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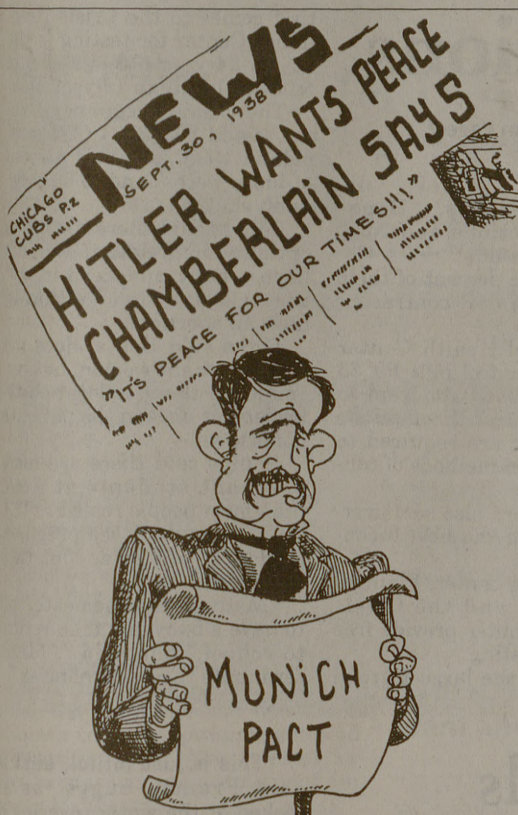
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Take a look at politicians' attitudes

Voters should think about Richards, Bush from down-home perspective

Too many times we tend to look at politicians according to their political allegiances, instead of what kind of people they are. The upcoming race for governor of Texas seems to hold more of the same. Every time Republicans want to talk about Gov. Ann Richards, they always comment on "that liberal woman down in Austin." The Democrats also seem to lack the ability of analytical thinking, claiming that George W. Bush seems to be a spoiled kid who cannot do anything but use his daddy's name to enter politics.

JOSEF ELCHANAN
Columnist



something of yourself. He would consider going out all night to have fun inappropriate, when you could hit the sack early and catch a rousing golf-game business meeting the next morning, right after you go to church. No doubt that Bush is a tough man, a man that gets things done.

have a drinking problem, but I think that anyone who deals with Texas politics long enough must have had one at some time. She takes on big projects, like insurance regulation, and is able to make hard decisions.

If Richards had to stay with you for a couple of weeks, she would probably call you up, complaining about the damned hotel rates, and ask if you would mind if she stayed over. She would drive up on a Harley and take the couch, because she wouldn't want to disturb you. You would probably find that the gas cans in your garage, which are considered a fire hazard, would be picked up and put away, but besides that, she would stay out of your business. She would be way too busy tinkering with her bike or going hunting to have time to bother you. Plus, she would probably always have some witty story to tell, something interesting to say about her experiences. Sometimes, however, she would be mad as hell, yelling about the stupidity of certain public officials.

Instead of looking at what our politicians promise us, which will never be delivered the way we want it, all of us should maybe consider their attitudes more.

for you and repair it for free. He would remind you, however, that you should take care of your car better and that it was probably not too bright of you to have bought that kind of car anyway — but since your a friend of his, he'll help you out of your predicament.

Texas is full of people who differ on what they feel comfortable with. Instead of looking at what our politicians promise us, which will never be delivered the way we want it, all of us should maybe consider their attitudes more.

Should we care whether Ann Richards, the person, or George W. Bush, the person, ever did drugs or had dirty dealings, or affairs, or ...? What may be more important is how they handle the problems they have had. Do they cover them up or do they do the same things repeatedly? By recognizing these candidates as just people, instead of political icons, maybe we all can make the right decision in November.

Josef Elchanan is a senior business management major

Public forgets tragedy of Simpson, Goldman's deaths

Like a blockbuster summer movie, the O.J. Simpson saga has invaded the national psyche.

MACK HARRISON

Guest Columnist

Media star O.J. Simpson, accused of murdering his ex-wife and her friend, has been the nation's top news story for weeks now.

Mike and I were eating lunch the Monday after the freeway chase when he first read the newspaper account of the events. Goldman's death hit him hard.

"I can't believe it, man," he said. "This is my friend they're talking about."
"You knew Ron Goldman?" I asked.
"Man ... I used to party with the guy," he replied. "You were just sitting in the same seat he rode in."

