ine 13, 1994

ting their

sign did

d sparkling

Spike Lee

John F

Hannah and

IcEnroe - a

season and

have a lot of

Cassell said. dvantage is

a leadof

gle and the

d on Jose

groundout Shumpert

tripled to

cRae's sac-

l five runs

ing out five

City 7

 $\begin{array}{c} 00\ 020 - 2 \\ 000\ 311 - 7 \end{array}$

By taking al athlete ong, long

baseball

allows for

ve to pay

ris would

to a more

ordinator,

in a new

running

p for the

nd have a

rterback.

ned.

ttack.

double. ened a 5.0 n seventh. h one out, and both

he show. g, I've been

Boy's last tears shout his suffering

Paramedics in Beirut war zone survive unforgettable routine mission

ami was crying. Small tears were rolling down his cheeks, pouring out of his covered eyes. Or was it

ny imagination? "Are you sure?" I shouted "Yep! Extensive brain damage."

The operator replied. I stopped listening to the faceless oice emanating from the intercom. All I could do was stare down at that

ace covered with bandages, and look the stream of tears

unning down his ravaged cheeks ... During General Aoun's hopeless "Liberation War" — 02, my unit, was in charge of all paramedical rescue missions in one of the four sectors of Beirut. Every morning ouses, hospitals, schools and churches were dancing to the leadly tune of "Stalin's Organs," the Syrian army's rocket aunchers. Every day, the bleeding streets of the wounded city would echo the howl of our ambulance sirens. Every time, people would stare with a mixture of fear and hope at one, displaying different slices of Sami's brain. "That boy is

our ghoulish Red Cross uniforms, glad to see that we were not coming for them. Not this time. Every horror would just be a part of our daily

In the morning of that day, Team 4 was dispatched to what remained a house in the Berjawi neighborhood; an unexpected guest had dropped in on a family at lunch. The "grad" rocket blew up the kitchen, the father and the mother, uniting them in a magma of body parts and rubble. Their son, Sami, was lucky not to be part of this. lucky not to be part of this sordid recipe from hell, but was badly wounded. The first-aiders patched him up and evacuated him to Hotel Dieu de France

(HDF), a hospital in Beirut, where what remained of Sami was placed in intensive care. In the afternoon, HDF called the Sector. Sami was in a

deep coma, and his condition was worsening. They needed a CAT scan conducted in order to assess brain damage, but had no machine operational.

"Team 2! Quasimodo — mission chief! Nogua — driver! Hassibo — sicouniste!" Scoubidoo shouted. "Transport from HDF to Hospital St. Charles for a CAT scan and back, lotsa candies [shelling] on the road, so be careful! Allah maa'kon

Routine mission. Call the team, put on a helmet and flak jacket. Jump in ambulance. Hook up VHF scanner. Turn on siren — Cool! Report departure. Sound of sniper fire — Pray. Nogua is driving like a maniac — pray more. Report

Hospital is burning. 102 may be assigned to the evacuation."

Another routine mission.

George Nasr is a graduate civil engineering student of the standard of the succession of the standard of the succession of the suc

JOSEF

ELCHANAN

Columnist

GEORGE **NASR**

Guest Columnist

'That boy is brain dead.

He's dead.'

How can a

dead boy be

crying!'

crying?

'Are you sure?' I

pleaded. 'But he's

You guys came for nothing.



Arrival at HDF — Thank God. Go to pick up patient.

Robert, a cheerful resident greeted us at the door of the emergency room "Ahlan, George! You're the freaks taking the CAT scan kid?"

He pointed at some mummy on a stretcher "Here he is ... Stable condition, the severed arm and leg should not bleed, nor should his face.

He's in a coma, and shouldn't make any trouble. Assist

respiration. Bye, chabeb!" Put patient in ambulance. Set his oxygen. Report departure from HDF — Pray. Keep pumping. Life signs OK. whenever the regular morning bombing ended — the first departure from HDF — Pray. Keep pumping. Life signs OK. aid teams of the Lebanese Red Cross would get busy. Sector Bombs getting louder, but no explosions visible. Glad Nogua is driving like a maniac — Pray more. Report arrival at H. St. Charles. There is a god for freaks. CAT scan room. Wear protective clothing. Keep pumping and monitor life signs

while the room basks in radiation from the scanner.

brain dead," a voice echoes in the scanner room. "You guys came for nothing. He's dead."

