

EDITORIAL

A MOMENT AND A NAME

Some will say it was only a year. Three times four months. I remember these were days and nights unending. This was written by one of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, one of many final testaments left by victims of history's biggest atrocity. It is important to remember these last voices of the Holocaust to memorialize those who died and to ensure such a tragedy never happens again. Years from now, Americans will vividly remember the devastating tragedy of Sept. 11 in the same manner Texas A&M honors victims of the Holocaust during Holocaust Remembrance Week. As part of a generation deeply wounded by the historical events of terrorism, the need for remembrance and education of the past should be especially acute for Aggies. In a time of fast-paced centrism, it is necessary to stop to recognize and remember important history-altering events such as the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Week encourages students to reflect on past events by inviting them to view gripping exhibits in the Memorial Student Center, listen to a reading of the victims' names and attend an interfaith memorial service. Holocaust Remembrance Week encourages students to reflect on the impact of the Holocaust atrocities because they are an important part of our history. It is through remembrance and education that future persecution similar to the Holocaust can be avoided. As part of the education community, Texas A&M has a responsibility to include tolerance and respect for other cultures and societies as a significant element of an all-encompassing education. With Holocaust Remembrance Week, all Aggies should take the opportunity to reflect on these tragic events and promote a more welcoming campus to those of different ethnicities, religion, gender and sexuality. In addition, we remember the untimely deaths that have occurred as a result of religious and racial persecution and reflect on the tremendous effects government policies have on governed masses. Thus, it is imperative for Aggies to take advantage of the week and participate in creating a campus that is aware of its past and considerate of its future.

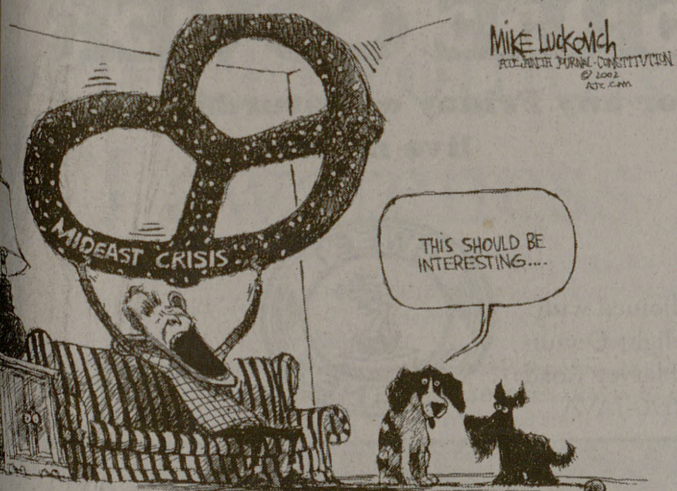
THE BATTALION

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MAIL CALL

Money a non issue

Response to Dharmaraj Murthy's April 8 column:
Do slave descendants deserve compensation? Well, while we are let us give the Indians back their land. Let us give the entire southwest back to Mexico. Let us give reparations to Southerners for the unconstitutional invasion, and subsequent pillaging of the South. Let's pay reparations to Japanese in America because of internment during World War II. This suit will inevitably open a Pandora's box of similar suits. Why are suits not being filed against the nations of Africa who sold their own people into slavery? There lies the problem. The concept of reparations ignores all history and law. Like it or not, these corporations did nothing illegal. Jews have been the most discriminated group in world history. They have been enslaved thousands of years. They were rounded up and slaughtered by the millions just years ago. Yet they have prospered despite extreme discrimination, because they refused to let it keep them down. Reparations are not about righting past wrongs. It is about deflecting responsibility to one's own lot in life.

James Drew
Class of 2001

Questions not worthy of answers

Texas A&M was very fortunate to have such distinguished leaders visit our campus Sunday and Monday. I am sure most students would agree that keeping these forums open to all members of the community is a wonderful way for this University to act as a strong educational resource for those around us. It is for this reason that I was no doubt the only one shocked at the irrelevant and almost insulting questions that several A&M Consolidated High School students addressed to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice Monday. Although I agree that debate and raising questions is important to education, the place for that is in the classroom. I applaud Rice for the intelligent, forthright responses to those students. It was a true example of her abilities as world leader. I hope, however, that she does not consider the actions of those few students to be an example of the Aggie community. Being a gracious host to those on campus has always been an indelible part of the Aggie spirit, and I hope that those seniors who do not realize this sent their college applications elsewhere.

Jessica Berkey
Class of 2004

Only the young survive?

