



No-sense policy

No-fly zone unnecessary burden

The establishment of the "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq in order to protect the Shiites from Saddam Hussein is an ill-advised political attempt by the United States, with Britain and France in tow, to play the role of global policeman. Though the president waffles back and forth over whether or not America will play that role, it seems the nation's military may be deployed even if the issue has nothing to do with national security.

The official reasoning for the action includes the charge of "harsh repression" of the Shiites by Hussein. By the same logic, we should have sent a police force into China after the "harsh repression" at Tiananmen Square rather than continuing to award them most-favored-nation trade status. Furthermore, it is difficult to support continued challenges to the Iraqi

regime yet maintain a lukewarm position on the conflict in what used to be Yugoslavia. Harsh repression occurs in many nations we consider friends and allies. It is incorrect for the United States to assume it can or must maintain world order.

We all have sympathy for the Shiite rebels, as for any oppressed people; however, it would be economically unsound to enter into every conflict that presents itself. Consider our logic for staying out of the conflict that ensued after the military overthrow of Haiti, which is at least in our hemisphere. Our government may be responsible for encouraging the Shiite rebellion under pretense of aiding the rebels economically or militarily. If that is the case we owe them whatever was promised. However, as with the Kurds, what we offer is likely to prove to be too little too late.

Diversity at A&M

Foreign students benefit school

International students come to Aggieland from the four corners of the Earth. Malaysia, China, Nigeria, India, Taiwan and South Africa. They bring a perspective of America and the American way of life that domestically-bred and bound students do not possess.

With their intelligence, zeal and enthusiasm, international students, actively recruited by the University, are here because they have proven themselves the best of the best in their foreign lands.

They may sometimes make grading curves higher, leading to some resentment. But they are not subversives or revolutionaries. They are gifted ambassadors of their foreign countries and are ready to offer a treasure chest of culture to any Aggie who would care to inquire of them.

As Texas A&M continues to fight accusations of racism and intolerance on campus, how we Aggies treat the international students should serve as a barometer of whether such accusations are valid.

The desire of the international students to leave their loved ones behind and come to Texas A&M brings a refreshing variety of flavors to the vanilla and chocolate of Bryan-College Station.

Just as Martin Luther King told America to take a hard look at whether it was really living up to the ideals the U.S. had set for itself, the international students, by their mere presence, are asking every Aggie to be more tolerant, to dare to inquire and to help further the noble goal of brotherhood.

Seeing wolves in sheep's clothing

Look for warning signs of cults before it's too late

by MATTHEW K. DICKERSON

Tens of thousands of students have just returned to A&M, and many are here for the first time. Many are searching for their "niche" in the many student groups and programs that are offered here. It is unfortunate that some of these groups are cults whose main goal is to recruit more members. Most college students are young and in transition — and prime targets for cult recruitment. As a former member of a cult group at A&M I thought that it would be helpful to give the "stigmata," or marks of a cult so that students can more capably appraise the groups that they may wish to associate with.

First of all, it should be noted that just about any type of group could be cultic. Political and commercial groups as well as religious groups have been cultic. Much of what makes up a cult is its level of control, regardless of the type of group. For instance, an insurance company, A.L. Williams, has been described as cultic.

Dr. Ronald Enroth, a respected writer and researcher of cults and abusive groups, has recently written a new book, *Churches that Abuse*, which is a fine exposition of abusive groups. He identified six essential characteristics of cult groups:

- 1) Authoritarian leadership. The leadership is effectively beyond criticism — though they often feign humility — and control oriented. Leaders lack accountability.
- 2) The group fosters dependency. Themes of loyalty and submission predominate in the leader's teachings and relationships with others. If you are being urged to "get counsel" or advice about nearly everything in your life, you should be very cautious. A false security — the leaders watching over your life to "protect" you — is used to tempt people into surrendering degrees of autonomy.
- 3) Elitism and isolationism. Ecclesiastical isolation is typical of cults.
- 4) Excessive discipline, such as shunning or excommunication, is used to squash dissent.
- 5) Shifting loyalties, especially away from the family. If you are "counseled" to spend less time with your friends or family and more time with the group, you are being

gradually isolated and made more dependent.

6) Surveillance. You may discover that someone is keeping tabs on you. If leaders somehow know things about you that you never told them, you may have a person in the group that is reporting regularly on you to them. This seems especially true of so-called shepherding cults.

