

Monday, June 5, 2000

s Arnott
elite rank
ostseason
healthy there."
change on the ice started
then then-Devils coach
moved Arnott to center with
as and Petr Sykora on the
to natives of the Czech Rep
eat skaters and that has
move his feet and play bet
nott had 27 goals and 54 po
son and he added 22 goals
nts this year. His game has
in the playoffs.
think to be an elite player
you have to have that coo
in a good way," Devils dete

Scott is a great
y. He's our cap
in. Whenever a
y is in trouble
d needs a place
o stay, here is
ere. He did tha
r me and I owe
n a tremendous
amount."

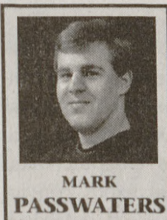
→ Jason Arnott
hockey player

en Daneyko said. "And
ally come to the forefront
strong, powerful man and
to use it along with his abili
only has Arnott provided
the playoffs; he's also one
in the locker room, another
from Stevens.
taken those other two
and Elias) under his wing
to them and taken care
goal tender Martin Brode
He's been as good as I have
y play.
's getting away from the Edm
f and he really has his niche
he's close to helping
win their second Stanley Cu
1995.
ically, if the Devils win
nner for the Conn Smythe
uld be Stevens, whose phys
the tone for New Jersey to
st three series.
only person who might be
is Arnott.
ott is a great guy. He's our
said Arnott, who lives in
Beach, Ontario, about 90
rth of Toronto. "Whenever
n trouble and needs a place
is there. He did that for me
im a tremendous amount."

Sports in Brief
ker confronts
er before gam
ANTA (AP) — John Rocker
battled Braves reliever hat
tation Sunday with the Spo
ed reporter who wrote the
ch Rocker made offens
nts about gays, minorities,
s and his own teammates.
reporter, Jeff Pearlman, s
threatened him, though th
physical contact between
e Braves said they were inv
and teammate Brian Jorda
him a "cancer."
amazed he hasn't handle
the right way," said Jorda
the leaders in the clubhouse
of the guy has nine lives, he's
up pretty good."
I've got one guy being a ca
e and time again," the ou
said. "Eventually, it's going
effect on the team. Hope
change."

man, in Atlanta to do a s
raves meeting the New Y
s in a rematch of last year
series, had a chance meet
cker in a service tunnel
urner Field about two ho
ne final game of the series.
rding to Pearlman, Rock
reatening comments such
't over between us," and,
w what I can do to you?"
onfrontation lasted about
and became so heated
flipped around the bill of
e could get face-to-face
ter.

A mistake of Olympic proportions



MARK PASSWATERS

The past couple of years have not been kind to the reputation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Evidence of corruption surrounding the selections of Salt Lake City, Nagano, Atlanta and Sydney as host cities has made the IOC look like a bunch of classless bit crooks in the eyes of many.

For the IOC to forgo the moment of silence would be just like saying they did not care these athletes were killed on their watch.

Now, with the assistance of the Palestinian Authority, the IOC has cleared up any doubts about their reputation. The organization's inability to take responsibility for something that goes wrong is well documented; the new realization that they are unable to do something humane is despicable.

In 1972, 11 Israeli athletes were killed by members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) an anti-Israeli terrorist group. The PLO's Black September front took them hostage during the Munich summer games. In order to honor their memories, the Israeli government has asked the IOC to have a moment of silence during the closing ceremonies of the 2000 Summer Olympics. The Palestinians, who will send a team to the Olympics for the first time, are opposed to such a measure.

The Palestinians say the actions of Black September are justifiable given the "state of war" that existed between the PLO and Israel at the time. Instead of seeing these terrorists for what they are, the Palestinians continue to stand by the absurd claim that they were freedom fighters.

