

**British arrogance results in Irish pain**

The line of peace has been drawn on Irish soil. The time is now for the past to be dealt with and for peace to evolve in its place. Last Thursday marked the 25th anniversary of the infamous Bloody Sunday killings in Derry, Ireland. This solemn occasion came and went, but the British government failed to take the opportunity to begin the process of healing the rift in Northern Ireland.

Opinion Editor



Alex Walters  
Senior Journalism major

lice force terrorizing the populace. The British have stalled the peace process and frustrated the citizens of Ulster by refusing to recognize Sinn Fein (the political arm of the IRA). Yet, they openly accept and privately condone the Ulster Volunteer Force (the Protestant counterpart to the IRA). They have done this despite the fact the IRA put down their weapons in a year-long cease fire.

For 25 years of recent history, and thousands of years before, those representing the crown of the United Kingdom have murdered their Irish subjects, pillaged sovereign and sacred Irish land, and raped the collective spirit of the ancient Celtic tribes. Time and time again, the British have kept a stiff upper lip. By doing so, they have paralyzed the open dialogue necessary for peace. The Anglo tradition of stewing quietly while time dulls the pain of mistakes is outdated and foolish.

The solution for Northern Ireland is simple, though near impossible, because it involves a humble attitude on both sides of the Irish Sea. The British must admit they are ultimately to blame for the violence which claimed the lives of more than 3,000 Irish men, women and children. This is not including countless subjects of the United Kingdom.

The following is a partial list of crimes the British have committed against Irish humanity in recent history: During the late 19th century, just before the start of World War I, the crown sponsored and offered protection to Protestant gun-running efforts. (Arms were and are illegal in Northern Ireland.) After putting down the Easter Rising in 1916, Irish revolutionaries were brutally executed, medieval style, in public arenas. This occurred, despite the fact these revolutionaries had neither injured nor killed anyone.

Soon peace became stagnate because British overlords, led by Prime Minister John Major, sat on their hands and placed ridiculous demands on Sinn Fein — demands which did not apply to the UVE. When the IRA sat still, kept their peace and waited for the British, nothing happened. When they raised arms, shouted and acted out of rage, at least then they were recognized.

The British have forced a state of Martial Law on Northern Ireland since 1972, complete with armed paratroopers marching the streets and an openly corrupt police force.

Now, the situation remains as it has been since 1972. The ball is in the British court. It would be quite a start if they recognize Catholics as humans instead of chattel.

The British have forced a state of Martial Law on Northern Ireland since 1972, complete with armed paratroopers marching the streets and an openly corrupt police force.

If the British were to ask for another cease-fire from the IRA, they would get it if genuinely serious about peace. The British should pull the troops out in return for a renewed cease-fire, and make seats for Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness (the executive officers of Sinn Fein) at the peace table.

Twenty-five years is long enough.

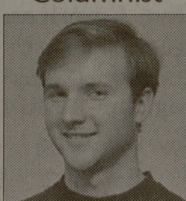
Then and only then will the wheels of peace begin to turn.

**Wicked web of porn**

*Internet overrun with pornographic images*

Pornography has repeatedly hidden behind a warped interpretation of the First Amendment. But what disturbs me is part of my tuition is being used by others to satisfy their addiction.

Columnist



Robby Ray  
Junior speech Communications major

As we all know, pornography is big business in this country. Even movies about the pornographers themselves are best-sellers. The Internet is no exception. There is no shortage of pornography online, despite the wealth of data showing it is dangerous and linked to rape and violent crime.

In an 18-month study, researchers at Carnegie Mellon found 917,410 pictures, stories and clips in Usenet newsgroups on the Internet. Over 80 percent of the pictures on these newsgroups were pornographic. The majority of the images involved pedophilia, bestiality, sadomasochism and other "hard core" subjects.

A quick look at computer usage statistics for the tam2000 web server, provided free of charge to students by Texas A&M University, found two of the top-five student web pages accessed in a 24-hour period contained pornographic material. This accounted for over 14 percent of total hits on student web pages. Incidentally, the top site, while not porno-

graphic, contained hundreds of pictures of popular film sex symbols. Moreover, there are 4,838 newsgroups (internet servers that aide in the compilation of data) in the A&M computer system. Of these, at least 61 are unquestionably pornographic. This 1.2

percent are pornographic. This means if the trend continues, the overall percentage will increase as well.

