

June 20, 1995
 tars
 averaged 20
 n the 1994-95
 mmed to a first
 former.
 e-digit point
 team are the
 ouston's King
 au n I go an
 inner.
 playing seven
 mes, the co
 and coach
 ct a series o
 cs for area
 of the city
 Mexico.
 Southwest
 co Aug. 5-13
 Height
 6-4
 6-7
 6-10
 6-5
 6-2
 6-2
 6-4
 6-7
 6-9
 6-9
 'D'
 of good team
 d considerab
 a accused Ne
 ticks from h
 man Bruce D
 few teams th
 es."
 — and I'll g
 er — they do
 Bowman say
 about it, w
 at it. I told
 er has his ha
 . Let the refer
 ach Jacqu
 mplaint to th
 onents ha
 to his playe
 id. "Because
 nd grabbing
 the whole tim
 the complai
 's system.
 onents betwe
 nd strike qui
 Lett
 tify at
 ns' trial
 (AP) — De
 fensive line
 taley and Le
 red Monday
 d jury's que
 alleged serv
 ing team
 County Judge
 and ruled th
 ons submitte
 jury lookin
 against the
 is valid and
 red.
 s scheduled
 day, when it
 ar from Hal
 week, the p
 s of questio
 asked, includ
 ey had see
 th the gra
 had ever see
 al situation,
 had told m
 and her life.
 attorneys a
 e of the que
 e to be a li
 ne questio
 certain item
 w been limite
 Lett will ha
 answers
 ett's attorney
 District Att
 on said th
 der is limite
 list of que
 hearing mig
 he grand ju
 further.
 d jury felt
 o those que
 in a need
 question, I
 d go throug
 cess one mo

OPINION

One pilot flew into fame, another flew out of sight

This is the tale of two men. One is an individual whom I'm sure needs little or no introduction.



CHRIS STIDVENT
COLUMNIST

He is U.S. Air Force Captain Scott F. O'Grady, the 29-year-old combat pilot whose F-16 was shot down over Bosnia by a Serbian missile two weeks ago. He was dramatically rescued after six days of hiding behind enemy lines, where he survived by drinking rainwater, eating grass and bugs and generally putting his "face ... in the dirt, and ... praying they wouldn't see me or hear me."

The other individual is probably one whom few, if any, will recognize. He is Captain Howard E. Rutledge, a pilot whose plane also was shot down while over enemy lines.

In this instance, his F-8 went down over North Vietnam on November 28, 1965. His escape attempt was not as successful as O'Grady's.

Rutledge spent more than seven years in various Vietnam prisoner-of-war camps, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton. During this time, he was routinely beaten, starved and held in solitary confine-

ment for hundreds of days at a time. Since O'Grady's return to the United States, he has been hailed from all corners as a hero.

This praise certainly is quite deserved, for what O'Grady endured is remarkable. He has met with President Clinton and Jane Pauley, and made the cover of both Time and Newsweek.

Upon Rutledge's return to the United States, he spent a few days in a Navy hospital and then went home so he could go to church in San Diego.

His return was chronicled in a brief piece in the Los Angeles Times, but he never was invited to the White House and he didn't make the cover of any magazines.

The different circumstances under which these men were received as they returned home highlight the complex attitudes which Americans seem to hold toward war.

The relief and fanfare accompanying O'Grady's rescue illustrate the fact that we still view our involvement in the Bosnian conflict as one of individuals.

We collectively rejoice at the return of an individual pilot, for we do not expect there to be a great number of American casualties in the

Bosnian conflict.

During the Vietnam War, almost 60,000 soldiers died, and thousands were either imprisoned or listed as permanently missing.

The president would have had to spend a considerable amount of each day greeting each and every one of the POWs who made it back home after being imprisoned by the North Vietnamese.

The Vietnam War was not one that we perceived of as being fought by individuals.

There was no national sigh of relief every time that one man returned home. This is not because our country was any less sensitive to the struggles of the individual soldier.

It is because, after a while, the death toll rose from the individual to the incomprehensible. As Joseph Stalin once said, "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic."

This increased tendency of the average American to view war in individual terms was evidenced both in our involvement in Somalia and in our support for the Gulf War against Iraq.

The tide of American opinion turned against our operation in Mogadishu when we saw the bodies of American soldiers being dragged through the streets, surrounded by hordes of jeering Somalis. We were able to measure the death toll in the Gulf War in numbers roughly

parallel to a few days of combat in Vietnam.

And, in a sense, this viewpoint is a logical extension of our national interests and how they are perceived.

