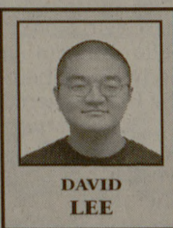


## Letters from the Lunatic

If alleged railway killer Angel Maturino-Resendiz is responsible for any of the murders he is suspected of committing, he sure is not acting like a killer.



DAVID LEE

Despite the mountain of forensic evidence against him, he pleaded not guilty to the murder of Houston physician Dr. Claudia Benton. He then went on to defy attorney's orders and decided to correspond freely with the press, passing his time in the Harris County Jail by writing at least three lengthy and somewhat incoherent letters to the Houston-area media.

In none of these letters does he claim his guilt or show any sign of remorse. Instead, he whines and complains about the circumstances he is in, how he is being imprisoned unfairly and how he was duped into surrendering to the authorities.

He attempts to paint himself as a decent, religious man. He even goes so far as to dispense his opinions on current events such as the ongoing presidential campaign.

Who does this guy think he is, William F. Buckley? Albeit comical, this meager attempt at gaining public sympathy is absolutely pathetic.

In his latest letter to KPRC-TV in Houston, Maturino-Resendiz talked about how poor his treatment has been while in the custody of the State. He claims the Texas Rangers interrogated him for "about 10 hours against my wishes."

This man is suspected of capital murder and yet is baf-

fled as to why he is being held against his will. That makes absolutely no sense.

He also claims many of the conditions to his surrender have not been met.

"As far as I was told, I was to be try (sic) in one trial in the Federal Court, but Janet Reno allow (sic) the State of Texas to get me, so the USA want (sic) me dead. The Texas prosecutor stated that if one doctor does not agree that I am sane, she will keep going until one agrees with her. She want (sic) to kill me," he wrote.

Maturino-Resendiz is apparently distraught over his visitation rights, in particular being separated from his loved ones by a glass pane.

virtue. One wonders what would have happened if his morals had kicked in during his alleged burglaries, rapes and murders.

Although he does not mention any of the crimes he is charged with committing, Maturino-Resendiz manages to fill the remainder of his 12-page letter with various personal views on the current events of the summer. With the rest of the country, he mourned the loss of John F. Kennedy Jr. and wonders about the countless tragedies the Kennedy family has had to endure.

He also makes his picks for the Republican Party's presidential candidate in 2000. "I support [Republican presidential candidate Steve] Forbes or [Gary Bauer] because the (sic) are my brothers in Faith, this man do (sic) not want babies to be murdered."

Brothers in faith? Not wanted? Now that is the biggest doozy of them all. There is no distinction between the murder of babies and the murder of adults.

No one out there should be taking these letters seriously. Angel Maturino-Resendiz is by all indications a deplorable human being who is charged of committing unspeakable atrocities. His lack of acknowledgement of the crimes he is charged with and his overall disrespect and disregard for the criminal justice system is despicable. If he is indeed convicted of any of these crimes, history should not file away these letters as the harmless musings of a condemned man. They should be regarded as what they really are — the self-indulgent ramblings of a cold-blooded killer.

David Lee is a junior economics major.

### Crazy memos from alleged killer should not be taken seriously.

"To a Mexican, [prison] means to be able to hug his mother and kiss his child and wife, they even rent rooms for the family to visit a few times per year. But this is not the way the U.S.A., [George W.] Bush sees compassion. Bush (sic) compassion will kill me soon."

Now there's a ringing endorsement for "compassionate" conservatives.

Maturino-Resendiz goes on to talk about his religious views. He complains he has had a hard time getting the prison to serve him kosher meals.

"To this day, I have not [had kosher meals at] all."

He certainly picked a great time to start spouting religious

memos.

Of those trapped inside the engulfed building, 86 people died, including 17 children.

Only 9 Branch Davidians survived the assault.

Some now rightly question the responsibility of the FBI's actions throughout the 26-day standoff.

Hell is paved with good intentions, and the FBI should be awarded a boulevard all their own.

By taking military action against the Branch Davidians and subsequently covering up evidence of their involvement in starting the fire, the FBI undermined the trust of the American people.

From the very beginning, the FBI paid little attention to the teachings of David Koresh and the history of the

Branch Davidians. They took for granted they were dealing with people who viewed their belief in Koresh as sanctioned by God and certain biblical prophecies.

Mistaken as they were, the Branch Davidians believed that they were in the midst of a religious war and acted accordingly.

Even though David Koresh requested to talk to biblical scholars during the negotiation process, the FBI chose to deny this concession.

It was not until two such scholars were introduced that a breakthrough occurred. The scholars suggested Koresh write a book of his predictions for the world to share.

David Koresh took this as the sign from God that he was awaiting.

There is evidence that he would have completed his book in 10 days.

After its completion, he had promised surrender.

But instead, the FBI initiated the second assault on the compound.

The American people cannot allow the federal government to relax on this issue.

