

The Battalion Editorial Board

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



Burning future

World must stop rain forest destruction

During election years, Americans tend to forget many issues that would otherwise concern them. This year is no exception, especially with the nation's attention turned toward domestic woes.

But the fact remains: tropical rain forests continue to be shredded and burned at an alarming rate.

A recent report by the United Nations Environmental Programme and the World Resources Institute estimates the rate of world deforestation at 65,000 square miles per year.

Irreplaceable rain forest land equal to nearly one quarter of the size of the state of Texas is burned every year.

The report predicts that by 2050 most of the world's rain forests, those in South America in particular, will be gone.

The loss of such a huge amount of the world's foliage could have substantial adverse effects on the planet's climate and weather systems.

That fact is enough to make world leaders pay attention to the problem, although scientists have no concrete evidence as to the repercussions of the possible damage.

However, what information scientists do have shows the staggering loss of plant and animal species that are killed when rain

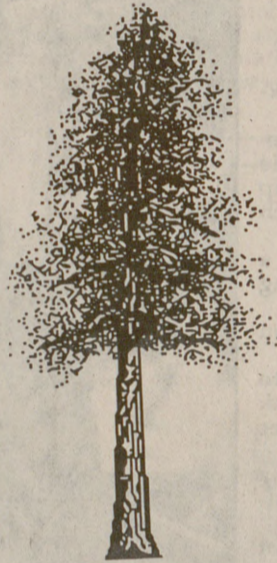
forests are destroyed. Some estimates claim that as much as 40 percent of the world's medical and biological breakthroughs have come from the species living in these rain forests.

The world community will attempt to address this problem at July's U.N. Environmental Summit in Brazil. It is imperative that the United States take a leading role in putting a halt to the devastation of the world's rain forests.

Because economic forces drive the destruction of the forests, the world's economic leader, the United States, has much to say in how the forests are treated.

Unfortunately, the actions of the Bush administration in dealing with global warming offer little hope that the United States will live up to its obligation to the forests. There is no need for further study, as the administration claimed when it obstructed a unified global approach toward curbing the greenhouse effect.

That the rain forests are receding is not just a hunch, it is a fact. And it is up to the American people to pressure their government to protect the forests. If world governments fail to stop the destruction of these forests, the Earth will continue to grow more barren every day.



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How exciting! An invitation to the White House to preview a new Indiana Jones movie...

So, what does Indiana Jones dig up this time?

Bill Clinton's past...

The joy of phlegm

Pollen, ragweed fall on campus warranting mucous madness tips

It's that time of year... Spring is in the air — or hadn't you noticed that baby-poop yellow haze that circles our heads like a bad Barry Manilow song? Of course, spring break is over now and those of you who contracted skin cancer have returned from the sandy, beer-infested hinterlands to our mean-green pollinated campus:



Stacy Feducia

Welcome to hay fever season. . . That night time, sniffing, sneezing, stuffy-head, drainage, coughing, fever, so you can make the rest of us miserable time. Boys and girls, there are 41,000 of us here. We all have to live together and I, for one, don't want to hear your mucous — and neither does anyone else. So here are Ma Stacy's handy tips for a Phlegm-Free Hay Fever Season.

• Don't Snort Your Snot: Probably one of the single most disgusting things that the human ear could hear — aside from some one smacking on corn chips — is the sound of an unblown runny nose. And it's not like it's something you can hide either. If you (we'll use the politically correct term, here) expel "human methane products" in class, you can blame it on someone's chair squeaking or perhaps you can just pretend it never happened if it falls under the "silent but deadly" category. But if you start on one of those nasty sniffing tirades every five seconds, as the secret of the ooze drools from your nose, we will all know who you are — who is perpetuating those heinous crimes against nature — we will know you

by the run of your nose and by the reds of your eyes! You can't hide it — and in this case, you had better not pride it — because none of us want to hear it.

Solution? Go to the grocery store and buy a port-a-pack of tissue then, make like a Scout and be prepared: Blow before you go! Blow before you sit your hiney in our classrooms, then, we will all breathe a little easier — though you'll still be sneezing and wheezing all the live long day. Of course if the need arises and the inundation is just too great, then please get rid of the mucous madness in one big, slurpy HONK rather than in an infinite whiffle of little snuffles.

• Don't flaunt your phlegm: Following the great mucous morass (look it up) you will undoubtedly be inflicted with a deluge of drainage, i.e. phlegm. Just consider the word, itself — PHLEGM. It's an ugly word, and in fact, it's an even uglier substance. And guess what — none of us want to see it — or hear it. Don't distance spit in front of us! Don't hack it up like a cat with a hairball within our hearing range! If I had my way, you'd be licking it up — but because of some nasty thing called cruel and unusual punishment, I can't do that. However, you can be polite (I can't believe I'm saying this) and do all of your hacking and phlegming at home — better yet, just OD on sinus medicine, go to bed, and spare us your nastiness. Of course, if the need arises and the inundation is too great, when you cough it up, just damn well swallow it instead of pretending you're the Tasmanian devil with a hormone problem.