The omnipresent dread of communism fueled our attempts to "free" the South Vietnamese. What reasons can be found that would be so similarly compelling as to allow us to once again condone the deployment of American troops to a foreign country in a remote location?

The national reaction to O'Grady's and Rutledge's returns, coming as they did at different points of different conflicts, reveal that this is not only a tale of two individuals, but a tale of two nations.

When a country pays more attention to the return of a man who had been missing six days than it does to the return of a man who had been imprisoned for seven years, it is evident that the situation and the attitudes of that country have drastically changed.

One had been increasingly numbed by the mounting death toll in a war that would not end. One is still thinking of its soldiers as individuals, and not as grim statistics.

Chris Stidvent is a senior philosophy major

THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

- Editorial Board**
- Jay Robbins
Editor in Chief
 - Rob Clark
Managing Editor
 - Sterling Hayman
Opinion Editor
 - Kyle Littlefield
Assistant 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.

EDITORIAL

RISING COSTS

The proposed fee increases could present problems for students.

Public universities like Texas A&M historically have received money from the state so they can provide students with inexpensive higher education.

Unfortunately, the Texas Legislature apparently has abandoned that goal and has aggravated Texas A&M's strained financial situation by cutting \$6.7 million from the University's state funding.

The University administration has proposed a substantial increase of the general use fee to compensate for the Legislature's negligence. This fee increase proposal is "too much, too fast," and many Texas A&M students will suffer from it.

The administration has not planned well. It expects the students to swallow a hike in the general use fee from \$12 per semester hour to \$26 per semester hour.

For a student taking 15 hours, this increase amounts to \$210 per semester.

The prices of housing, tuition and other fees also will increase significantly this fall. The University cannot expect students to accommodate every one of these increases all at once.

Everyone with questions or opinions about this proposal should attend the open forum scheduled with University administrators on Wednesday, June 21, in MSC 292 at 3:30 p.m.

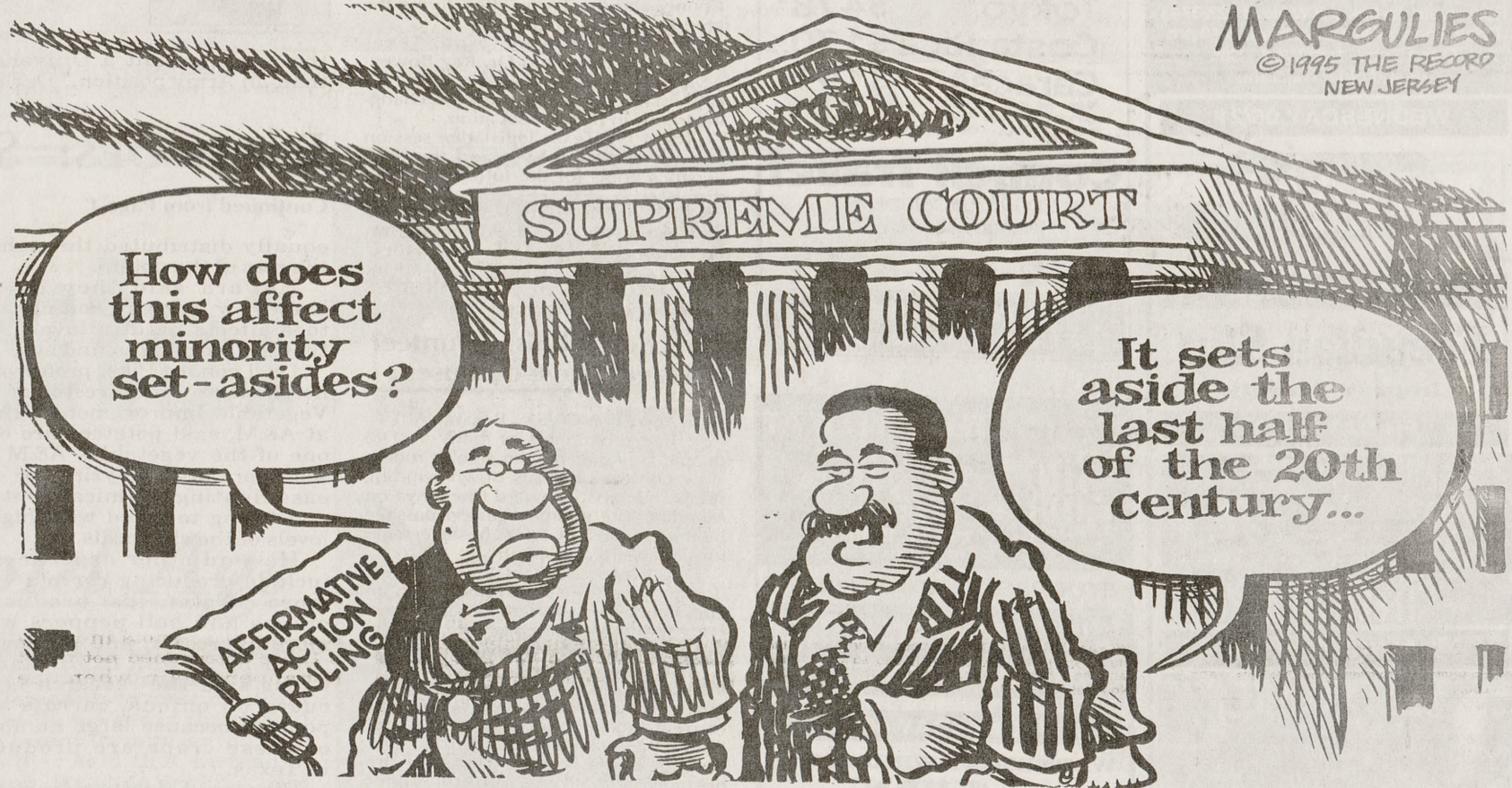
Although a large fee increase seems necessary to help make up for the lost state funds, the University would be wiser to limit the increase to the minimum feasible amount and make cutbacks in programs and expenses if necessary.

