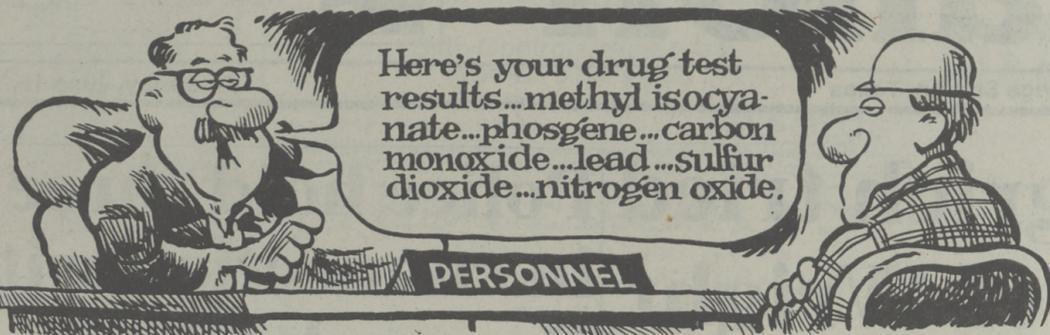


Thursday, June 15, 1989



MARGULIES
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Khomeini: savior or Satan

He was a maniacal fanatic to some, a spiritual leader to others, but the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who died June 3, is finally gone.

To the members of the Society of Iranian Students at Texas A&M who mourned Khomeini's death this past Saturday at a memorial service in Rudder Tower, I ask 'why?' Khomeini denounced Western ideals such as freedom of the press. If you support Khomeini, then you condemn the same right to a free press that you were afforded via *The Battalion* by printing your ad.

In the United States our leaders do not ask fellow Americans to kill authors of books. Nor do they ask us to take innocent persons hostage. We have freedom, something the Society of Iranian Students at A&M, who mourned Khomeini's death last Saturday, are taking for granted as visitors to this great nation. Freedom is something our forefathers fought and died for, so groups such as the Iranian students can enjoy the right to free press and free expression.

I am glad *The Battalion* accepted the request of these students to print the advertisement announcing their on-campus memorial for Khomeini. However, the idea that they met to "mourn" the

Michael Kelley
Guest Columnist

death of the man who would not give them the same rights to peacefully meet and use the press appalls me. Their praise for Khomeini indicates that they want to continue to support his despotic policies of banishment of Western customs, censorship of the media and the execution of racial minorities.

Let's not forget who the Ayatollah Khomeini really was. He was the same person who had 10,000-20,000 minorities executed in Iran. His policy of trying to expand his power into Iraq led to the death of over 900,000 Iraqis, some not even teenagers, during the Iran-Iraq War. Despite all of this, I wonder if the Society of Iranian Students really feels that Khomeini cared about the Iranian people? Is it not obvious that he was a power hungry tyrant who, since 1979, enjoyed exploiting those who blindly followed him?

As far as his foreign policies were concerned, he was no saint either. Who can forget the Iranian Hostage Crisis, in which Khomeini's hatred of the United States, or as he called us—the "Great Sa-

tan," led him to support the militant Iranian student's seizure of 52 American hostages in Tehran for 444 days.

The Ayatollah is also considered responsible for the American hostages being held in Lebanon, as well. Khomeini's latest act of zealotry was to exonerate and financially support the would-be assassins of Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*. The Ayatollah made a worldwide plea for Moslems to kill Rushdie, as well as anyone who published the book. By this deed, Khomeini acted as a potential murderer, while also angering foreign governments, intimidating publishers and subjecting many airlines to bomb threats.

Instead of memorializing the Ayatollah Khomeini, the Society of Iranian Students should start denouncing the evils he has brought to Iran and the world. The organization should use their energies to support a policy of basic freedoms by his political successor—Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

As for the loss of the Ayatollah Khomeini, all I can say is - good riddance.

As with all columns, opinions expressed by Guest Columnists are not necessarily those of *The Battalion*. Persons interested in submitting guest columns should contact the Opinion Page Editor at 845-3314.