Like 95 million other Americans, I was glued to the screen as Simpson led law enforcement agents on a low-speed chase across Los Angeles. "I hope Simpson's OK," I said as the drama unfolded. "I hope he doesn't do anything stupid." I was so wrapped up in the larger-than-life drama that I had forgotten something that mattered more than any suicide letter, freeway chase or courtroom dramatics.

Ron Goldman and Nicole Simpson are dead. It may be impossible to find anyone in the country who hasn't heard the story. Everybody seems to have formed an opinion.

Mike says he's pretty sure Simpson murdered his ex-wife, Nicole, and Ron Goldman. He says although there is a possibility that Simpson might be innocent, the evidence is pretty much

stacked against the former football star. "Maybe there's a chance he didn't do it," Mike said. "But it looks pretty clear that he did."

Whoever did it, the brutality of the crime is shocking. Mike's voice filled with emotion as he looked at me over the newspaper.

"It says he was stabbed 22 times," Mike said. "Why did he have to do it that many times?"

The story mentioned that Goldman fought back against his attacker. Mike looked at me with a sense of pride as read that paragraph to me.

"At least he threw down," Mike said. "But I wouldn't want to go up against O.J."

Mike was in shock as he read the rest of the story.

"I can't believe this," he said. "I used to play volleyball with this guy. I would go over to his apartment and we'd watch Cowboys games."

Mike and Ron and used to hang out with some mutual friends, living the typical California life. They would play volleyball, go to clubs, chase women. Ron even appeared on the television show "Studs."

"I watched the videotape of the show with him at his apartment," Mike told me.

Mike had heard, of course, that Nicole Simpson and a friend had been murdered outside her home. He hadn't, however, paid close

attention until the Friday of The Chase. That's when the news hit home.

"I was at a party when my friend Troy called me from California," Mike told me. "They were showing the chase on TV when he rings up and says, 'Man, that's Ron they're talking about.'"

Until then, the O.J. Simpson case was just another news story to Mike. Now, he deals with the fact that his friend is dead — gone forever — and the man accused of murdering him has become a tragic hero.

"I called up my old roommate, Josh, back in California," Mike said. "We were in disbelief of it all."

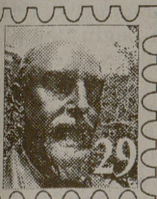
Television cameras can carry us along as the police pursue a fugitive, place us in the courtroom as prosecutors describe every piece of evidence found at the crime scene and give us the sordid details of the suspect's past.

They can't, however, convey the sense of loss the friends and family of Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman are going through.

It takes a voice to do that.

The voice of a friend.

Mack Harrison is a 1993 agricultural journalism graduate



MAIL CALL

Hillary Clinton's critics motivated by politics

It is very convenient for Elizabeth Preston to frame criticism of Hillary Clinton in sexist terms (The Battalion, July 7). In doing so she is employing a time-honored liberal tactic.

My criticism of Hillary Clinton has absolutely nothing to do with her sex. The only reason I'd prefer her to bake cookies is that she would then have little time to socialize the U.S. health-care system, along with whatever else she can. As a matter of fact, I'd prefer Bill Clinton to stay in the kitchen too — which I suppose proves that I am an equal-opportunity sexist.

My objection to Hillary Clinton centers around our different views of government's role. While she favors an increased role for the central government along collectivist/socialist lines (similar to Germany, France, and yes, the former Soviet Union), I believe that this is dangerous. I am not in favor of effectively transferring one-seventh of the gross do-

mestic product to the public sector to serve what is in reality a much smaller problem involving how to cover more of the uninsured. The effect of the Clinton plan would be to increase, unnecessarily, the dependence of U.S. citizens on the national government. The lowest classes are already very dependent and their votes usually go to the those in favor of extending more benefits. Could Clinton-style health care be a way to extend this form of indebtedness to the middle class, effectively buying their vote too? I believe this is a valid and rational criticism of Hillary Clinton's ideas.

As for Clinton's active role, my objection is her lack of accountability. While Preston calls the idea that we did not elect her "ridiculous" — citing the fact that

we haven't elected Stephanopolous, Schwarzkopf and Bentsen — she is missing the point. All three of these people have had accountability in proportion to their duties. For example, Lloyd Bentsen was confirmed by the Senate before joining the cabinet. Hillary Clinton has assumed the task of overhauling health care with no explicit accountability. This serves her well in that she can and does retreat to the traditional role of "cookie baking" First Lady when criticism gets too high.