If a choice arises between cutting programs because of expenses or losing students who cannot afford sudden large price hikes in the costs of attending school, then students must come first.

The proposed fee increase would be used in truly beneficial ways: faculty raises, campus maintenance and financial aid. The Legislature's \$6.7 million cut has brought about this funding crisis, and the state deserves most of the blame for the financial problems confronting the University.

But the University and the

- Texas A&M System should have foreseen the possible need for additional funding.
- If the University had increased fees to keep up with inflation and expenses, and planned for funding cuts which have been rumored for years, the current burden would have been distributed over time and students could have prepared for the additional costs.
- The current situation is difficult, and not everyone will be happy with the outcome, no matter what it is. But some of the options facing the University seem less harmful to the average student than this proposed fee increase.
- The increase still awaits approval by the Board of Regents, but no matter what happens, the University administration should learn something from this. In the future, it should plan ahead better for its financial needs. If it does not, either the students or the quality of the education they receive will suffer.
- Students can direct any questions or comments about the proposed fee increase to the following persons:
- A&M Chancellor**
Dr. Barry Thompson
409-845-4331
 - A&M President**
Dr. Ray Bowen
409-845-2217
 - Regent Chairman**
Mary Nan West
210-378-5335
 - Regent Vice Chairman**
Raul Fernandez
210-690-9933
 - A&M Regents**
Aliston Brisco
713-236-2462
John H. Lindsey
713-652-4080
T. Michael O'Connor
512-573-7672
Royce E. Wisenbaker
903-593-2588
Frederick D. McClure
214-369-8566
Don Powell
806-358-4582
Robert H. Allen
713-659-2435
Dr. M. Guadalupe L. Rangel



Argumentation helps solve problems

"De la discussion jaillit lumière"
 — From discussion comes light ...
"Shiny happy people holding hands ..."
 — R.E.M.



DAVID TAYLOR
COLUMNIST

A wise man once asked, "Can't we all just get along?" Of course the same wise man was arrested earlier this spring for getting along with a few too many beers while driving an automobile.

Right about now, a lot of people are preaching the virtue of holding hands and being one big happy family.

Getting along is overrated.

Just so I don't get blamed for some random militia-related act of violence — I am in no way encouraging, condoning or supporting playing target practice with your debate partner.

I do, however, suggest that you not try to shut them up.

In 1789, a group of men spent a long, hot summer locked-up in a building in Philadelphia while trying to figure out how to organize our government.

The little states wanted all states to have a single vote in the Legislature.

The big states wanted voting to be representative of population.

Alexander Hamilton wanted a strong central government. Thomas Jefferson wanted a weak one.

Of course I wasn't there, but I bet the representatives didn't always get along during their debates.

Last week the president and the speaker of the House got together in New Hampshire and spent the afternoon telling each other how swell they were.

Neato-keen.

In case you didn't get to see it, imagine Chuck Woolery hosting Speaker Gingrich and President Clinton.

Chuck: "Gosh, Mr. Clinton, did he buy you

dinner?"

Clinton: "Yes, and he was ever-so-wonderful."

Gingrich: "No, Mr. President, you're wonderful."

Clinton: "No, really, you're more wonderful than me."

Gingrich: "No, you're wonderful ..."

Audience: "I love you. You love me. We're a happy family ..."

