

Nonregs invade the Quad

The invasion came slowly. In a week's time they had infiltrated the whole area, and before we knew it — they had taken over.



DAVID BOLDT
COLUMNIST

No, I'm not talking about some militia group taking over Hickville, Texas. Even worse, nonregs have taken over the Quad — our Quad. As a member of the Corps of Cadets, I feel violated. Thousands of "nasty nonregs" have taken over my home.

When I first heard on-campus housing for the summer was going to be on the Quad, I was actually excited. I had pictures dancing in my head of good-looking girls wearing butt-floss bikinis roller-blading down the Quad, or sunning themselves in the cool grass in front of the dorms.

Then my roommate slapped me. "David, you're drooling," he said, and reality woke me up. I realized that most of the summer residents were going to be guys — including Corps haters from Northside. Oh no, not them!

But how did the other CTs on the Quad feel? After all, I'm living with Summer Recruiting Company, which consists entirely of cadets and resides under the rules of the Commandants Office, not RHA rules. So I asked a few of them.

"The freshmen are clueless, but everyone seems pretty cool. The thing that sucks is the rules," said Lyle Gordon, a senior in Company E-2.

Others had a more philosophical approach. "Nonregs and CTs co-existing on the Quad seems to break the conflict by everyone getting to know each other," said Ken Reinertson, a senior in Company C-2, "but most of the rules are bulls—t."

To my surprise, nonregs and CTs seem to get along quite well. However, not being allowed to have lofts, use cinder blocks or open their windows are rules that Corps members are not very keen on following — as well as strict visitation hours and drinking restrictions. "A lot of R.A.s look to bust CTs because they think they are prone to break rules," says Cliff



Murphy, a nonreg senior living in dorm six.

But Jerry Blum, a second-floor resident advisor, had this to say: "We don't have any problems, because we are all nonregs and we are all CTs this summer because the Corps isn't active."

Well, whether the resident advisors treat nonregs and Cadets differently is questionable, but there's no question that the rules they must enforce are ludicrous. For example, both the Quad invaders and the organization residing there since it was built are told that opening the windows will hurt the air conditioning systems, which will cause condensation, which will grow mildew and make everyone sick.

Oh really? Well, in my three years living on the Quad, I've never seen such a phenomenon. Perhaps I'm just lucky.

Senior cadets living in dorm six this summer have been told they can't bring their sabers into the dorm — a part of the uniform that is not a weapon,

but designed for show (most sabers are too dull to cut through butter). And why can't anyone have lofts or even cinder blocks in the summer?

Representatives of Corps Area Housing say, "It's just University policy," and when asked the reason for the policy, they say, "It's just University policy." Well, since when is a policy justified without a reason? Those of us living here under Corps rules have been permitted to have these luxuries. Why can't anyone else?

Maybe the invasion is not so bad after all. It seems that this co-existence has bonded Cadets and nonregs together. Enduring seemingly pointless rules seems to do that. Why do you think Cadets are so tight?

So I guess we'll let these nonreg invaders stay for a few months. No reason to break out the camouflage and the face paint just yet. After all, they do sort of outnumber us.

David Boldt is a Class of '97 marketing major

Arafat hinders peace in Israel

It really does amaze me what a terrorist gets for his efforts these days. It used to be a noose, or a blind-fold and a cigarette.



MICHAEL HEINROTH
COLUMNIST

But now the current "punishment" for a terrorist who has a lengthy record of bus bombings and political assassinations is the painful torture of getting his own little country. Oh, the agony!

And they say crime doesn't pay. But just stop for a minute and take a look at everyone's favorite Middle East terrorist, Yasser Arafat. Well, OK, he did finally denounce terrorism in 1988. But does that mean he's not a terrorist anymore?

If a murderer quits killing people, we don't call him a former murderer, do we?

Anyway, after the Palestinian leader had spent years calling for the destruction of Israel, he decided to calm down and shake his enemy's hand. Suddenly, everyone forgot about Ol' Yasser's past just because he picked up an olive branch.

The next thing we knew, he was at the White House with President Clinton. After that, he got his very own Nobel Peace Prize. Not bad.

Then Israel decided to give Yasser Arafat two fairly large portions of its own territory — the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There was even talk of sharing Jerusalem. Hey, even better.

Things were really shaping up for the infamous Palestinian.