'Survivor' for children unhealthy and unnatural

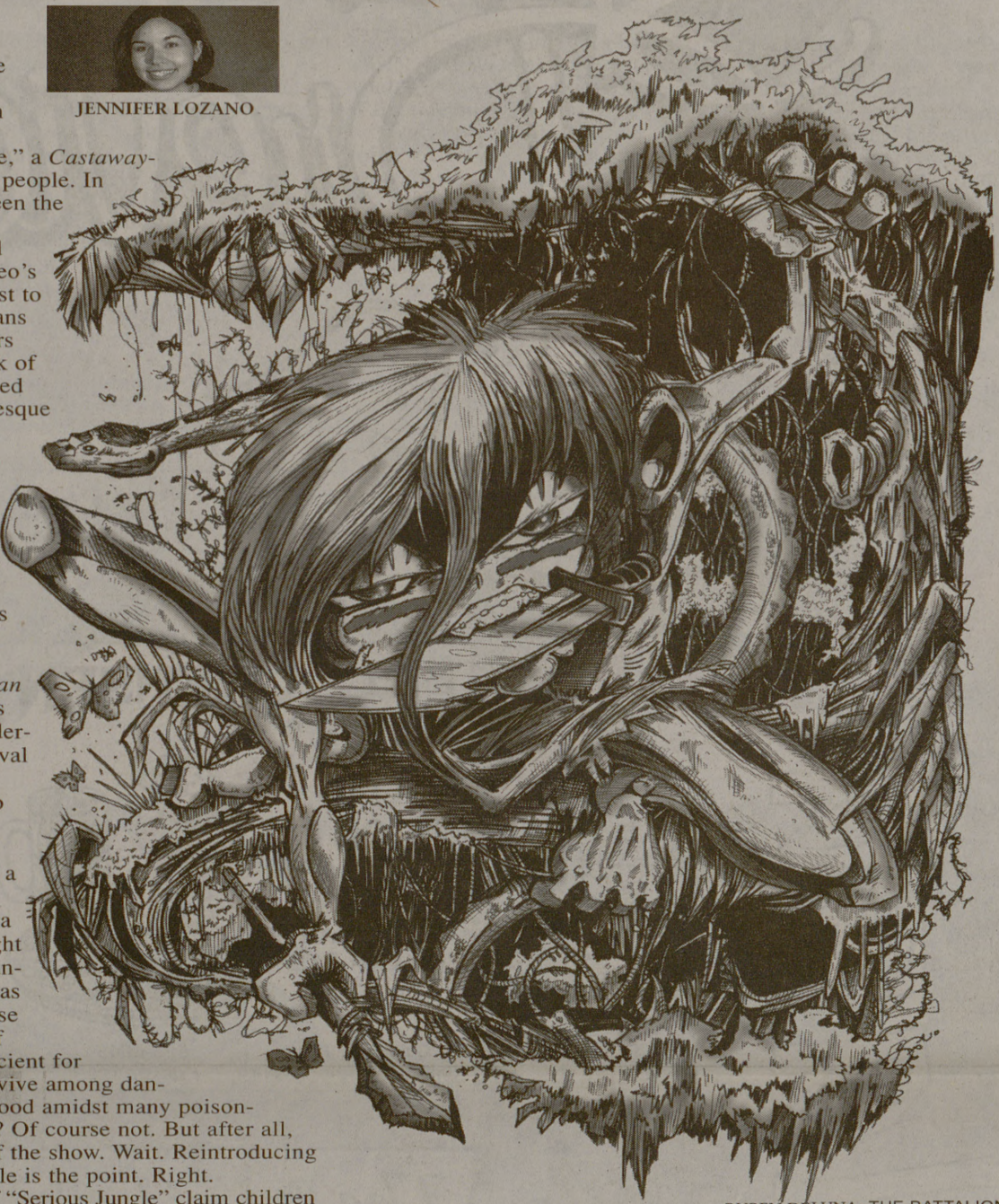
Just when reality television could not get any more bazaar or tacky, the BBC has proven differently. Fans of reality television can anticipate the arrival this December of "Serious Jungle," a *Castaway*-style reality show for young people. In this program, children between the ages of 12 and 15 are pitted against crocodiles, bears and rhinos in the depths of Borneo's virgin rainforest in their quest to reintroduce rescued orangutans to the wild. However, viewers should see through this cloak of environmental morality draped over the typical "Survivor"-esque reality show and view "Serious Jungle" for what it is: a tacky, potentially dangerous and pathetic attempt by the BBC to make money off of mainstream television viewers who have minimal discretion.



JENNIFER LOZANO

"Nothing about this trip is going to be easy," said BBC producer Marshall Corwin, according to the *UK Guardian Unlimited Observer*. For this reason, the children will undergo a week of intensive survival training by a Royal Marine, including a two-day trip into the jungle to build the base where they will live for two weeks. Although the idea of a group of anal, pompous British producers and camera crew having to deal with eight adolescent children in the jungle is pretty hilarious, one has to consider the safety of these children. Could one week of "intensive" training be sufficient for children to learn how to survive among dangerous animals, forage for food amidst many poisonous plants and build shelter? Of course not. But after all, that seems to be the point of the show. Wait. Reintroducing the orangutans into the jungle is the point. Right.

