

The Battalion Editorial Board

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The following opinions are a consensus of The Battalion opinion staff and senior editors.

George Bush

President has experience for future

The clear choice for Republicans in tomorrow's presidential Super Tuesday primary is George Bush. He has a clear agenda and marked stance for the next four years, unlike his Republican rivals Pat Buchanan and David Duke.

Some have criticized Bush for spending too much time in foreign policy, but the world of March 8, 1992, is very different from that of March, 1989. From the Gulf War to the crisis in the old Soviet Union, the president has represented our nation forcefully, keeping our interests in the limelight. As Europe unites into one economic power, the Middle East grows more unstable and the new republics form in the place of the Soviet Union, the isolationist stances of Duke and Buchanan are an anachronism more fitting the world of 100 years ago.

As the Cold War ends, the president has proposed a \$50 billion cut in defense spending. He still supports the Strategic Defense Initiative. Perhaps the most important are his calls for disarmament of much of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, as well as calling on other nations to do the same.

On the issue of the United States economy, Bush shares both the credit

and the blame for where we have been and where we are going. Bush's messages of fair trade, open markets and tax breaks, incentives and increases make sense, while Buchanan and Duke have offered few alternatives. His ideas of reducing the capital gains tax, increasing personal tax exemptions and the promotion of research and development tax breaks have the promise of spurring an already upward-moving economy.

The president wants the United States to pursue more oil and natural gas exploration to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. At the same time, he wants the nation to spend more research dollars on alternative energy sources, such as solar and nuclear.

It may be tempting for some to vote for Duke or Buchanan as a kind of message of dissatisfaction to Bush, while still wanting Bush to win. But it is important to vote for the candidate who has the best interests of all people in mind. Both David Duke and Pat Buchanan have backgrounds of intolerant and reactionary views. Their views promise to not only divide the Republican party, but the nation as a whole if they are nominated.

Bill Clinton

Innovation, leadership make for top choice

As governor of Arkansas for the past 11 years, Bill Clinton has earned a reputation as an innovator in the fields of education, economics and the environment. He needs the opportunity to bring those efforts to the entire country.

He deserves Texans' votes in tomorrow's Democratic primary.

Few politicians can beat Clinton in the area of education. The National Council of Governors last year named him the best governor for education. He has won strong endorsements from the National Education Agency and the Texas State Teacher's Association.

While other candidates talk of investing in business, Clinton speaks of investing in people. He wants to create a national trust fund that would allow every student to go to college.

For those who do not pay the money back, they can work off their debt doing public service as a drug counselor, police officer or teacher. He would set up an apprenticeship program for those who do not attend a university. He would also offer a job re-training program, to help Americans who need to move into a

different line of work.

His economic policies offer a solid blend of pro-business and pro-employee incentives. Among others, he would give tax breaks to reduce the cost of investing in business, but only if those businesses remain here at home. As governor, his state's growth rate in new businesses was 10 times that of the nation.

