

EDITORIAL A NATION AT WAR

With the U.N. not enforcing
Resolution 1441, time to act is now

It is becoming clear with each passing hour that we will soon be at war. Pope John Paul II has said such a conflict, and the devastating loss of life it could entail, would be a "defeat for humanity" — an assessment few could dispute. This is not a war we wanted, but one that has been forced upon America by Saddam Hussein.

President George W. Bush's ultimatum Monday that Saddam leave Iraq is only the latest in a series of demands by the international community during the past 12 years that the Iraqi regime cease its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs, that it cease threatening its neighbors and that it cease aiding terrorists. In refusing to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions mandating disarmament, Saddam has demonstrated that his regime cannot be a peaceful member of the community of nations. Indeed, Saddam's weapons and his inclination to use them pose an intolerable threat to America and its allies.

Like Bush, Americans had hoped that the United Nations could resolve this crisis peacefully, or failing that, would join America in a coalition to rid the world of Saddam. However, these last few months have fixed responsibilities and laid bare intrigues pointing to an international body unwilling to fulfill its obligations. France refuses to consider military action to enforce the resolutions under any circumstances, ensuring the impotence and irrelevance of the United Nations.

The United Nations has abdicated its role, and now America and its allies must act swiftly to rid the world of Saddam's weapons and to rid the Iraqi people of Saddam's tyranny. War is always a tragic option, but Saddam has left us with no other choice.

The young men and women who will liberate Iraq are the very best America has to offer. God bless them, and America.

Letting freedom ring?

Name change to freedom fries poor attempt at patriotism

Despite the inevitability of the use of force to disarm Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, France and other members of the United Nations Security Council are still standing their ground and threatening to veto a second resolution authorizing force against Iraq. While France is not known for its courage, the country deserves a small measure of respect for its refusal to bow to U.S. pressure, but none is forthcoming. Instead, U.S. officials are passing absurd legislation to get back at the French.

Last month Neal Rowland, owner of Cubbie's restaurant in Beaufort, N.C., decided to change the name of the French fries sold in his establishment to "freedom" fries. He told CNN the decision was not meant to slight the French people for their antiwar stance concerning Iraq, but to show his "patriotic pride" for American troops and President George W. Bush. Rep. Walter Jones, R-North Carolina and the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, decided to follow Rowland's example last week by removing "French" from the cafeteria menu. The House restaurants will only be serving "freedom fries" and "freedom toast" from now on, or until France changes its mind.

That is not the only action a member of Congress is taking against France. According to CNN, a representative from New Jersey has introduced legislation to prevent French companies from receiving U.S. aid to help rebuild Iraq. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite from Florida introduced a measure to have the United States pay for the removal of the bodies of U.S. soldiers who died during the world wars and are

buried in France. Yet another measure is discouraging Americans' participation in the 2003 Paris Air show.

Not only are these attempts at "patriotism" a waste of time, it also makes the House and Americans, in general, look ridiculous. It is embarrassing to think our government officials actually took the time to make this "freedom" change. What's next? Freedom kissing? Freedom poodles? Freedom onion soup?

Is Congress going to ostracize the French Quarter of New Orleans? What about the Statue of Liberty, which was a gift from France? Is it okay to leave it alone, or should it be covered? Does Congress not have anything more important to work on?

The most ridiculous aspect of this move is that French fries and French toast did not even originate in France. According to the Christian Science Monitor, Belgium claims to have invented the idea of deep-frying potato strips, but because France was the first place American soldiers encountered them around 1918, France

got the credit. French toast is said to be named after Joseph French, the owner of the roadside tavern in New York where the dish was invented in 1724, according to the Food Network Web site.

Will this have any impact at all, other than making Americans look idiotic? Sure, we love the fattening side dish, but what it is called is inconsequential. It is not as though eating a stick of fried starch makes a person suddenly and uncontrollably pro-France.

