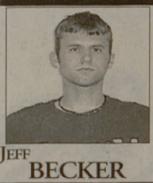


Operation Nest Arrest

Ridding Ross Street of feathered fiends calls for creative, permanent solutions to bird control



JEFF BECKER

• **Surround every tree with a high voltage cage**
 Advantage: If the birds cannot land, they have to leave. Plus, it would be like a new form of entertainment around Texas A&M, similar to how people sometimes sit out and watch the flies get zapped by the bug-zapper.
 Disadvantage: Some might complain about the cost and the unsightly cages ruining the landscape. Also, bird-zappers would not solve the smell problem.

• **Place highly trained bird-snipers in windows around campus**
 Advantage: Snipers are cool.
 Disadvantage: Snipers cost a lot, and who knows what would happen if they got bored shooting at pigeons.

• **Arm every student with a bird-zapping taser**
 Advantage: A grassroots effort would be the best approach. Take on the problem one-on-one. There are possibilities of contests between residence halls, which always provide a strong incentive for gratuitous violence.
 Disadvantage: Aggies with tasers. Enough said.

After careful examination of these possible solutions, the direct approach does not seem like it will work.

But if we could somehow catch the birds, the possibilities are endless. There are a couple of methods that could be used to catch them.

The first requires getting several of those grungy, bird-feeding people who are always seen in pictures of Central Park.

Arm them with a couple bags of birdseed and place them at strategic locations around campus. When all the birds have gathered around these "feeders," as we will call them, the catch will be made.

The details of the catch are not quite worked out yet, but every good plan has a few unknown factors. What is known is that these "feeders" are a sure-fire

way to attract thousands of birds.

If the "feeder" method does not work out, another method discovered from a popular children's book by Roald Dahl might. The plan is to put a special polymer glue on the branches of the trees where the birds roost. After the birds are caught in the sticky glue, they will be easy to harvest from their perches.

The birds, once caught, can be used to several ends. The best idea is to train them like homing birds and use them to send threatening messages to t.u.

Imagine the sinking feeling you would get if you received a message from a bird saying you were going to die.

The horror would be too much to bear.
 The more practical use is for Sbsa to use them in their pot pies.

What better way to get rid of campus pests than to let the student population ingest them?
 But Sbsa probably already does that, and using them as the "misery meat" has not drastically reduced the number of birds on

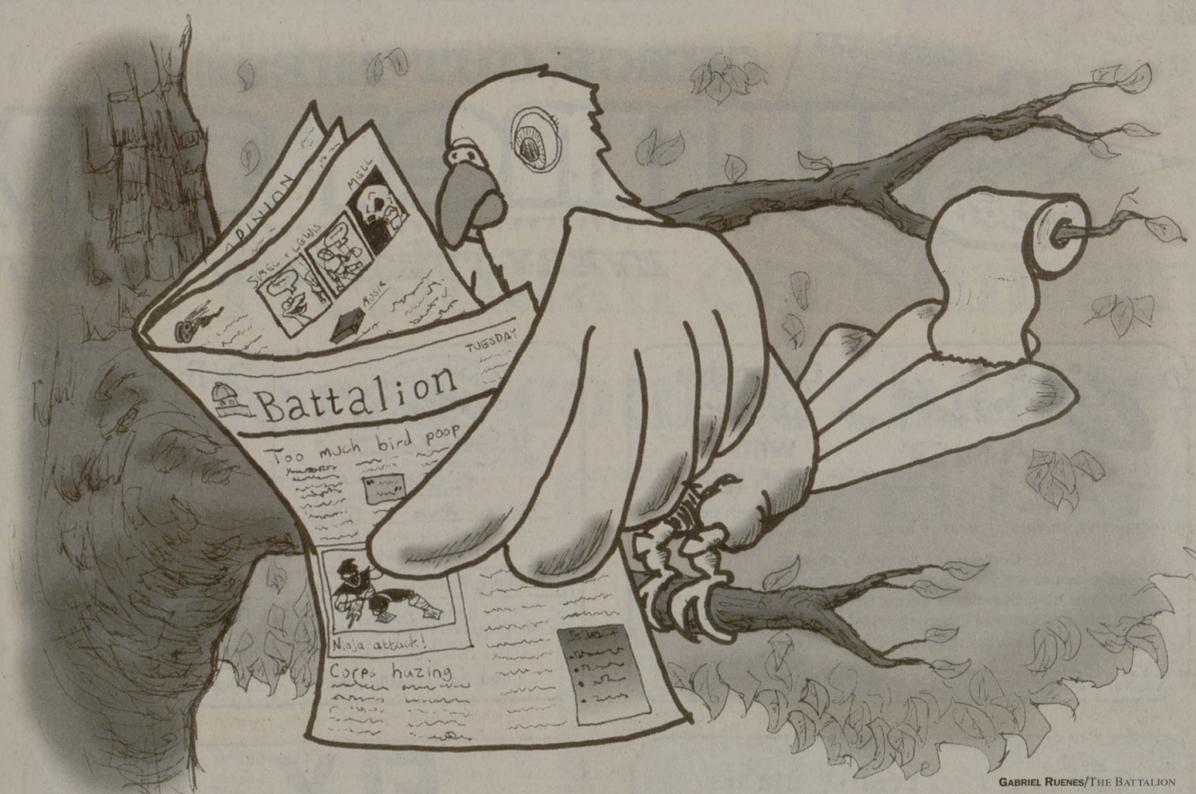
campus.
 In light of this, catching the birds may not really be a practical method to get rid of them either. There are just too many of them. They cannot be stopped.

