

Brushy Creek reeks of questionable treatment

Texas A&M — world class university with world class problems.

ELAINE MEJIA COLUMNIST



ardous waste. Historically, there has been a disparity in enforcement of environmental regulations as well.

between 1985 and 1991 violators of the federal hazardous waste law received fines that were 500 percent higher if they polluted white communities than if they polluted minority communities.

Higher-income and predominantly white communities are more likely to successfully prevent corporations and governments from locating potential environmental hazards in their areas.

Understanding, the administration chose to locate the center in Brushy Creek for financial reasons. It has a right, of course, to locate the center on the cheapest land it can find.

According to the University, it is safe to locate the center in Brushy Creek. A&M officials should release their scientific studies proving this to the residents of Brushy Creek.

There is already a Beef Industry Complex located at the site. Perhaps this is why the land is "safe" for the new animals — because the ground water is already contaminated.

Last week, a U.S. district judge ordered Texas A&M and Brushy Creek residents to share their information with each other. Previously, the judge denied a restraining order that would have temporarily stopped construction of the \$5.5 million center.

The University has been planning the center for over 10 years, but years of planning do not render the University immune to the legitimate concerns of Brushy Creek residents.

Elaine Mejia is a senior political science major

Negative campaigning must stop

Nobody likes a tattletale. But it sure seems like the bickering candidates for the Republican presidential nomination never learned this valuable lesson.

Dole calls Buchanan an extremist. Buchanan calls Alexander a liberal.

Alexander says Buchanan has "the wrong ideas" and Dole has "no ideas."

And everyone jabs at Forbes for just being a big, fat, rich guy who can't seem to answer any question — even about the weather — without talking about his flat tax proposal.

The negative campaigning has reached epidemic proportions for Dole. Once the front-runner, his run at the presidency has taken a turn for the worse, much of it stemming from his negative ads targeting Buchanan as a monster.

But as the race continues, these ads are only getting worse. Dole seems to be grasping at anything to grab the top slot back from Buchanan. And Alexander wins the audacity contest, suggesting that Dole should drop out of the race.

The candidates are behaving with less maturity than third-graders at recess. "My dad can beat up your dad" is sure to be the newest campaign slogan for one of them.

It's a disease that is spreading ... even to The Battalion. A recent ad read something like this:

"Hi, I'm Rob Clark and I'd like to have your vote as Battalion columnist supreme. I believe I possess the vision, the knowledge and the wisdom to lead The Batt's readers away from the evils expressed in the other columnists' wrong stances on the issues. Just look at my fellow candidates on to-



day's page. You can't read Elaine Mejia's column on environmental racism. Mejia was once president of the National Organization for Women!

And then there's Chris Miller. When Miller isn't stinking up the Opinion page, he can be found in the Student Senate, where he and the other senators spend ridiculous amounts of time achieving almost nothing.

Rob Clark will talk about the issues. Rob Clark's columns will get columns moving in the right direction. This is a battle for the heart and soul of the Opinion page and I won't stop writing until The Battalion Opinion page takes America to new heights!

\*\*Paid for by the Rob Clark for Columnist Supreme campaign\*\*

Of course this is ridiculous, but the Republican candidates have a real insecurity problem that's just as bad. It's silly for the candidates to believe their own status will be improved with political "dissing" (although I can't imagine Dole sitting around saying, "Why is Lamar Alexander 'dissing' me so much?").

The right candidate will be the one with the right ideas and the right messages. But the Republican candidates' constant negativity only shows their lack of maturity.

They need to grow up. You'd think Dole would've had time to do that by now.

Rob Clark is a senior journalism major who is running neck-and-neck with Mejia and Miller in the latest polls



MAIL CALL

Black History Month teaches the real past

Despite the opinions of Brendan O'Reilly, Black History Month is not an attempt to further divide our races or to throw the past in one another's faces. One of the purposes of Black History Month is to try to enlighten people who mistakenly believe that, thanks to History 106, they know everything they need to know about American history.

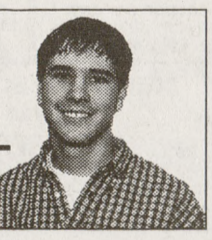
sponsibility for the atrocities of the past. We could never right all of the wrongs, and our shoulders would surely not withstand the weight of the burden. It's a past that still haunts us because we are not anywhere close to learning from it what we should. The shame I feel is for the locked minds today — the ones who continue to hurl the word "nigger" at fellow Aggies, who think that equality was granted to blacks by Abraham Lincoln, who have the audacity to display their own ignorance so blatantly. I feel the shame of sharing my school with those determined to stunt its progress — those who are voluntarily limiting their own education. I feel the anger from injustices that occur on this campus that no longer shock my black peers. Black History Month is a celebration of those leaders who we skim over in most history classes; it is a plea to learn from the mistakes of those who came before us, and it is an opportunity for all of us to respect the perseverance of people who refused to be treated like second class citizens.

Christine Eason Class of '97

By definition, we are all guilty of hazing

It's easy to accuse the Corps of hazing. Every day its members organize on various grass fields around the campus to yell, scream and make each other do push-ups. Having no idea what military training entails, the typical student can easily associate these behaviors with hazing.

