

Arabs, not Israel, should pick up the slack

Once again, the "land of milk and honey" has been doused with blood. Violence broke out in Palestinian sectors of Israel after an archeological tunnel near an Islamic holy site in Jerusalem was re-opened last week.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat used the decision by the Israeli government as an excuse to renew hostilities. Rocks were thrown, and gunfire was exchanged. By week's end, at least 70 Israelis and Palestinians were dead in the streets.

Israel should take note of Arafat's outrageous act and redirect the course of any further peace negotiations. It is the Arab states, not Israel, that should provide a home-land for the landless Palestinians. Jews waited too long for the return to their own homeland to reach it dismantled through misguided diplomatic efforts.

TV continues to miss the mark

No matter how advanced your remote control, only a certain level of happiness can be reached by changing channels.

And when the reason for changing the channel faster than Clinton changes his uniform is because of offensive storylines, viewers should utilize another modern American invention — the telephone — to let local stations know that they demand a higher level of quality.



Battalion provides fresh voice for A&M
 Regarding Patrick Smiley's Oct. 2 column, "Traditions traditionally perpetuate stupidity": The Battalion should be commended for its consistent hiring of open-minded columnists who are



Minister Rabin. The terrorist returned to Washington, D.C., late last week to negotiate an end to the recent violence. The meetings were unproductive, but before leaving, Arafat turned and saluted the President. Without hesitation, Clinton returned the gesture. Courteous diplomacy is one matter, Mr. President — saluting a terrorist is another.

Why must Israel relinquish its own territories to serve as the sacrificial lamb?

The Jewish state's internal security should not be undermined and its future put in jeopardy to appease the desires of Islamic fundamentalists. It is no secret that neighboring Arab states, namely Jordan and

Syria, sponsored much of the terrorism conducted by the PLO. Should these countries not bear the burden of creating a new Palestinian state for their Arab brothers? The answer is simple: yes. Syria's King Assad and Jordan's King Hussein both have enough money to construct a Palestinian homeland within their own borders with vast revenues from oil exports. In addition, they reign over countless square miles of sparsely populated land just east of Israel's crowded settlements.

People want producers to be nicer in their storylines, and some are already listening.

The case used to be that the trashier shows got the higher ratings due to the "shock factor." But ironically, this same shock factor could encourage networks to run shows or movies that were based more on traditional values.

Granted, some of these shows may not suit our particular tastes, but their overriding success has been based on the fact that they create suspense on how values like faith or integrity will pull someone through a situation, rather than how a flawlessly beautiful teenager is going to keep secret her affair with her best friend's boyfriend.

Television can be a useful tool for education and entertainment. But when it becomes difficult to find a movie or sitcom that you can enjoy without having to cringe five times before the first commercial break, it is time not to turn the television off, but to turn on the heat to those who are responsible for the offensiveness.

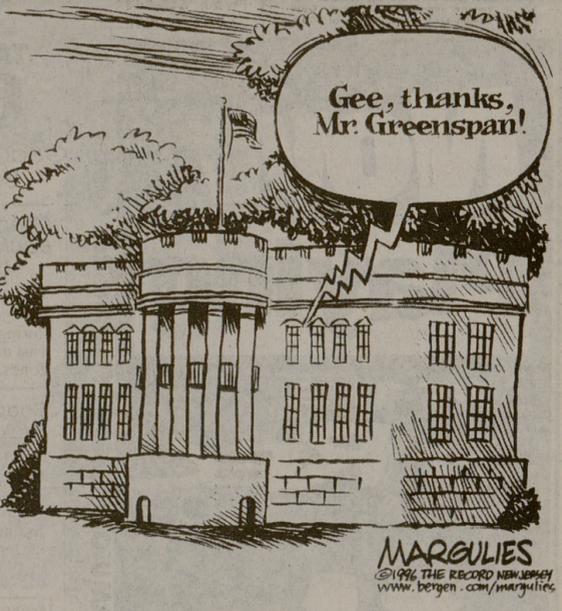
MAIL CALL
 The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and phone number.



Flying on a wing and a prayer

Fellow Americans: The recent flight tragedies of ValuJet and TWA have made it apparent that the entire airline business needs to be reexamined.

Look at the animals that do fly: birds, bats and insects. None of these has a brain larger than a human thumb, so each can only have a few thoughts. Consider the life of a bird: Flap wings. Flap wings. Flap wings. Stop. Eat. Eat. Eat. Flap wings. Flap wings.



DESERVING DECISION

Former regent Ross Margraves deserves Friday's guilty verdict.

Justice has been served, although former regent Ross Margraves would beg to differ. Margraves was convicted Friday for abusing the use of Texas A&M's airplane.

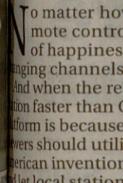
Placed on four months probation, Margraves faces the loss of his law license and plans to appeal his conviction. How Margraves could possibly hope to continue practicing law in the face of his blatant abuse of the law, though, is a question that is simply unanswerable.

The undying spirit and overanalytical mind of man does not allow him to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, such as gliding through the air. Instead of enjoying the fruits of his labor, man consistently believes the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, so he continues to search for a greater rush of adrenaline by pushing the limits of what humans are capable.

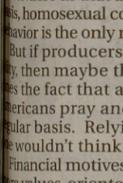
That is why the United States needs a law that will prohibit air travel within its national borders. We cannot prevent other countries from acting with such reckless abandonment for human safety, but we can save human lives of United States citizens. Support the United States and the hope that we can get this country back to where it was meant to be — firmly on the ground. God bless you and God bless America.



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EDITORIAL

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