That's when I heard Sami crying. A brief, faint sound.
"Are you sure?" I pleaded. "But
he's crying!" I hear that cry
again. Did I hurt him? No, he's dead! How can a dead boy be

crying?
"Yep! Extensive brain
damage!" The operator replied.
"Anyway, he can't make a
sound with that tube down his

"How about those tears?" I

pleaded.
"Oh, that! Just a natural reaction."

I stared at that beautiful, horrible face, imploring it with my eyes to sound louder.

A natural reaction. "Let's go, Quasimodo," said Nogua. "We can't perform miracles. Yes! A miracle! A sign!

Something! In my heart, I begged Sami to shout to the world his suffering. I begged God! I begged whoever was up there. But only the insistent humming of the machine would reply.

God wouldn't undo what man committed.

We need to bring him back to HDF before the shelling intensifies," Hassibo yelled. "H Flash is under shelling, the

George Nasr is a graduate civil engineering student

THE BATTALION **Editorial Board**

Mark Evans, Editor in chief William Harrison, Managing editor Jay Robbins, Opinion Editor

Editorials appearing in The Battalion reflect the views of the editorial board. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Battalion staff members, the Texas A&M student body, regents, administration, faculty or staff. Columns, guest columns, cartoons and letters express the opinions of the authors. Contact the opinion editor for information on submitting guest columns.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Texas A&M System students deserve voice

There is a need for better communication between students and the Board of Regents. Having student leaders informally meet with regents and administrators is no longer enough. A student regent seated on the Board would bridge that gap and be in a posi-tion to inform both students and

inform.

In the Texas A&M

Audent body must voice its support for a student regent if the plan is to succeed.

Texas A&M

President Ray

Bowen, Board of Regents

Chair Mary

Nan West, Student Body

Resemble Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent body must voice its support for a student regent if the plan is to succeed.

Texas A&M

President Ray

Nan West, Student Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent body must voice its support for a student regent if the plan is to succeed.

Texas A&M

President Ray

Bowen, Board of Regents

Chair Mary

Nan West, Student Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent body must voice its support for a student regent if the plan is to succeed.

Texas A&M

President Ray

Bowen, Board of Regents

Chair Mary

Nan West, Student Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

President Ray

Nan West, Student Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

President Ray

Nan West, Student Body

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent Body

Regents

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent Body

Regents

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent Body

Regents

Regents

Regents

The Texas A&M

Audent Body

Regents

Reg

every state university in Texas.

A student regent with speaking, attendance and voting rights equal to any regent member would truly provide representation for the students of the Texas A&M University System. There would be much less second-guessing of the students' needs or concerns.

Unfortunately the present proposals for creating a student regent limit the office severely. The student regent would not speak, unless scheduled on the agenda, or attend closed-session Board meetings. Despite these constrictions, the stu-dent regent office outlined in the

current plans would greatly enhance the students' input into choices that affect the entire University and System. The office would establish a permanent liaison between Board and the

part of the University System that its policies affect the most. Some critics of the student regent idea, who claim that other groups

might use a precedent of students on the Board to demand representation, ignore the fact that students' interests and concerns are unique. As West said, "Frankly, that's what [the regents] are here for. We're here for the students."

For the good of its diverse members, the student body of the A&M System has a responsibility to improve relations with the Board of Regents. Likewise, the Board has an obligation to include a student regent in its ranks to provide a voice for those groups.

Marriage represents more than just living with someone

paralyzed Buddhist A monk used to advise a those who passed by: monk used to advise all "Get yourself a wife right away! It was my lot to be a scholar, and I have been single since my youth. I had a great many disciples and followers, but after I became paralyzed and crippled, these people no and crippled, these people no longer care about me ... I feel

that if I had a wife and children I might not have come to such a bitter pass." - from a story called "The Monk Who Encouraged Marriage" in "Sand and Pebbles'

Since I'm unmarried, this story bothers me, moreso because many of my friends are beginning the long trek toward supposed mutual love, respect and fulfillment. Beyond love, or in cooperation with it, are some central questions: what is marriage, how does it relate to us and what has happened to this ancient coupling?

A religious interpretation seemed highly appropriate for this subject, since religion has strong ties to the marriage institution. The Episcopal church, according to the Rev. Mary Greene, promotes "a covenant relationship between two people and God, a three-way commitment or relationship ... Marriage is one of the most primary ways God tries to transform our lives, for the spouse is an instrument of transformation.

