

Global warming threat requires immediate action

U.S. overseas action ignores local problems



BEVERLY MIRELES

There was a time when it seemed possible global warming was just an environmental horror story put together by left-wing liberal and anti-establishment alarmists. However, excessive global warming does in fact happen and will continue to happen as long as the masses treat the issue like some ridiculous hypothesis. The coming millennium seems those so-called "hippies" and "huggers" are somewhat under-appreciative for the help of modern science. With the help of modern science, theories on global warming have been indicated — and if their warnings are heeded — could prevent future atmospheric repercussions.

spread across the globe. To quote George Carlin, we "ran in, freed some people and whipped a little industry on them."

With all those new industrial plants pumping out chemicals for every conceivable product or its packaging, chemical pollutant levels in the atmosphere jumped drastically.

ments, cuing environmentalists around the world to react harshly.

Environmentalists have continued their crusade against pollution and global warming diligently in the last few decades, and public awareness has grown. However, the problem has not subsided. Most solutions have been thrown out the window in favor of short-term economic gains.

EDF research says one of the biggest contributors to global warming is the increase in human population and life-span over the last five decades.

Because there are so many humans on the planet, there is an increased need for land and land-based food subsistence through farming.

Most of the rain forests around the globe have been cut down in order to create more farmland. As the rainforests disappear, so does their power to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen.

Another nasty effect of overpopulation is an increase in methane levels due to cow herding.

It may sound bizarre, but because of the larger human population's demand for more beef, more cattle are raised for the slaughter. During their lifetime, those cattle produce lots of methane. Methane, whether it is produced by a cow or a chemical plant, is bad news for the atmosphere.

EDF points out the global temperature increase will be accompanied by a rise in water levels. If the temperature change is substantial enough to melt the polar ice caps, then flooding will occur. With flooding comes water contamination, and with contamination comes disease.

The potential dangers of ignoring the global warming threat run far deeper than a higher electric bill. This is why the problem demands attention now.

Until the public realizes global warming is a real problem with severe consequences like flooding, disease and lots of heat (think this summer, but for most of the year), then policy makers will ignore the problem as well.

There is no reason to wait until the problem becomes hazardous. Do something now by contacting your local policy makers and letting them feel the heat of your determination to solve this problem before we all feel the heat of our mistakes.

Beverly Mireles is a sophomore microbiology major.



JOSH MASKOW

With recent involvement in Kosovo, the United States continues its ill-advised pattern of legislating policy in foreign countries.

Kosovo is the sight of a conflict between Albanian rebels and their Serbian government, and in an attempt to keep Eastern Europe stable, the United States has once again decided to interfere in foreign politics.

The rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army are fighting to gain territorial independence from the Yugoslav government. A local matter has become an international fight because the United States is interested in maintaining peace in a potentially explosive region.

The American government is trying to force a peace agreement between the rebels and the Serbians by threatening force. However, this policy overlooks many essential facts.

American intervention will only encourage the KLA in their violent actions and widen the local conflict.

Far from bringing peace to a region with farcical peace accords, the threat of military force will only worsen the situation. What is now a local conflict could become a major international incident if America decides to use force against the Serbians.

By bolstering the dissident KLA, the United States sets the stage for a prolonged conflict that could have been resolved without direct intervention. An American show of force will light a match in the powder keg of Europe when the goal is to avoid explosive conflicts.

Military intervention only will set back any prospects of democratic reform in Yugoslavia. If the goal of manhandling Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is to destroy his tyrannical rule, it will be a failure.

By escalating the armed conflict by supporting a defiant side in the battle, America will only provoke more repressive measures by Milosevic and extend the conflict. The chances for democracy in Yugoslavia will be crushed as one repressive faction replaces another.

Even if the government is able to avoid furthering the violence in Yugoslavia, there is no assurance the militants will end their violent struggle for independence if a peace agreement is negotiated.