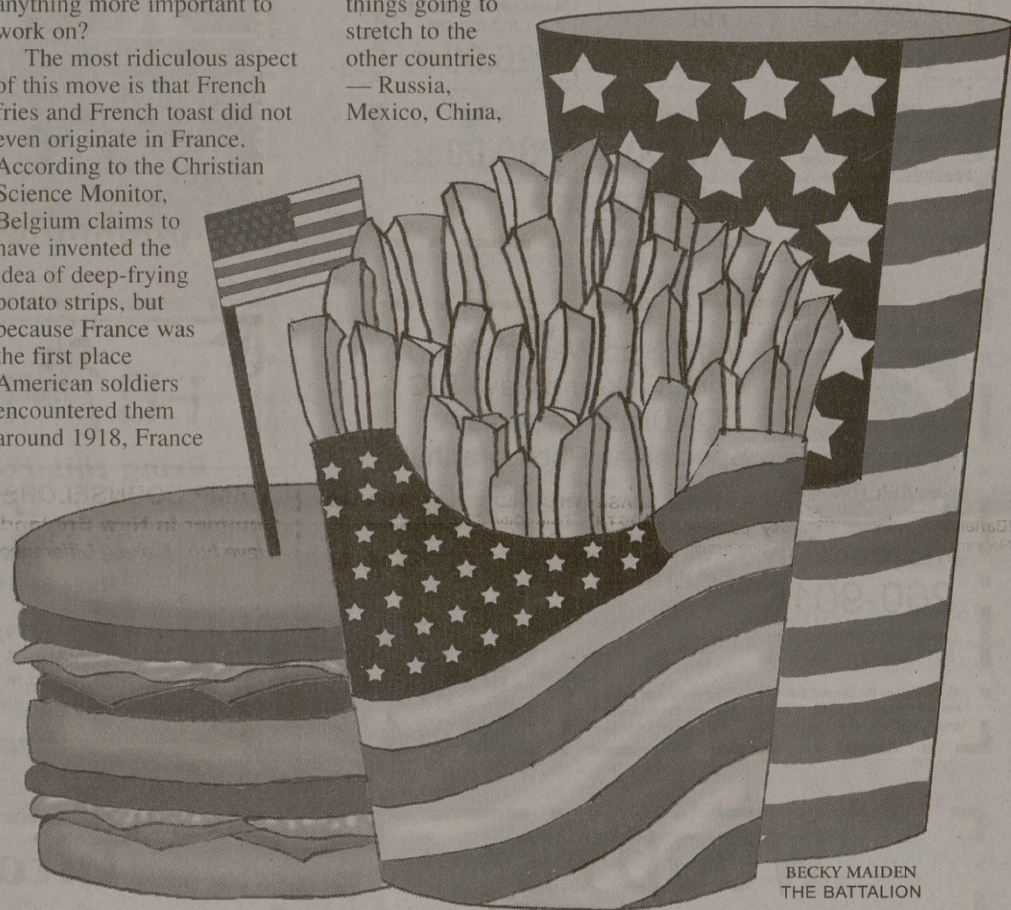
In not supporting the United States, France is trying to protect its economic interests. According to CNN's Moneyline, almost one-fourth of France's exports each year, more than \$500 million, goes to Iraq through the food for oil program.

Is this trend of renaming things going to stretch to the other countries — Russia, Mexico, China,

Germany — that do not support the U.S. position on Iraq? "Independence" roulette? "Victory" hat dance? Are we going to have to change the name of hamburgers?

The United States cannot erase or ignore countries simply because they do not agree with the government's position. Dissent and freedom of speech and thought are two principles the United States is supposed to champion. People have a right to disagree and trying to punish them because they do, and especially through such ludicrous means, only makes the government look foolish. This whole renaming decision is not patriotism; it is pettiness, and it should stop.

Jenelle Wilson is a senior political science major.



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MAIL CALL

Renaming 'French' foods needless

While our servicemen are preparing to annihilate a third-rate military power in Iraq, our Republican leadership in Congress is worried about the name of snack foods. The Republican leadership successfully lobbied the cafeteria management of the three House office building cafeterias to change the name of French-themed foods.

It is very reassuring that while our soldiers are preparing to risk their lives on our president's unconvincing whim, the congressional leadership is fighting hard for regime change in the dangerous and deceptive world of French food prefixes.

Justin Hill
Class of 2004

Beutel appointment rules ridiculous

On the Monday prior to spring break, I was trying to call into Beutel (a.k.a. Brutal) to make an appointment. I was on hold for 15-20 minutes, and finally decided this was ridiculous and walked to Beutel to make the appointment in person.

When I got there, I was informed that I COULD NOT make an appointment in person. "Appointments must be made over the phone," I was told.

I told the receptionist that I had been on hold trying to call in and decided to walk across

campus thinking that I would never get through in time before my class. I was then informed that "you may use the courtesy phone around the corner to make your appointment."

I refused to call from a phone in Beutel to make an appointment at Beutel! If this truly is one of their policies, this is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard!

Thomas Smith
Class of 2001

Dixie Chick denied free speech rights

In London, Lubbock native and Dixie Chick Natalie Maines said, "Just so you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas."

Stations around the nation have begun to boycott the group. Soon after her remark, she apologized. "As a concerned American citizen, I apologize to President Bush because my remark was disrespectful."

In Kansas City, WDAF-AM set trash cans outside its studio so listeners could throw away copies of Dixie Chick CDs. Others stopped playing their music.

I can only ask how these stations, considering the First Amendment and free speech, can so easily refute someone else's rights?

Questioning the methods of our government is the fundamental basis of the First Amendment.

Kevin Sullivan
Class of 2004

Election about issues, not age City Council needlessly changing age requirement

This summer, the College Station City Council will consider raising the age for running for council from 18 to 21. Among other things, this comes as an insult to students' intelligence by implying that the opinions of residents under the age of 21 are irrelevant.

