

## THE BATTALION Editorial Board

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## You can never be too rich or too thin Waif look in again as beauty standards reflect the '60s

Twiggy of the '60s is Kate Moss of the '90s.

Three decades ago young girls were eying Twiggy's ribbon-thin waist with envy. Today it seems that young men and women both are eager to imitate the hollow-faced look of the waif models. Kate Moss's 5-foot-7-inch, 98-pound figure has gotten a big reaction — everything from a spoof advertisement in "Esquire" magazine that implores readers to "Feed Kate Moss" to a new trend in plastic surgery that trades cheek fat for a concave face.

Andrew P. Ordon, a Manhattan plastic surgeon, offers a "waif procedure" that sucks fat out of cheeks, allowing the deflated skin to emphasize the facial bones. This procedure is necessary for the average person to achieve a waif-like appearance because, as Ordon stated in a Houston Chronicle article, "This fat only goes away on its own, literally, only if you're starving."

Sometimes it is amazing to witness how quickly society's philosophies can make a complete 180-degree turn. A few short years ago we were singing "We Are The World" and crying over the starving children in Africa, and today we want to look like we're starving ourselves.

It is an obvious fact that the waif models, in their state of near starvation, are endorsing the

dangerous idea that thinness is equivalent to beauty.

If the problems of anorexia and bulimia weren't enough to question the glorification of super thin models, there is also the problem of amenia. When girls become too thin and lose too much body fat, their menstrual cycle will stop. Although this is a common occurrence among women athletes, it is dangerous nonetheless. When a girl does not menstruate for an extended period of time, she can lose calcium, bone mass and even the ability to become pregnant.

While many of these dangerous messages are aimed at women, men are also questioning the acceptability of their chubby cheeks. According to the article in the Houston Chronicle, Edward Park, 23, is paying \$3,000 to Ordon to have the fat removed from his cheeks.

"Asian people have a lot of buccal (cheek area) fat in their face," said Park, who is a Korean-American. "It sounds really shallow doesn't it? A really shallow thing to do."

Park's personal struggle with shallowness is really irrelevant, except that it supports a dangerous idea voiced by Dr. Ordon.

"My point is that I don't think a full-cheek look will ever be in," he said. "A high cheek has always been a classic sign of beauty, and I don't think that will change."

If this is the case, everybody with cheeks fuller than Meryl Streep's — including Nicole Kidman and Andie MacDowell — better toss in the towel. Despite the fact that it is preposterous to gage beauty by cheek size, this idea takes on an even more derogatory undertone when considered along with a statement from Ordon's publicity packet.

"This is an excellent (procedure) for those

ethnicities such as Latinos and Asians who have an especially large amount of buccal fat."

It is understandable that people want to be happy with their appearance. We live in a visual world. Fair or not, oftentimes one's appearance is a determining factor in getting hired and in getting promotions in the business world. However, there is a huge difference between having plastic surgery to achieve a professional, clean-cut appearance and undergoing plastic surgery to look like a waif model, the "chic fashion" of the moment.

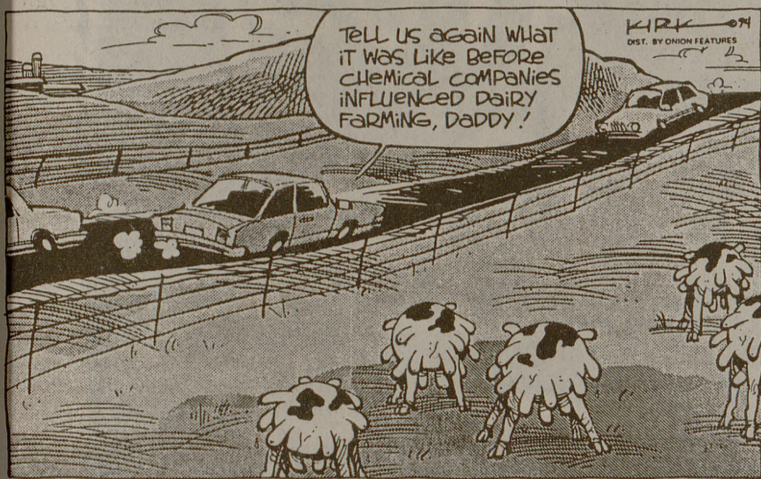
Kathy Winters, medical secretary at Scott and White Clinic in Temple, said that patients who request plastic surgery are thoroughly evaluated before the procedure is done.

"The whole picture is taken into consideration," she said. "The physician totally evaluates the candidates from a cosmetic, medical and health standpoint."

Obviously, not all plastic surgeons are as concerned about their patients' well-being. But, regardless of anything else, it is our own responsibility to find peace with our personal appearance.

Each person in this world is a unique and beautiful creation. Maybe we do not all have blue eyes, clear skin and a paper thin waist. Just because a person does not fit into category of media-defined beauty, does not mean they are not beautiful. Actually, the whole concept of modeling is rather stupid to begin with. Since approximately 95 percent of the population will never look like magazine models, what exactly are they a model of?