The KLA may decide it can win more concessions from the Serbian government with more violence. Bolstered by American intervention, they may continue their uprising and uproot more than the 250,000 current ethnic Albanian refugees.

These rebels are not interested in civilians or their lives. They want independence even if it means violence.

Additionally, the vague benefits of democracy and freedom do not justify the potential costs of American lives and defense spending.

If this attempt at containment and peace fails, then the United States will involve itself in yet another conflict overseas.

The threat of intervention may be met with more violence and threats of retaliation. A serious conflict could break out and waste American lives and money in yet another nebulous attempt to protect the "American way" abroad.

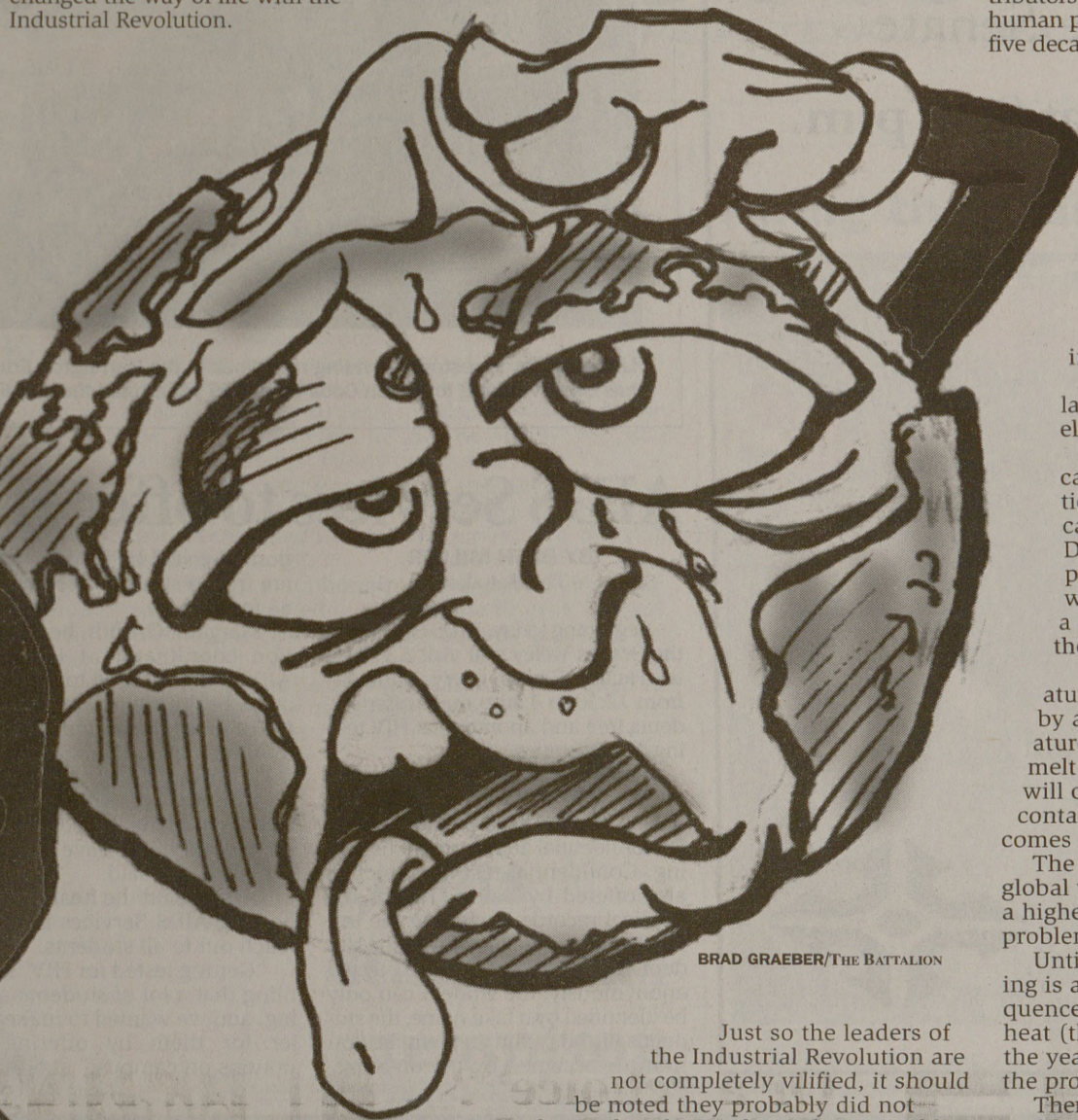
It is arrogant to assume another country would benefit from our system of government. America cannot force another country to lovingly accept you political convictions through military force.