I know some of you are going to tell me I have no right to tell you what to put on your own web pages, but the point is: my computer access fee is having to pay for others to post things which I find distasteful, and which have been shown to be damaging to society.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly

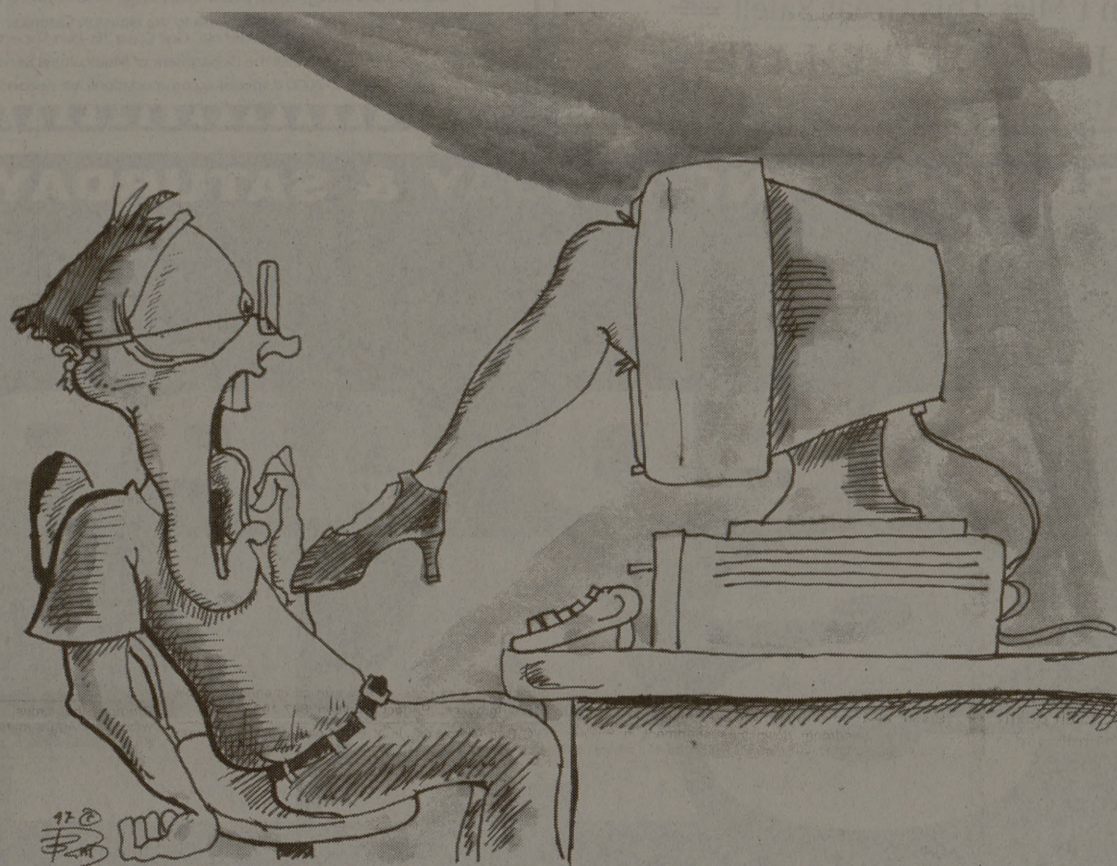
estimated in sexuality, depict or describe in an offensive way conduct specified by law, and lack serious artistic, political or scientific value. The Court also ruled even if the material is only made available to "consenting adults," it is not immune from the law.

The day before his execution for multiple sex crimes, Ted Bundy was interviewed by psychologist Dr. James Dobson. Bundy claimed his addiction to pornography fu-

involved in pornography." Studies have shown rape rates are highest in those states with high sales of pornographic magazines and lax enforcement of anti-pornography laws, with 86 percent of rapists admitting to regular usage of pornography.

Pornography advocates like to use Denmark as an example of how legal and easily obtainable pornography can be used as a "safety valve" to vent sexual frustration and reduce sex crimes.

But the 1977 Statistical Yearbook of Denmark, published one decade after pornography was legalized there, showed a 300 percent increase of forcible rape, a 300 percent increase of venereal disease and an illegitimate birth-rate of over 200 percent. I'm glad my car doesn't have this kind of safety valve. It's time we get to the bottom of all this. Despite what the courts say, pornography is a profitable business in which there will always be someone to distribute it. No amount of legislation will be able to keep it off the Internet, but steps can be taken to ensure those who disapprove don't have to pay for habits of others. I don't mind if you smoke, but don't ask me to pay for your cigarettes.



**Student Senate attempts restructuring**

*After years of inept operation, Senate makes a strike at real power*

The Student Senate has finally done something. No, it is not April Fool's Day, and this isn't just another column bashing the Senate.

Columnist



Heather Pace  
Sophomore English major

Considered by many to be the laughingstock of campus, the Senate proposed several suggestions last Wednesday to increase its power and improve its reputation. It might have taken the Senate two years to realize this, but if its ideas are enacted sometime before the completion of Reed Arena, the Senate might actually gain the respect of the student body and increase its power.

an important role in the community through co-programming and sponsorship of various committees such as United Way and Muster. As to representing the student body, though, the Senate has yet to come to a consensus on anything substantial.