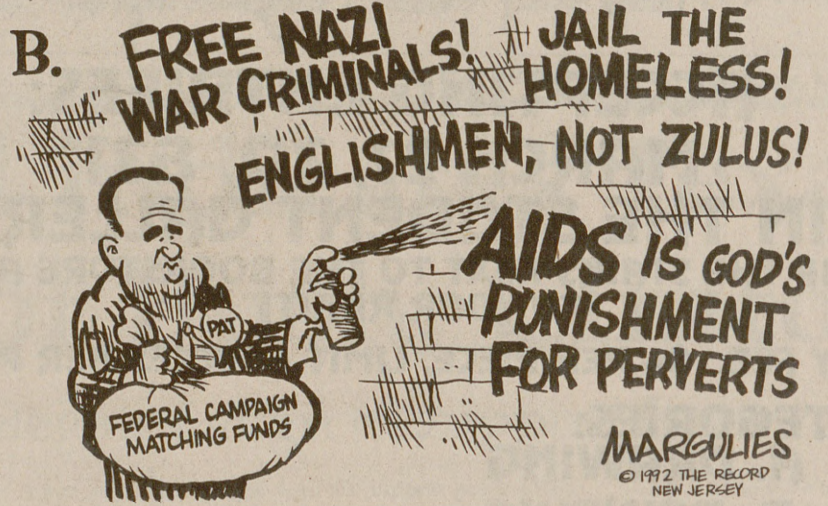
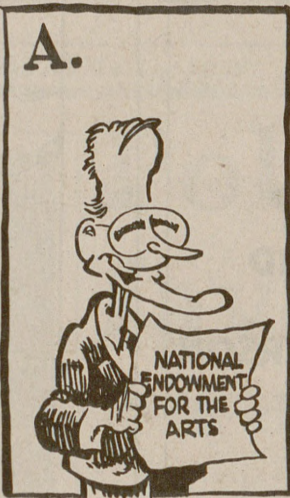
But his vision in other areas surpasses that of his opponents. He is the only candidate committed to promoting natural gas as an alternative fossil fuel. He also would work to create an international fund to protect rain forests and wetlands.

Clinton has the personal presence and ability to motivate others to support his causes. That is an often-overlooked quality in a candidate.

That ability showed when he faced baseless accusations early in his campaign. But the controversies that surrounded his campaign proved to be either minor or based in little fact.

The issues are what count. And when the issues are counted, Clinton's innovative and sensible ideas show he is the best of the Democratic Party.

Q. WHICH CANDIDATE USES TAXPAYER MONEY FOR OBSCENE DISPLAYS?



Don't vote

Citizens should stick to sitcoms, leave voting up to an elite few

During the past few days, we've all been hearing about the need for us to vote. We've heard how poor a voting record college students have, and we've heard incessantly how it is our civic duty to go to the polls to pick our leaders. So by now, we're all supposed to be really fired up to punch those ballots, right? We're all planning to head out and vote.

Well don't.

For those of you who plan to watch soap operas and "Cosby Show" reruns tomorrow instead of voting, stop reading now. You've already done the right thing and have allowed me to help decide our future leaders. I don't need to change your mind.

But for those of you who have spent all this time picking the proper candidate and who plan to be in line when the polls open at 7 a.m. tomorrow, listen up.

Don't vote. You may make the wrong choice. Instead, leave the decisions up to me.

I know what's best for you. I have a lot of experience in elections, especially for a college student.

I have a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Texas (you know, that funky liberal school north of Dallas) and I've worked for newspapers since 1988. I'm a news junky, so I know all the candidates' positions, including the people running for Court of Criminal Appeals. I have the experience and the training to correctly decide the future politicians of this country.



BRIAN BONEY

I know many of you probably will disagree with my choice for president, but don't worry. I know what's best for you. It's not even important for you to know for whom I will vote. Just rest assured that I have everyone's best interest at heart.

For many of you, letting me choose for you won't be too big a change. You've freely given up you're right to vote by staying home in the past. So why change this year? Why put yourself through all the hassle of finding your registration card, driving all the way to the polling place and going through tedious process of voting.

It's just not worth it. Remember, if you miss one day of the soap operas, it's hard to catch up. Stay home.

Let's face it. You have many more problems to worry about. You're right in the middle of mid-term tests. You have to finalize those spring break plans. You have bank accounts to balance and credit cards to pay off.

So let me relieve you from the burden of voting. No, no. Don't thank me. We Aggies have to help each other out in times of need. And since I attended a different university, let me make up for the past four years I wasn't here to contribute.

Of course by now, many of you wonder where I get off deciding for you. You say my views may not correspond with your views; what I think is important may be totally opposite of what you think is important. You're saying your opinion is every bit as relevant as mine, no matter what my background is, and that it may be in your best interest to cancel out might vote with your vote.

If that's what you're thinking, then you have articulated my point perfectly.

