

Opinion

Allies after all

The U.S. war against terrorism has escalated in recent weeks with the strike against Libya. The United States has found little or no support from its European allies for its actions against Libya. Yet, regardless of their official stance, nations throughout the world are combating terrorism, and, in many cases, saving American lives.

The method is not always fool-proof. A British tourist was gunned down Sunday outside the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

However, many countries are effectively employing the best anti-terrorist measures of all — preventative security. Indonesian police arrested 11 suspected terrorists Sunday, only days before President Reagan will be stopping in the country on his way to the economic summit in Tokyo.

The Indonesians received help from Interpol — the international police organization — which also has stepped up security operations.

Other countries also have stopped the carefully laid plans and planted bombs of terrorists. Police in Mexico City deactivated a homemade bomb outside the U.S. Embassy Sunday. On April 18, Turkish police stopped two Libyans from blowing up an American officers' club in Ankara. On April 17, police in London arrested an Irish woman who tried to board an El Al jet with a bomb in her luggage.

Britain deported 21 Libyans for what it called "revolutionary activity," and West Germany expelled two Libyan diplomats following the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin. France also ejected several Libyans following the U.S. raid. Many other countries have increased security at airports and border checkpoints.

The motivation for these anti-terrorist efforts is probably self-centered, but what's important is that by and large, the efforts are working.

The U.S. attack on Libya may not have been a justifiable solution, but it has sparked an increased consciousness of terrorism in their countries. The actions that stem from this awareness are producing results.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Artistic justice

Former Philippines First Lady Imelda Marcos paid \$3.5 million to an Italian art dealer for a painting she thought was by Michelangelo. Now art experts say the painting is by a lesser artist and worth only "several hundred thousand dollars."

How appropriate that after years of hoodwinking the taxpayers of the Philippines, the Marcoses finally were duped themselves.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Fighting indecision to send a message

According to the polls, 75 percent of us agreed with the president's decision to bomb Libya; 14 percent didn't and the rest were undecided.



Art Buchwald

The administration asked me to go out and persuade the "undecideds" to cross over to the "heartily approve" column.

I found my first "undecided" at a coffee machine trying to decide whether he wanted his coffee black, with cream only, with cream and sugar light or cream and sugar regular.

"Why are you undecided as to whether the president did the right thing in Libya?"

He replied, "I wish he hadn't done it."

"What does that mean?"

"If he hadn't done it, I wouldn't have had to decide if it was a good idea or not. I do have some questions about it."

"Shoot," I said.

"How many terrorists did we kill?"

"Not many, but we sent them a message they won't forget."

"What message?"

"If they continue to export terrorism around the world they'll get more of the same."

"Do you think they got the message?"

"You bet they did. The terrorists have run for cover."

"So did we."

"What did you mean for cover?"

"Every tourist is cancelling his or her trip to Europe. Why?"

"The tourists don't feel safe," I said.

"They felt safe before we bombed Libya. Why did so many Americans decide to cancel after the raid?"

"They figured because of the raid the

Libyans would really increase their terrorism."

"Suppose the terrorism continues? What do we do to Libya next?"

"That's a hypothetical question and no one in Washington is permitted to answer one."

"What are you going to do in case we have to get involved in more military action?"

"Support my president with my last breath."

"How?"

"By sending him a telegram."

"What does Reagan do if the terror doesn't stop?"

"He sends Libya a message via the Sixth Fleet."

"Why doesn't he just terminate Khadafy with extreme prejudice?"

"That would be an assassination and a superpower doesn't get involved in outlaw behavior."

"You dumped quite a few tons of bombs on Khadafy's quarters. What was that?"

"That was a surgical strike. Although we wouldn't be upset if a bomb fell on Khadafy's head, we certainly would never put his name on it. I think I've answered all your questions. What have you got to lose by switching from 'undecided' to 'heartily approve'?"

"Why does it make any difference what I think about Libya?"

"We're trying to drive the approval rate up five points because 80 percent will give the president a mandate to send another message to Libya."

"I'm not afraid of changing my vote. I just wish we had gotten the terrorists the last time around."

"We will get them when the White House authorizes 'Plan B.'"

"You mean the president has a Plan B?"

"That's a hypothetical question."

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

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Fighting for equality easy; practicing it more difficult

Across the nation, college students are protesting the financial involvement of their schools with the apartheid government in South Africa. Anti-apartheid activism has become the student cause of the '80s. Conservatives and liberals have banded together to speak out against a form of government they consider backward and barbaric.



Loren Steffy

The sign-waving students are learning about demonstrations, about taking a stand on an issue and letting their ideals be known.