Although suggestions such as electing the vice-president and making the judicial branch more involved will not be considered until after this year's Senate elections, the Senate will examine the possibility of realigning the student service fee allocation. The Senate will also consider eliminating redundant Senate seats.

Short of Bowen handing the reins over to Student Government Association, SGA will remain nothing more than the weak voice of the student body.

Whether change is implemented or not, the Senate should first take a serious look at its internal workings.

Because this responsibility seems to be lost in the woodwork of countless bills and endless meetings, here are a few simple suggestions nowhere near as difficult as the Senate coming to a consensus on anything.

Although many senators tirelessly devote time improving Texas A&M by proposing many new ideas, few are agreed upon. Even fewer are implemented.

First, the Senate might consider inviting Amy Vanderbilt to a Senate workshop on good manners.

Unfortunately, there isn't too much the Senate can do in regard to changing actual policy because Texas A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen ignores everything it does.

At one Senate meeting last spring, one senator was practically laughed off the floor after suggesting the railroad alongside Wellborn be rerouted to avoid West Campus. Whether or not this proposal was realistic, the senator deserved a little common courtesy.

"We want to use this as a tool for having student senate legislation implemented and seeing that the students best interests are served," Reed said.

Second, the Senate could stop acting like the clique everyone despised in high school. Even when those who are an integral part of the clique aren't reelected, they are promptly appointed back into the clan.

be a reason. Third, the Senate needs to start concentrating on what it is supposed to do — represent student opinion.

The yell leader referendum issue has made it perfectly clear many senators do not believe it is in the best interests of the school to represent the student body's opinion, instead preferring to force their own beliefs on Texas A&M.

The proposals suggested by Reed should change this by increasing student representation, maybe convincing the senators that the students aren't as dumb as some are convinced.

"We want to shift the burden to the academic colleges because the constituency is distinct and use these effectively to get all the student organizations involved," Reed said.

These proposals will enable the Senate to reach out to those students who simply do not care if the Senate passes the "Winter Spirit of Aggieland" bill to turn campus into a winter wonderland.

Student Body President Carl Baggett cautioned the proposals should be studied carefully to ensure they really will benefit the students.

Baggett believes in setting practical goals. "I think proposals and ideas that try to increase the representation of students are great and necessary... but we really need to look at them and make sure they do increase the representation of students," Baggett said.

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cent are pornographic. This means if the trend continues, the overall percentage will increase as well.

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MAIL CALL

**Readers offer advice to insulted student**

Regarding Kevin Barrios' February 4th letter: "Racist remarks alienate student"

come Aggies, to identify with the spirit that allows us to forge ahead despite adversity, before they decide that they don't want to be an Aggie.

Chris Huffines  
Class of '00

A&M is a major university in the southern part of the United States. You know, the part that succeeded over the enslavement of a minority and later (about 30 years ago) had federal troops wandering around to enforce integration, among the rest of the Civil Rights movement. To say that a fair amount of, to put it euphemistically, discriminatory feelings towards minorities are still floating around is repeating the blatantly obvious. Let's face the facts, in College Station there are idiots out there who will yell things like "F\*cking F\*ggot Chink."

When people act the way certain people leaning out of car windows did to you, it is easy to be discouraged. I am not an acclaimed sociologist, but I have a theory. I feel as though people are afraid of what they do not understand. Also, ignorance is so easy to inherit, it makes hatred spread like wildfire.

To be perfectly honest, I have been called a F\*cking Q\*eer (Sorry, but I'm not.), even though I got yelled at on Wellborn, not University. Instead of condemning Aggies based on the actions of a few misguided (dare I repeat myself) idiots, I simply blew them off and continued on with my life. A true Aggie would not let a single incident cow him, would not simply fold under the pressure from a pair of no doubt drunken bigots. A real Aggie would have squared his shoulders and proven, through his actions, how wrong a pair of idiots can be.

Kevin, you were correct in refraining to return the racist, hateful and cowardly comments of those people on University Drive. You are wrong, however, to say that you are not an Aggie.

I challenge Mr. Barrios and those who identify with him to actually be-

Kevin, times and people change. Texas A&M is not a racist organization. More and more people from around the world are coming here every year. Change is often not easy to take. As people who are not used to seeing change are surrounded by it, they may lash out in fear, hatred or ignorance. These are emotions people who are weak resort to, because they are easier to come by.

Kevin, you are an Aggie. Please help those who are weak to be strong.

Chuck Konderla  
Class of '95