

Past differences put aside to defeat Clinton

Columnist



Sean McAllister
Senior accounting and finance major

As Bob Dole stood at the head of the Republican Party, he had a decision to make. The decision was not about pride and selfish ambitions; it was about victory. Across the battlefield there lay a self-claimed "bleeding conservative," the pioneer of "supply-side economics." His name, Dole and Kemp have been far from friends in the past, sharing some choice words. The two have disagreed on just about everything from their personal lives to economics. In March, Kemp even backed Steve Forbes, Dole's opponent in the race for the Republican nomination. Kemp didn't want to let go of Forbes' pro-growth agenda, a wing Dole had not yet reached. Amazingly enough, the two former enemies, Kemp and Dole, will pool their collective strengths as running mates in their quest for the White House. It is obvious that Dole dislikes his partner's theories on supply-side economics. In his own words, "There was a certain football player who forgot his helmet and then started talking supply-side theory." And how about Kemp on Dole's balanced budget approaches: "He never met a tax he didn't hike." So can the two find a common ground to agree on? It appears that Dole will likely take Kemp's plan to heart and incorporate lower taxes across the board in a desperate attempt to catch up to Clinton. Although Dole and Kemp have their differences, they are bound by a common desire to end the Clinton era. Dole's unexpected choice of Kemp shows his reasoning exceeds conventional wisdom. But who is the real leader of the party?



Officially it is Dole, but Kemp's optimism, ambition and leadership ability might bring the party full-circle. These attributes could prove to be the legs on which the Republican platform stands. Despite all the past negativity between these two, they compliment each other quite well. For example, Kemp, a native Californian, may be the perfect choice to help erase Dole's 25-point deficit in California polls. Quite popular with a large contingent of the Republican Party, Kemp uses his charisma to extend his merits even further. The GOP has also shown a weak following among women and minorities, a situation which will surely improve with Kemp's support for immigration, affirmative action and school and housing vouchers. Though many would have avoided con-

troversy by choosing a partner with similar theories, Dole did not. His decision to choose someone despite past differences shows two things: Dole has the courage to make peace with the past and he has the vision to know what sacrifices it will take to win the presidency. Dole chose a man who will mirror himself and his views and will assuredly broaden the scope of the party. It is almost ironic that two men, seemingly enemies, may be the perfect compliment to one another. The way to victory, in a country of increasing diversity, is to appeal to the broadest sector of the public. In a game of opposites attract, the Republicans have done just that by broadening the appeal of their convictions.

EDITORIAL

THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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PALTRY PARKING

Parking permit cut-off benefits those who already purchased permits

While scouring the crowded parking lots, many Texas A&M students have found that their \$75 parking permits don't necessarily guarantee them a space. In an effort to ease this problem and avoid selling more parking permits than there are spaces, Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services put a two-week hold on the sale of commuter, resident and park-and-ride parking passes on Wednesday. Students waiting in line to purchase permits were annoyed to learn they would not be allowed to do so, and many voiced their complaints belligerently. The sparks that flew were simply a result of bad planning and a lack of communication between PTTS and students. Students who knew they would need a parking space should have bought a permit weeks ago instead of waiting. Unexpected changes such as this are one of the drawbacks of procrastination. Students should try to understand that PTTS is trying to prevent the oversale of the permits

that has caused past frustration. The people at PTTS should have realized that halting the sale of permits this soon would only cause complaints. PTTS should have provided some kind of advance warning that it intended to do this. Students should not be expected to quietly obey PTTS' every whim. Fortunately, there is an alternative — even though it will inconvenience students and cost them even more money. Students turned down for a parking permit can buy bus passes and leave their cars off campus. Now that permits are no longer being sold, buses are the best solution. Busing alleviates on-campus congestion — especially since construction has led to the closure of many streets. Because a major part of PTTS' job is ticketing illegally parked cars, many students have developed quite a hatred for the organization and its officers. Students should understand that this latest conflict was only caused by PTTS' efforts to correct its past mistakes.

