

Money, bombs tear apart family unity

Everybody hates a tattletale. Especially when it's your brother. Following you around. Taking notes on all the bad stuff you do. And then dutifully reporting it to your parents, your uncle with "The Belt," or the FBI.



SHANNON HALBROOK
COLUMNIST

the same — a moderately obscure Egyptian fiber bought in a Trenton, N.J., lingerie shop. It is ridiculous to say this is anything more than a coincidence. Ted is being shafted by his brother's greed and the authorities are buying it all. It is an egregious miscarriage of justice.

This whole great big tattletelling thing is of personal interest to me. When one is accustomed to doing harmless, illicit little activities, it's a real annoyance to have somebody scrutinizing your every move.

I, for instance, have recently become fond of leaving three-week old ham or pizza slices under Texas A&M University President Ray Bowen's desk. Harmless, right? Well, apart from the smell, pretty harmless. But there is a little reward out for my capture. Several of my friends are the nosy, cando, "I want to supplement my bank account no matter what the cost to my friends" type, and — rather than announce their suspicions to me — have e-mailed U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali telling him what I'm doing. All for the reward money.

Luckily, he doesn't care about the shenanigans that happen at this university, so I figure I'm pretty safe. Nobody will ever figure out that I'm the culprit unless I accidentally announce it in my column.

Uh. Well, at least I'm an only child. If I had a brother, I'd really be in trouble. And if my brother were like David Kaczynski, he would have sent a letter to the University Police Department and squealed on me.

Family and friends are supposed to help us

through difficult times, not make them more difficult by spying on everything we do and dutifully reporting it to the police or the FBI. When there's no one else to turn to, our family should always be there.

But I'm sure that \$1 million reward just beckoned to the family, and I won't be surprised — if poor Ted actually is the Unabomber — if his family mysteriously disappears on a plush cruise ship bound for the Cayman Islands after he's arrested.

I'm sure this whole thing hasn't been hard on his family at all. They definitely don't need to be congratulated or praised for turning in their kin. In fact,

that reward money ought to go to poor Ted himself for all the anguish this has put him through. To his family, he's just another source of income. People ought to realize that Ted is the victim in this case — not the family. The family's getting out of this painlessly and scot-free.

Well — apart from the shock, the embarrassment, the stares and the newspaper stories. All that stuff. Actually, it could be kind of hard for family members to be forced to turn in a relative. But I bet a million dollars makes up for it.

Makes me glad I don't have a brother.

Shannon Halbrook is a sophomore English and journalism major

Bosnia requires U.S. help



KIERAN WATSON
COLUMNIST

If you are a typical college student, then the only foreign affairs that are of interest are whether imported beer prices are going up.

In understanding this apathy, this column is designed to be the Aggie Foreign Affairs supplement.

Unless you have been living under a rock, you know that we currently have troops in Bosnia. The idea behind our involvement in the area is that it takes a larger benevolent country to step in and stop the bloodshed and atrocities that have become the norm in that part of the world for the last several years. So far, a good idea.

What would you think, however, if I were to tell you that one of our UN partners was about to pull out of the peacekeeping effort because the premier of the country in question wanted to win an election in a few months?

Shocked? Possibly. Annoyed? Very likely. Suicidal? Well, let's not go too far.

What would you say if I told you that the leader responsible for such blatant political scheming is our very own President Clinton?

Clinton sent our troops into Bosnia with a fanfare. America was taking her rightful place as the world's superpower by stepping in and galvanizing the world into stopping the horror and degradation. Clinton's popularity rose; everyone was happy.

Now, however, Clinton has decided that having troops die on foreign soil during an election year is bad bull. Or at least that it might lose the election for him.

Nevermind that the original stated goal for the peacekeeping effort was to bring a lasting peace to the area, a goal totally unattainable without America's support. Nevermind that the rest of the UN coalition will probably fall apart without America's pocket book and military strength.

Nevermind that this is the world's last chance to truly stabilize the region. Great mistrust and hatred will surely follow our departure because of the violent slaughter that will surely ensue when the bad guys realize the cat just left the house, for good.

