



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.

Recycling tips

EDITOR:

I would like to publicly congratulate The Battalion staff for the series on recycling in our area. There are a few suggestions I would like to add.

All this recycling creates a tremendous variety of recycled paper products: paper towels, stationery, computer paper, etc. Encourage recycling by buying these products. Stores and even copy centers in our area now carry them or you can get them from Earth Care Paper Company. Ask for a free catalogue: Earth Care Paper Co., PO Box 3335, Madison, Wis., 53704.

You also can get rid of junk mail by removing your name from mailing lists. Write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Mail Marketing Association, 6 E. 43rd St., New York, N.Y., 10017. Tell them to remove your name from their files.

For those of you just starting out, the perfect opportunity is TOTEM (The Oklahoma and Texas Environmental Meeting), which will be at A&M from March 22 to 24. More than 100 student groups from these two states, as well as nationally prominent environmental leaders, are coming. There will be concerts, seminars, workshops, an Ecofair and an environmental career fair. Call Christina (847-0341) or Scott (693-3371) for registration information.

Charles Albert
TEAC president

Show us how

EDITOR:

Andy Yung, in his Feb. 26 column, stated "we must realize absurdity of war." This I do not disagree with, as do few that I know. However, the problem lies in the solution. It is easy to proclaim "war is bad; peace is good" while beating your chest. It is much harder to offer solutions. Yung does not state how to gain world peace but

does offer great insight when he says "America must realize war is now outdated and senseless." That is a statement few of us, I'm sure, could have realized on our own.

Since the gulf conflict has started, we have been continually showered with messages of peace, but none has offered to show us the way. My sixth grade English teacher said "when choosing a topic, don't say something like war is bad. Although true, it is a tired argument."

My point is we know war is horrible. What we don't know is how to eliminate it. So unless you have a solution or something new, quit wasting our time with statements like "we must do this" or "we should do this." We know what must be done, now show us how.
James Quinn

Let The Battalion print 'the itch'

EDITOR:

I am writing in reply to Jason Day's letter regarding "the itch." Jason obviously is offended and wants to see "the itch" taken out of The Battalion. He said: "The Battalion, I believe, should be trying to provide Texas A&M with articles and features it wants. I cannot speak for all, but I would greatly prefer for this feature to be cut."

Jason is right; he cannot speak for us all and he certainly cannot speak for me. I, along with a majority of the good humored readers I've talked to, like "the itch." If a large percentage of the readers like "the itch," it's worth the few square centimeters of space to print the cartoon.

As for the group of readers that fall into the "anti-itch" percentage, I have a suggestion that will keep you from getting offended all the time — don't read "the itch." Has this ever occurred to you? Let's let The Battalion do just what Jason has suggested and print what Texas A&M wants to read — "the itch."
David J. Hawkins '92

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

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.

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The Battalion

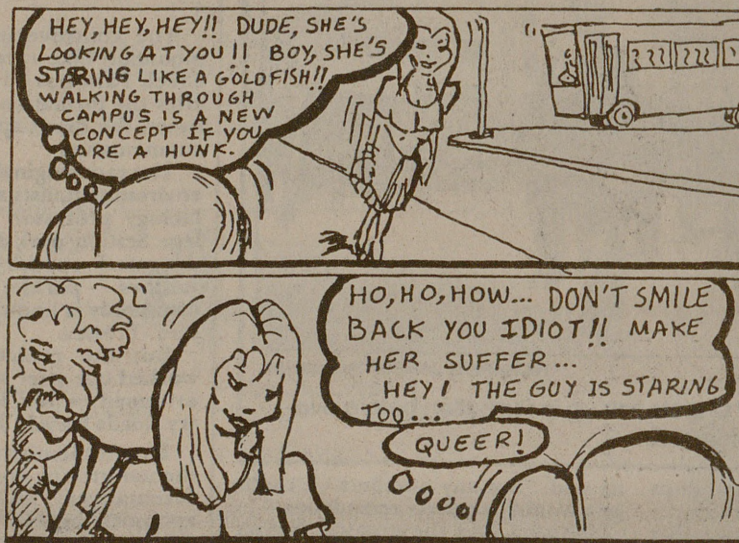
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the itch



EDITORIALS

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Longest ribbon trivializes war

The local community will tie a 31-mile yellow ribbon around Bryan-College Station on Saturday and also might earn a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. We see this as the ultimate trivialization of war.

The \$1,000 ribbon will be wrapped around the community to show Texas-sized support for the troops. The University also will do its part by tying another ribbon seven miles around the campus.

We support the troops and their families. This support can be demonstrated in many ways, but the ribbon is overkill which borders on tacky. Having the community entered in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest yellow ribbon trivializes the reality of war.

We see yellow ribbons tied on backpacks, cars, mailboxes, trees and soon around the campus and community. We support the display of yellow ribbons for the men and women in the Middle East and their families at home. But 31 miles of yellow ribbon is a nice gesture taken too far.

The Battalion Editorial Board

From somewhere in Israel Scud failures represent only one Iraqi mistake

Last night I watched, in a clear violation of the Civil Defense rules, a 3-MACH Patriot rocket seeking and intercepting a 6-MACH Scud Missile. As the Scud exploded, it reminded me of fireworks on July 4. The noisy interception with the bright flare keyed a number of thoughts which I would like to impart to you.

Russian technology once again has failed badly in contesting that of the United States. Your technology was able to beat the Scuds in a precision contest measured in seconds. But think of this: Who in the world is developing anti-missile weapons? No one in the Eastern Bloc or their current and former arms customers and clients. Why? For a good reason. They know that no one from the free world would launch a missile attack against their civilian population centers. It is the free world that must counter such brutal attacks. So here come the Patriots to the rescue, which soon will be followed by Israel's own Arrow rockets.

Failure of the Scuds was the least of Saddam Hussein's miscalculations. The worst are the following:

He counted on American unwillingness to fight and was sure to win this game of "chicken." Well, he is still wondering why the United States — still under the Vietnam trauma and humiliated by the Iranians — did not blink this time, but stayed on course. Indeed, it is quite difficult for Saddam, from his isolation, to observe how the world is changing.

He missed the collapse of the communist system and the decline of the USSR — his patron. He missed the unification of Europe and the economic boom of the Far East which forces the U.S. to seek a new world order as a prelude to lasting peace.

He missed the fact about how much the United States needs such a peace so it can meet the economic power of Germany and Japan, countries with no defense-related costs.

He further missed President Bush

Dr. Hovav Talpaz

Reader's Opinion

slamming the breaks on the old U.S. order in his inspired commencement speech at Texas A&M two years ago. He could not see the President making a complete U-turn. Saddam's only comfort is that he was in good company, as many experts also were blind to that U-turn.

Saddam's second biggest mistake was his counting on converting the war from a tennis match to a full-fledged super bowl. By sending Scud missiles to hit Tel Aviv, he was trying

Scud B	
Length	37 feet
Diameter	3 feet
Launch weight	7.0 tons
Payload	One 2,172-lb. warhead, conventional or chemical
Propulsion	Liquid propellant
Accuracy	Within 1,476 feet

to draw Israel into the war. He thought the super-hawkish Shamir cabinet would strike back, breaking the peace coalition and converting the war to traditional Arab-Israeli confrontations.

He failed to see that sheer logic drives Israel's decision not to retaliate. The same logic drove former Prime Minister Begin to strike at Baghdad's nuclear plant in 1981. Just think of same Saddam with a few nuclear bombs!

So Israel's decision of restraint in Saddam's type I (statistics terminology) error. The coalition is alive and well and kicking!

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