U.S. bullying continues in Iraq

Columnist

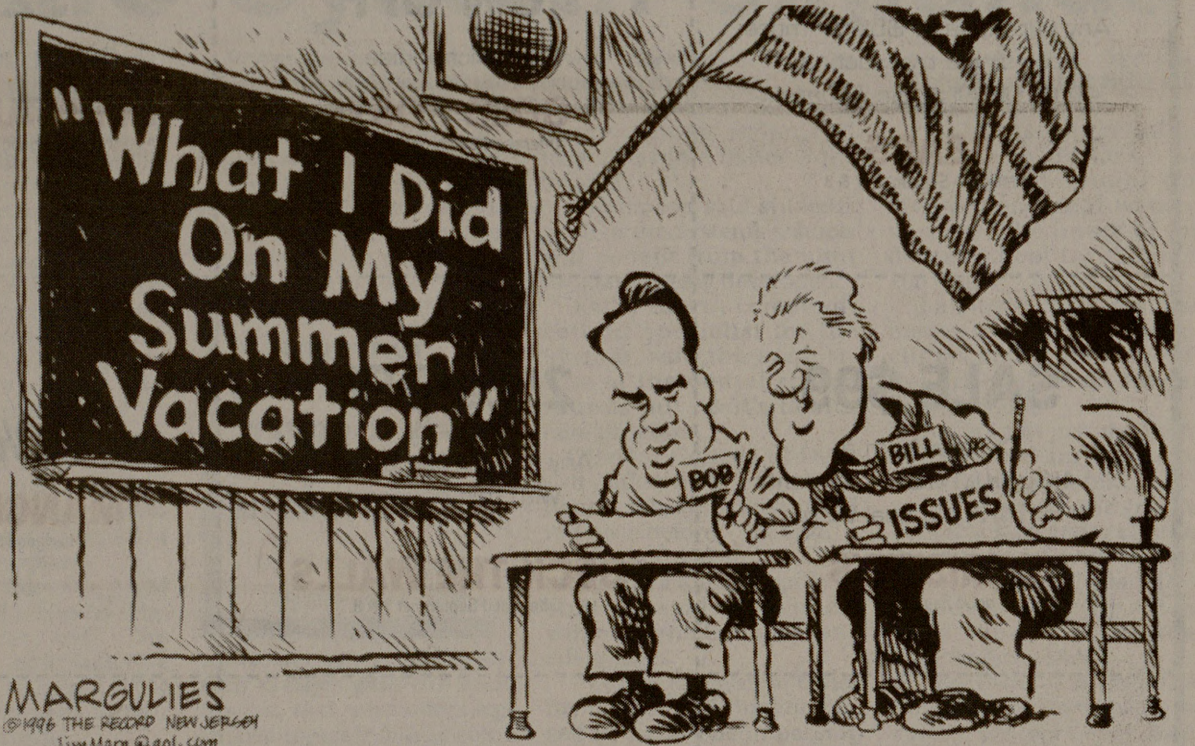


Jeremy Valdez
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Air defense facilities in southern Iraq were obliterated by 44 American cruise missiles early in the week. The warheads destroyed not only the enemy targets, but the notion that the United States has any diplomatic handle on the messy aftermath of the Gulf War. Sadly, the scarce control we do have pours from the barrel of a gun. Iraq's part in creating the present conflict is obvious. The Iraqi military has made ab animals of the Kurdish people by testing chemical weapons on their villages. Iraq has invaded Kuwait in an attempt to control disputed territory and its rich oil reserves. After losing the Gulf War, Iraqi compliance with the terms of the cease fire has been spotty at best. Iraq has detained and otherwise hindered United Nations investigators. And now, Iraq has allied itself with a Kurdish faction so that it might have an excuse to enter Kurdish territory in violation of the Gulf War cease-fire agreement. But the United States has

worked hard over the past five years to set the stage for the foreign policy fiasco we see before us. By using the U.N. to try to legitimize our military response to the invasion of Kuwait, we made a mockery of it, turning it into a tool of U.S. foreign policy. In the past, both the Bush and Clinton administrations have acted shocked and confused by Saddam Hussein's arrogant defiance of the terms of the U.N. peace agreement. But no one ever stopped to ask if we would obey the commands of an organization that was so clearly the hand puppet of a foreign power. What makes our manipulation of the U.N. ridiculous is the fact that our maneuvering was so unnecessary. Our actions were justified purely from the fact that we are dependent on Middle Eastern oil reserves. But now the latest missile attacks have been billed as a punishment for Iraqi violation of the Kurdish safe area surrounding the northern city of Irbil. The Kurdish people are an ethnic minority inhabiting a mountainous area that crosses

