

# Opinion

## A balance for terror

The U.S. attack on Libya might have evened the body count, but it didn't balance our policy in dealing with terrorism.

We attacked Libya because it has supported terrorist activity. But then why have we not attacked Syria? Why not Iran? Why not other nations that sponsor terrorism to accomplish their goals?

Most experts believe Iran and Syria are responsible for more terrorist activity than Libya. So why attack Libya instead of these countries? Libya's "mad dog" leader, Moammar Khadafy, is much more verbal than the heads of other nations. In addition, Libya is much more geographically accessible to U.S. retaliatory strikes.

The U.S. terrorism policy is selective and based on convenience rather than equal retaliation for all terrorist attacks.

Robert Kupperman, a terrorism expert at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the administration is hesitant to act against Syria and Iran because of Syria's ties to the Soviet Union and because of those nations' greater capability for conducting terrorist strikes within the United States.

If this is true, U.S. retaliatory strikes are based on how closely the target country is linked to Moscow and how much of a real threat the target country poses to our own soil.

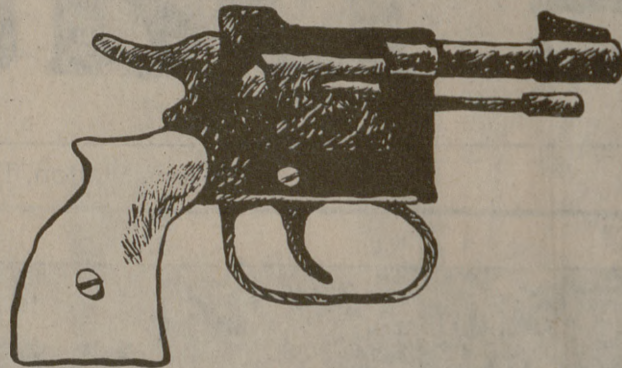
The United States is willing to risk increased Mideast terrorism in this country, the killing of innocent people, strains in East-West relations, international disapproval and American military casualties in an attempt to send an anti-terrorist message to the sponsors of world terrorism. But pulverizing Libya, the weakest of the terrorist-nation trio, will not cause its partners to cease their activity.

If the United States is going to deal with terrorism, it needs a definite policy for retaliatory action applicable to the act itself, not the country who sponsored it.

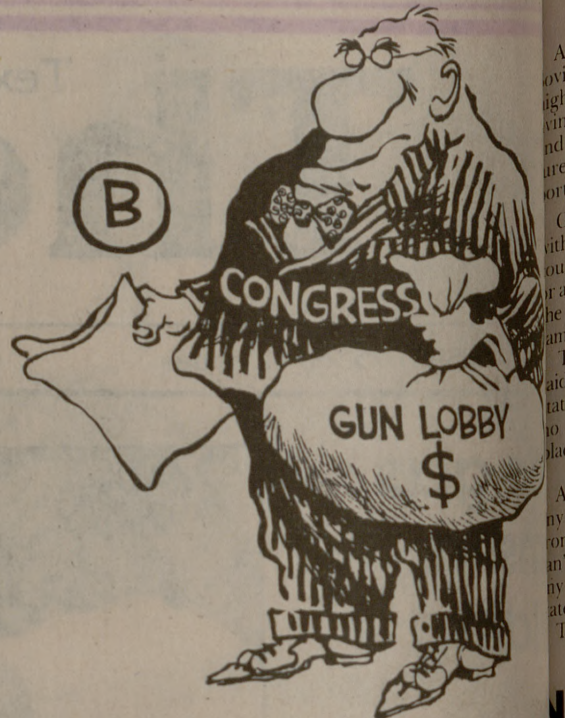
The Battalion Editorial Board

## Q. WHAT'S DANGEROUS, BUT CHEAP AND EASY TO OBTAIN?

(A)



(B)



MARGULIES  
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## 'American' used by groups to coerce support for ideas

It's amazing how the term "American" has been bastardized by certain groups of people to make others feel bad if they don't agree with the groups' ideas.



