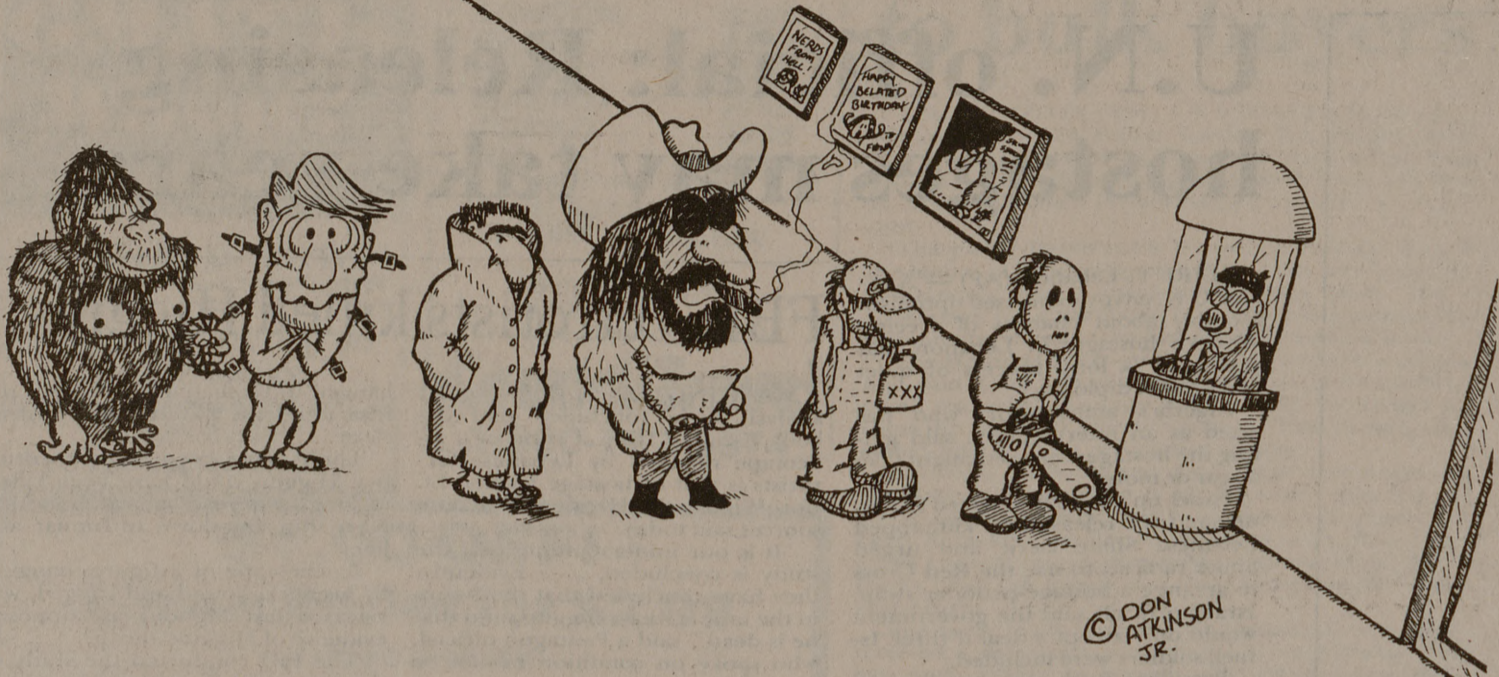


THE LINE FOR SYLVESTER STALLONE'S NEW MOVIE...



## Mail Call

### Photo in bad taste

EDITOR:

The *Battalion's* use of the photograph of the parents of Robert Craig, one of the local teenagers killed in the rafting accident on Tuesday, was in bad taste. Robert's father, Dr. James Craig, is a professor at Texas A&M.

The article was a big local news item, but the use of the photograph showing two people in anguish at the death of their son was too much. I know that if I were in that situation, a photograph like that would make me hurt more. Since Aggies are essentially the only people who read *The Battalion*, it would be difficult for us to offend anyone but ourselves. I feel it would be good policy for *The Battalion* to try to avoid adding pain to those in our community who are already hurting.

Laurie R. Marshall  
Graduate Student

### Fate of fountain lovers at stake

EDITOR:

Expansion of the MSC will cause Rudder Fountain to be turned off. Yet the water is inviting

On a warm summer's evening when the humidity is high, what is a young couple to do but sneak over to Rudder Fountain near midnight, sit on the marble ledge, dip their feet in the icy water and then wade over to the red and blue lights shining up into the showering fountain. Quickly then, for its very cold, they step under the hard splashing water. BRRR! Then, just as quickly, they escape to a hot shower.

On a warm summer's eve, say Tuesday or Wednesday during finals week, one remembers Rudder Fountain will soon be turned off. What is a young couple to do

Frank Harmier  
Graduate student

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.