But why was Israel the only country that agreed to give land to Arafat? Why weren't the Arab nations willing to share some desert? Where were Lebanon and Syria? Or Jordan and Egypt?

Maybe they didn't see Arafat as the committed peacemaker he claims to be.

It turns out that Arafat's peace with Israel is only a luxury enjoyed by himself. It seems he frequently uses his olive branch as a whip on the Palestinian people when he thinks no one is looking.

Apparently, Arafat now reigns over the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the same iron fist and corruption with which he led the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Not surprisingly, he doesn't like dissenters among "his" Palestinian people. He doesn't exactly encourage freedom of speech — in fact, speaking freely against the leader often results in a quick trip to prison.

Ever since gaining political authority over internal affairs in the West Bank and Gaza, Arafat and his motley crew of machine gun-toting police have had a nasty little habit of arbitrarily rounding up political opponents. Arafat's excuse was relayed through a spokesman who stated that the Palestinian Authority is "serious about implementing law and order." A little too serious, maybe?

Those accused of collaborating with Israel are severely beaten. The Palestinian Authority has ad-

mitted that two men have died while in custody. Who wants to bet the number is higher?

Rabbi Peter Tarlow of A&M Hillel characterized Arafat as a "dictator." He went on to add that "Arafat's terrorism is now against his own people."

So much for trips to the White House and the Nobel Peace Prize. It sounds like the terrorist-turned-dove is not as peaceful as we all thought.

With this in mind, should Israel shut the door on the Palestinian leader and kick him out of its backyard?

Absolutely not. With 90 percent of Israelis supporting the peace process, it is hardly in danger of collapsing.

But hopefully, Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu will force Arafat to reform his methods of rule in the West Bank and Gaza before continuing the peace process. The prime minister-to-be has already promised a hard-line approach with Arafat. Com-

pared to the Labor Party of the late Prime Minister Rabin and Prime Minister Peres, Netanyahu's conservative Likud Party is not likely to be as forgiving of Arafat's record.

To survive politically, Arafat will have no choice but to change his ways once and for all.

And when he does, the fragile region might finally know peace.

Michael Heinroth is a Class of '96 political science

THE BATTALION

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FACULTY INFIGHTING

Faculty members should stop behaving childishly in discussing changes to the Faculty Senate.

Although some degree of tension can be expected in any representative body, the recent behavior of current and former Faculty Senate members has been so childish, it has tarnished the credibility of the organization.

The bickering has surfaced over some proposed changes by physics professor Roland Allen to the Faculty Senate that would turn it into a Faculty Council. Allen, a former senator, recommends that representatives be elected over E-mail, the Senate be smaller and representatives serve one-year terms. The purpose of these and other suggestions is to make the body more representative and more responsive of the faculty.

Although these changes are small and deserve discussion, the hostility accompanying the proposals has cast doubt on the ability of those involved to discuss the ideas rationally.

For example, Allen's letter to Texas A&M President Ray Bowen, in which he proposes his ideas, complains *ad nauseum* about one vote on a gay and lesbian literature proposal, saying, "There is no more a 'gay and lesbian literature' than there is 'gay and lesbian electrical engineering.'" Allen uses this one instance as a primary example of why the Faculty Senate should be dissolved.

Although he says that "I should not get into a hissing contest with a skunk," Allen does his share of name-calling. In the letter, he accuses Faculty Senate members of being "political extremists" and the Senate's actions as being

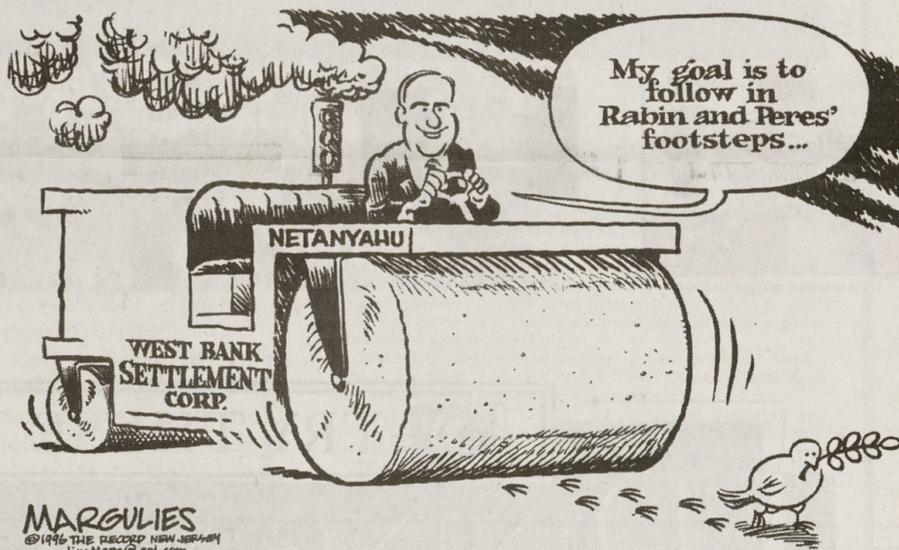
"ridiculous," "destructive," and "self-indulgent."