Mail Call

Staff should use garage for parking

EDITOR:

The following letter concerns a problem we have had here at Texas A&M for quite some time now. I'm talking about the infamous lack of parking for students. Now it has gone too far.

The other morning I was returning from class and I had just missed a campus policeman writing me a ticket. The violation? What else, parking in a random staff lot in front of Neeley and Hobby Halls. Please, did not just spend too many dollars on the parking garage located not 100 feet from this sight. Plus the fact that as far as I could tell, there is no sign located anywhere nearby stating that these spaces belong to staff. Let the staff park in the garage. Wasn't that one of the main reasons for building it.

Chris Schnitger
Class of '90

On-campus memorial questioned

EDITOR:

I was in absolute disbelief when I opened Friday's *Battalion* and saw a notification of death for "His Holiness" Imam Khomeini.

The notification went on to say that a memorial service would be held in Rudder Tower.

What a blatant slap in the face it is when this cowardly murderous is being worshipped next door to a memorial center for those who died fighting everything this trash stood for.

I only hope Khomeini was in as much fear and agony in death as those who were shot, maimed and mentally tortured by his command.

It is claimed that Khomeini is a great spiritual leader, so great that his people rip his burial shroud to pieces as sacred relics.

I contend that instead Khomeini is a spiritual leader of hate, murder and fanaticism.

What man of God would take innocent people and leave them blindfolded and mentally tortured over a year, demanding ransom for release?

I don't know why this blight to society is being honored in *The Battalion*, but I do know that I hope Khomeini rots in hell.

Patrick McConal
accompanied by three signatures

Islamic movement not worldwide

EDITOR:

On June 9 I saw a notice on the back page of *The Battalion* announcing a memorial service to be held in honor of "the great leader of the worldwide Islamic movement," the Ayatollah Khomeini.

I would like to point out two things. First, I would like to remind the supporters who attended this memorial that they are fortunate to have the freedom of assembly to mourn their leader and the freedom of speech to express their feelings in a public paper — all this in a country which the Ayatollah Khomeini condemned and wished to destroy.

Secondly, I would like to clear the false impression which the announcement may have given many readers: Khomeini is not the leader of a worldwide Islamic movement. Khomeini supporters make up only a small part of the people who follow the religion of Islam. I believe it is statements such as this that cause a sad misunderstanding and fear of Arabs and other Moslems worldwide. This is tragic because the teachings of Islam emphasize love, compassion and peace, and the majority of its followers abide by these teachings and do not support the terroristic actions which are advocated by the Ayatollah and his followers.

Donna Lee
College Station

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words.

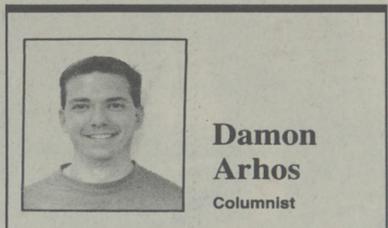
Supreme Court makes way for racial equality

The Supreme Court announced a decision Monday enabling whites to challenge affirmative action agreements between minority employees and their employers. The 5-4 decision has been labeled a "setback" by civil rights activists, and many affirmative action groups have denounced the Reagan appointees for "reopening old racial wounds."

Claims of racial discrimination by many white Americans have validity in the United States, and the Court was justified in its decision.

The case resulted from a 1981 consent decree between the city of Birmingham, Ala., and blacks alleging discrimination in fire department hiring and promotion. The decree included a provision for the preferential treatment of minority and women employees. White firefighters, who were not a party in the 1981 agreement, later sued the city and the County Personnel Board saying they were denied promotions because of their race.

To the Supreme Court, the big question in this case was not whether the white firefighters were denied promotions based on their race, but whether they had the right to challenge court-approved affirmative action plans to which



Damon Arhos
Columnist

they were not a party. The majority of the Court said they did.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the court, said that the firefighters deserve their day in court to attempt to prove they are victims of reverse discrimination. Just as a minority employee has the right to protest the promotion or hiring of an unqualified Anglo over a qualified member of a minority group, so should the Anglo have the same right.