Karl Pallmeyer

There are hundreds of these groups but, for the purposes of this column, I will only mention one: Americans Against AIDS.

The last time I was home I saw a letter my father had received from a group calling themselves Americans Against AIDS. I was delighted. When I think of Americans, I think of a group of people who will work together to solve any problem. When I think of Americans I think of a group of people who are willing to help their fellow man. I assumed that here was a group of people — Americans — willing to find a cure for one of mankind's most dreadful diseases.

When I read their letter I was disappointed. The group should call themselves Americans Against Gays — or Americans Against Americans.

Americans Against AIDS is a division of the Conservative Caucus, Inc., "the nation's largest grassroots lobby with more than 750,000 supporters fighting for fiscal responsibility in the U.S. and victory over Communism worldwide."

The letter didn't say what AIDS has to do with communism but it bemoaned America's declining morals and made some unreasonable predictions of what might happen if something wasn't done. It also mentioned these five measures that could stop the spread of AIDS:

- Make it a felony for homosexuals to donate blood.
- Bar federal funds to any hospital which denies doctors and nurses the opportunity to wear protective garments when treating AIDS carriers.
- Cut off federal funds to health care facilities which employ AIDS carriers.
- Cut off revenue sharing to jurisdictions which fail to close down homosexual bathhouses.
- Urge that students with AIDS not be permitted to attend class with other children.

The letter asked for money to help in the fight to make Congress pass these five measures. None of that money would go to fund research for an AIDS cure. California Congressman William Dannemeyer has proposed these bills before the Congress. He has the support of several senators and congressmen, including Jessie Helms and our own Joe Barton.

There are several problems with these measures. What's wrong with homosexuals giving blood? The AIDS virus can be transmitted through transfusions, but not all homosexuals have AIDS and some non-homosexuals do. If people are prohibited from donating blood just because they are capable of getting a disease, our blood banks would be drier than the Sahara Desert.

The way the second measure is worded also could cause some problems. I think that any hospital that doesn't allow doctors and nurses to wear gloves, masks and surgical gowns should be shut down. But "protective garments" might mean some type of expensive environmental suit that most hospitals can't afford. These hospitals would be afraid of losing federal funds and

might flatly refuse to treat AIDS victims who have backgrounds in social work or psychology to attend seminars for other AIDS victims with similar problems can often each other come to grips with problems. People with terminal illnesses are brought together to help each other. It would be a sad if hospitals weren't allowed to have these programs.

Limiting sexual activity is also possible. Any piece of legislation down homosexual bathhouses turns its back on businesses that promote heterosexual activity — is discriminatory and hypocritical.

Denying a child an education because that child has AIDS is a way to cure the disease. Unless is having sex with or giving blood to his classmates, it is possible that the child is a health hazard to put aside some of the prejudices parents have thrust upon their children.

If the group was called Americans Against Dandruff they would suggest decapitation as the only scalp disorders. Instead of denying homosexuals their rights doesn't this group fight to fight for AIDS?

When I think of Americans I think of a group of people who will fight for the rights of everybody, regardless of sex, color, religion, philosophy or preference. When I think of Americans I think of a group of people who help — not hurt.

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

## No time for slowpokes

You've seen them in the morning and you've seen them at night — the wild commuter drivers hurtling their cars through traffic at rush hour on the way to and from work. They'll cut in front of you, honk behind you and force you over the curb. What motivates these modern barbarians to risk not only their necks but yours as well?

The answer is TIME. The people you see driving hell bent on the streets and highways are not only saving minutes but seconds from their trips. But no one has ever asked them what they do with the time they save.

I was curious so I decided to follow several of them home.

The first one I took after was a Mercedes-Benz convertible. It wasn't easy to follow him to his destination, but I managed to do it. As I pulled up the driver was on the stoop, kissing his little daughter.

"Sir," I said, "I noticed you were driving pretty fast. How much time do you save by scaring everyone off the road?"

"In a 20-mile trip I usually save two to three minutes, unless some stupid moron stalls his car at a stop sign. Tonight that dumb school bus almost made me late."