Dave: "Would you please let me out of my rubber room now?"

This country is confused enough about what each party stands for without a wishy-washy game of "The Political Love Connection."

Both the speaker and the president — I assume — have distinct philosophies.

We need to hear the differences between the two to understand who to vote for and to get an idea of where this country should go. That means we may have to hear — gasp — disagreement or even — cough — argument.

This is a good thing.

Here in America, the people are expected to vote their minds — and use them. This means that people need to have a good feel for competing ideas.

To use an economic term, this is the "marketplace of ideas."

When people present coherent arguments to support their positions — conservative, liberal or apathetic — then, and only then, can we truly have a "marketplace of ideas."

Back in the late '80s someone had the idea that if we could all just hold hands across the country, we could solve ... something.

Great idea. We all felt really swell for a couple of minutes and then realized Nevada is a mighty tough place to link hands. But unfortunately, the problems were there for us when we got home.

It takes debate, sometimes strong debate, to find solutions to problems. We won't get at those solutions by simply "getting along." We have to argue sometimes.

An important distinction should be drawn here between "argument" and "per-

sonal insult." Saying "Chuck is a scum" — even if it is true — is not the same as proving Chuck wrong.

I am not encouraging a substitution of insult for substance. A true difference of opinion, however, is not an insult.

I know that sometimes it makes us feel all warm inside to link arms and tell the person sitting next to us how much we appreciate them. However, you are not appreciating them any less when you have a difference of opinion.

If you do, explain it. Support it.

Don't just sweep it under the rug to promote "harmony."

For example, this past week we learned that the administration is considering plans to double the general use fee. I'm probably pretty

Here in America, the people are expected to vote their minds and use them.

radical on this one, but I don't really want to have my fees equal to my tuition — something about being dead broke already and having to pay even more concerns me a bit.

Tomorrow afternoon, Dr. Bowen will explain the administration's position. If the administration hasn't thought through this increase, it is in our best interest to argue until it gets thought through.

Our futures, not just here at A&M, but in general, rest on our interest in disagreeing when we think the other guy is wrong. We can't just "get along."

On the other hand, maybe there is something to that damn purple dinosaur. Maybe we could just share our Leggos and make the world a better place.

I can see it now — Barney and Big Bird on a stage in New Hampshire with Bob Barker.

David Taylor is a senior management major

THE BATTALION

EDITORIAL STAFF

JAY ROBBINS, EDITOR IN CHIEF
 ROB CLARK, MANAGING EDITOR
 STERLING HAYMAN, OPINION EDITOR
 GRETCHEN PERRENOT, CITY EDITOR
 JODY HOLLEY, NIGHT NEWS EDITOR
 STACY STANTON, NIGHT NEWS EDITOR
 MICHAEL LANDAUER, AGGIELIFE EDITOR
 NICK GEORGANDIS, SPORTS EDITOR
 STEW MILNE, PHOTO EDITOR

STAFF MEMBERS

CITY DESK — ASSISTANT EDITOR: Eleanor Colvin; REPORTERS: Katherine Arnold, Javier Hinojosa, Scott McMahan, Jill Saunders, Michael Simmons, Wes Swift & Tara Wilkinson

AGGIELIFE DESK — FEATURE WRITERS: Amy Collier & Libe Goad; COLUMNIST: Amy Uptmor

SPORTSWRITERS — David Winder and Lee Wright

OPINION DESK — ASSISTANT EDITOR: Kyle Littlefield; COLUMNISTS: Elizabeth Preston, Frank Stanford & David Taylor; CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS: Justin Barnett, Margaret Gordon, Alex Miller, Chris Stidvent & Mark Zane; EDITORIAL WRITERS: Jason Brown & Alex Walters; EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS: Brad Graeber & George Nasr

PHOTOGRAPHERS — Mike Friend, Roger Hsieh, Nick Rodnicki & Eddy Wylie

PAGE DESIGNERS — NEWS: Kristin DeLuca

SPORTS: Robin Greathouse; AGGIELIFE: Stew Milne

COPY EDITORS — Rob Clark & Sterling Hayman

GRAPHIC ARTISTS — Toon Boonyavanchik & Melissa Oldham

STRIP CARTOONISTS — Valerie Myers & Quatro Oakley

OFFICE STAFF — OFFICE MANAGER: Julie Thomas; CLERKS: Wendy Crockett & Heather Harris

NEWS: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building.

NEWSROOM HOURS:
 Sunday, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 Monday—Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647
 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

THE BATTALION ONLINE: The Battalion offers photos and the day's headlines on the worldwide web. Web Site: http://128.194.30.84

ADVERTISING: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, call 845-2611.

The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.