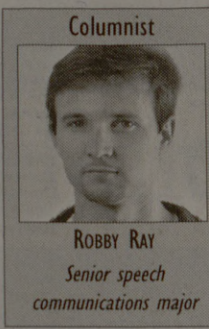


# Six days of battle

## Historical war sets backdrop for future relations

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Six-Day War. For those who flunked history in the Middle East, the Six-Day War was the war in which Israel defeated the combined forces of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, in the process capturing the land known as the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula. The conflict over this territory embroiled the Middle East and caused numerous deaths of people on both sides. This anniversary caused those on both sides to reflect on the nearly fifty years of conflict and war. For America's part, it is time to re-examine our policies and purposes for the region.



Columnist  
ROBBY RAY  
Senior speech communications major

First, a little background. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 pledged "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people." This marked the first time that a political entity known as Palestine had ever existed. Palestine was divided into East and West, with the eastern half mostly reserved for the Jews. In 1948, the United Nations partitioned the region again and created the state of Israel. All of the Arab members of the UN voted against the resolution and then declared it invalid when it was adopted. The day Israel declared its independence, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq all invaded the new nation, with the battle cry "Murder the Jews! Murder them all!" stated publicly by the Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Al Hussein. Israel was able to withstand this attack, and an armistice was signed in 1949.

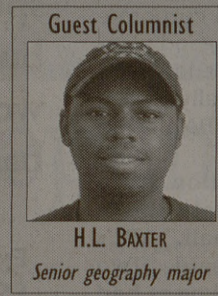
In 1967, the Arab nations again appeared to be preparing for war. In May, they signed a mutual defense pact. President Nasser of Egypt said of the developments, "Our basic goal is the destruction of Israel." Faced with such provocation, the Israelis preemptively attacked the Arabs, in the process capturing much strategic territory. Some of this land has since been traded back for peace treaties, and much of the remainder is still in dispute. The internationally recognized government-in-exile for the Palestinians is the Palestine Liberation Organization, founded in 1964 and led by Yasir Arafat since 1968. The PLO is a terrorist organization, responsible for countless deaths through the years, and has never renounced violence as a method of influencing policy.

When governments negotiate with terrorists, it sets a dangerous precedent. The ongoing trial of Timothy McVeigh has reminded Americans that we are not immune to the specter of terrorism just because we live an ocean away from where it is most common. Terrorist groups have tried to organize in the United States before, but law enforcement has been particularly ruthless in hunting them down. In the last few years, however, a growing number of paramilitary groups have sprung up. These groups are well armed and have the entire published history of world terrorism from which to learn. By treating terrorists as equals with nations, we signal that violence is a legitimate way to influence government policy. Israel has longstanding international legitimacy that the Arabs deny.

The U.S. needs a strong Israel in the Middle East as an ally and a stabilizing influence, but is forcing them into an indefensible position where Israel's only option to avoid annihilation could be to launch a nuclear strike. Both Israeli and American military studies have shown Israel's pre-1967 boundaries are not sufficient to provide an adequate defense in the event of another concerted attack. Israel has long been rumored to possess nuclear capability, and many analysts claim that in the event of a stalemated war, the Israeli military would not hesitate to go nuclear. Add to this the fact that several Arab states have chemical weapons and the ability and will to use them — it is a dangerous situation, indeed.

# Sexuality differs as the tides turn

Spring, 8:45 a.m. Barometric pressure falling. Expect scattered showers.



Guest Columnist  
H.L. BAXTER  
Senior geography major

The SEEBING Environmentally-Sanitized Artificial Womb, also known as SEESAW, successfully birthed its first human yesterday in Harlingen, Texas. Doctors say the newborn is in perfect health.

Such encouraging news is rare in the overcrowded Rio Grande Valley, an area known for its pollution and sickly population.

News of the birth is not so encouraging to The Arrow Group, the heterosexual political group. Since the invention of SEESAW ten years ago, The Arrow Group has maintained that the device will further lessen the status of heterosexual relations. "Though we often engage in sexual intercourse for pleasure, we also practice heterosexuality to preserve our species," an Arrow Group member said. "SEESAW devalues our sexual orientation, because now a machine can do better than we've been doing forever."

Glenn Sebring, inventor of SEESAW, downplayed The Arrow Group's concerns. He said yesterday's success "cleans the tarnished slate of past reproductive practices." He added, "Arrow doesn't comprehend that increased population will kill not only our species, but also the planet."