Jenny Magee is a sophomore journalism and English major



## EDITORIAL

### No more waffling U.N. must uphold NATO deadline

They say the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. But on today's global political scene, it appears that the hand that stays firm in Bosnia will direct the course of world events.

NATO is doing the right thing by remaining firm on its threat of airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. But, in now familiar style, U.N. officials are painting a different, less threatening picture than NATO by telling Serbs that some guns may be left in the nearby mountains and that the deadline is still up for grabs.

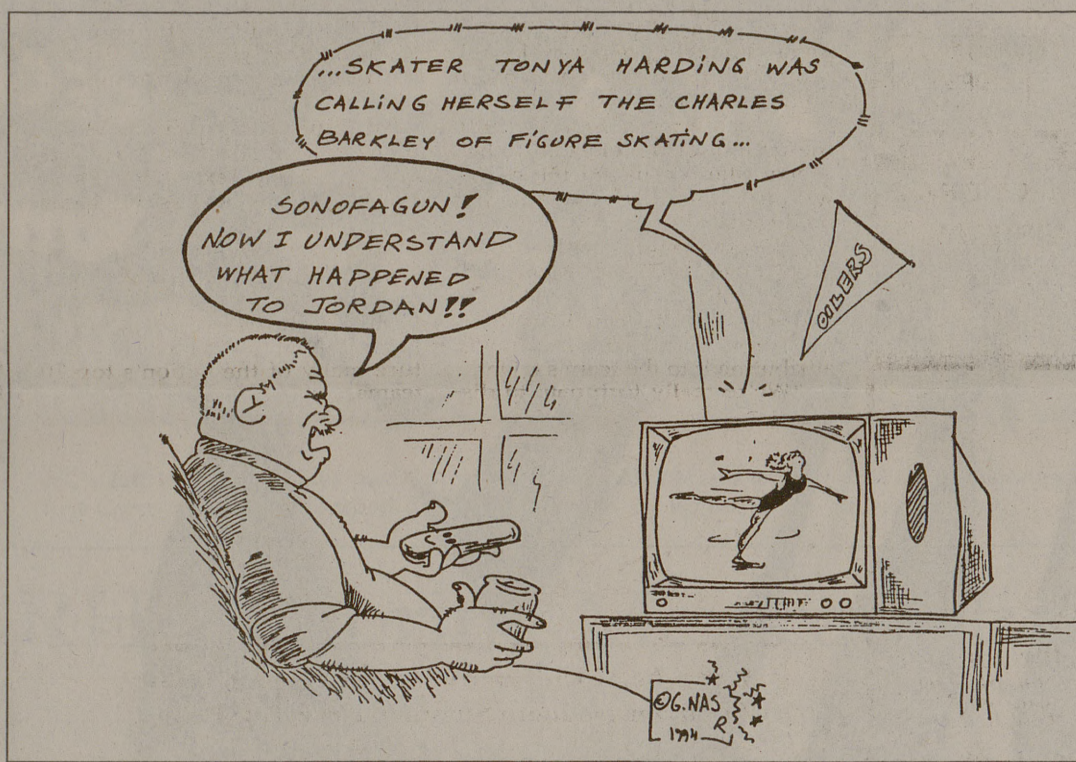
U.N. officials have been trying to negotiate a peaceful end to the bloodshed in Sarajevo, and while this is a noble endeavor, it is the NATO threat that finally has brought about a serious cease-fire in the region. Children played on streets previously controlled by snipers Monday as Serbs and Muslims began to place their heavy weaponry under U.N. control. Serbs still have a large arsenal

of howitzers, tanks and rocket launchers which they must hand over to prevent airstrikes planned to begin next Monday.

This plan is working, but NATO must stand by it even if it takes airstrikes to implement the policy. If the lack of harmony between the U.N. and NATO leads Serbs to view the airstrikes as only a hollow threat, then the U.N. will be partly responsible for the plan's failure.

History teaches that objectives must be set and deadlines must be observed for military operations to be successful. NATO has enough airpower in place to begin the strikes at any moment, and both sides have had long enough to remove their guns.

To back down on this deadline would be a huge mistake and would drag out the suffering even longer. NATO has taken the necessary steps so far, and by standing firm on the threat, the Serbs and Muslims will finally be forced to hear that message.



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## Supreme Court's RICO decision paves way for abuses

Did you hear it? That huge sound resonating through Washington on Jan. 24 came from the lips of the nine Supreme Court justices as they spat out their unanimous decision which applied America's 24-year-old Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) to the deliberate, malicious actions of anti-abortion groups.



WILLIAM HARRISON  
 Guest columnist

Put simply, the highest court in the land equated protest groups' radical actions to the same level of criminality as "The Mob."

The RICO decision sounds like plain right-and-wrong justice.

Originally, racketeering — the organized forcing of action through an unlawful scheme to conduct the affairs of some "enterprise" — was judged to be a criminal

action. Organizations planning crimes such as murder, arson, gambling, extortion or embezzlement constitute racketeering. Crimes such as unlawful protest and trespassing supposedly are not considered "racketeering," although they are certainly unlawful by the first definition.

