



## EDITORIALS

### Lines in the sand

#### Iraqi defiance provokes response

The latest in a series of attacks on Iraq by military forces of several nations should serve notice to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein that further blatant violations of United Nations resolutions will not be tolerated. The United States has been at the forefront of the conflict ever since the Persian Gulf War two years ago. Since then, Iraq has maintained its defiance of the United States and the U.N. by attempting to retrieve property in Kuwait that it "rightfully owns," by hindering U.N. inspectors' attempts at surveying military arsenals, and even by developing components for nuclear weapons. The United States is completely justified in its decision to attack selective military outposts in the so-called "no-fly zone" and in the proximity of Baghdad itself. The United States and the U.N. have

tried time and time again to curb the belligerent antics of Hussein through peaceful means. Yet Hussein has repeatedly refused to listen to reason and, therefore, action had to be taken. Outgoing President Bush should be given some credit for not sitting on his laurels and waiting for the new administration to settle its problems with Iraq. Bush and his military advisers took the initiative and prevented this situation from getting out of hand. White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater also made it clear on Sunday that further attacks would not be ruled out if further defiance occurs. Hopefully, incoming President Bill Clinton will continue the actions of the Bush administration in standing up to Hussein and failing to put up with his tyrannical behavior.

### MLK legacy lives on

#### Campus activities honor leader

It is appropriate that we honor the birthday of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday. His dedication and contributions to a nonviolent movement of equality for people of all color has proven to be an example for everyone. During the 1950s and '60s, King organized peaceful marches, rallies and demonstrations throughout the South and encouraged his supporters to maintain their passion for the Civil Rights Movement despite violent opposition. Perhaps King is best remembered for his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington in 1963. King vividly described a world where all children could live untarnished by the evils of racial injustice.

Several organizations at Texas A&M University will commemorate King and his efforts with various presentations by students and faculty. In addition, a "March to Freedom" will take place Wednesday at 3 p.m. starting at the Fish Pond and ending with a rally at Rudder Fountain. Students are encouraged to participate in these events to learn more about King and his contributions to the movement. King sacrificed much of his personal life, including the privacy of his own family. He ultimately lost his life in pursuit of freedom from racial intolerance. King established a legacy that has inspired us to keep his dream alive and continue to strive for a world free of prejudice and discrimination.

## The hitchhikers' guide to opinion

### Exploring the writing animals of the spring semester

Welcome back to school and the all new and improved, fabulous, fantastic Opinion page, the page of you, by you and for you, the students. That's right. Believe it or not, the Battalion Opinion page is composed of students just like you. Though you might think us Commie/ Fascist/liberal/conservative/hippie/warmonger/feminist/chauvinist boneheads, the Battalion Opinion page staff shares many common traits with you, the students. We go to class, usually. We attend school for four years, or five or six or seven. We frequently encounter parking trauma and usually whine about it.

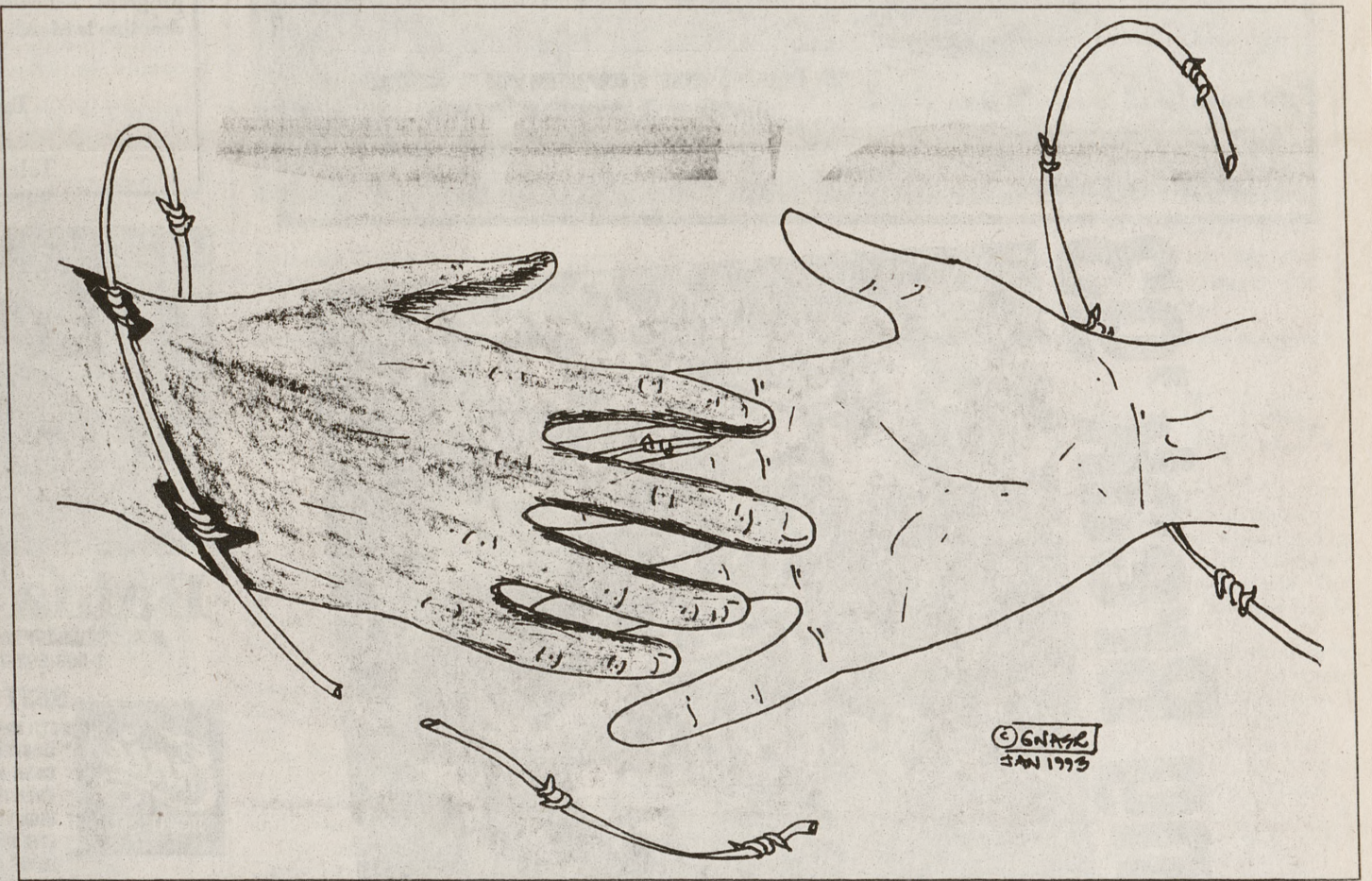


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Editor

Like you, we hold our own, individual opinions on a variety of different subjects. The only difference? We get paid, but not that much. But in order for you to love and cherish us more as we nestle next to your Sbsa surprise at lunch, I thought I might give you a thorough introduction to the Opinion staff and our natural habitat: the Batt Cave. Here at Opinion Central, our scientists have discovered five distinct types of opinion writing: editorials, pro-con's, mail call letters, guest columns and regular columns. The first species of writing is the *editorialis maximus*. Commonly referred to as editorials, these creatures travel in pack-sand can only be seen Tuesday through Friday. Occurring in pairs of local or student issues combined with national or international issues, the editorials provide the most thought-provoking two-a-days on the A&M campus. Editorials express the consensus opinion of the Battalion editors and the opinion page staff on a variety of issues. Read them and impress your friends with your newly found, news knowledge. The second species of opinion writing goes by the name of *pro-con questionus*. Like the editorials, pro-cons travel in pairs. However, they are a rare species and can be sighted only on Mondays. An extremely combative species, the pro-cons debate highly charged issues in order to offer readers both sides of a question. Written by individual columnists, pro-cons do not reflect the opinions of the entire Battalion staff.

The third species of opinion writing falls under the genus of *Mail Call majorus*. The most populous species on the page, these animals appear almost daily - except at the beginning of the semester when they are still involved in semester-break hibernation practices. Give them a couple of weeks, and they will overrun the page. In fact they are encouraged to do so, as long as they are tagged with their names, student ID numbers, classifications and phone numbers so that our scientists may monitor their activities. The fourth species of opinion writing is named *guestus columnus*, or guest columns. They are a rare species and occur infrequently. In fact, the delicate ecosystem of the Opinion Page environment may prove hostile to them, unless the guest columnists call in advance to obtain prior approval before submitting their columns. Neither mail call submissions nor guest columns reflect the opinions of the Battalion staffers. Finally, and perhaps the most coveted species of opinion writing is the *columnus regularus*, or daily column. The columns are a rare and beautiful species encompassing all points on the ideological spectrum. Writing on a bimonthly basis, the ten columnists express their individual opinions and not those of the newspaper. The starting line-up for the spring semester includes: At manager - though she should be in left field - Stacy Feducia, a senior English and history major, writing on Thursdays. Pinch-hitting at assistant editor is Julie Polston, a senior political science and journalism major, writing Thursdays as well. Heading up the week on first base Monday, is Chris Whitley, a junior journalism major. Following on Tuesday at second base is Janet Holder, a senior journalism major. On Wednesdays at third base is the dynamic duo, leading off with John Scroggs a senior English and philosophy major, alternating with David Brooks, a senior economics major. Sliding into home on Friday is veteran player, Matt Dickerson, a sophomore economics major. Other returning veterans include Toni Garrard-Clay, a junior speech communications major, and Robert Vaquez, a senior journalism major. A rookie to the page is Rich Henderson, a sophomore political science major. And that's the team spring team, our proverbial "boys - and girls - of summer." Look for them and other species of opinion writing in a Battalion near you!

Feducia is a senior English and history major.



## 'Dittohead' ponders path of conservative commentator

### Rush Limbaugh's attacks on Clinton show little creativity or class of past antics

Rush Limbaugh has V.D. The radio commentator has developed a case of Vitriolic Diatribe Syndrome. I recommend that he seek medical care immediately. A proctologist would be most appropriate because Limbaugh is increasingly becoming full of - well, you know what. Now, for all of you die-hard Rush Limbaugh fans - Dittoheads - wait a minute, I like Limbaugh, possibly more than he likes himself these days. Those of you who follow Limbaugh's show faithfully will no doubt agree that his verbosity has taken a rather singularly abrasive turn as of late. I have investigated this phenomenon and have concluded that there is a conspiracy about. I am feverishly attempting to contact Ross Perot in an effort to determine if he has any information that can confirm my suspicion that the real Rush Limbaugh is, I hate to say, Missing In Action. OK, sports fans, try this one on for size: Could it be that a ghost of a Republican past has taken over Limbaugh's ample body in what would no doubt be one of the largest cases of possession on record. Let us hearken back to a mid-summer's eve when Lim-

GUEST COLUMNIST

JAY HAYS

baugh spent the night in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House of the soon-to-be-former President Bush. As Limbaugh drifts off to sleep, unnamed Republican operatives in Ninja Turtle costumes steal into the room, conjure up the spirit of a Republican past and WHAMMO! Limbaugh is no more. Could it be that Limbaugh was possessed by the ghost of the late preeminent Republican attack dog/spin doctor Lee Atwater? What else could explain Limbaugh's apparent fixation with the Democratic President-elect? Don't be surprised if Limbaugh starts playing some blues guitar on his late-night television program. Limbaugh's constant bashing of President-elect Clinton is very curious indeed. Is that the best a conservative icon can do? Pout, fuss and whine about Bill Clinton? Come on, now. It would seem that Limbaugh is now a talk-show personality in search of a protagonist or foil. His other foils - femi-nazis, homeless rights advocates, animal rights militants, environmentalist wackos and the lot - now seem to be muted and uninviting victims in light of Clinton's recent triumph. Now that he is on the so-called "out list" along with Millie, the Bush's dog, Limbaugh seems determined to dig ever deeper and reach ever farther for material. It is indeed a sad day when Rush Limbaugh simply becomes a mouth piece for a vindictive Roger Ailes and his arch-Republican cohorts - the gang who brought about the collapse of the Republican

"Big Tent." A spurious group indeed. Now with the Republicans and their "Big Tent" on the way out, Limbaugh is rapidly becoming a sideshow. Come on, Rush, making fun of Clinton's daughter does fall beneath even your self-proclaimed level of morality and virtue. Face it, folks, Limbaugh needs ratings. The radio legend has now become a victim of the medium he has so adeptly poked fun at for years. However, his penchant for taking statements out of context and spinning them is beginning to wear thin. The relevant insights he offered are now overshadowed by his increasingly bombastic statements and political demagoguery. Limbaugh has, unfortunately, sold out. If a zeppelin manufacturer would sponsor his show, I would fully expect him to say any day now "America needs a dirigible for a strong defense." He sold out. He gambled and lost and is now attempting to recoup his losses - a gambit that any recovering gambleholer knows is a lost cause. One can't double-up to make up. If one says something twice as loud and twice as often, that in itself does not make it come true. If Limbaugh were as semi-omnipotent as he claims to be, he would see the virtue of chartering new ground and seeking new sacred cows to skewer rather than playing the same old hand. I for one will be sad to see Limbaugh go. He was funny and undoubtedly saved many a small market

AM radio station. However, he has rolled the dice and gone with the established power structure, which will be out of power for at least four years. Limbaugh sold out his conservative populist listeners and bought into a rapidly disintegrating Republican hierarchy. I am convinced that Limbaugh, without any of his brain tied behind his back, will be unable to continue his career by bashing the Clintons for four years. If the only people he can poke fun at are Bill and Hillary Clinton, that will inevitably get old after some time. It is far easier to kick a dog when the dog is down, rather than when the dog and his friends are biting you in the butt. Hold on - I got 'ol Ross on the phone. A breakthrough, we're gonna find that rascal, the real Rush Limbaugh. Maybe Perot knows of a good Exorcist. Oh no, I was afraid of this, Perot said something about seeing a large talk show host running across his lawn this morning and one of his guards let loose a guard log on the guy and the dog bit a hunk out of his rear and... Well, you know the rest of the story. So much for Perot. Come on, lighten up.

Hays is a member of the Class of '88. He lives in Bryan, Texas