The Vietnam War accomplished nothing but the death of American soldiers and the continuation of the Cold War. With both Russia and China opposed to military intervention, Kosovo could provoke a further cooling of American relations with these countries.

America has difficulty keeping its own citizen's fed, its government from shutting down and its economy on track.

Instead of focusing on other nation's problems, America should focus on its own.

Josh Maskow is a sophomore computer science major.



BRAD GRAEBER/THE BATTALION

Just so the leaders of the Industrial Revolution are not completely vilified, it should be noted they probably did not know that their industrial age would fill the air with toxic chemicals.

There were clues, however.

When the trees around London changed color so drastically the moths in the area were naturally selected to be darker, that was the first indication pollution had severe effects on the surrounding environ-

Then, in the time it takes to turn raw coal into smoky pollutants, the greenhouse effect took on a whole new meaning.

It started in Britain, and the industrial age quickly spread to America. And once the United States established itself as a world power, our missionaries of industry

EDITORIAL

MAIL CALL

The Battalion

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City Council supports students

In response to Len Callaway's Oct. 27 column:

Len Callaway's effort to paint the City of College Station as anti-student lacks credibility.

Every action taken by any city council is a choice between competing values. In this case, the integrity and safety of one of the oldest neighborhoods against the convenience of all citizens (including students) to travel from one part of town to the other. Both are valid concerns.

Although our government is based on majority rule, it also protects individual rights. The balance of majority rule with minority rights is what has made this country great.

Additionally, Callaway states the council routinely ignores stu-

dents and has failed to establish a working relationship with student leaders.

For years the council has asked the Student Government Association to appoint a student to sit with the council. This person receives a complete agenda and may address the council just as elected members can.

In recent months I have attended about 12 city council meetings, and the student representative was present only once. Perhaps the problem is not with the council but with student government leaders.

Finally, Callaway suggests students sign the petition to open Munson Avenue and that students vote in the January election. Let me point out the election date is Jan. 16, the Saturday before classes start. Not exactly a good date to encourage student voting.

The people behind this petition

want the election in January so their vocal minority can win. The people behind the petition are not the friends of students. They have objected to the student government representative on the council. They are using students to advance their own political case. Do not be taken in by such tactics.

Gary Halter
Associate Professor of political science

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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77843-1111

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MAROONED

Class Councils' decision transforms unifying tradition into financial scheme

Once again the marketing machinery that drives Texas A&M University has kicked into motion. From coffins bearing the A&M logo to the massive fundraising effort for The Zone, tradition-enshrined University has proven nothing is too frivolous or garish to earn a University stamp of approval.

This trend was acceptable when simply administrators selling the school's good name, but it has spread to the school's student officials. Maroon Out was an unqualified success. With over 31,000 shirts for the A&M-Nebraska game, seats at Kyle Field were a sea of maroon. Supply could keep up with the demand for shirts as students and fans were unable to purchase the official Maroon Out shirt wore other form of maroon. The effort spread even farther as students dressing in solid maroon and some even painting their faces maroon for the historic game against the Cornhuskers.