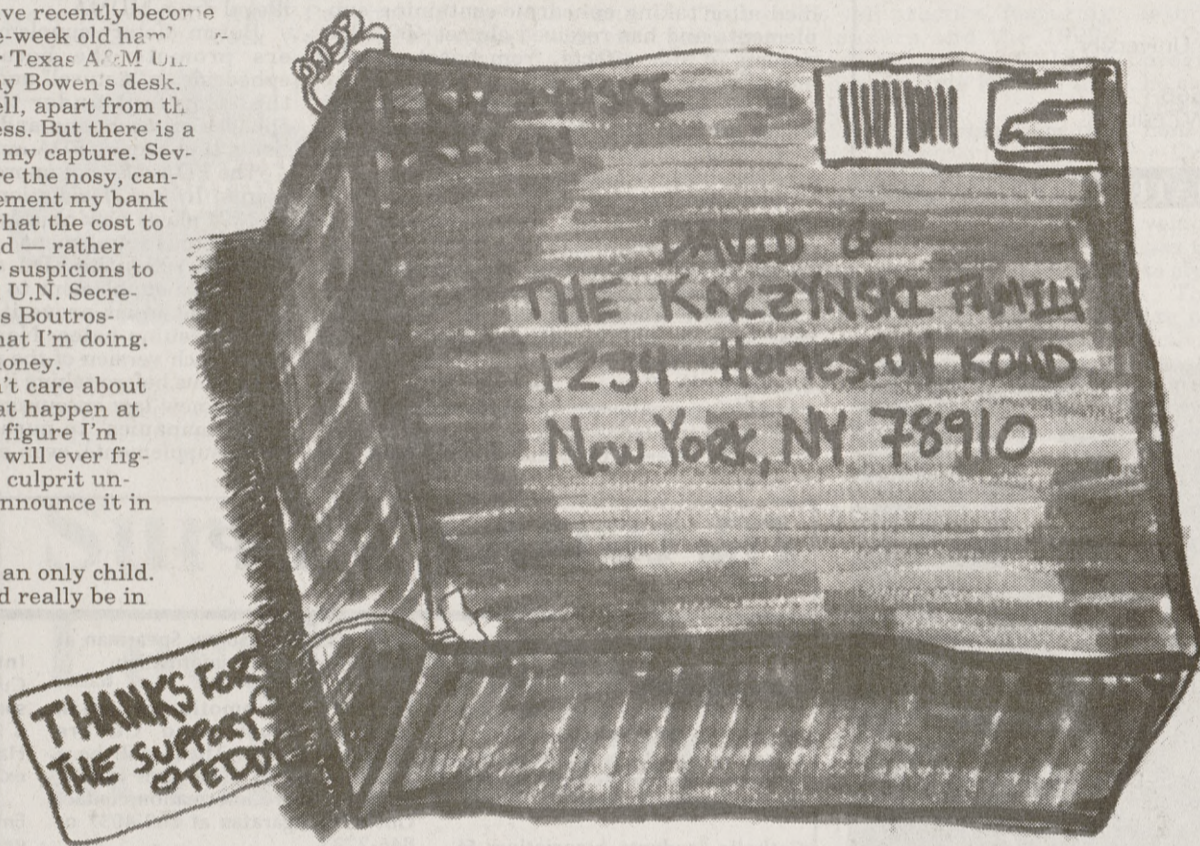
The truly amazing thing about Clinton withdrawing our troops is that he expects the American public to hail him as a hero for bringing our troops home in a blatant political stunt. Is the American public that stupid? I hope not.

Not only will Clinton totally destroy peace in Bosnia, not only will he make the world suspicious of American willpower and determination, but he will forever tarnish America as a wishy-washy country governed by people with no backbone and whose only guide to running our great country is the latest poll.

America must stay in Bosnia. True, our men will die, but we are fighting for what is right. We are fighting to make sure that the next time a nutcase decides to murder innocent babies and children he will think twice, knowing that America is watching him.

Mr. Clinton, I know you will probably not change your mind now. But if you win another term in the White House, I hope you hear in your sleep the screams of the innocent people who you left to die.

Kieran Watson is a sophomore finance major



Ted Kaczynski has his problems with tattletales too. The poor fellow has not only been accused of being the dastardly Unabomber, but his own brother is backing up the claim. Now Kaczynski has been jailed, and a grand jury has been summoned to try to determine whether he should go on trial for the Unabomber's more than 89,274,634 bombings.

The loners are always the first to be suspected. Kaczynski has been living on his own for a while in a secluded cabin deep in Montana's bowels, reading the paper and formulating theories about the evils of modern technology.

And this makes him the Unabomber? The answer lies in the FBI's \$1 million reward for information leading to the capture of the Unabomber — a reward which Kaczynski's brother David will receive if Ted is convicted of the Unabomber's crimes. Through his attorney, Anthony Bisceglie, David said he knew nothing of the reward.