## Move over Batman, make room for.

My sources in Hollywood have indicated to me that because of the huge success of the summer's big hit "Batman," we can expect a deluge of other movies that feature such heroes and heroines.

"There are already three more like that about to be shot," a source told me.

"You can expect movies about Spider-Man, Plastic Man and the Invisible Man in the fall," the source continued.

For those who don't recall those three characters from their comic book days, I'll brief you.

Spider-Man was also a law-and-order freak. He would leap off buildings by secreting an unidentified substance that acted as a rope.

He was, however, a rather unhappy and lonely person. Women were afraid of him and he was always being chased by two guys from Orkin, who wanted to spray him.

Plastic Man's big problem was that he wasn't much use in hot climates. A couple of hours out in the sun and he'd start to melt and emit toxic fumes.

If a crook tried to run away from him, Plastic Man could stretch his arms hundreds of feet to rein in the would-be escaper.

The Invisible Man was always one of my favorites. The bad guys never knew when Invisible was around, of course, since he was invisible.

What a lot of fans never knew, however, was that the Invisible Man was a pervert. He spent a lot of time hanging out in ladies' restrooms.

### Lewis Grizzard

Syndicated Columnist

My Hollywood source said the producers of the new Invisible Man had one heck of a time casting his part.

"It's not easy to find invisible actors who can be a box-office draw," said the source. They finally gave the part to Roddy McDowell, who nobody has seen in years.

My source also mentioned a few other movies we could expect, featuring new characters like Bat, Sup, Spide, Plastic, and Invisible, whose friends call him Shorty.

- Tax Shelterman: His constantly battling to get Congress to bring back tax shelters for rich Republicans. His cape is emblazoned with a gold dollar sign, and he's a 3-handicap golfer.

- Dodecahedronman: There are many sides to his personality. And his archenemies are high-school geometry teachers who give out too much homework.

- Service-Stationman: Loved by millions because he always washes your windshield and bears down to get the bugs off.

- Cholesterolman: His sole purpose is to kill chickens, thus doing away with eggs, which are bad for you, no matter what your mother used to say when you were growing up.

- Fredrick's-of-Hollywoodwoman: She dresses in slinky little negligees and fulfills the fantasies of men whose wives are overweight and have unsightly facial hair.

- Barneyfifeman: Enemy of all

#### Editorial Policy

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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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## Inaction by America could result in WWII

Since 1979, when fanatic fundamentalist Shiite Moslems swept the Arab world into revolution and unleashed their wave of terror across the world, Americans have been the victims of a war our government refuses to recognize.

The bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks, killing 250 men who were sent as a peace-keeping force for the United Nations, stands as a testament to the deadly mindset of the Islamic revolutionaries. Other examples of the blood-bath include the bombing of Pan American Flight 103, the Achille Lauro cruise ship incident, the numerous hijacking of U.S. planes and the killing of servicemen in a West German nightclub, which was traced directly to Libya.

The sad fact is, the American government seems to have lost its backbone. Except for the air strike on Libya in 1986 for the deaths of Americans in the aforementioned terrorist bombing, the United States has failed to protect the lives of its citizens abroad by not fighting back.

In the past, America consistently stood up with the full strength of our military to protect or avenge American lives. The German sinking of the *Lucitania* in the Atlantic was the catalyst that caused us to enter World War I. Likewise, we declared war on Spain in the 1890s because of the explosion on the U.S.S. *Maine* with far less evidence than we now have against Iran and Syria.

In the past, the government protected its citizens far better. Being an American was a symbol of pride and strength. Now we are a favorite target of terrorists because we fail to protect our own people. With a \$300 billion military budget, this should not be the case.

Politicians who blame Israel as a scapegoat are fools. Those politicians are playing right into the hands of the fanatic terrorists. The publicly stated goals of the Islamic revolution are the destruction of Israel and the United States, and a worldwide Islamic government. Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and they are standing up to terrorists and fighting America's battle. They are struggling for survival amid hostile neighbors and have done a good job at staying alive against overwhelming odds. It is high time we stand up beside Israel and resolve to end terrorism once and for all.

When we let the enemy strike us repeatedly without standing up for ourselves, we are opening the door for disaster. We cannot accommodate terrorism or stand by without action. Similar actions a half century ago led to the rise of Adolf Hitler. We can fight the problem now, or fight it five years from now when it will be far more difficult and widespread.

No easy answers are available for such a terrible situation. But sitting back and watching Americans die one by one is not my idea of living in the greatest country on Earth. Call me a reactionary or whatever you want, but I realize the value of American lives. The blood of Americans should be worth more than indecision and words. It may be a situation that is unwinnable one way or another, but we can't back down.

