

EDITORIAL

THE BATTALION

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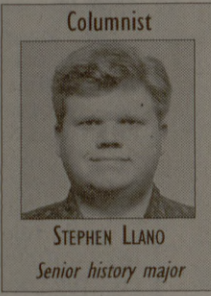
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A garden of Democrats

President Clinton plants seeds to survive his presidency

Many people regard insects, in general, as pretty disgusting. But to a gardener, the right insect released into a flower bed, at the right time, can help yield the exact blooms the gardener wants. Under the dissipating clouds of the GOP's heavy assault on accusations toward the White House, President Bill Clinton carefully selected his candidate to gain a maximum yield in a field of political land mines.



STEPHEN LLANO
Senior history major

made an analysis such as the previous one, miss the real questions surrounding Weld's nomination. Although important to recognize and cure any dissent within a political party, it isn't usually considered good to have an opposition party president try to demonstrate it for you.

Clinton reached across party lines to pick Weld for several different reasons. First and most obvious, is that Clinton believes Weld is the best choice and most qualified to become ambassador to Mexico. Traditionally, Clinton has stayed within party lines on big issues, including presidential appointments, and there is no reason to think that Weld's experience as governor would qualify him as ambassador material.

Secondly, many analysts feel that Clinton is paving the way for the up and coming young Kennedys, who have ruled some part of the country in some form or fashion for the better part of the century. This theory carries a lot of weight, due to the fast approaching governor elections in 1998, but the question of why Weld would quickly resign a Republican seat and leave it exposed to a possible left-wing victory remains unanswered. Although more open-minded than other Republicans, Weld is not a dissenter who would throw party seats in the air just to appease a Democratic president. Weld honestly believes his appointment as ambassador will do more good than another Republican governor.

Perhaps Clinton wanted to mend fissures with the Republicans by appointing a Republican he could agree with on some issues just to appease the conservative element in the Senate. But this theory is also flawed due to the better-than-average relationship developing between Republicans and Clinton. The recent balanced budget agreement is one example, and many people with an eye trained on Capitol Hill will remember the puzzled looks on

Americans' faces as Clinton, from day one in the Oval Office, seemed to lean a bit to the right on issues such as NAFTA and other foreign policy matters. On gun control and abortion, Clinton doesn't step outside of the pretty Democratic boundaries, and that might still be a sore spot with Republicans who he might need for the future of his own party.

Republicans are very anxious to see Clinton leave office. He has given them quite a run for their platform, although he did have some help from the occasional mistake. The Republicans have lost a lot of steam since the "Revolution of '94," as Newt Gingrich liked to call it. In 1998, voters will go to the polls to select representatives, and this is where Clinton has placed his bipartisan thinking.

The majority of Republicans who are still card-carrying members are a little frustrated right now. The party has been rendered somewhat inactive by a lack of self discussion on important issues. In the 1996 presidential race, Bob Dole attempted to start a much needed party-wide dialogue on abortion. The more reactionary conservatives quickly quieted that effort. This inaction or self-imposed silence only makes moderate Republicans look for alternatives. Weld wants to fight old thinking such as Helms', due to the stifling nature that lack of inter-party reasoning creates. And when there is a lack of progress, explosive results can occur.

Clinton selected Weld to woo Republican moderates toward the Democratic party from the tired and staunchly conservative views of the older regime, which have stopped the party from moving forward. Shifting the focus away from the campaign money trail cannot do anything but help not only the Democrats in 1998, but Al Gore in 2000. While Helms plays moralist, and Weld plays Don Quixote, Clinton is slowly, in beautiful political style, turning the garden of power politics in Washington into his concept of a very well-managed and beautiful garden, rosy for the Democrats' future.

MISSING THE TARGET

Disbanding of Fish Drill Team does not solve the mentality behind hazing

After months of ongoing hazing controversy, leaders within the Corps of Cadets seemed left with no other choice than to disband the Fish Drill Team.