Like I said before, you may not vote the right way. If that happens,

my vote will not count as much. My people may not be elected. I won't get my way.

It's you consistent voters who cause all my problems. Those who choose not to participate in our democracy make it easy. They opt out of all the decision making. They just want to retreat into their own worlds and not let any of those complicated decisions ruin their day. They've accepted my offer to think for them in these matters, and their lives are much less complex. I have, in my small way, relieved from them the worry of decision. They can go about their daily lives, secure in the knowledge that I'm making their decisions for them.

But you other troublemakers make the whole process much more time-consuming. The candidates must challenge each other on national debates and with advertising so that every one has an opportunity to see their views.

The whole system would be much simpler if the candidates would talk to just a few enlightened individuals, such as myself, and then we would decide for everyone else.

But because we have to abide by our silly little Constitution, this streamlined system won't come about for a while. So in the meantime, the easiest way for you to bring about change for the better is to not vote.

To those of you I have convinced, I thank you. To those of you who never planned to vote in the first place, keep up the good work. To those of you who plan to be at the polls tomorrow, just say no.

I know what I'm doing.

Boney is a senior education certification major

Mail Call

Smell the scent of watch-dog group

Dear Mr. Keetch, Why is it that your group, the Young Conservatives, is so self-centered as to believe that what you take as truth should determine what the rest of society should take as truth.

I quote, "Education should be a search for truth, not a search for political bias." and "All that we are doing is looking for honesty in the curriculum." You are absolutely right that education is the search for truth, but that truth should be determined by the individuals themselves, not some self-appointed "watch-dog" group that will determine the truth for the rest of the student body.

It seems to me that a few of your group has had their precious beliefs called into question. Maybe even a few received poor grades, not because of their political inclination, but because they failed to support their political inclination with sound reason. I have taken classes in which the professor and I have been diametrically opposed in ideology. I support my beliefs reasonably and logically. The grades I received reflected my ability to do so. Wake up and smell the coffee!! You might have to try a little harder if the person you are attempting to convince is not

sympathetic to your ideology (that is truth). You can't just claim that Reagan was the greatest man that ever lived without some support of that claim.

What will be the result of this compilation of data? Will various professors be labeled as "clean" and "unclean" according to their ideologies? Let's hope you can only label with the ever-so-vague right, left and middle.

Leland B. Franke
Class of '87

Middle East debate from bad to worst

During the past week I've been reading Palestinians BAD, Israelis GOOD. I see it another way, Palestinians BAD, Israelis WORSE, American government WORST.

The Palestinians are bad for calling terrorism "furthering their cause." I call it murder. The Israelis are worse for calling the use of assault rifles to put down demonstrations and the killing of suspected terrorists in Lebanon "self preservation." I call it murder. The American government is worst for ignoring the Palestinian plight by labeling them as "terrorists" and for funding Israel's "self preservation" and calling it

"foreign policy." I call it murder. Before anybody starts labeling me with one name or another, I'll save them the trouble. I am just a person who thinks killing one's fellow man is wrong.

Mike Morris
Class of '93

Current candidates offer drunken ideas

I am writing in response to Stacy Feducia's latest column. I must stay that it should be rather obvious that all of our candidates for president are beer drinkers. In fact, I would go so far as to say that not a day must pass that each of them doesn't at the very least catch a slight buzz.

How do you think Reagan became Ronald "I don't remember" Reagan? George Bush, in his state of the union address said that "Americans don't like gimmicks", in reference to the economy. He then proceeded to offer us some. Pat Buchanan thinks that AIDS is retribution against the homosexual population. And David Duke, well I guess we can just say that he's had a few too many.

Some of you may have noticed that I've failed to mention any of the democratic candidates.

Well, since when have they been worth mentioning anyway?

Joe Bingham
Class of '94

Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers.

All letters are welcome. Letters must be signed and must include classification, address and a daytime phone number for verification purposes. They should be 250 words or less. Anonymous letters will not be published.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee the letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-2647.