Listen to the words of the fanatic Is-



Jeff Osborne  
Guest Columnist

lamic leaders. Just like Hitler was his intentions in "Mein Kampf," Islamic leaders have voiced their intentions as well. They have called for an out war against the United States, Iran and Western Europe. Several Islamic countries with hostile intentions, such as Iraq, Libya and Iran, have attempted to get nuclear weapons. We cannot get these threats as the nonsense of fanaticism but as legitimate threats.

The terrorists see our inaction as weakness. They do not understand anything except strength. The unwillingness of other Arab countries (with more land than Israel) to provide a homeland for the Palestinians is an ample of their attempt to cast a shadow over Israel. Bellicose neighbors have attacked Israel in 1948, 1967, and 1973.

The truth is that there will probably be no peace because the Arabs have an all-or-nothing view that excludes Israel or American interests. Fanatic Islam want a Jihad (Holy War) against Israel and the West. Any terrorist who says this is a liar.

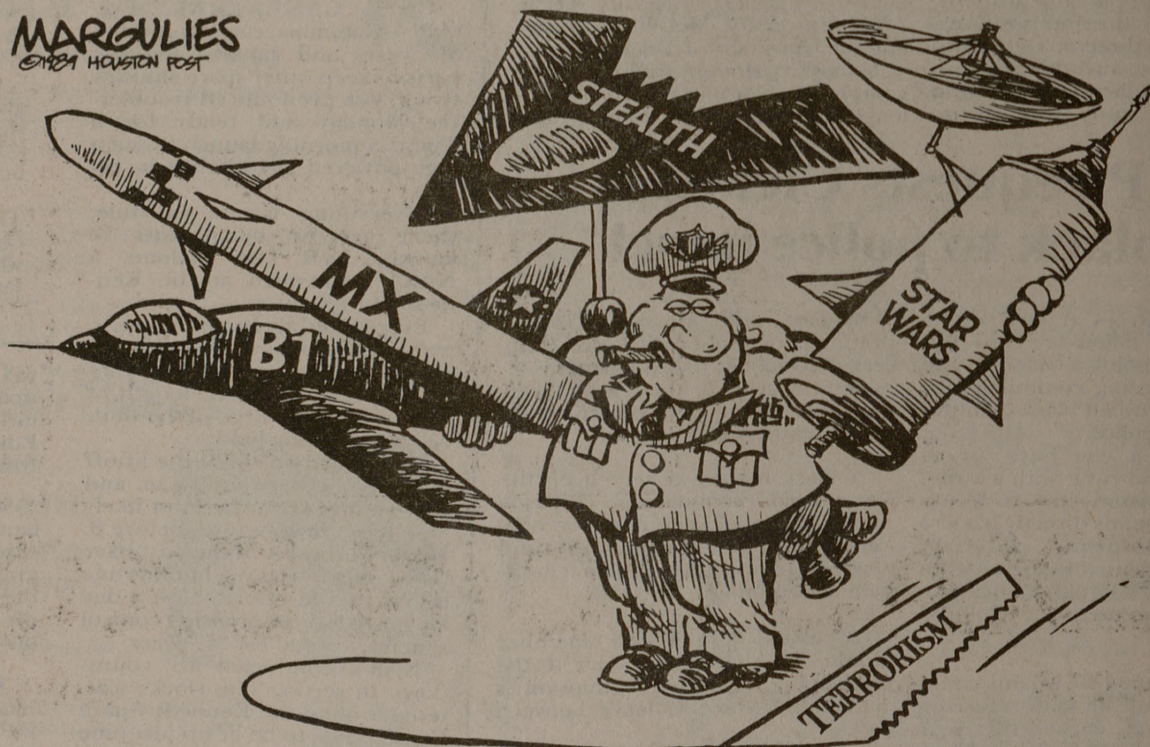
It should be noted that not all Muslims follow the violence and hatred reported by a very vocal and active minority. The prophet Mohammed, quoted by a member of the U.S. Congress on C-Span, the government's work. The congressman used the words of the Islamic prophet who said captives should be treated as well as brothers, with the same food and clothes of their Moslem captors. The fanatic Shiites have twisted the meaning of their own religion into a mandate to spread terror throughout a world that does not understand.

We have seen this kind of fanaticism and willingness to die for glory before. Remember the Japanese in World War II? Kamikaze bombers in planes shouting "Banzai" or Islamic suicide bombers shouting "Allah Akbar." The reflection is strikingly similar.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s America was a sleeping giant. It appeared that now we have become a paranoiac giant. If we don't react, we're in danger. If we react, we're still in danger. A no-win situation frustrating Americans is compounded by our lack of action.

The storm clouds of war are looming on the horizon, threatening to see whether we are prepared or not. Will we wait until these fanatics get nuclear weapons before we take action? History has repeated itself time and again. In 1945, I hope we don't look back and say that it has happened again. We can do with the problem of terrorism before it leads to World War III, or sit back and let history take its course.

Jeff Osborne is a senior journalism major and assistant sports editor of *The Battalion*.



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