



EDITORIALS

Editorials expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

Don't let Persian Gulf Crisis heighten racism against Arabs

During a time at Texas A&M when we have been struggling to improve our multicultural environment, ill feelings against Arabs could be particularly damaging to lives and student relations.

The Persian Gulf conflict is historically unique because it is the first time the United States has fought an Arab enemy, and many Americans already are concerned about the possibilities of terrorism and threats to American lives and property here at home.

Also, the misunderstanding of another culture might have unfortunate consequences, such as discrimination and racist attacks on the United States' Arab-American population and Arab nationals working or studying in the United States.

We are disturbed by reports of racially motivated violence from across the country. Civil rights violations have occurred as close as Houston, where Arab-Americans have faced verbal threats and assaults.

The possibility exists that this situation can worsen the already poor image of Arabs in this country.

As Americans and Aggies, let's not let this conflict between nations and governments heighten racism against Arab-Americans, especially Arab students and staff members who share this campus.

The Battalion Editorial Board

MAIL CALL

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Proud to be an American

EDITOR:

Howdy! My name is Cpl. James M. Young, and I am currently serving with the Marine Corps in Operation Desert Storm. I have been in the theater of operation for six months now and have not regretted a day of it.

I was a student at Texas A&M for two and a half years. Although my love and loyalty for A&M and the Corps of Cadets is strong, I had to leave for personal reasons. I do hope to return to A&M one day.

I have received several letters from Aggies, past and present, while over here and it has been a real morale boost. My reason for writing to ya'll is to let you know that myself and other Aggies are doing great over here and your undying loyalty and support has been greatly appreciated.

Our Scud alarm just went off. I am now writing to you from inside my bunker. I pray I can get this letter off to you.

This war has been going on for a few days now, and it is very real.

This morning, I heard on the radio that some Americans are holding sit-ins and protesting our involvement over here. This strikes me as very odd, since every country over here in the Middle East is united either for or against us.

I find it really sad that some of my own countrymen are acting this way. I must believe that they are misinformed; so please allow me to inform some of you who don't know why we are over here.

We are not over here fighting for oil. We are over here fighting for liberty and freedom! — We are out of our bunker now and everybody is OK — Liberty and freedom that the Kuwaiti people are now deprived of.

I believe some Americans are spoiled and take their many rights that our fathers and forefathers fought and died for granted. If I am hurting your feelings, that's just too bad, because you need to grow up and look around at the rest of the world and see how they live.

Some live in fear and some in a depressed society. Some people say that freedom is free. IT IS NOT! There is a price for freedom that must be paid, not only in America but all over the world.

One man never should be allowed to control, take over and harass others at his whim. I call upon you, all Aggies, to unite and pass these words on to others across the nation.

In conclusion, let me say that I am proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. I am proud to be a Marine, and I am proud to be an Aggie. Gig 'em! Beat the hell outta Iraq! — Semper Fi,

James M. Young '90

P.S. Howdy Jocks

Discontinue animal-based diets

EDITOR:

Timothy Truesdale's assessment of animal testing was right on the mark. The New England Anti-Vivisection Society reports that experiments on animals have yet to give the human race a single cure in the fight against heart disease. He left out an important point though.

Many of the diseases which afflict humankind can be prevented much more easily than they will ever be cured or treated by needless and cruel testing on animals.

The prevention method is simply to discontinue unhealthy diets based on eating animals and animal products, which would stop the inhumane factory farming techniques necessary for financially viable animal products industries. This action in and of itself will greatly reduce animal suffering.

Treating diseases caused by animal-based diets with animal-tested cures is a self-perpetuating cycle of animal suffering that solves nothing and creates many other environmental and social problems.

Michael C. Worsham  
graduate student

Wake up, see the real world

EDITOR:

I'd like to start out by saying that I am a very open-minded person. During the course of this semester, I have noticed a few individuals who need to open their minds a little.

One particular focus is all of the letters pouring in describing distaste for Nito's "the itch." I find the strip hilarious, especially the Jan. 31 issue, above which was another letter of disgust.

I can't believe you are condemning this guy because of his comic strip. What's going to happen to you people when you get into the real world and have to deal with people that act the way Nito satirizes?

We all go to a conservative university and don't get too much exposure to people like that, but they're out there.

Just before Thanksgiving, I was in Austin. If you think "the itch" is bad, try some of the articles there. In the Daily Texan, they ran a particular cartoon that would make you people wretch.

A homosexual cartoon with very explicit insinuations was run. Upon asking my friend, he responded that it's like that every day.

If you frail people can't cope with "the itch," then society is headed for a downfall when you get out into it because there are worse things out there than "sick" humor.

Wake up and see the world for what it is — diverse. Not everyone can be happy with everything.

Maybe in the future, you should try to tolerate the things you don't like instead of condemning the individuals for those things.

Remember: life isn't always a bed of roses.

Eric Pierson '92

Gulf crisis advocates go overboard in support

There has been a lot of discussion concerning the Persian Gulf War and the way Americans are reacting to it. Some criticize anti-war rallies with the argument they injure the morale of our soldiers in Saudi Arabia; the war protesters (who presently are in the minority) counter that they're showing their support for U.S. troops by demanding they come home alive.

No doubt, almost every American has opinions about the war and the reactions it has received in the United States. As of now, support for President Bush and his actions in the gulf is quite high. Even Americans hesitant about the war believe that if we must send troops into battle, we had better support them.

Yet there seems to be a segment of that majority that is a little too supportive of the war, and this segment is alive at Texas A&M. You know to whom I am referring — the small group of students who seem to be actually enjoying the involvement of U.S. troops in Kuwait and Iraq.

You've seen them on campus. They're the ones proudly wearing the "Give Force a Chance" T-shirts and foaming at the mouths like pit bulls at a dog fight. These are the same people who buy the "Wipe out Saddam Hussein" toilet paper and then shake their heads at the "crazy Arabs" who burn the American flag.

Sure, support for the President and the troops is essential for the Bush Administration to achieve its objectives in the Middle East. Yet some people seem gleeful that the situation has turned out the way it has. These individuals seem to be caught in a time warp, as if it was 1980 and the U.S. hockey team just defeated the Soviets for the Gold Medal.

They have surpassed cheering for our troops and a quick victory, and their rhetoric seems to be supporting



Patrick Nolan  
Columnist

the war, not U.S. troops in the gulf. We, as bystanders to the war, must ensure our support for our troops does not spill over and begin to resemble something like the "One Minute Hate" in George Orwell's "1984."

If you didn't know any better, you would think these warmongers were sent here by the Ministry of Truth to drum up support for our latest military campaign. Even Bush, the hero of the hour, said in his State of the Union address, "This nation has never found glory in war."

The irony of the situation is that these same hawks who seem to get off on this war are safe here in the United States. It's easy for these militant simpletons to be blissful about the war — all they have to do to forget about the Persian Gulf is turn off CNN. Not even the troops in Saudi Arabia are as hawkish as some of our own students; troop members seem to view their jobs as solemn duties required by the American public.

But then again, who am I to criticize? It's your prerogative if you want to cruise the streets of Bryan College Station with a "Defend Firearms, Defeat Dukakis" bumper sticker while the Lee Greenwood song, "I'm proud to be an American" blasts from the speakers and brings a lump to your throat.

Patrick Nolan is a senior political science major.

the itch

by Nito



The Battalion

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