Dulles airports from the government, will you still allow air traffic to use them?"

"We will for the time being. But all bets are off if we need another golf course."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Mail Call

Fire relief

EDITOR:

Many people are now aware of the tragic fire that swept 13 units in the Sausalito Apartments Sunday evening. In conjunction with other local efforts, the Off Campus Aggies will set up collection boxes to help the students who were victims of the fire. Today and Friday, there will be boxes set up in the Commons area and Rudder area bus stops for students to drop off items such as clothing, linens, pots and pans, utensils, cleaning items and canned goods.

We encourage all A&M students to help out in this time of need. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Michelle Davis '86
Off Campus Aggie President

Apologies and reminders

EDITOR:

I am not a man given to frequent outbursts of criticism, but as Commanding Officer of Company D-1 and a member of the Ross Volunteers, I feel obligated to respond to the arrogant and self-righteous words of our former freshman Logan Woodard in his letter in Friday's Battalion.

First — an apology to the friends and family of those remembered at April's Silver Taps — and to the RV Company as a whole. Woodard does not represent the sentiments of our outfit or of any real Aggie that I know.

Secondly, he needs to be reminded of the real meaning behind Silver Taps. The ceremony is "that final tribute paid to an Aggie" by fellow Aggies on campus as a symbol of our esteem for one another. It is not a drill competition. It is not an exercise for a panel of judges. True, the Firing Squad does practice beforehand. True, it is a solemn occasion. But real Aggies don't come with grading sheets

and scorecards to evaluate the drill. They come in reverence, to pay homage.

Last, Woodard should remember that the Ross Volunteers are not carved from granite. Although the cadence and rigid disposition of the squad may sometimes seem mechanical, the emotion of that ceremony hits us as hard as anyone. The wet eyes of those grouped around Sully, the silence, the darkness and the awesome reverence of the moment all have their effect. If someone's footsteps therefore an instant late, so be it. We are only human.

In short the shame should not be on Woodward's shoulders but on ours, that we once counted him among our ranks, but let him slip away without teaching him the very first fact about Aggie pride and respect.

Jeff Brady
Commanding Officer
Company D-1

Missing 'Vibrations'

EDITOR:

Over the weekend I lost my bike, which I had parked and locked in front of Hart Hall. It is a black Huffly with big tires and "Good Vibrations" written on its chain guard. I am pretty sure somebody stole it.

If whoever took it really needed it (maybe to help pay the rent or tuition or things like that), I think I'll let them have it. But if not, I just hope that Allah gives them guidance in their future steps. (By the way, I bought the bike for \$127.50. So if it's sold, I hope it's not sold too cheap.)

Wahyu Budiarto

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.

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