But this is pathetically suspicious. The Unabomber has been in the news a long time; David should've assumed that there was a pretty substantial reward. To say that he just didn't know about it is a gross and flat-out possible lie.

Not only has David Kaczynski informed the FBI of his suspicions, but — even worse — he has told their mother, who said that "if he were (the Unabomber), then he had to be stopped." Apparently, the financial benefit has even convinced Ted's mother to join the witch hunt.

But despite the landslide against Kaczynski, the reported evidence is flimsy. In his writings they have found similar words and phrases as those contained in his manifesto. Many of the same words have been misspelled. Even the paper is

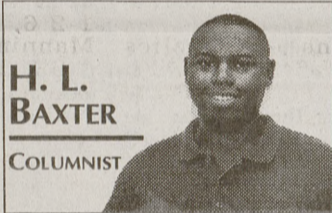
Apathy engulfs global events

It is true: one can change nothing with apathy.

It follows then that one cannot complain about a given situation if he or she does nothing to bring about an alternative result. Apathetic people simply go about proclaiming things as a shame or a travesty, or (at worst) they disregard the situation entirely.

One usually reacts when a situation affects him or her directly or when it occurs within proximity. An example of the former would be when a gathering of Texas A&M students marched on campus to protest the recent ruling concerning affirmative action by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. An example of the latter would be that whole Toby Boenig-Aggie Fish Aides hazing hullabaloo or (my personal favorite) the single-versus double-strap backpacking episode of 1994.

The farther the news occurs from Aggeland, the more apathetic the student body tends to become. I have heard on more than one occasion questions along the lines of, "Sure, that Bosnia ordeal is pretty sad, but what can we do about it?" Likewise, the rapid destruction of Brazilian rain forest, North Korea's military advance into the Demilitarized Zone and the execution of



H. L. BAXTER
COLUMNIST

Ken Saro-Wiwa (an activist who protested the drilling of oil by the Shell Corporation in an ecologically fragile area) by Nigeria's military government are more or less met with apathy.

The problems occurring in Bosnia, Brazil, Korea and Nigeria do not readily affect us, however. So one could justify apathy and not be terribly scrutinized by peers.

Or can they? Some may argue that when a perilous situation occurs abroad, the American people should become concerned only when it affects the lives of Americans; others say Texans need only to concern themselves when a situation affects the lives of Texans. They might say that situations (such as those in Bosnia, Korea, Brazil, Nigeria) are best left up to the governments of the countries in which they occur, the people there or God. The world is just too big a place, and to concern ourselves with events that are occurring halfway across it would be fruitless and futile.

Granted, the world is a big place, but we must also acknowledge that space and time are gradually converging. No longer does it take us days to get from point A to point B if the two points are thousands of

miles apart. We see right here on our campus through the World Wide Web, Internet Relay Chat and electronic mail that we can share information with people in distant lands with a simple keystroke. People and events are much closer to home than we think.

Still, we may be powerless to directly help those troubled persons, but we must utilize international news as a learning tool instead of passing it off as "bad," "terrible," or "a shame" as we have been doing. The situation in Bosnia should relay to Americans that assimilation into a popular culture does not always work; it should make one think twice when one advocates creating an "American culture" and disregarding the Latin, African, European, Asian, and Indian cultures that comprise it. The destruction of the Amazon rain forest should make Americans aware that the destruction of the environment to keep people in work or to promote progress does not progress mankind at all.

Americans should use international news to better understand domestic situations, but as it stands right now, we do not. Meeting any situation — whether it occurs in America or abroad — with apathy means that one is apathetic to the health and welfare of Americans.

H.L. Baxter is a junior geography major



MAIL CALL

CHEM 107 does not replace 101/102

Contrary to a story in the March 26 issue of The Battalion, Chemistry 107 (the new freshman chemistry course for engineering students) is not a substitute for Chemistry 101 and 102. This is a special course created only for certain engineering students who plan to take no additional chemistry courses. It contains some material from both courses but is not simply a compression of these courses. There is a significant amount of material taught in Chemistry 101 and 102 that is not taught in Chemistry 107. Therefore, any student who plans to take chemistry courses beyond general chemistry must complete Chemistry 102/112 or 104/114 before registering for these courses. This includes students who take Chemistry 107. These students should not attempt to take a shortcut by registering for Chemistry 107. This will not work, and they will be dropped from registration in subsequent chemistry courses.