Please do not label critics of Hillary Clinton as being sexist. There is hardly a conservative out there who wouldn't love to vote for a strong woman such as Margaret Thatcher or Jean Kirkpatrick, given the opportunity. If Preston hasn't

noticed, voters have recently elected two strong, conservative women: Christine Todd-Whitman as New Jersey governor and Kay Bailey-Hutchison as Texas senator.

If Preston is serious about women being equal, she had better stop exempting them from ideological scrutiny simply because of their sex.

John L. Thaxton Jr.
Class of '93

The Battalion 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. We reserve the right to 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

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EDITORIAL

ACCESS TO ABORTION

Women in B-CS need local facility

Bryan-College Station is without a facility that performs abortions. The majority of women and virtually all female students in this community are of childbearing age and need access to a local clinic that provides the facilities for reproductive choice.

ropolitan areas in the United States do not offer women the option of obtaining a safe legal abortion.

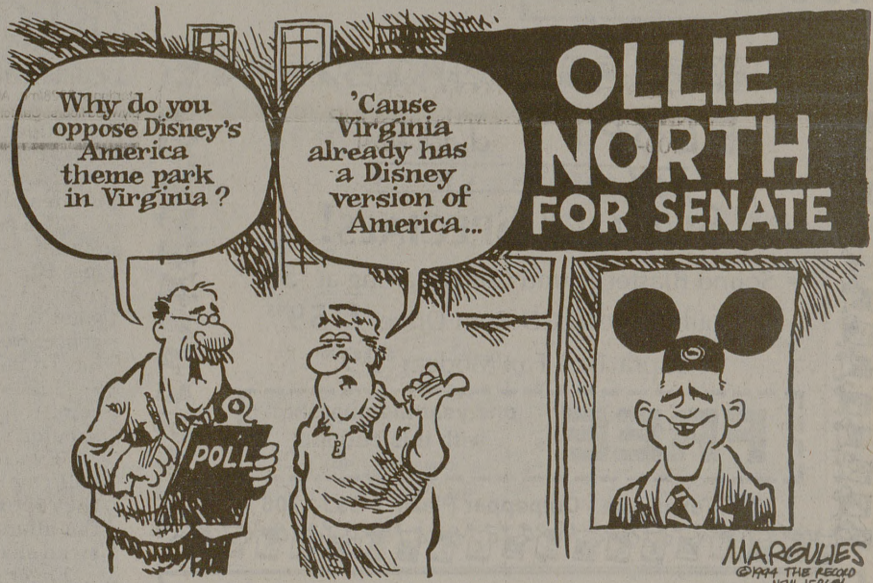
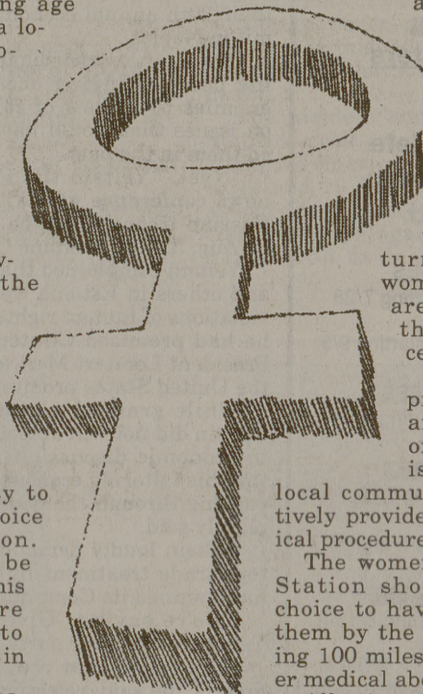
Bryan-College Station is a part of these statistics.

Although few patients have voiced complaints about having to go to Houston or Dallas to have this procedure done, the community is turning its back on women who live in the area by not ensuring they have such access.

Considering the prominent scientific and medical stature of the University, it is illogical that the local community cannot objectively provide this common medical procedure.

The women in Bryan-College Station should not have the choice to have a baby made for them by the hardship of traveling 100 miles each way for proper medical abortions.

Allowing this medical lack to continue is not a reflection of the community's conservatism. It reflects the community's irresponsibility.



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