As I was walking on campus one day last semester, I ran into a friend of mine. I'll call him John. John informed me that he had just been admitted to Harvard Law School and would be attending in the fall. I had always known that John was a good student but not an

outstanding one. So I asked him how he did it. His reply was, "My mother is Mexican-American, so I am counted as a minority applicant."

The thought running through my head was, "My father is Greek-American, so shouldn't I be counted as a member of a minority group also?" I soon realized "minority" in this case didn't necessarily MEAN "minority."

Because I am not considered, in the traditional sense, a member of a minority group, I would not be considered a minority applicant if I applied to the same school. Although I know I probably look better on paper than John does,

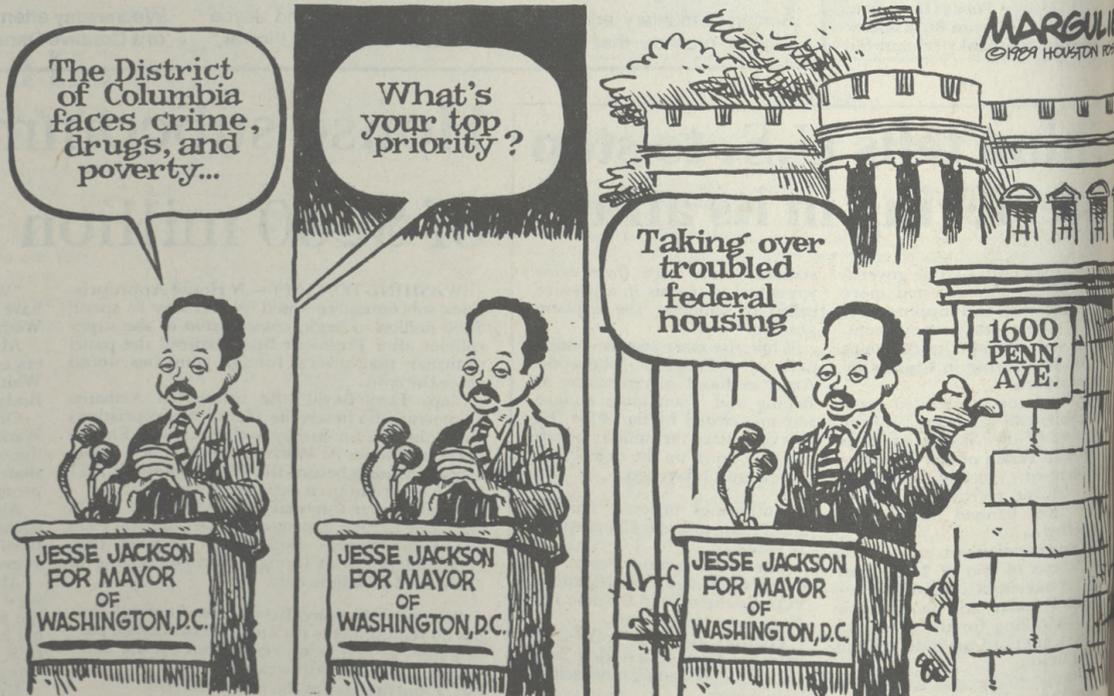
most likely I would be denied admission because I am an average "majority" student.

The same type of action occurs in the job market. Many times someone is hired on his ability to fit a racial or sexual quota instead of on his ability to do a job. These racial quotas are unfair to truly qualified individuals. If a member of a minority group is the most qualified person for a particular job, then he should have it. If an Anglo deserves a position, it should be his. Race should take a seat back to skill and qualification. Promotions belong to those who earn them, jobs belong to those who are

qualified and admissions belong to those who are qualified.

Ironically, experts predict that in the future the "minority" will surpass the "majority." The minority population will become the majority population, and vice versa. It will become even more important to realize that discrimination pervades all races. The Supreme Court took a giant step Monday toward racial equality. And the key phrase to remember is, "All men are created equal."

Damon Arhos is a junior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.



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The Battalion

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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 Journalism.

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