Of special interest in Dr. Enroth's book is his mention of two groups that are, or have been, operating here at A&M; Great Commission, (which I was associated with for a number of years) and Maranatha, both shepherding cults. I understand that Maranatha is now known as Hosanna, and Great Commission Students is now known as A&M Christian Fellowship (AMCF). Dr. Enroth tells me that of all of the groups that he covered in his book, Great Commission was the most difficult to deal with. Although Dr. Enroth in his book was quite upbeat about Great Commission's prospects for the future, Great Commission threatened a lawsuit in an attempt to prevent the book's publication. Despite these difficulties, Dr. Enroth's book has enjoyed brisk sales; at the time of the interview, it had climbed to number 11 on the Christian best-sellers list. *Churches that Abuse* can be had at Brazos Valley Christian Books, or at your local Christian bookstore.

It might well be added that simply because a cult has "orthodox" Christian doctrines doesn't mean that it cannot be a cult. I was warned that Great Commission was a cult over four years before I extricated myself. I was lulled into complacency because I swallowed the notion that only "unorthodox" doctrines are associated with cults. Dr. Enroth's book goes a long way in exposing this fallacy. Below are listed a number of help groups, both secular and religious, for cult and ex-cult members. If you would like background information on any number of cults, the Cult Awareness Network and the American Family Foundation can be especially helpful.

You can reach the American Family Foundation and Cult Observer (AFF) at 212-249-7693, or the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) at 312-267-7777.

Dickerson is a sophomore economics major and a columnist for *The Battalion*



MAIL CALL

Student sees the light at PTTs

After waiting in line for an hour and a half to get a bus pass, I made an appointment with Tom Williams, who is the head of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services to make some suggestions on making the line a little more bearable. He listened to my suggestions, which mainly related to putting signs and instructions in the building for those in line, and then asked how that would make the line go faster. My reply was that it wouldn't make the line go faster but that it was a small thing he could do for his customers. Mr. Williams' response to my wait in line was that it was not bad because it used to take eight hours under a circus tent.

We then began a conversation about the bus system. When I asked about improvements in the system, Mr. Williams more than once ended his responses by saying that if I didn't like

the bus, I should buy a parking permit. He also called the air conditioning and shuttle bus route maps "creature comforts" that he had already given the students. Mr. Williams also stated that he had not been on the shuttle bus, but he sometimes followed it in his car.

At least now I know why the line there was so long.

Steve Bailey
Class of '88

Please respect the drill field

I would like to welcome all of the new freshmen and transfer students to A&M. I would also like to explain one of the traditions that the band holds dear. That is that only band members are ever to be on the drill field behind the band dorm.

As you walk around campus you can tell just by looking around where the traffic tends to flow off the sidewalk and cross over on the grass. There are paths where the traffic flows that get worn down, uneven, and muddy when it rains. To avoid this problem on the drill field we ask that nobody walks on it. The drill field eventually looks bad enough as we create our own ruts from drilling every day. Also, we work very hard on our halftime drills and put time, sweat, blood, and tears into the

drill field. It's as special to us as the things you work hard for are special to you. Band members hold the drill field in such reverence that a former BQ requested that his ashes be scattered on the drill field after he passed on. That is what we did after Muster last spring. So as you walk around campus this year we ask that you respect the drill field and please walk around.

Jason Johnston
Class of '94

Take pride in our community

As a concerned citizen for a neat community appearance, I congratulate Park Cleaners on George Bush Drive across from the TAMU campus. Their newly decorated maroon and white store front tells us who is knowledgeable and proud of the Aggies.

Thanks to the Liles family for making our community aware and appreciative of Texas A&M and College Station.

Now as the students move into our area, we will ask for their help, support, and civic pride in keeping the appearance of our community neat and attractive.

Mrs. Helen Pugh
College Station

Don't let others do unto you ...

Here at the beginning of the fall semester I'd like to say G'Em to all returning Aggies and share a little knowledge I gained this summer. Not everything is learned in the classroom. I've found: expect apartment managers to keep part of your deposit — even if you comply with all requirements and they are members of that great "Texas Apartment Association." I foolishly believed that contracts would be honored — and that especially in College Station — people would treat each other with a code of honor, but it's not so. Beware that some apartment complexes will keep part of every deposit. At least, that's how it appears. I've done a little asking around and haven't found otherwise.

I'm an Aggie mom. I know clean. I've been around several years. I know fair. I helped clean the vacated apartment. I've also notified the Better Business Bureau and a lawyer. There is no reason for people to take advantage of their neighbor. "Thou shalt not steal" from Exodus 20 is still part of the Ten Commandments when I look in the good book. Be aware, Aggies, that you'll have to scratch for what is your right but keep fighting. The 'Horns are not the only opponent in life!

Mrs. Donald R. Matthews
Mt. Pleasant, Texas

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