Chris, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, appears to echo Sebring's sentiments. During their semi-annual convention, most prophets suggested that Chris advocates reductions in the human population.

"Chris told me that all of these things are happening for a reason: the hurricanes, SEESAW, the Sahara-Kalahari Merge in Africa," said one prophet. "These are signs just like the locust plagues and famines in biblical times."

Summer, 2:30 p.m. Mercury rising. Hot and humid.

The heterosexuals have taken to the streets. Spearheading protests nationwide, The Arrow Group is demanding the right to unprotected heterosexual relations. "The government is not in the bedrooms of homosexual couples; why should they be in mine?" asked one Shreveport protester.

The Arrow Group claims heterosexuals have been dehumanized since the passing of the SEESAW Act. According to the act, new humans can only be birthed via in vitro fertilization and SEESAW.

President Jonathan Searcy addressed the issue in a press conference this morning. Although sympathetic to heterosexual concerns, the president said, "heterosexuals are directly responsible for America's environmental crises." He added that heterosexuals

ual relations endanger the planet, and that we must not lose sight of the "greater good" of environmental prosperity.

Summer, 5:31 p.m. Mercury plummeting. Hurricane warning.

We hope electricity has been restored to your area of the country. With your new lights, we hope you

can see us again. The current death toll from this hurricane is around 250,000. Higher death tolls are expected as the storm moves west across the country. Scientists expect global warming to decrease steadily with the high death tolls during this hurricane season.

"Global warming increases with population, so population decrease will procure global cooling — and hurricanes of less ferocity," says Wally Walliker of the National Weather Service.

In other news, prophets concluded their semi-annual convention in Denver yesterday. Most prophets said Chris allowed this deadly hurricane to "help man." Four prophets disagreed, citing Chris' decision stemmed from "anger at humankind's decisions."

"Chris shows us the paths and suggests through The Word which path to take," said one Sunset, Utah, prophet. "But humans ultimately decide their fate. Chris suggested we be fruitful and multiply," but our decisions from this suggestion got us in the predicament we're in now."

"Chris just wants our trust; Chris doesn't want us to trust in man," echoed an Arizona prophet. "Chris quoted a disciple at our last convention, Susan B. Anthony, 'I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires.'"

Also yesterday, the first generation of SEESAW kids graduated from high school. According to polls, about 86 percent of the 8,000 SEESAW kids will attend college this fall — most at the school a parent attended.

The polls also found 72 percent of the kids to be exclusively heterosexual, 28 percent bisexual, and five percent exclusively homosexual.

Autumn, 7:15 p.m. Barometer steady. Easy time.

It seems appropriate to report weather first; our daily lives depend on it. Weather determines our wardrobes, our moods, our activities, our movements, how we see each other. Weather is elemental.

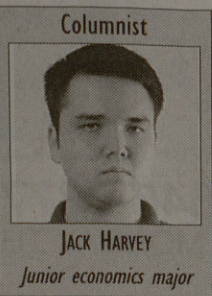
Thirty years of weather data constitute climate. Climate determines our environment, and humans inhabit an array of environments: from the bitterness of the tundra, through the oppression of the desert, to the purity of the rain forest.

How we see these environments changes with time — as do climates — as does weather — as does life.



# Library rules fall short on book returns

Walter C. Evans Library is a wonderful place to absorb information at Texas A&M University, and with the impending graduation, it promises to get better. Many students, however, are frustrated in their quest for knowledge and this all too familiar word on the electronic catalog: overdue. Library patrons check out materials they urgently need, use them for all their worth and then



Columnist  
JACK HARVEY  
Junior economics major

are due, at which time students are billed for the cost of the materials plus a \$10 processing fee. This charge is attached to their fee statement, and the students become blocked from registering.

Instead of reverting to Draconian measures after half a year, officials should impose a fine when materials are due. Students, being well-known procrastinators, are more likely to wait if they know punishment for their inaction may never materialize. With a progressive fine schedule, beginning at the due date, punishment will be more closely related to the crime committed.

Parking, Transit, and Traffic Services, as much as it is reviled, is a good example of an entity on campus which knows how to use fines to get students to follow regulations. With swift and sure enforcement of exorbitant fines, any would-be violator would think twice about parking in a 30-minute spot for one iota longer than the allotted time. Conversely, with six months in which students are immune from serious action on

the part of Evans Library, books collect on dorm room floors.

