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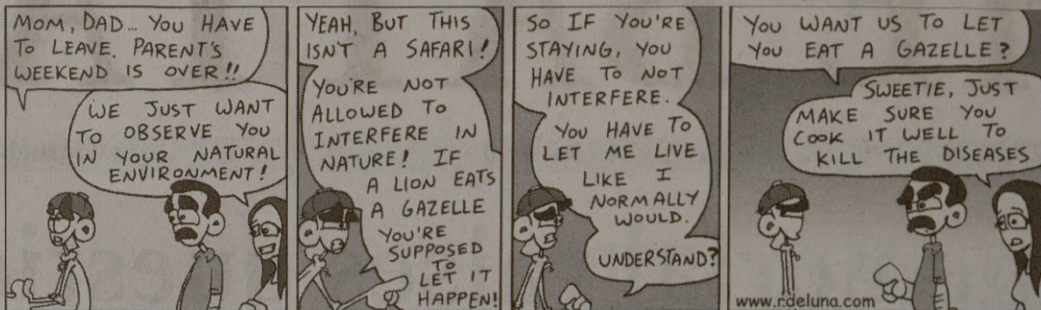
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**Fish**

by R. DeLuna



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SO IF YOU'RE STAYING, YOU HAVE TO NOT INTERFERE. YOU HAVE TO LET ME LIVE LIKE I NORMALLY WOULD. UNDERSTAND?

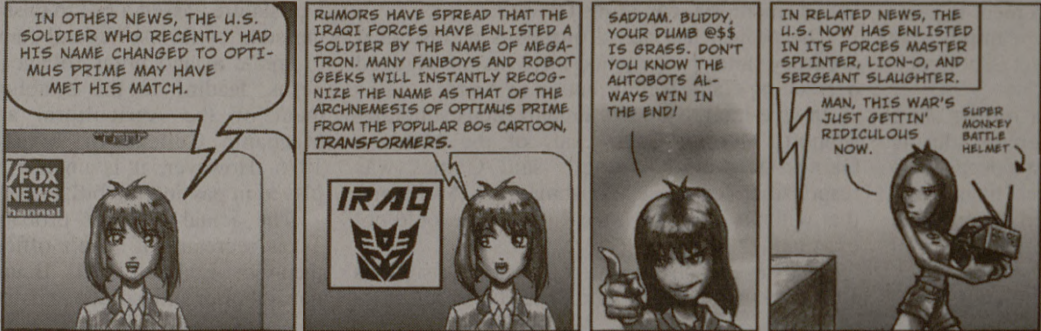
YOU WANT US TO LET YOU EAT A GAZELLE?

SWEETIE, JUST MAKE SURE YOU COOK IT WELL TO KILL THE DISEASES

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**CUBE OF XOE**

By C.J.



IN OTHER NEWS, THE U.S. SOLDIER WHO RECENTLY HAD HIS NAME CHANGED TO OPTIMUS PRIME MAY HAVE MET HIS MATCH.

RUMORS HAVE SPREAD THAT THE IRAQI FORCES HAVE ENLISTED A SOLDIER BY THE NAME OF MEGATRON. MANY FANBOYS AND ROBOT GEEKS WILL INSTANTLY RECOGNIZE THE NAME AS THAT OF THE ARCHENEMY OF OPTIMUS PRIME FROM THE POPULAR BOB CARTOON, TRANSFORMERS.

SADDAM, BUDDY, YOUR DUMB \$\$\$ IS GRASS. DON'T YOU KNOW THE AUTOBOTS ALWAYS WIN IN THE END!

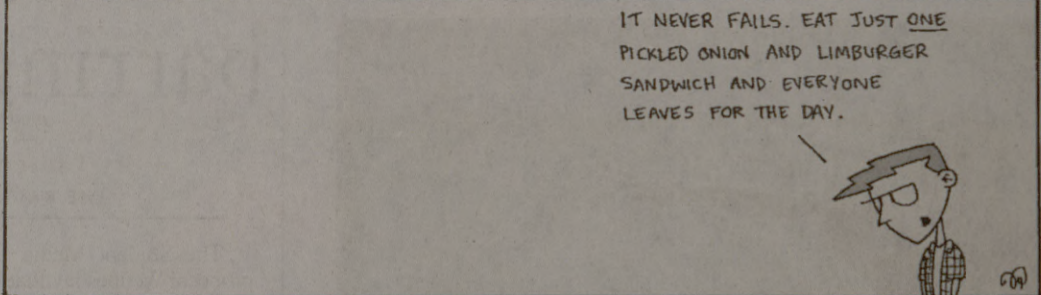
IN RELATED NEWS, THE U.S. NOW HAS ENLISTED IN ITS FORCES MASTER SPLITTER, LION-O, AND SERGEANT SLAUGHTER.

MAN, THIS WAR'S JUST GETTIN' REDICULOUS NOW.

SUPER MONKEY BATTLE HELMET!

**Noise Pollution**

by Josh Darwin



IT NEVER FAILS. EAT JUST ONE PICKLED ONION AND LIMBURGER SANDWICH AND EVERYONE LEAVES FOR THE DAY.