• Don't cheeze a sneeze: Now for some pagan and satanic reasons, certain delicate and polite members of our society feel the need to cheeze their sneezes. By definition a "cheeze-sneeze" is a stifled sneeze — one that sounds more like a hiccup

than a projectile vomit — and usually entails the launching of the sneezer's eyeballs into the next time zone. If you are having difficulty visualizing the "cheeze-sneeze," imagine the effects of placing a poodle in a microwave and turning it on high — just imagine it: DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME! (The animal rights activists are gonna live this one). Point of the matter is — and while this may be a reversal of my stance on snot-sniffing — I'd rather scrape smoo glops of snot out from behing my ears rather than pull exploded eyeballs out of my hair, wouldn't you? So if the need arises and the inundation is just too great, just let it go, let it blow, let it snow — or rain as the case may be. Don't cheeze a sneeze.

• Plan Ahead! Chop Some Trees!: I can think of no better Pro-Bonfire argument than the fact that oak trees produce the tree-turds which shower this campus in pollen. Granted, the environmentalist faction may get a bit angry — but more of us suffer from hay fever than suffer from the need to hug trees. Given the amount of pollen that the male oak tree flowers dump on this planet each year, and given the amount of disease and vermin that can be spread by each of your sneezing noses, I consider myself justified in wanting to mow some oaks. Chop a tree and save a life from the miseries of hay fever! I'd rather mow oaks than blow noses any day, wouldn't you?

Of course, if you'd rather not mow oaks, slice spruces or eradicate elms, you can simply invest in some tissue and OD on sinus medication and spare yourself the joys of phlegm and other chewables, then we can all breathe a wee bit easier. You heard it here first.

Feducia is a senior English and history major

Mail Call

Racist test question insults blacks

Wednesday, March 11, was a test day for Management 211 classes. In Professor Patezold's class, part of our test was on discrimination. One of the questions on the test was a situation of a black female employee and a white male manager where a large sum of money was missing. The manager pulled the employee into his office, accused her of stealing the money, and then fired her after she denied it. He was quoted as saying, "I should never have hired a black bitch because you're all lazy. . . ." The question was asking if she had enough to take him to court. Now, when I read that question I was very insulted. It took every ounce of strength for me to continue taking the test. Being a black female that was a very insulting, degrading and unnecessary statement to put on a test. How could a professor put such a statement on a test. Though I'm sure no harm was meant by it, it was an unconscious racist statement. I was not the only one insulted by "black bitch." Many others I talked to, both black and white males and females, were just as insulted.

Professors on this campus should be aware of the things they say and do. Since racism is not tolerated by students, it must be the same for

professors. I hope that teachers make a conscious effort to make sure that statements like the one on this test do not happen again. If this is supposed to be a racist-free campus, it needs to start not only with the students, but also with the professors and administrators.

Stephanie Williams
Class of '94

White Christians suffer abuse

I'm sure we've all heard how the Young Conservatives of Texas monitors lectures for liberal bias, whatever that means. We've also heard how they were condemned by several letters to the editor.

Well, enough is enough. On March 24, Joseph Trimble wrote a letter stating YCT isn't associated with the Republican Party. All that was well and good until he said that the ex-slave founders of the Republican Party were hanged by "white, conservative, Christian Democrats."

How dare you, Mr. Trimble, associate true Christians with people who use the name Christianity to further their own cruel and inhuman ends. I like to refer to this brand of

phariseism as "Churchianity." I detect a note of anti-white, anti-Christian bias in your letter.

White and Christian-bashing is in vogue right now. It seems white conservative Christians are THE scapegoat for every woe minorities face and are the epitome of evil in society.

The YCT seems to realize this more than many. Their method was questionable, but I'm convinced that liberals monitor lectures as well. Let a professor even mention Christianity, God, or the Bible and he or she will be descended on by complaints of abused civil rights. The only difference between liberal and conservative complaints like this is that the anti-Christian bias is listened to. To heed conservatives would be (you guessed it) a violation of civil rights. It's perfectly acceptable to attack Christianity or the white race in public, though. In fact, it's called being "progressive." Somehow, the Constitution doesn't apply to white conservatives anymore. I wonder where it went.

Finally, Mr. Trimble, let me shock you further by stating that I'm proud of being white and a Christian. If you said what you did about any other faith or race, you'd be liable to a lawsuit, but since I'm only a white man, you'll probably be lauded.

James Sexton
Class of '92

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.