CHRIS MILLER COLUMNIST



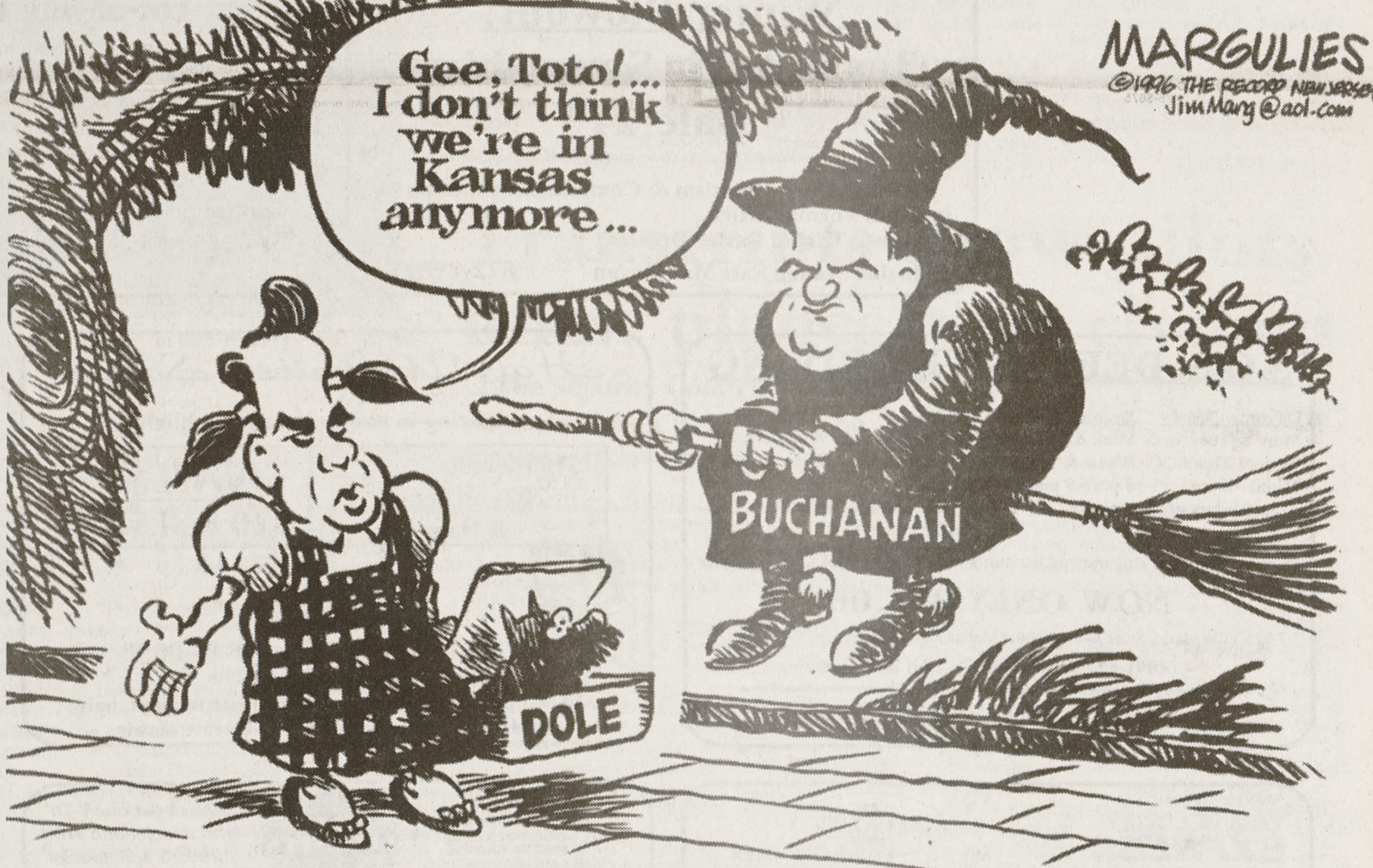
The Fish Aides did haze Toby Boenig, according to University regulations. Section 4.51 of the Texas A&M University Regulations handbook spells out a number of actions that constitute hazing, among them "sleep deprivation" and "any activity ... that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student." The Fish Aides did wake Toby up very early in the morning, depriving him of sleep, and proceeded to grope him and display him on the side of the street in a very undignified manner. But wait, before you support the disbanding of Fish Aides and punishment of all parties

eyebrows. The question floating around campus became, "Can they really accuse someone of hazing for doing that?" The answer returned was yes. The reason they can is because the

involved, take a look at the definition again. Upon closer examination, I realized that I, too, am guilty of hazing. I was a Fish Camp counselor last year and personally applied shaving cream to the heads of all of my "fish." They were humiliated, and I laughed at them. I also made sure all the "fish" in my cabin woke up before 8 o'clock in the morning, and by doing so, I was depriving them of sleep. In my camp my freshman year, my counselors made freshmen participate in a game called "The Wheel of Misfortune." The game forced freshmen who lost their name tags to "heinie-write" their hometown or act like a dying cockroach, among various other "humiliating" acts. It was at this point that I realized I needed to be punished severely. In fact, every one of the over 600 counselors last year did the same thing. They all should be punished. And, if I remember correctly, our co-chairs participat-

ed. I say punish them, too. Christi Moore, last year's Fish Camp director, should also be punished. It seems ironic that she happens to be one of the individuals pursuing the investigation of the Fish Aides incident when she was the big cheese of an organization that, by University definition, oozes hazing from every pore. When looked at from the standpoint of the University's definition of hazing, I'd venture to say that almost everyone on this campus has hazed someone at some point in time. It's not just the Corps and fraternities anymore. We're all hazers. And we should all be punished. Wait a minute ... perhaps the University could allow some leeway in its interpretation of its hazing definition — that might solve the problem. Naw. That's too easy. And it would leave The Battalion very little to write about.

Chris Miller is a sophomore English major



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