the borders between northern Iraq, northwestern Iran and Turkey. Of the nearly 20 million Kurds living in the zone, just over three million are within the Iraqi political border. After the Gulf War, the U.S.-led allies pooled their influence to force the U.N. to establish a safe area for the Kurds. These new havens have been protected by the formation of no-fly zones that are clearly an affront to Iraqi sovereignty. During the Gulf War, President Bush and the U.S.-led coalition enjoyed some support from Arab league members who didn't want to be next on Hussein's invasion list. Now Clinton's latest action gets quiet support only from Britain and Germany. This is because the Arab world sees the Kurdish conflict as an internal problem for Iraq. How hypocritical does the world find our actions? We claim to crusade for the Kurds in the historical shadow of the conquest of our own Native American peoples. The only reason for us to strike against Iraq is to maintain a steady flow of oil from the Middle East. Protection of the Kurds is a noble goal, but it is not our fight, it is theirs.



MARGULIES
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Congress avoids real answers with minimum wage increase

Everyone has been asked, "What did you do over the summer break?" If only I could say that I was the guy who dressed up as a giant cigarette, followed Bob Dole around the country and heckled him at every campaign stop. Or that I declared my back yard a sovereign nation and defended my borders against foreign aggressors. Instead, I tell the truth and admit I stayed home to work at a theme park for minimum wage. Minimum wage jobs are important — if only they fulfilled a higher purpose than schlepping stuffed animals to bratty kids. Unfortunately, if such jobs expanded our knowledge of the universe, everyone would want one, and then who would be left to oppress the underpaid? The skill level of my job (non-existent) afforded my co-workers and me with much free time to ponder life's perplexities — mostly why the supervisors were such jerks, why the guests were so stu-

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Patrick Smiley
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pid and why anyone would want to work there in the first place. One day, a hint of excitement filled the air ... Congress was raising the minimum wage by almost a dollar. At that point I realized one of the classic truisms of the United States: Americans hate to work, but they love money; therefore, they must work. To balance the need for money and work, Americans look to the classic art of complaining. And kids who work at theme parks for minimum wage are awfully good at complaining. But no one griped that day, so I took it upon myself to enlighten my co-workers, trying to explain to them that the government was pulling a fast one. Democrats in Congress backed the increase because they wanted to champion the lower class, while Republicans went along with it for similar reasons, contrary to their customary role as protectors of business interests. Congress and businesses alike know that inflation will

eventually negate increases in the minimum wage. Most people earning minimum wage fail to see the increase for what it was: an election-year ploy to draw more support from the untapped pool of lower-class, under-educated voters. My co-workers were merely happy with more money and told me to shut up. Congress rediscovered something my bosses have yet to figure out: The way to shut up whiny workers is to give them more money. Initially, minimum wage earners will find an increase in their buying power. But as the demand for goods increases, price increases usually follow. Congress would get greater returns from its efforts by implementing job training programs and providing greater educational opportunities. This would provide benefits far above those created by increasing wages for those toiling away at minimum wage jobs. These problems will continue to plague us into the next millennium as long as quick-fix solutions are all the government is willing to produce.



MAIL CALL

WTAMU does not in Aggie make

A few years ago, West Texas State University was adopted by the Texas A&M University System and became West Texas A&M University (WTAMU). This seems to have led to a misunderstanding among some of the students who attend WTAMU. A recent incident occurred when my girlfriend and I attended a play in the Texas Panhandle. Before the play, one of the hosts came on stage to welcome those attending and asked how many Aggies were in the audience. Myself and a few others responded

by whooping. After the play was over, I noticed this gentleman's picture was from WTAMU in Canyon. I have also experienced another scenario related to this misunderstanding. When I tell friends and acquaintances that I am a student at Texas A&M, they always assume that I mean West Texas A&M. I always have to clarify this by adding the words "in College Station." I have also been told that a couple of years ago, representatives from WTAMU asked the Association of Former Students if Aggie Rings could be made available for WTAMU students.

Gene Medlock
Class of '96

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