Father Michael J. Sis, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Parish and Student Center, explained that, "The Catholic view of marriage is that it is a sacrament, an action of God, not just a human action. It must be properly prepared for," and that, "The presentation of the couple is much more important than the ceremony." He believes that couples should be prepared for all parts of the marriage trial, including financial difficulties and their spouse's relatives.

According to Rabbi Peter Tarlow of the Hillel Jewish organization, Judaism takes the stance that marriage is a "moral or ethical contract between two people, a Kiddushin, or sanctification of marriage," Judaism values the marriage in



relation to the surrounding community and toward the future of the Jewish people.

As for a sense of duty and loyalty, Dr. Richard Maples of First Baptist of Bryan, had this to say of marriage: "It is a, "Divine institution, created by God himself, composed of a husband and a wife who commit to each other for life.

It is the most important institution in society and should be maintained at all costs."

Also relevant is The Church of sus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Bishop David Ellis' statement that, "The marriage and family is crucial, the cornerstone of the church. For us, the the wedding ceremony does not say 'till death do us part,' but rather 'for all eternity.'

So, why is everybody so unhappy? Why do approximately half of all marriages end in divorce? Dr. Sarah Horsfall, a Texas A&M instructor on marriage and the family, had quite a bit to say concerning this problem. She explained that couples and young adults do not have enough role models. "[Our society] has privatized the family. Our center of values, which are also privatized, . causes young people to be isolated. In the past, the whole community had standards and expectations. Children were raised not as much by their families as they were by the whole community. They were rigorously censored by their peers. Now, there is not a community to go to, but only to professional and scientific authorities. This forces young people into their own world. Without the larger community, [young people] learn only from their own family experiences. Many families do not have strong values due to many current problems, like single-parent families, family break-ups, and the lack of educated adults.

Father Michael discussed similar findings. He believes that there is "a vicious cycle where dysfunctional families raise children who are less capable of having healthy marriages, so then the emotional or family problems of our generation become a determinant to the success of later generations. In many cases, young people must go



through some healing before they can go into a healthy marriage." He also stated that a marriage must consist of "commitment and sacrifice.

Dr. Maples took a stronger stance, stating that divorce comes from "a modern movement to selfishness and self-gratification," and marriages are "entered without commitment.

It came as a surprise to me that these statements, when placed together, form such a cohesive whole. Religions across the spans of time and locality continue to support marriage as the

backbone of their communities. Each group promoted a certain combination of dedication and understanding, a strong intolerance of family violence and the desire to maintain a marriage and build something for the future. Perhaps these are the most important, most difficult and most rewarding parts of two people sharing their lives with one another.

> Josef Elchanan is a senior business management major



KINE 199 requirement should remain in place

The May 30 article on the possibility of the HIV/AIDS class being required of all students listed an option to replace one of the existing KINE 199 requirements with the AIDS class. As a physical educator, this concerns me. Reports show that Americans need more physi-

cal activity in their lives. KINE 199 classes allow the students to take classes that not only condition them now, but also give them skills to continue participation throughout their lives.
While there is little doubt that AIDS

education is extremely important, a possible solution to the problem already exists. Starting in the fall of 1994, the Health and Kinesiology Department is offering a KINE 199 class called Health and Fitness. This class combines half a semester of lecture on current health topics, which will include HIV/AIDS.An important difference between this and the suggested required class is that this is an optional class. This will allow the students interested in this area to be in a class with others that are interested in pursuing these topics. This will greatly enhance the level of participation and allow the course to be conducted in a manner that will not alienate a large number of the student population who are already educated in the course

Frank Thomas

College Station Gun laws worsen crime

Elizabeth Preston wrote a very generalized column (June 1) that did not persuade me to lay down my arms. She alienated me and many others immediately with an unnecessary racist, sexist remark: "... takeover of America by white European males." Preston said, "The claim that the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees private citizens the right to keep and bear arms is com-

pletely unfounded. The writers of the Constitution did not intend this right for the private citizen, but for civilians in the state militia." Is this true? James Madison: The Constitution pre-

serves "the advantage of being armed, which Americans possess over the people of almost any other nation ... [where] the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.

John Adams: "Arms in the hands of individual citizens may be used at individ-

ual discretion ... in private self-defense."
Samuel Adams: "The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their

Does gun control protect everyone? I leave you with this thought: Thomas Jefferson once quoted the 18th century crim-

inologist Casare Beccaria as saying, Laws which forbid the carrying of arms make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an

> Darin W. Smith Class of '95

encourages letters to the editor and will print as many as space allows. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

armed man.

o edit letters for length style, and accuracy. Address letters to:

The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647