Although the producers of "Serious Jungle" claim children will feel like they are in the middle of nowhere, a doctor and nurse traveling with the group and a helicopter on standby to airlift them to a hospital within two hours will actually protect them. So then, it is not real, is it? Either way, there is no doubt that these intense experiences will have innumerable negative emotional — if not physical — effects on the children involved. "It's going to be the toughest, most testing experience of these children's lives; that's the drama of it," Corwin said. In an effort to make these potentially traumatizing events seem benign and beneficial, the organizer of the trip, Trekforce Expeditions, boasts that these children will build strong, meaningful relationships based on more than "what music they like or what trainers they wear." However, these types of simple relationships are what children of their age should be involved in. As adults, people have to deal with many obstacles other than crocodiles and poisonous plants. Sometimes these difficulties come in the form of an illness, broken relationships or death, and exposing these children to unnecessary, extreme



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

physical hardship will not benefit them in the future. Although Corwin said his program has a "genuine" point and the children will learn life lessons, it is obvious that Corwin is exploiting their vulnerability and naivete for the network's benefit. The predecessors of "Serious Jungle" exploited dim-witted adults and problem-seeking couples, and viewers sat by and watched contentedly. However, "Serious Jungle" has reached a breaking point by placing children in dangerous situations to capture their "very clear and honest reactions" to extreme conditions. Although discretion lies with the parents of potential volunteers, viewers should be aware of the true worthlessness and exploitation that is at the heart of this television program. If people really want to see British people doing weird things at the expense of no one, they should tune into MTV and watch "The Osbournes." Now that is quality programming.

Jennifer Lozano is a junior English major.

'Dear Abby' betrays confidence



GEORGE DEUTSCH

For a national advice column, "Dear Abby" slowly has sunk to the depths of mediocrity, as the advice rarely deviates from a female-empowering, forgive-and-forget standard. Still, there are troubled people the world over who take much of Abby's gab to heart. They trust that the fictitious Abigail Van Buren will not only look out for their best interests but also help them and respect their confidentiality. These people are fooling themselves. First of all, America's grandmother, Abigail Van Buren, is not actually a real person. She is a pseudonym sisters Jeanne and Pauline Phillips share. The nation should learn to be less trusting of these women, as they have finally and decisively, turned their back on the very lifeblood of the ho-hum "Dear Abby" column: their audience. Unfortunately, what was once a forum for advice has transformed into a police lineup: The misguided efforts of the Phillips have resulted in the arrest and prosecution of one of their would-be advice seekers. It turns out Abby's "help" is not much help at all. Consider what happened to Paul

Weiser, 28. Admittedly, he is a confused young man. His fantasies about young, under-aged girls bothered him to the point that he sought help from four doctors. They each assured him he was fine. But Weiser, not feeling fine, wanted a clear conscience. He turned for help to the bastion of kind words and support, Abigail Van Buren. Weiser sent "Dear Abby" a letter detailing his problem. After all, Abby always steers the troubled in the best direction. But Weiser's help-seeking letter resulted in his demise. Perhaps the years have not been kind to Abby, or perhaps decades of writing a nationally-syndicated column is enough to inflate the ego. The police were notified by the Phillips, and Weiser's door was eventually kicked in. In a sweep reminiscent of Operation Candyman, they raided Weiser's computer. The authorities dug through Weiser's personal property until they discovered pictures of nude women that they arbitrarily labeled as juveniles. Weiser was condemned as a pedophile and taken away. He never got the help he desperately wanted. This is clearly an instance of illegal search and seizure. The Phillips had no legitimate evidence against Weiser or proof of wrongdoing. The police, too, operated on impulse and emotion, not proof. Not only had Weiser never committed any criminal sex acts, he was

seeking to rid his mind of troubling fantasies. The only evidence against him was his written plea for help. It is disheartening and disgusting when an international personality like Van Buren betrays readers and their confidentiality in this manner. The women behind the "Dear Abby" column have unquestionably overstepped their bounds. The truth is that Weiser had never acted on any of his fantasies. He did not pose a threat to anyone but himself. Weiser was neither proud of his condition or encouraging it. Help was all he wanted. Last month, Weiser pleaded not guilty to three counts of child pornography. Regardless of whether he wins the case, life as he knows it is over. A family has been destroyed and a life has been ruined by two women. Child pornography is undoubtedly a social evil that needs to be addressed, but a two-woman crusade will not solve the problem. Jeanne and Pauline Phillips have destroyed the worth and credibility of the "Dear Abby" column. Not only did they not fix Weiser's problem, they were Weiser's problem. Abby owes the nation an apology.

George Deutsch is a junior journalism major.