*John Hogg
Chemistry adviser*

Writer of lynching letter should relax

This is in reference to the "Lynching is no laughing matter" letter on April 9. How insensitive! How can Lore A. Guilmarin forget about the deaths of hundreds if not thousands of Cattle Rustling Americans and Bank Robbing Americans in past history? Did you even stop to realize that cattle rustling is still a hangable offense in Texas?

The Battalion warned you before you even read the "Battalion" that everything inside is a joke. April Fool's Day is just that — a joke. Life is too short to spend your days wringing your hands over a comment about a lynching, so lighten up.

*Bradley Frye
Class of '97*

Homosexuals can be Christians, too

I would like to express my appreciation for the article in The Battalion on April 8 concerning Gay Awareness Week; however, a portion of it concerned me. I understand and support the need to allow alternate views and perspectives on all issues, yet the reference to the student who used his Christian faith as justification for a stance against those who are gay only reinforces the incorrect notion that being gay and Christian are incompatible.

I am both gay and Christian. I will not tell Mr. Bauerschlag that he is wrong. He has the right to his faith. Yet if there is anything that I would like to make heterosexuals aware of this week, it is that too many Christians use their faith as a cover for hate, and other Christians fall prey to ignorance and unwittingly perpetuate suffering.

Bauerschlag and many Christians are more of the latter than the former. Being gay is not a choice. It is no more a choice for me than it is for Mr. Bauerschlag's heterosexual behavior. My behavior is dictated by my goals to make my part of this world a little bit better place for everyone.

Open your minds and hearts. See us as we really are — as our Creator made us — and not as many religious dogmas portray us.

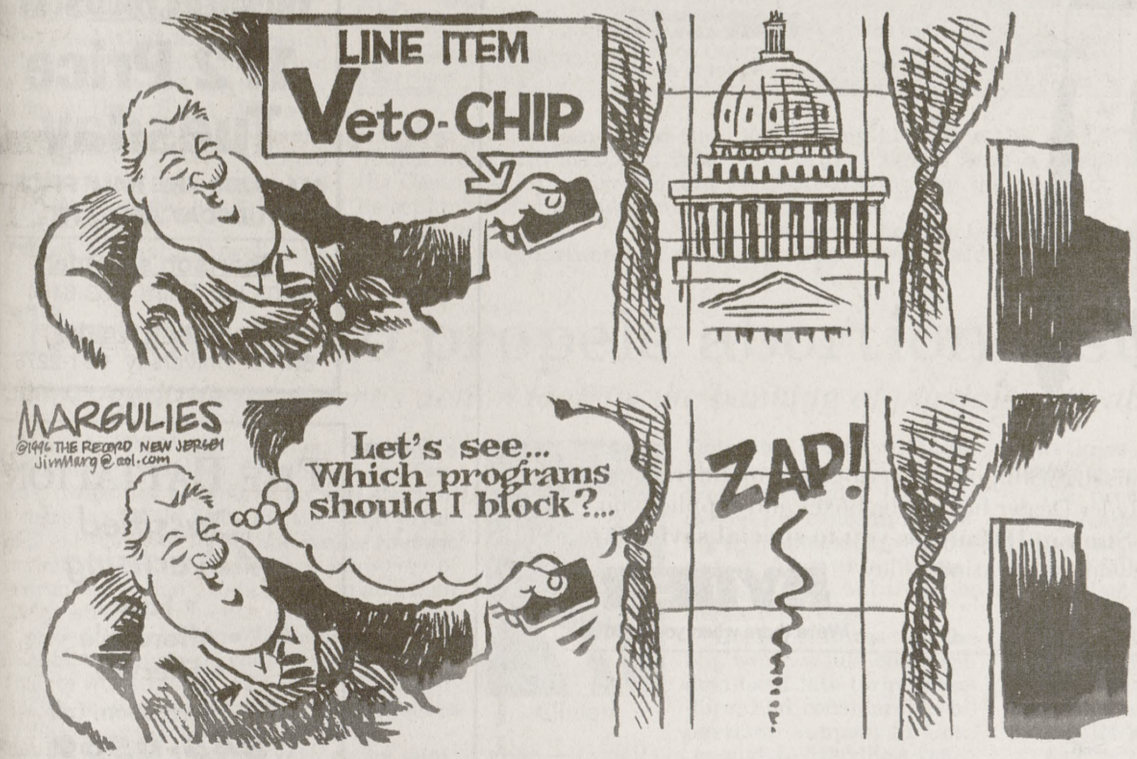
*Jeff Anderson
Graduate student*

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. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald. A valid student ID is required. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu



MARGULIES
©1996 THE RECORD NEW JERSEY
jim@margulies.com