There are only two distinct possibilities left.
 One is to give up.
 Let the birds win. Accept the fact that we are dealing with a superior species and try to go on with our lives, with one of the requirements for admission to A&M being to own a good gas mask.
 The only other possibility is to

declare an all-out war on the birds.
 Declare a national emergency, evacuate campus and call in the U.S. Air Force to napalm the entire area.

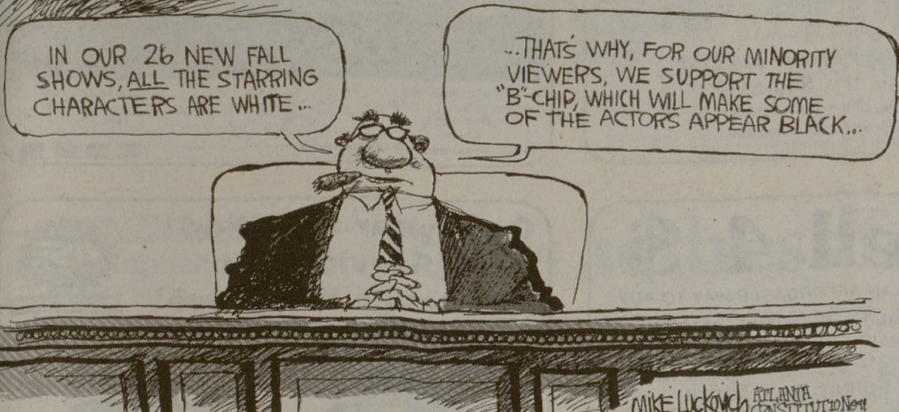
After that, we can rebuild and reclaim the land that was once ours, without the evil feathered nuisances that have caused so much misery and smell-induced nausea.

Jeff Becker is a sophomore computer engineering major.



GABRIEL RUIES/THE BATTALION

THE NETWORKS



MIKE LUCKWICH

MAIL CALL

PBS needs better programming not more funding

In response to Ryan Garcia's July 22 column.

Ryan Garcia's column about "radical" Billy Tauzin displays a total lack of knowledge and research about the target of his venom.
 I grew up in Louisiana and my family is very politically active, so I met Tauzin on a number of occasions.
 The only thing he is radical about is getting re-elected. I like Billy and respect him like I do most politicians.
 That means I would always shake his hand with one hand while keeping the other on my wallet.
 What is more, he was a Democrat until "the party left

him," not unlike the fellow who stood at his side at his rechristening as a Republican, President Ronald Reagan.
 However, Garcia and Billy both fail to see PBS' real sin.
 In order to succeed in the marketplace, PBS should produce something people want to watch.
 This is something which they almost never do unless Ken Burns is involved.
 As for the educational aspect, my 3-year-old niece would rather watch a blank screen than listen to George Carlin's eerie voice-overs on that goofy tugboat show they air continuously throughout the day.
 That gives grown-ups the creeps, too, because we remember the funny stuff he used to say that we will eventually have to talk the kids out

of sneaking around and listening to.
 So lay off Billy, and instead tell PBS to get a program director with credentials beyond an endorsement from the Democratic party.

Samuel Smith
 Class of '99

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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Riots prove Woodstock has sold out to commercialism



AARON MEIER

of peace, love and music" look more like the L.A. riots.
 MTV News, which was a target of much of the mayhem, was forced to shut down their base of operations Saturday evening as glass bottles and rocks pelted production crews. During the live Sunday broadcast of "MTV News 1515," reporter Serena Altschul appeared anxious to cut the show short as the crowd's fury began to rise again.
 So what went wrong? Is it further proof of the downfall of a generation; just another link in the chain anchored to Littleton? Is it poor planning on the part of concert organizers who reportedly left Woodstockers without water for half a day, sending many to the first aid tents for dehydration?
 Why hasn't anyone mentioned the fact that when you pack 150,000 plus people into a small field, play really loud music, deprive them of sleep, bathroom facilities and simple human

dignity people tend to get a little testy. Anyone who wants proof can just cruise down to Fish Camp on the last day and conduct a few quick surveys.
 Who knows what caused the riots, but 30 years ago a great moment happened when people decided to forget about war and hate for three days and just sit in a field naked, listen to some groovy tunes and drop some acid. Now the memory of that moment has been desecrated with \$100 tickets, \$4 bottles of water and blatant commercialization that would make Will Smith proud.
 After 30 years, things are definitely different. In 1969 hippies wouldn't have thought of packing iron; in '99, people were patted down and searched for weapons.
 Where mother-earth nudity once dominated, Mardi Gras-esque chants of "show your tits" rang through the crowd.
 Where Jimi Hendrix's soulful rendi-

tion of "The Star Spangled Banner" heralded the end of a historic moment, the Red Hot Chili Peppers' rendition of Hendrix's "Fire" while more than 10 bonfires threw flames into the night showed the times, they are a changin'.
"Somewhere along the line the hippies of the '60s became the yuppies of the '80s and decided nothing was sacred."
 Somewhere along the line, the hippies of the '60s became the yuppies of the '80s and decided nothing was sacred, especially their own souls. So when Woodstock '94 came around peo-

ple didn't flinch too much. Hey, millions were to be made and there was a whole new generation of kids out there ready to drop money on something that looked really cool in the VH1 flash-backs.
 Five years later, any attempt at honoring the memory of the original festival was thrown into a Porta-Potty for bands that sing songs that have lines like "give it up for the nookie," and "die, die, die."
 So when the next group of idiots decides to beat the dead horse that is Woodstock, the next generation of music fans should look elsewhere and make their own history or, better yet, stop trying to make history and just let it happen on its own.
 Aaron Meier is a senior political science major.