The key word is "enterprise." Through its decision, the courts re-defined an enterprise as an organization not necessarily driven solely by base, profiteering motives. Racketeering now takes into account criminal measures taken to command the commodities of morality and religion.

By this act, anyone who helps or aids in the activities of a convicted group is now essentially an accomplice, and a target for damages in this country's "deep-pockets"/"shoot for the head" liability system. Unfamiliar?

Here's an example. Any individual or group who has supported these anti-abortion groups, including its fringe members and the churches and meeting halls these groups use may now be held liable under the law.

Big deal, right? Why should one question a little judicial heavy-handedness intent on punishing blatantly criminal ac-

tions? Because the damages awarded from convicted groups will be, oh, arbitrarily TRIPLED.

It is curious that a court stocked with conservative justices sown from the Reagan and Bush administrations made a surprisingly liberal decision, overturning a lower court ruling. But not so when appreciating where this decision really came from — a bench of basically conservative

**"Have you been injured in an abortion or any non-profit organization protest? Call Joe Shyster at 1-800-LITIGATE (not a member of the Texas Bar Association) ..."**

lawyers, who somewhere beneath their impartial demeanor must have appreciated a lawyer's cut from an award of this magnitude. Surely, they thought the decision would "Triple-the-Fun."

Those nine justices should have summed up their decision with that profit-at-all-costs, Gilded Age phrase, "What's

good for business is good for America."

Financially speaking, our judicial system has one more tool in thousands to bog down our courts and stock the coffers of all those lawyers listed in the Yellow Pages and shmoozing on late night television. Triple damages is just a new, exciting square in our courts' Wheel of Fortune.

Picture this, if it's not slightly familiar: "Have you been injured in an abortion or any non-profit organization protest? Call Joe Shyster at 1-800-LITIGATE ... (not a member of the Texas Bar Association) ..."

As for the First Amendment, Justice David Souter noted that the RICO decision could endanger courts' protections for advocacy groups and their rights to protect themselves.

He wrote that the courts should "...bear in mind the First Amendment interests that could be at stake."

Believe that, or consider what this decision prompted Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, to say: "The Supreme Court has told civil protest to go to hell."

The RICO decision was made to bridge a gap, to make groups pay for their radical actions. But look back 30 years to what this country viewed as "radical." As far as civil protest is concerned, our generation's

equivalent to the "radical" sit-ins of the '60s could be judged by courts as "racketeering."

The National Organization of Women may gloat over its victory against the anti-abortionists. However, unless Congress steps in to amend and narrow the RICO definition, the bridge built to hold these groups accountable — including groups such as NOW — will be taken advantage of unfairly.

Somewhere, in some court, litigious opportunism could freely interpret this decision, yielding possibly crippling blows to these groups, as well as their members' First Amendment rights. As the axiom says, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Put simply, if Congress does not act, then RICO's can of worms will be in dangerous company with our courts' pit of snakes.

As a last resort, someone might sue the Supreme Court. The case has all the ingredients of a RICO case: a malicious, profiteering scheme unlawfully infringing on the country's First Amendment laws.

Sounds like racketeering to me.

William Harrison is a senior journalism major

COLLEGE STATION, TX  
 Feb 16  
**MAIL CALL**  
 1994

### Morning-after pill not "abortion pill"

The morning-after pill that Beutel refuses to prescribe is actually a set of pills containing strong doses of oral contraceptives. When taken within 72 hours of sex, they prevent the egg from implanting in the uterus. This is not the same as

RU-486, which is also called the "abortion pill" and is not available in the United States.

Morning after pills have been prescribed for over 15 years, though they are not widely known. They are considered emergency contraception, not a routine birth-control device. Roughly half of the 3.5 million unwanted pregnancies each year are the result of contraceptive failure. Is it endorsing "risky behavior"

to give women another choice if they should need it?

Why would Beutel's director, Dr. Dirks, assume that morning-after pills would become the birth control method of choice? The University of Houston's nurse manager reports never having seen the same patient twice.

Plus, these pills are not the best choice. While they are effective, they are not as effective as other types of birth control, and their side effects can include nausea, headaches and dizziness. Worst of all, one might have to deal with people who would assume that trying to prevent an unwanted pregnancy is irresponsible.

Catherine Nuccio  
 Class of '95

### Strive to understand religious practices

From this week until the beginning of Spring Break, if you ask one of your Muslim friends to go to lunch, he or she may refuse.

Why? Muslims all over the world are celebrating a full month of fasting in Ramadan.

One day, I said to my friend, "We are fasting from dawn until sunset, abstaining from food, drinks and legitimate sexual relations."

That's crazy!" he replied. Fasting is not as crazy as some people may think. Understanding the virtues of it can clarify this misconception.

The main purpose of fasting is to attain righteousness. However, I personally learn many lessons from my fasting. I learn how to appreciate food so that I just eat enough and do not waste any. I also train myself to control my thoughts and feelings from getting angry and saying bad words. Further, I can feel the difficulties of poor people to get their food.

Let's learn and understand the various ways people believe in their religions so that we do not misunderstand each other.

You can contact the Muslim Students' Association on campus to learn more about Islam.

Gatot Pramono  
 Class of '94