This action was imminent, but Texas A&M and the Corps deserve a much better promise for reform than simply disbanding the team.

Targeting a single entity will not eradicate hazing in the Corps or other student organizations. Although this action will satisfy public demands on a superficial level, the root of the problem is not being addressed.

No isolated disciplinary action can change the mentality that hazing is a tradition in the Corps.

Too often cadets think, "Hazing is necessary in the Corps," or "I'll

never whine about hazing." This attitude is generations-strong and will not be changed overnight.

The disbanding may send a strong signal to those who perpetuate hazing but should not be hailed as a comprehensive solution.

Hazing charges by current and former cadets will persist whether or not the University acknowledges the problem is pervasive in the Corps and other student organizations.

Therefore, A&M officials must "suck it up" — as hazed cadets are no doubt ordered to do — and admit that hazing is an Aggie tradition. Such a token gesture such as disbanding the drill team acknowledges the problem but will not stand in the way of future violations.

Republicans suffer from inner-conflicts

Republican —

Schmapublican. No wonder the nation has chosen to allow the ultra-liberal Clinton-administration to have the type of control it has had over the last five years.

Detractors from the Democratic Party may say what they want about the president and the Democratic Party, but at least they seem to like one another and publicly express a willingness to work together. These people are admired by many for their steely nerve. They can lie to the American people at any turn and not feel a bit of remorse about doing so. They lie so well that they very rarely get caught — and when they are caught, they lie about being caught. These incidents are examples of politics, not governing, at its finest.

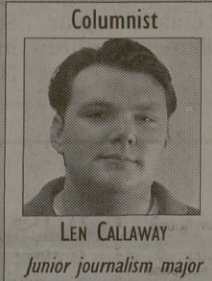
Due partly to his own deft communication skills and to the gullibility of the American people, Clinton is the best politician that America has seen in recent years.

The American people no longer seem to care about the personal endeavors of the president. They just seem to care about the job that the president is doing.

The presidency used to be a revered office and in administrations such as Eisenhower, Truman and Kennedy, the presidency was a regal position occupied by publicly perceived modern-day knights who would serve their country selflessly, and with true and decent ambition. The Watergate scandal and the subsequent resignation of President Nixon helped shed light on the fact that the presidency was not such a clean and pure office. People began to realize that everyone, especially the president, is susceptible to corruption. The presidency has lost some of its glitz and glamour.

People who have feverishly attacked Clinton's personal life seem to lose out in the press and the polls. The American people have become so liberal since the days of the Johnson and Nixon administrations that we no longer hold the president in a higher moral or ethical standard than the average citizen would be held, with the political climate of today, it may even be impossible to have an ethical leadership and still accomplish anything.

The recent behavior of the GOP is reminiscent of a bunch of whining, crying babies who have a disagreement over who is in charge while Mommy is at the store. Jenny Coleman, a sophomore industrial distribution major, said, "I find it hard to put a lot



LEN CALLAWAY
Junior journalism major

of stock into a bunch of men that can't even organize a decent coup."

The attempted mutiny inside the GOP against House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich can have no positive public effect on the party, but privately it could have exposed a rift among the leadership that is now out in the open, and cannot be reconciled.