Although it may be a sore point to bring up, the library at the University of Texas has greater book availability, largely through the miracle of fines. Much as our beloved PTTS stalk our parking lots several times a day, the quiet, demure, yet sadistic librarians at UT are merciless in fines for overdue materials. The result, according to their circulation department, is one of the highest book-availability rates in the nation.

Charlene Clark, public relations officer for the Evans library, said fines have been considered by the Book Availability Task force and will be implemented at some future time. This is a glimmer of hope that perhaps our University is not led by simpletons, but humans capable of learning and adaptation. A date or schedule of fines, however, was not mentioned.

This action is a little late, but maybe it will not be too little. Aggies, being smarter than Longhorns, will respond just as well if not better to fines. After all, preservation of precious party money is a talent all college students possess.

# Bad luck constitutes more than one day

Bad luck to be superstitious, so when Friday the 13th rolled around, I didn't expect a thing. In fact, this past Friday was a rather uneventful, prosaic kind of day. But as a new week began, no sooner could I prepare me for the events which would unfold. For the sake of gravity, I've restricted the incidents to four areas of lamentation: transportation, finances, relationships and pests.



Managing Editor  
HELEN CLANCY  
Senior English major

and the sudden absence of interior lighting were all tell-tale signs.

But I procrastinated, allowing the illness to progress into a serious case of *gonnacostyoutitis*. The patient has yet to be revived, due to a serious lack of funds.

**Finances**  
Almost all of my current financial woes are explained by the possession of one item: a really cool keyboard. This isn't an ordinary, plastic Toys R' Us playing thing — this is an instrument.

The 61 drum variations, dual voice options and automatic chord progressions are a pleasant distraction from the empty deposit column in my checkbook. Although I'm three months behind on my phone bill, I can perform a flawless rendition of the *Braveheart* theme song, bagpipes and all.

**Relationships**  
It might seem odd for a busy college student with a full-time job to spend hours tinkering

around on a keyboard, but since my boyfriend vanished into the rain forests of Central America, I have no choice.

Last week he departed with a group of anthropology majors from the University of Texas to work on excavations in Belize. Other than one cryptic phone call in which he said, "I can't tell you why," I haven't heard from him.

**Pests**  
I laughed out loud after reading the Dallas Morning News article about a woman who had an estimated 10,000 cockroaches cohabitating in her apartment. Then I noticed an oval shadow scurry across my carpet, vanishing into the depths of my dirty laundry — I lost my sense of humor.

Cockroaches are not funny. They hide behind garbage cans, retreat into the confines of silverware drawers and feed off old newspapers.

As I stormed out of my roach-infested quarters to invest in a can of Raid, I remembered my car was out of commission. Damn that car.

As I gave the old heap of metal one more try, I noticed something yellow peeking out from under my floor mat. Alas, it was a parking ticket I had forgotten to pay.

PTTS had finally caught on to my "Please don't ticket me — I'm buying a permit today" sign, which had been strategically placed on my dashboard for weeks. It was only a matter of time before my luck ran out.

And there were no black cats crossing my paths, no ominous ladders to walk under. I haven't broken a mirror in quite some time, and I never open an umbrella indoors.

It seems every day is a testament to life's unpredictability. Putting these incidents into perspective is one's only defense against bouts of bad luck, and no day is ever inherently "bad."

Through this ordeal I've saved a lot of gas money, escaped the reign of PTTS and memorized Mozart's "Rondo Alla Turca." But most importantly, I've learned how to exterminate cockroaches with oven cleaner.



## MAIL CALL

**'Stupid people' voice their opinions**  
In response to Kristina Buffin's June 17th column:

Buffin is not being tolerant of ignorant people. Does this not make her ignorant by her own definition? I am not a homophobe, but I believe homosexuality is wrong — this is my opinion. I served four-and-a-half years in the United States Army to earn the right to voice my opinion.

What has she done lately to earn the right to voice her opinion? Just because someone's opinion differs from hers, it doesn't mean they are ignorant, marxist or anything else for that matter.

It simply means they see things differently. Buffin's kind of narrow-minded ideology is

just the sort of thing which kept people such as Hitler in power. In other words she contradicts herself and is a hypocrite.

Allen Capps  
Class of '98

The University definitely needs a highfalutin' big-city girl such as yer own self to set the simple-minded country bumpkins straight in this here teeming metropolis. Yeehaw!

On a (slightly) more serious note, I offer Buffin one of my favorite quotes: "You know how dumb the average person is? Well, by definition, half of them are dumber than that." — J.R. "Bob" Dobbs

Bradley Peikert  
Graduate Student

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

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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