According to a Feb. 20 Battalion article, College Station City Secretary Connie Hooks said that younger students who run for council may not know enough about the office or the issues involved.

"Someone who is 21 will make decisions based on the importance of the role, not necessarily (the importance) of (Texas A&M)," Hooks said.

This argument makes it seem that although College Station appreciates the business of residents ranging in age from 18 to 20, the city doesn't trust them to help make decisions for themselves.

If an 18-year-old is old enough to vote and thereby make a political decision, then why shouldn't he be trusted to represent other residents his age in the City Council? Age alone does not make someone ignorant.

By placing age restrictions on council member eligibility, City Council seems to be assuming that just because one adult is a few years older than another adult, he is more mature and better educated.

Age has nothing to do with understanding. There are many college stu-

dents who understand issues better than their parents do. Why would a middle-aged resident necessarily be more qualified for a council position than a political science student who is studying local government?

Another important point is that the purpose of democracy is representation. Obviously, students account for a large percentage of the population of College Station. Of the 45,000 students at A&M, several thousand fall into the under-21 category.

"Age has nothing to do with understanding. There are many college students who understand issues better than their parents do."

How can a 40-year-old College Station businessman represent these college students better than someone between 18 and 20? It's simple; he can not.

Many wonder if the City Council's reason for raising the age limit is really due to the belief that students under 21 are unqualified, or if the council is afraid of younger Aggies gaining local influence.

Maybe the council anticipates that younger council members would be in favor of passing legislation loosening restrictions on alcohol, for example. This line of thought might be seen as a threat to the values of College Station's current City Council.

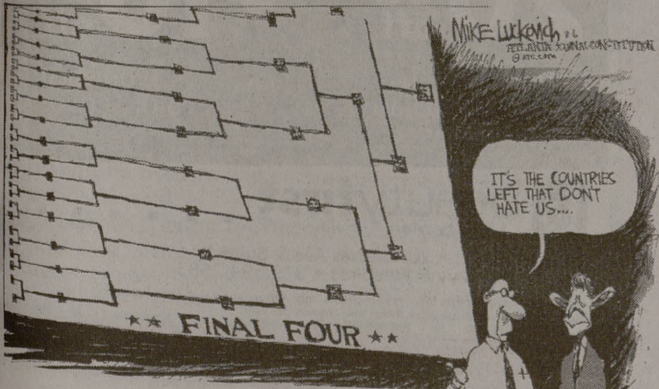
Hooks said that a younger council member might confuse A&M issues with other local ones. In most cases, legislation has nothing to do with the University, such as with issues of rezoning, raising property taxes or creating bike lanes. However, if legislation was ever brought forth concerning A&M, then why shouldn't students be concerned about how it would affect other Aggies their age?

Voters will be able to decide on the age increase in November. A&M students should use their voting power to show City Council that they are paying attention to this issue.

By participating in the democratic process, especially in this instance, Aggies will help to dispel any belief that students are ignorant or apathetic about what goes on in College Station.

Hopefully, in the next local election, at least one A&M student will consider running for City Council. If that happens, it will be important for other students to vote him into office so that he can better represent their needs.

Katharine McHenry is a senior journalism major.



HELP WANTED

PART-TIME STAFF ASSISTANT for a busy real estate office. Must be a detail oriented person with excellent communication and good computer skills. This position requires 15-20 hours per week and at least one Saturday per week. Must be available to work some evenings in person at Coventry Glen Real Estate University Dr. East, College Station, TX. Call for interview 979-592-1111.

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m/f for 2bdrm/2.5bath condo, or 1bdrm/1bath. August \$400/mo. +1200. 52-8055. kiebba@houstonsr.com

Roommate needed, Summer 03. 3bdrm/1ba, \$350/mo. Ethernet, Cable. Brian. 694-1794.

F needed for summer, 4/3 dorm, w/d, cable, ethernet, 3300/4/4util. Felisha 693-7564.

Females ASAP, 3/2 townhome, w/d, close to campus, \$250/mo. Hardwood patio w/yard, furnished, no pets/smoking. 832-264-7718, 281-74.

Male roommates needed for 2003 semester. 3bdrm/2ba house on 11th. \$450/mo., utilities included. 51.

Male needed, 3bdrm/2bath, 3/3utilities, large backyard. Call 1-455-6308.

Male roommate wanted to share car's lease beginning in May. 2bdr/2ba. \$265/mo. + 1/2 bills. Call 5-1052.

Male roommate, new 3/2, w/d, cable, internet, \$350 +1200. 74, 210-383-8524.

Male, 4bdrm/3ba house, 2-room, May 1-August, \$400/mo. +1200. Closets. In Bryan. 846-3134.

Looking for 1-or-2 female roommates. Cute 3bdrm. house in Bryan. Call 823-6414.

Roommate large 2/1.5bdr/2bath. Call John 979-224-0822.

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