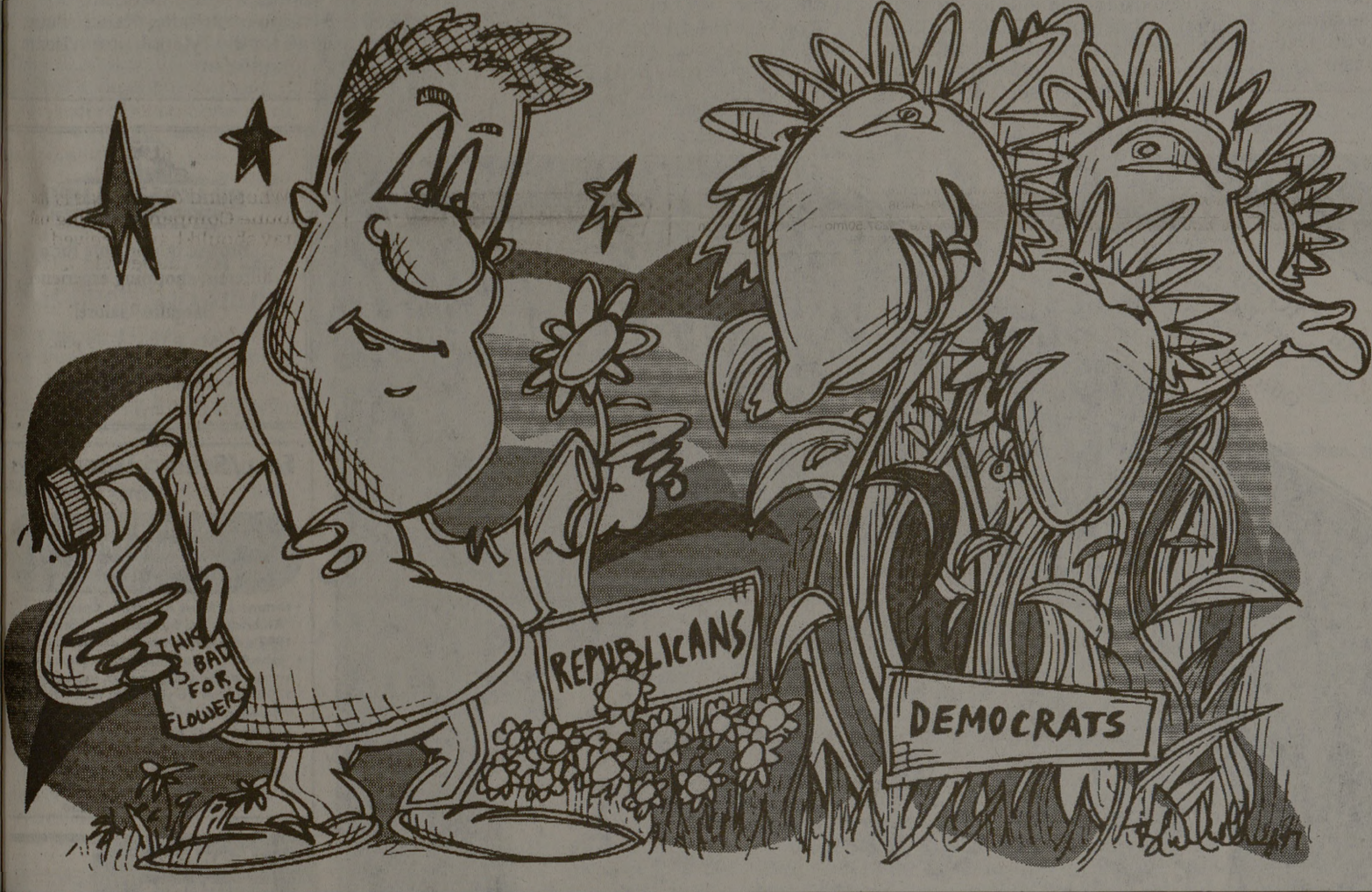
The Republican Party cannot expect to outshine or maneuver around the Democratic Party in any capacity until it learns a little teamwork. "Slick Willie's" band of ultra-liberal jackals are cleaning house right now because they have learned how to fake it for the cameras and papers. Since Clinton, no other president in history has had the number of serious character issues leveled against him and been able to maintain an approval rating in the high 50 percent region. People simply do not care what political problems he has encountered.

The GOP contradicts itself every time it has the chance. During the hearings on campaign finance this summer, the Republican members of the committee worked much of the time with a negative attitude and have shown themselves to be overzealous at times. Their intense scrutinization of Democratic Party fund raising has led to the same scrutinization of the Republican Party. It has even been discovered recently that the GOP has ties to Asian campaign money.