**Gaines**

Continued from page 1

who say the project is more about race than history.

"(Memorial supporters) are trying so hard to find somebody other than a white male, and that's a noble effort, but I don't want to see history rewritten," said Student Senator John Matthews.

Honoring Gaines with a statue seems out of proportion to his actual contribution to A&M, which was no greater than that of other legislators who voted for the bill, Matthews said. He also criticized the hurried pace of the project, and said the memorial council should meet more than once before presenting its recommendation to the Student Senate on Wednesday.

The A&M chapter of College Republicans, which had been the driving force behind the memorial in its early years, now opposes the project. Jeff Graham, chair of College Republicans and a member of the memorial committee, said Gaines' contribution to

A&M does not rival those of Lawrence Sullivan Ross and Earl Rudder, the two men honored with statues on campus.

"(Rudder's and Ross's) accomplishments are tangible and well-documented. Gaines' accomplishment consists of voting for a bill," Graham said.

Landgraf said Gaines' race has nothing to do with the memorial project.

"We should recognize the contributions of the 12th legislature, and Gaines personifies that era of Texas history," Landgraf said.

He added that Gaines, who was from nearby Washington County, has local relevance.

More than 40 student organizations have endorsed the memorial, Landgraf said.

A memorial to a black Republican would help balance the recognition given to white Democrats of the Reconstruction era such as James Throckmorton and Richard Coke, who endorsed the lynching of blacks. Many white Democrats opposed the creation of A&M because feder-

al law would also require them to create a school for blacks, which the legislature accomplished in creating Prairie View A&M, Baum said.

"Gaines was the natural leader of the black Republicans," Baum said.

Erecting a statue to Gaines would allow the University to recognize the key role blacks played in the diverse political coalition that, during Reconstruction established the foundation for public education in Texas, Baum said. Unlike the University of Texas, which recently placed a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. on its campus, A&M does not have to grasp for outsiders to honor blacks, Baum said.

Landgraf said the memorial council would suggest to the Student Senate what form the memorial to Gaines should take and how the funds could be raised. During the height of the Gaines memorial advocacy in the mid-1990s, College Republicans estimated a statue would cost more than \$200,000.

**Media**

Continued from page 1

Student Body President Zac Coventry also declined to comment.

Student leaders who have a vested interest in how The Battalion covers their groups may try to exert influence on editors, Creel said. Even if the student leaders can set aside their organizational interests, Creel added, their presence on the Board creates a chilling effect on editors who must worry that a critical or controversial article may upset the student members of the Board.

The student newspaper must be independent and free from the political machinations of student

government, Creel said.

"Perception is reality, and if the Board is unwilling to acknowledge that improprieties do in fact exist, then The Battalion should altogether discard its facade of independence," Creel said.

"Editors do not need to be filtered by student leaders, especially a specific faction of campus like the SGA, MSC or Corps, who they have written about in the past."

The Board will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in Room 221 in the Reed McDonald building. Also on the agenda is the selection of The Battalion editor in chief for next fall, which the Board will discuss in closed session. Creel's proposal will be considered in open session.

THE BATTALION  
NEWS IN BRIEF

**Class of 2003 gives "Maroon Out" statue**

The Texas A&M Class of 2003 Council has announced a special "Maroon Out" statue as senior class gift.

The Maroon Out statue is a 1/2-6 feet tall bronze statue of A&M students sporting the existing Maroon Out shirts standing in the sawed-off position. Beneath the statue stands a plaque explaining the Maroon Out tradition, said Mercedes Malazzo, Class of 2003 gift council and a senior psychology major.

The statue will stand in the circular drive of the new endowment to Kyle Field, she said.

The statue has not been named yet and the cost is undetermined. Money left over from the project will go to the Bonfire Memorial Endowment, Malazzo said.

The Class of 2004 gift council has been voted on but not announced, she said.

**A&M football tickets increase in price; \$55 raise for students**

Season football tickets for non-students this year, KBTX Channel 35 reported Monday.

Tickets to the seven home games this fall are now \$130 for non-students, an increase of nearly \$100. Students will be paying \$187. KBTX reports that the new ticket charge gives A&M's football team the highest-priced tickets in the Big 12.

The athletic department budget depends on ticket sales because college sports are state funded, A&M officials told KBTX.

**Council**

Continued from page 1

prominent percentage of College Station's population, very few of them vote, Halter said.

"Students seem to be more interested in who gets elected to really important posts, like Yell Leader, and not to important offices that affect the cost of rent, utilities, etc.," Halter said.

**Bonfire**

Continued from page 1

expect the return of familiar Bonfire merchandise at the Christmas Boutique, including miniature "cinnamon sticks" bonfires."

Kirkpatrick said he observed positive reactions to Gaines' announcement.

"The reaction to the (announcement) was overwhelming," Kirkpatrick said. "Every Aggie Mom I talked to was just ecstatic about it."

Kirkpatrick said the Coalition's whose main goal is to return Bonfire to campus was "very happy" about Gates' decision.

"Lifting the moratorium on Bonfire-related materials is now two on our agenda and now we are halfway there," he said.

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