At the Medical University of Southern Africa in Cape Town, a different lesson can be learned — those ideals of activism can become active hypocrisy.

In February six white students left the university, claiming they were harassed by blacks at the predominantly black school. Two of the six submitted an "urgent application" to the South African Supreme Court, demanding readmission. Because the students left voluntarily, the university canceled their registration. But the court ruled that the students should be readmitted, citing the "mass thuggery" on the part of the blacks to be unacceptable "in any civilized society."

When news of the court ruling reached the black students, they vowed

to boycott classes until the white students were permanently removed from the campus.

The blacks claim that the Supreme Court ruling failed to take into account the overall political context of South Africa. A spokesman for the students, Billy Ramokgopa, said the group had nothing personal against the whites on campus. "Our whole struggle in education is directed toward the establishment of a non-racial, democratic education system in South Africa," Ramokgopa said. The spokesman added that the protest was intended to demonstrate the "gross discrimination" in South Africa's educational system.

The blacks are protesting the enrollment of the white students because of the government's racist policies. But in an attempt to combat this "gross discrimination," the blacks have created a form of discrimination equally as gross. They have become so consumed in their idealistic quest for equal rights that they are willing to deny those same rights to others. Equality, however, shouldn't have conditional applications — for whites or blacks.

South African students have justifiable reason for protesting government policies that allow them fewer rights than most cattle. But within the closed environment of this university, they have the power — enough power, at least, to have driven the six white students off in the first place.

The black student majority is in a position to make the most powerful anti-

apartheid statement of all — that even though they despise their treatment at the hands of the white minority, when they get the chance, they will not treat their oppressors in the same manner that their oppressors have treated them.

Human nature may say that turnout is fair play, but a goal as admirable as equal rights can't be won without the will power to overcome natural retaliatory instincts.

If, as Ramokgopa says, the struggle of blacks is to establish a non-racial system of education, then the students at the Medical University ought to show that they truly desire such a system, instead of a blacks-only system.

The medical students are caught in the heat of protest. They have displaced their feelings for apartheid on the ethnic group responsible for the policies. Interchanging the policy for the stereotypical group is nothing new to the protest scene. In the activism-oriented '60s, the attitude was reflected in such sayings as "Don't trust anyone over 30." The statement burdened every member of the older generation with the policy of a few.

The South African medical students must learn, as did the demonstrators of the '60s, that the first step toward equality — isolating the problem and speaking out against it — is easy. The second step — practicing what you preach — isn't.

Loren Steffy is a junior journalism major and the Opinion Page editor for The Battalion.

Mail Call

Of apes and Christians

EDITOR:

As the semester nears an end, I would like to comment on the competence of the Battalion Editorial Board. I have been an Aggie for three years, I have noted the journalists' opinions in *The Battalion*. Their opinions, along with those who have written to the editor to complain, usually have been infantile, ignorant and hostile. It is not a paper one would write home about. Many great Americans would be horrified by *The Battalion*. That is, they would wonder what their children are learning at this major institution.

This semester has witnessed a noticeable improvement in authorship. I refer to Karl Pallmeyer, Loren Steffy and Glenn Murtha. These three have displayed fine qualities for student journalists. Their writing is clear, readable and competent. The topics they have chosen are socially significant. Their opinions are thoughtful and based on fact. Their conclusions have been accurate if not daring. They have courage. Harlan Ellison would appreciate them.

Barring nuclear war, their works as yet unwritten will gather dust with other fine American thought (like our Bill of Rights). Their fame will spread far and wide (like Kilgore Trout's).

These Aggies are good Americans, good apes and better Christians than most.

Alan Brooks

Torn between two columns

EDITOR:

I am torn on whether to comment on Glenn Murtha's ridiculous comparison between the Bible and pornography or on "guest immoralist" Marco Roberts' somewhat twisted argument about changing our values.

Obviously people throughout history have done things in the name of religion that were wrong. But it is clear that in its intent that the Bible does not encourage this sort of activity. Pornography, on the other hand, purposely promotes immorality and twisted senses of reality as perfectly normal behavior.

Besides, misinterpretation of the Bible does not invalidate the absolute truth of it.

Roberts' article, on the other hand, was very patriotic when one considers the source, the flag stops at half-mast and one tends to throw up the good ol' American slice of apple pie we just ate. The Declaration of Independence states that our inalienable rights were endowed by our Creator. When we as individuals choose to violate the statutes of that Creator we forfeit the rights that continue to change, as you suggest they should.

God's standard has always been that homosexuality is absolutely abominable. Therefore, since you blatantly choose to violate your Creator's statutes, you forfeit the rights that he so mercifully endowed to you.

Mike Foarde
Class of '86

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 include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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