In order for the GOP to allow itself the opportunity to rise to power again in the years to come, it must drop the character assassination ploys and begin to deal with their constituents on a different level.

The Republican Party only has a few serious candidates that are politically clean enough to make a serious bid for the presidency in 2000. The public perception is that the Republican Party is up-tight and that its members want to hold President Clinton to a higher standard than they even hold themselves. Mike Carroll, a senior business management major, said, "It looks as if they cannot argue the issues on merit so they just go with the extraneous stuff."

The Republican Party definitely has enough talented leadership to make a huge difference in the years to "Election 2000" and could have a serious contender for the Presidency when the time arises. It must simply get its proverbial act together in the very near future or we will no doubt see another Democratic president.



MAIL CALL

MSC offers apology for advertisement

On Monday, August 4, an advertisement ran in The Battalion promoting MSC Open House. We regret that this advertisement is offensive to many individuals at Texas A&M and others within the Bryan/College Station community. It was not our intent to offend or degrade any individual or ethnic group. We acknowledge the advertisement was in extremely poor taste and apologize to all who were angered or hurt. Although we do not attempt to excuse this action, under standard organizational procedure, an advertisement of this nature would never have been approved. That is, publications undergo a thorough evaluation prior to printing to assure that the

intended message is clear, of high quality, and consistent with the goals of the Memorial Student Center.

In this instance, the ad was produced and submitted for printing without the benefit of this process.

We acknowledge and apologize for this mistake.

The advertisement in question does not represent or communicate the values of the Memorial Student Center.

Kyle Simson
Class of '98
Executive Vice President for Human Resources
48th MSC Council

Eddie Hoover
Class of '98
Director of Public Relations

Rachel Allen
Class of '99
Director of Publishing

MSC advertisement portrays racist A&M

It is a shame that a university that I refer to as my own could still wallow in the filth of racial ignorance. It is also a travesty that the printing of this advertisement was not halted by someone at The Battalion or the MSC.

The fact that orientation is occurring today only adds to the horror. How many parents of future students saw that picture? Be they black or not, this is not the picture you want to paint of the University.

I suppose African-Americans only are seen as entertainers and clowns by MSC Student Programs.

Please do not forget or ignore the fact that had it not been for African-Americans such as Sen. Matthew Gaines, there would be no Texas A&M University. Where is his statue?

Where is his plaque in the MSC honoring his sacrifice for the great "A&M College of Texas?" Instead, you close your eyes and allow ignorance to flow rampant through these hallowed halls.

Meanwhile, we have quietly gone to class and continued to achieve, but slowly we are being deliberately and categorically calculated out of the Aggie equation. Tradition is a word I hear a lot on this campus.

Obviously, history shows that African-Americans were not intended to be a tradition here. We were supposed to be out in the cotton fields of Prairie View.

Please think before you print.
Theodore J. Sanders
Class of '00
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Vice President

Astros fan tackles Houston bashing

In response to Travis Dabney's August 4 sports column:

Houston fans are fairly similar to any other fans in the world; they like a winner. They also like teams that have owners who go out of their way to produce a winner (see Les Alexander, the owner of the Houston Rockets).

What they don't like are teams that merely try to stay competitive (see Drayton McLane, the financially strapped owner of the Houston Astros), and they don't like owners who pick up and move to go and find Elvis (see Bud Adams, the new owner of the Tennessee Fiddlers).

Contrary to your article, Chicago doesn't pack Wrigley Field, Boston doesn't sell out Fenway Park and Denver doesn't sell out games for the Nuggets. The Rockets and the Astros aren't going anywhere, and in 10 to 15 years, Houston will have another NFL franchise. If Houston fans don't want to keep their teams, how do you explain the bond issue passing to build a new baseball stadium downtown? I drove for two hours and fought downtown traffic to go see the Astros lose last Friday against the Mets. Would you have stayed, Dabney? I doubt it. I doubt you'd even make the drive.

Scott Simonds
Class of '98