Still, some current senators have joined the mudslinging battle with Allen. Faculty Senate Speaker Steven Oberhelman likened Allen to "a young boy who loses in a game of marbles. Not only does the boy go home, he takes the marbles with him and doesn't want the other boys to have the opportunity to play the game either."

Although senators have the right to be perturbed with Allen's complaints, snide remarks do not contribute anything to the defense of the Senate's credibility. In fact, they only serve to enforce Allen's assertions that the Senate "accomplishes almost nothing for the faculty and this University."

Rather than quibbling with each other over whether the Faculty Senate is extreme, everyone should acknowledge that the Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty and that its decisions will not be popular with every faculty member. If someone has a problem with the way it works, he or she should work within the system to effect constructive changes. Suggestions to improve the Faculty Senate should be respected by everyone and not brushed off as sour grapes.

If Faculty Senate members cannot show respect for each other and other faculty members, then it doesn't matter whether it is a Faculty Senate or a Faculty Council. Whatever it's called, it won't deserve the respect of anyone.



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Community needs volunteer help

At one time or another, we have all served as volunteers. We are eager to "volunteer" our services when it comes to finishing off the last bottle of alcohol or giving notes to a person in our class we are trying to impress.



STEVEN GYESZLY
COLUMNIST

But mentioning the words community service and the first question asked is, "How many hours did the judge give you?" However, one should not look at community service as a sentence, but as an opportunity.

Volunteering isn't usually considered an integral part of college life. Yet Texas A&M and the surrounding community is our home for the next few years, so why not make it a better environment to live in? The need for volunteers is enormous, and the benefits are even greater.

Carolyn Krauss, Program Director of the RSVP Line, an organization that monitors and assists volunteering in the Brazos Valley, said over 4,000 hours of volunteer labor were performed in March. Unfortunately, a national study has determined that, on average, the need for volunteers is usually triple the amount actually received.

This means that in the Brazos Valley, 8,000 more hours of volunteering is needed. With over 40,000 students, it's easy to assume that someone else will fulfill this need — but waiting for someone else is what created this need in the first place.

Finding an organization that needs help is not a problem. In fact, with so many associations that need volunteers, the hard part is choosing just which one to join. With diverse organizations such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, Planned Parenthood and numerous groups that help the less fortunate, there is a group for everyone. Realize that volunteering should be enjoyable and beneficial at the same time, and look for an organization that will make you feel comfortable as well as helpful.

Because it is voluntary labor, charity organizations need people of all skill levels. This means that whether someone has the ability to change the world with one hand tied behind his back or if he is still attempting to master mere existence, he is equally welcome. Also, because the social ills of this world do not follow any master schedule, most volunteer groups are flexible enough to accommodate the schedule of anyone, even those who live and die by the day planner.

Just as the potential for volunteering is enormous, so are the rewards. A major benefit is

the sensation one receives from helping others. For those would-be volunteers who need more than a vague promise of that warm, fuzzy feeling deep inside, there are also substantial health benefits. In a recent medical study, results showed that a control group that volunteered 10 hours a week recorded a greater sense of self-worth, along with lower stress and blood pressure levels. Basically, that means that after volunteering for a short period of time, that healthy glow doesn't just come from the halo.

Anyone with a remote interest in the surrounding community should want to help out, because it can only serve to benefit both the volunteer and the area. As students, volunteering our time and services should be seen as an opportunity for us, as well as a way of helping our adopted home.

Luckily, Texas A&M has numerous institutions that are based on charitable intent. Whether it be an organization that informally helps a certain charity or an occasion devoted solely to community service, such as Big Event, the University provides a natural base of volunteering opportunities. And although volunteering isn't a course requirement, with all the opportunities to do so, the only way to avoid it is by really trying.

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