This belief alone is enough to make a normal person feel in disbelief. The term "freedom fighter" is usually bestowed upon someone who fights directly against the armed forces of an occupying nation, not someone who shoots athletes in their sleep. Yet, the Palestinians continue to maintain that they were the only ones that were opp

pressed in this terrible conflict. If the moment of silence resolution were to be passed, the Palestinians threatened to hold up pictures of men that were killed by the Israelis during their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If they are going to fight like this, we are going to fight," said Palestinian Olympic Committee Vice President Rabie Al Turk, momentarily forgetting that Israelis and Palestinians are now ostensibly at peace. "There are lots of things we can do to Israel."

The IOC, showing as much courage and conviction as a slug, said that a moment of silence for the athletes would be "political" and held no place at the games. Wrong. Whether the IOC wants to admit it or not, it is at least somewhat responsible for those 11 athletes' deaths. The Olympic Committee, the city of Munich and the West German government did not provide ample security for the athletes, and it cost them their lives. To ignore this event like it never happened is the ultimate display of excessive pride.

The Olympics are a festival of peace, and are supposed to transcend disputes between nations. The games are supposed to be a time of joy and reconciliation, not of cold-blooded murder. The fact that these athletes were murdered at such an event is all the more reason that they should be remembered.

If the disaster at Munich is ignored, it would be a horrible disservice to all of mankind. The Olympics are for the athletes, not for agendas. For the IOC to forgo the moment of silence would be just like saying that they did not care these athletes were killed on their watch. That is appalling, to put it mildly. The Palestin-



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

ian Authority is a new kid on the global block, and wants to be treated as a real nation. In order for it to be welcomed into the community of nations, it has to distance itself from its past actions. That includes having the courage to admit that they have done some things that are horribly wrong, and the slaughter of the Israeli athletes in 1972 is at the top of the list.

The International Olympic Committee has been around far longer than the Palestinian Authority, but it

could certainly use a reality check as well. The Olympics are supposed to be a showcase of that which is good in the world, not evil.

By lacking the guts to remind the world of past mistakes, the IOC has shown that it lacks a conscience. Such apathy could make one fall silent — so long as that silence does not occur at the closing ceremonies in Sydney.

Mark Passwaters is a senior electrical engineering major.

MAIL CALL

Movie criticism off base, overlooks role of parents

response to Jill Riley's June 1 column.

I agree that Tom Green's movie *Road Trip* is very gross and unsophisticated, and not intended for young impressionable viewers. However, *Road Trip* is not going to alter the opinion of the rest of the world as of the U.S. People who dislike America, Americans, and American culture do not feel that way because of our movies. We are bullies in global schoolyard. We use our military strength to protect our own interests. We throw temper tantrums and impose economic sanctions. Other countries do not like us because we have injured their national pride for our own benefit. We may tell ourselves otherwise, but we are selfish. Did we send our armed forces to Kuwait to right the wrongs done by Iraq, or was it because Kuwait has huge oil reserves?

It is true that some viewers may try to emulate the characters in this movie. However, Riley, like many others, seems to have forgotten the importance of parental responsibility. Children and teenagers that are not mature enough to see this movie should be prevented from doing so by their parents. Anyone that is of driving age should be mature enough to deal with this movie. If someone is killed trying to jump the gap in a bridge in a family car, then we must recognize the event for what it is: natural selection in its finest hour. I am not arguing that every person with a driver's license is responsible, rather my contention is this: the consequences we suffer as a result of our own irresponsibility teach us much far more about responsibility than we can ever learn from someone like Riley moralizing atop a soapbox.

Matthew Dozier
Class of '02

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

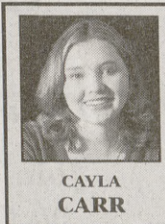
The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call
014 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111
Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: battletters@hotmail.com

Traffic violators given undeserved second chance with prepaid tickets

The National Motorist Association (NMA) is now awarding prepaid tickets to policy holders. The NMA, best known for advocating the 1995 National Highway speed increase from 55 mph to 70 mph, argues that a low speed limit and unjust traffic laws set the stage for unnecessary speed traps.