"It's hard to believe after the way you drive that you only save three minutes on a trip," I said.

"No sweat. I've been the first guy on the block to get home before any other husband for two years. No one takes that away from me."

"What do you do with the time?"

"I beg your pardon?"

"You save two to three minutes every night, and heaven knows you take your life in your hands. Surely you must do something with the precious time."

He thought about this. "I get to kiss my daughter."

"Couldn't you kiss her three minutes later?"



Art Buchwald

"Some nights she wants to go to bed early, and the three minutes is the difference between seeing her and not seeing her at all. I'm a good father. The reason is I always make sure I'm pulling in when my daughter runs out of the house, even if I have to hit a school bus to do it."

I left him relating to his child how he almost hit a cement truck so he could be home in time to tell her a story.

The next car I followed was a speeding Oldsmobile filled with car-poolers.

I stopped them at the first turnoff. "I notice you're going pretty fast, gentlemen. Could you please tell me what you plan to do with the few minutes you saved?"

"I'm going to write a book," said one.

"I'm going to wash my dog," the second one told me.

"I'm going to reshingle the roof," the third said.

The driver said, "I'm going to watch tapes of the last three Redskins games."

"Okay, tell me honestly, why the reckless speed?"

"There are four of us," the man behind the wheel said. "If I didn't jump over Volkswagens I'd get my last two passengers home late, and then they would ask someone else to be the driver."

The final car I followed was a Japanese sports car. I don't think I would have been able to catch up with him had he not crashed into an eighteen-wheeler refrigerator truck.

"Well," I said, "you didn't save any time getting home tonight."

"Wasn't trying to save any time going home," he told me as he picked up the door and threw it in the back seat.

"Don't kid me. Do you deny you were doing 75 miles per hour?"

"I don't deny that. The part I'm denying is I was going home. I was leaving the house to go to work."

"What difference does a few minutes make?"

"The difference of me or Manny getting the number one parking place in the TV station garage."

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

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## Mail Call

### Thanks for the giggles

EDITOR:

I'd like to personally thank Cynthia Gay for providing me with a few giggles from her column in Monday's Battalion. The statements she made were so blatantly naive and simplistic, I had to wonder if she was preparing to go job hunting.

Her reference to donations as being "maroon tinted greenbacks" was priceless.

Maybe I'm cynical, but when I read that I should come to the "realization that some old Ag out here is waking up and wondering how much he can give to A&M and to us," I can't help myself.

She also says about donations "we don't earn it, we don't deserve it, but they're willing to invest in Aggieland simply because they are convinced we all share something — integrity." Simply because? I think Gay failed to consider the concept of the tax write-off.

Murray E. Muzzall

### Who's Jackie fooling?

EDITOR:

I find it incredibly dumb on Jackie Sherrill's part to even suggest giving a free trip for two to Hawaii to "any" student-athlete under "any" circumstance.

Why give a "tangible" award at all? Isn't the reward of knowing you've given the best speech sufficient?

I cannot remember any instructor, department head or dean offering such an award to any student for giving the best speech, case study, mock trial or other oral presentation to their fellow classmates.

If an award must be given then give them a small plaque or trophy. The trip to Hawaii is not commensurate with their speech-giving efforts.

Coach Sherrill may have convinced himself and his athletes that this is not "sports" related, but he is not fooling the rest of us.

Mark Spicer  
Grad student

### What a racket

EDITOR:

A friend and I were on a motorcycle Sunday night between 10:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., en route to the Court from the tennis courts, when my tennis racket decided was too warm in its cover and jumped out (very quiet, that).

Upon realizing it was missing (not five minutes later) we backtracked the route we had taken (Houston St. Joe Routt Boulevard, right on Throckmorton Street, finally left on Lewis Street) twice and found nothing.

If you know the whereabouts of my Wilson Ultra Standard (graphite, gripped with blue tourniquet) call 260-0403. Don't get me wrong — I'm not saying I stole the thing, but now you know where to return it (really appreciate my racket back (so would my brother it's his)). Thanks.

Nydia Cabello  
Class of '88

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