The FBI is supposed to be the best law enforcement agency in the country. In no circumstance should we expect anything less than perfect.

By becoming the judge, jury and executioner at Waco, it acted without regard to the legal system it represents. There is no excuse for the use of flammable weapons when a hostage scenario might exist.

The only successful assault launched at Waco was the attack on American ideology.

If any singular federal agency attempts to conspire against the rights of

any American citizens, the rights of all citizens are threatened. The Branch Davidians lost their right to due process and trial by a jury of their peers.

The new investigations must trace the chain of command at Waco and determine those ultimately responsible.

Waco cannot live on as a reminder of federal ineptitude and conspiracy. The guilty must answer to America for their role in this assault on justice.

Poor judgments like these made the Waco standoff a sad chapter in FBI history.

If the new allegations about the use of pyrotechnics are true, they will only provide further proof of the government's mishandling of an extremely sensitive situation.

John T. Baker is a junior agricultural development major.



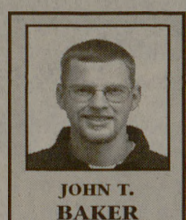
Robert Hinebeck/The Battalion

"This man [does] not want babies to be murdered."

— Alleged Railway Killer Angel Maturino-Resendiz, explaining his support for pro-life politicians.

## FBI's irresponsible actions in Waco show good intentions gone awry

On Aug. 25, Representative Bob Barr, R-Ga., sent a letter to the House Government Reform Committee and Attorney General Janet Reno calling for a re-examination of the 1993 Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas.



JOHN T. BAKER

New light has been cast on the negligent actions of the FBI during the standoff.

Although the FBI initially denied any use of flammable weapons in the final raid, a former FBI agent provided recent evidence pointing to the use of pyrotechnic tear gas canisters during the raid.

It was after the alleged tear gas canisters were launched into the com-

ound that a fire consumed the entire structure.

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John T. Baker is a junior agricultural development major.



THE NATIONAL PARKS HAVE GOTTEN CROWDED. IF YOU WANT TO SEE "OL FAITHFUL", YOU'VE GOT TO BODY SURF IN...

### MAIL CALL

#### Inappropriate ads should be banned

I found the advertisement for VivaSmart.com in the Aug. 31 paper totally inappropriate and offensive for a college newspaper. The copy of the ad read, "More on beer, less on books."

As was widely reported by *The Battalion* last year, the death of two young A&M students was the direct result of drinking.

Alcohol is not only a problem for this university but for most college campuses.

*The Battalion* and other college newspapers have an obligation to their readers and should not accept

advertising which encourages readers to spend "more on beer and less on books." After all, 75 percent of the A&M student population is under the age of 21. As a matter of fact, I would like to see *The Battalion* ban all ads for alcohol.

Mary Fran Troy  
Class of '92

### VIEW POINTS

#### Bumper blues

Teen-agers, including some college students, are not the best drivers around. The hard-line approach to curing this defect is to restrict teen-agers' driving privileges, limiting them to driving only during the day and without passengers.

But a new solution has presented itself that works by making teenagers more aware of their driving, not their supposed persecution by parents.

Across the country, parents concerned with teen-agers' driving are attaching bumper stickers to their cars with messages like "How's my driving? Please report any violations to my mom." These stickers, modeled after "How's my driving?" stickers seen on delivery trucks and 18-wheelers, have become an enormous success. However, it is at a cost.

Many teens, perhaps a majority, feel that kind of surveillance is a distinct lack of trust on the

#### Slashing schools

parents' part. While the parents are not going to the extreme of hiring private detectives or actually following their children, many teen-agers feel paranoid and overly cautious while driving with a sticker attached.

That is the point.

The usual teen-age undercurrent of invincibility, combined with lack of experience and appreciation for the power and danger inherent in driving, makes for unsafe driving. Paranoia and care are two ideal counters to these factors, which will lessen teenage drivers' accident rate. In addition, once teen-agers realize the only calls mom and dad get will be if they make a mistake, no hard feelings follow.

Driving around with a giant sticker may be embarrassing, but it is nowhere near as embarrassing as being the cause of a fatal accident. Parents are right to make teen-agers accountable without limiting their privileges and freedom.

— Chris Huffines

#### Slashing schools

In a speech given yesterday in Los Angeles, presidential contender George W. Bush laid out an education policy laced with illogic.

Saying "in my administration, federal money will no longer flow to failure," Bush promised that if public schools did not improve test scores, they would be stripped of all Title 1 federal funds. The money would be distributed directly to parents.

But surely this method of impoverishing the public schools that need the most help hardly seems like a good way to fix them. If schools are not meeting national standards, it is not difficult to trace at least some of their problems back to a lack of misappropriation of money.

Depriving them of the few funds they have would be wrong. Who knew compassionate conservatism meant picking the pockets of poor schools?

— Caleb McDaniel