CAVLA CARR

The NMA believes that speed traps are unfair and expensive means of generating revenue for counties and communities. To counter these highway pitfalls they created a new form of insurance.

Their solution is a policy that requires a monthly fee as low as \$5, that guarantees drivers will never again have to pay traffic tickets. By paying \$5 a month, violators are reimbursed for their ticket and court cost. This policy covers unlimited traffic violations that involve speeding, tailgating, reckless driving and even drunk driving. In other words, for those DWI's and DUI's a second chance will be granted to drive drunk.

The NMA argues that this policy will eliminate the increased cost of automobile insurance policies and the removal of drivers' licenses by paying off the ticket. Another advantage the NMA states is that the policy covers unlimited violations, with equal costs to drivers regardless of their past driving records. The NMA argues that this program is only a service to the people, not a true insurance provider and that drivers will still have to carry regular automobile insurance.

Nonetheless, as enticing as this program may sound, it is impossible to constitute the ethics and legalities involved.

It establishes an entire new idea of false security. Instead of encouraging drivers to be cautious it will encourage reckless driving. Drivers will be less courteous on the roads and offenders will be protected. There is a reason for traffic tickets and therefore a reason for the consequences that follow. This policy is unnecessary. In Texas, defensive driving courses are used to remove a ticket from a person's driving record. These courses are made so convenient they can be taken in the privacy of one's home.

The transportation system is already lenient. Much like defensive driving classes, parents are now able to order a

Tickets are not a conspiracy against drivers, nor are they deemed to be punishment without a crime. Tickets are a direct result of a driver's own negligence.

driver's education packet and teach their children themselves. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has made continued efforts to improve drivers' safety, but accidents — minor and fatal — still occur. So how can it be justified to make the roads even less safe than they already are?

This policy not only creates unsafe conditions, but also gives people an excuse to drive carelessly. Why bother with traffic laws when all you have to do is pay as low as \$5 a month and be assured to never pay a ticket again. Too many people today do not seem to be worried about highway safety. This program would just reinforce a driver's perceived invincibility.

The NMA argues that a positive effect of this policy would be to decrease the cost of insurance policies after accidents

and violations. It does not take a genius to realize insurance policies increase for a reason — to discourage a person from getting another violation. For those who cannot afford increased insurance policies, it only takes common sense to realize they need to avoid breaking the law.

Not only would this policy add to the irresponsibility of society, it would give people a much easier chance to kill others or kill themselves. Tickets are not a conspiracy against drivers, nor are they deemed to be punishment without a crime. Tickets are a direct result of a driver's own negligence. In a way, tickets are given to prevent harm and death. Most

intelligent people would assume that any aerodynamic steel missile going faster than 20 miles an hour is a deadly weapon. And that is exactly what a motor vehicle is.

Aside from traffic fatalities, other problems can occur as a result of this program. Liability is another risk, the NMA neglected to notice. If a person was killed in a car accident by a repeat drunk driver the NMA could likely be

found liable for keeping such a hazardous driver on the road.

The NMA is naively backing these prepaid tickets to protest unjust traffic laws and speed traps, but they need to realize the severe consequences involved. This policy is tempting, but no driver is quite ready to handle the severe consequences it could involve. People are not, and never will be, ready to handle causing a death. The Department of Transportation takes this into consideration and fires back with the only alternative, prosecuting violators. If the NMA overrules traffic tickets by overriding the consequences then traffic of society and the highways to heaven will be only a mile away.

Cayla Carr is a junior speech communication major.



I HAD TO WRITE ON SHEETS OF PAPER! I PUT THEM IN ENVELOPES THAT NEEDED (SOB) STAMPS TO SEND THEM!

REPORTING LIVE WITH ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE E-MAIL VIRUS!

MIKE LUKONIA/THE BATTALION