Last week, the class councils sponsored and received the proceeds of the campaign, foolishly chose to make Maroon Out only an annual event instead of a spirit-showing at all games. Not only did it become an annual event, the councils also decided

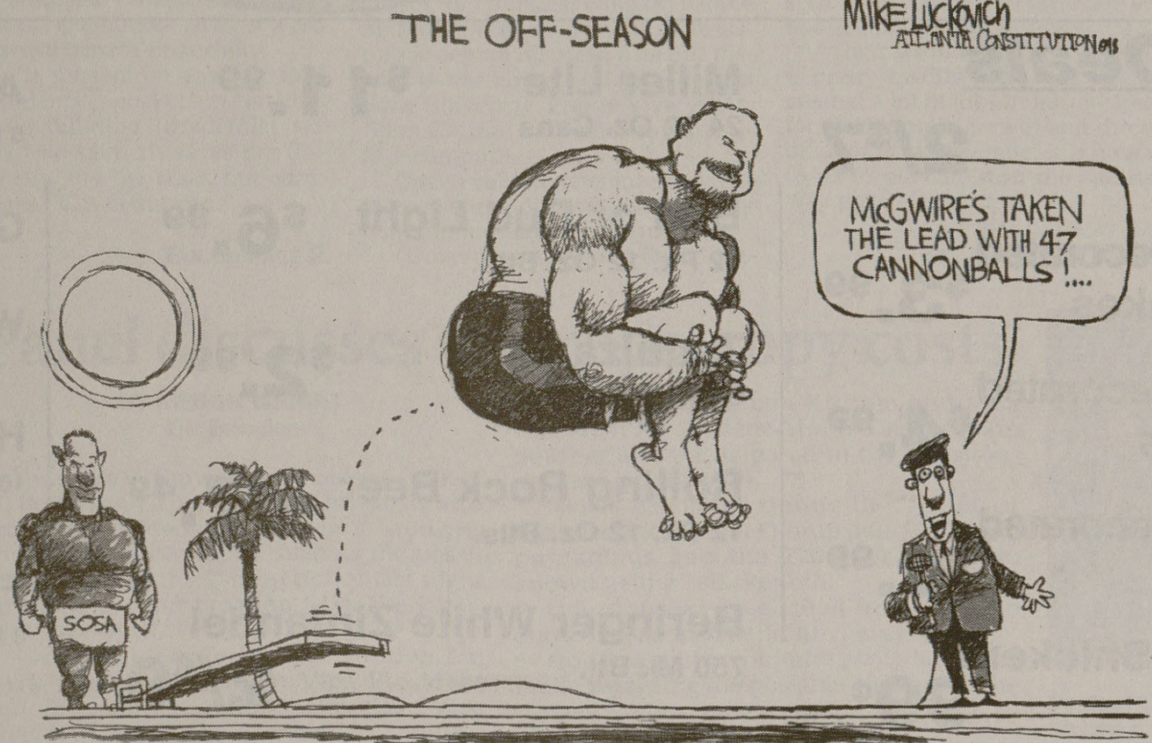
to produce a different shirt every year ensuring the financial stability of the class councils.

The campaign, which was touted as an attempt to unify the student body, has now been tainted with the class councils seeing dollar signs.

The class councils missed the proverbial boat with their decision to restrict Maroon Out. They had the opportunity to start their own tradition that could be remembered for years to come, instead they could not see past their outstretched wallets.

While it appears the class councils did not consult the student body when making this decision, a few simple inquiries would have proven the popularity of Maroon Out. If time was a constraint for the councils, it would have been easy to delegate the task of selling the shirts to a sub-committee or perhaps the Traditions Council would have been a willing vendor for the shirts.

At the Nov. 7 game against Oklahoma, the student body should demonstrate its own unity and wear Maroon Out shirts independent of class council sponsorship. Just because a select few have decided Maroon Out should be limited to an annual event does not mean Aggies cannot demonstrate their own spirit.



MIKE LICKWICH
ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS