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npionship com only one that is a &M men's lenn Cass. "It's a neal, ve won two year e really putting the players, h st year, to bring his weekend." en's first schedu was to be he -16 in Fayett s canceled by Arkansas after President Bush y of Prayer follo dies in New

Recent tragedy sparks religious controversy

pinion

in the wake of the largest terrorist attack in American history, questions Lof religion and

faith have become central in the eyes of the nation. Churches across the country were flooded with worshippers who needed a place to pray and mourn for those who were murdered

in the attacks. Despite the solace to be found in churches, organized religion as a whole has caused more pain and suffering than it is worth.

Undoubtedly, religion in one form or another is an important aspect of each individual's life, regardless of whether one actually attends church. In order to make sense of the world around them, each individual must have some basic set of beliefs in order to sensibly make their way through the world.

However, while religion itself is important to individuals, organized religion has been a burden to society rather than a help. Since before the Crusades, people of organized faiths have been competing with

Crusades of 1096, when Pope Urban II pro-

moted warfare under the auspice of reclaim-

Turks. Although the Crusades are the most

major war fought over religious differences.

Wars of Religion, were a series of civil wars

immediate issue was the French Protestant's

Despite this, organized religion has

been cited as a simple solution for vir-

Concern about violent crime, espe-

ing the Holy Lands from the barbarian

well-known, it is by no means the only

The Huguenot Wars, also known as the

in late 16th century France in which the

struggle for freedom of worship.

tually all of society's problems.

cially deadly crimes committed by

youths on other youths has had the

numerous columnists and religious

dance in church as the reason.

nation's attention for over a year, and

leaders have pointed to decreased atten-

Ironically, such solutions are proposed

ping. Violent crime against children is

The fact is that despite, or perhaps

at a time when violent crime is drop-

each other to prove that their religion is the one true religion. As a result, the world has been inundated with holy wars throughout history. The most infamous example was the

BRAY

However, while religion itself is

important to individuals, organ-

ized religion has been a burden

to society rather than a help.

because of, a society that has become more secular, the world has become a better place over all. This is because for the first time in history, people are beginning to realize that the edicts of organized religion must be thought about and considered before an individual adopts those ideas. As Martin Luther argued in the early 16th century, individuals must be able to think about religion on their own without the church acting as an intermediary. Once people begin to think for themselves and develop their own moral codes, the world stands in a much better position for peaceful progression.

Even as an individual successfully argued that religion does not cause violence, it certainly does nothing to stop it. Religion serves as a useful tool for those who wish to perpetrate it.

In wartime when virtually every American has been affected by the recent tragedy, churches have served a function in providing people with a place to congregate and mourn our losses in prayer. However, at the same time, Muslims within our community are too frightened to leave their homes for fear of misguided retribution.

Why would Americans do such a thing? Perhaps they have read Matthew

10:14-15, in which Jesus tells his disciples to condemn those who do not follow his teachings. If Jesus has such a low

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regard for non-believers, why should his followers? In this way, religious teachings can be used to promote violence and anger towards those of other faiths. As Robert Green Ingersoll said in "Crumbling Creeds," "the doctrine of eternal punishment is in perfect harmony with the savagery of the men who made the orthodox creed.'

America has needed a place to come together and mourn, and for such purposes the churches have been useful. However, as a whole, organized religion has led to Holy Inquisitions, religious warfare and individual cases of violence against those of other faiths.

Hopefully the near future will allow us to come to the point where organized religion will no longer be necessary, where each person will take the time to educate themselves about the various own views, experiences and needs. The time for individuals to be molded by the views of the churches they grew up in has come to a close.

> Rich Bray is a junior journalism major.

They will come Michael Jordan should stay off the court

SHARMILA BADKAR • THE BATTALION

at the ITA A mpionships. s team was a participate in #

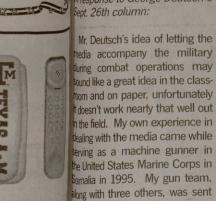
legiate being host r University Finals and left on top of the Waco, but Irew earlier next competitut

ctober 5-7. thest ranked mai player operations. While rebuilding a team can

er runners (for are going to ref e squad.



DECALS, INCENS EWELRY, POSTERS MUCH MORE! E SEARS COURT



ichael Jordan left the NBA at the top of his career. He hit the winning shot in the NBA game. In Jordan's last six full seasons, he won six championships. Charles Barkley charan Antonio we acterize Jordan as "the best to te in the UTS ever play the game."

By announcing his return as a player, Jordan inquished his role as President of the mance from the Washington Wizards where he was in charge of

ke time, there has been no headway in his effort ns redshirted st lo make the Wizards a championship-caliber team. the experience! Jordan has been working out and practicing championships since March in an ill-advised effort to make a second comeback. On Tuesday, Jordan announced by fax, the much anticipated decision oing to be a you oreturn as a player to the NBA. Jordan's return, wever, will not benefit himself or the Wizards. Jordan will always be considered at least

e of the best ever, but his imminent comeack is a mistake. At age 38, Jordan will no nger be able to play at the level he once aved. Jordan will not only be playing against

other teams or challenging his teammates ----Jordan will be playing against his own title as the greatest basketball player ever. Jordan will be competing against how great he was with the Chicago Bulls — and he will lose.

A few months ago, Jordan broke some ribs in a scrimmage. One of Jordan's best friends, Barkley, witnessed Jordan's injury. Barkley said "It wasn't a rough tactic when he got hurt, and it was something that 10 years ago wouldn't have affected him." Things that would not have bothered Jordan before have become more of an issue now, since his body is aging.

Jordan's return will also be bad for the future of the Wizards franchise when dealing with their NBA success. The best thing the Wizards can do is build their team around the young and talented Kwame Brown, their number one draft pick in 2001. Brown is 20 years younger than Jordan, and has the potential to play many more years. The Wizards team is young, and when Jordan plays with them, it could stifle the team's growth. Jordan will be the go-to player, which would mean less chances for the young and inexperienced players to improve.

The Wizards are no-where near where a championship team needs to be. The team will be more reminiscent of the Chicago

"Jordanaries" of the late 1980s - teams that were good because of Jordan, but had no one else. Jordan's championship teams in Chicago had very good supporting players — which he will not have in Washington. Washington will improve with Jordan, but not enough to contend for the championship. And they will have too good a record to continue rebuilding through the draft.

also decreasing.

One reason for a comeback is money. Right now the Wizards are not one of the most marketable teams in the NBA. Their only "star" has never played a game above high school varsity. Washington is scheduled for no games on NBC

Adding Jordan would instantly add millions of dollars to the Wizards revenue as well as to the Wizards internationally marketability. NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol stated that NBC would show the Wizards on television the maximum number of times, 11, if Jordan came back. Turner spokesman Greg Hughes said that TBS and TNT would broadcast their maximum of 15 games for the season should Jordan return.

Going from not being nationally televised to being seen more than any other team would instantly add to the Wizards profits, which

Jordan has a vested interest. Jordan is currently an owner in the 5-10 percent range according to ESPN. According to CNN, Jordan, the Wizards and NBA Commissioner David Stern had meetings to talk about transferring his share in the Wizards for a larger share of the Washington Capitals, an NHL team, as well as the parent company of both teams.

Jordan's return looks more like a financial deal than anything else, despite his pledge to give his entire salary to victims of the attack in Washington and New York. The only people it would benefit are those in line to make money off of his return, including Jordan himself, despite his charity in donating his salary.

Jordan has passed the torch to such stars as Vince Carter, Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant and Tim Duncan. By taking the spotlight away from these young players, NBA fans may lose interest when Jordan retires again in a year or two.

It is time for Jordan to make his mark and show his excellence in a new way, in the front office of the Wizards. Jordan can create a new legacy a GM, and further build the legend of his His Airness.

> Thomas Campbell is a senior agricultural journalism major.

Banning media protects lives

response to George Deutsch's Sept. 26th column:

in ahead of the rest of the battalion to secure the area. As soon as we hit the beach, reporters and cameramen were all over us. Everytime a firefight would break

CAMPBELL

out, media personnel would come rushing in. There is enough to worry about when a sniper is taking shots at you and your fellow Marines without having to worry about some reporter or cameraman getting in your way and compromising your life or the lives of your fellow Marines. The ban on civilian media accompaniment of our troops is to protect the lives of our fighting men and it is the right

thing to do.

Steve Criddle Class of 2004

MAIL CALL

UT grad admires Aggie pride

As a 4th generation UT graduate, I never fully understood the Spirit of Aggieland until Saturday, Sept. 22nd. I was on campus to watch my son, Kenneth, who is a fish in the Corps. Once I saw the t-shirts, I had to have one and to attend the game. Thank goodness I could still get a ticket. The half time performance of the Aggie Band was incredible and in the silence prior to the playing of God Bless America someone yelled, "Beat the hell Outta, bin laden!" Before I knew it, I let out

a whoop! with the rest of the Aggies. I am so proud of the students' efforts to RWB Out Kyle Field and of the cooperative efforts of Aggies across the state to produce the shirts. The patriotism displayed by the current and former A&M students was obvious. They are the type of people who have and will continue to make our country great.

Ann Symanek

Get off the phone

If there is one thing that was never meant to happen in the progression of mankind, I think it would be talking on a cell

phone while riding a bike. There is a fundamental problem with using one hand to steer and the other to hold a cell phone to make an undoubtedly important phone call.

I used to get frustrated with traffic on freeways caused by distracted drivers talking on cell phones, but I think that this is a far greater danger to people. It amazes me that people can ride their bikes around campus wherever they want and expect priority over the vast majority of campus, pedestrians.

> Thomas Franklin Class of 2005

CARTOON OF THE DAY



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