

OPINION

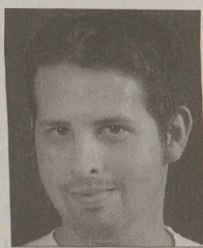
THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Monday, July 12, 2004

Unpatriotic

Kerry's past sympathies with U.S. enemies suggest he is unfit to be president

Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism," George Washington once warned. Patriotism is defined as a love and devotion to one's country. But to love something, one must have an understanding of what that thing is, its nature and its values. During an election year, one should look at the candidates—separately, not in a comparison but in an evaluation that takes only that person into account. One must consider a candidate's true character outside of the "photo-op" moments that are staged to make him look charismatic, wholesome, passionate or "a man of the people."



MIKE WALTERS

of the United States against all enemies" and to "bear true faith and allegiance to the same."

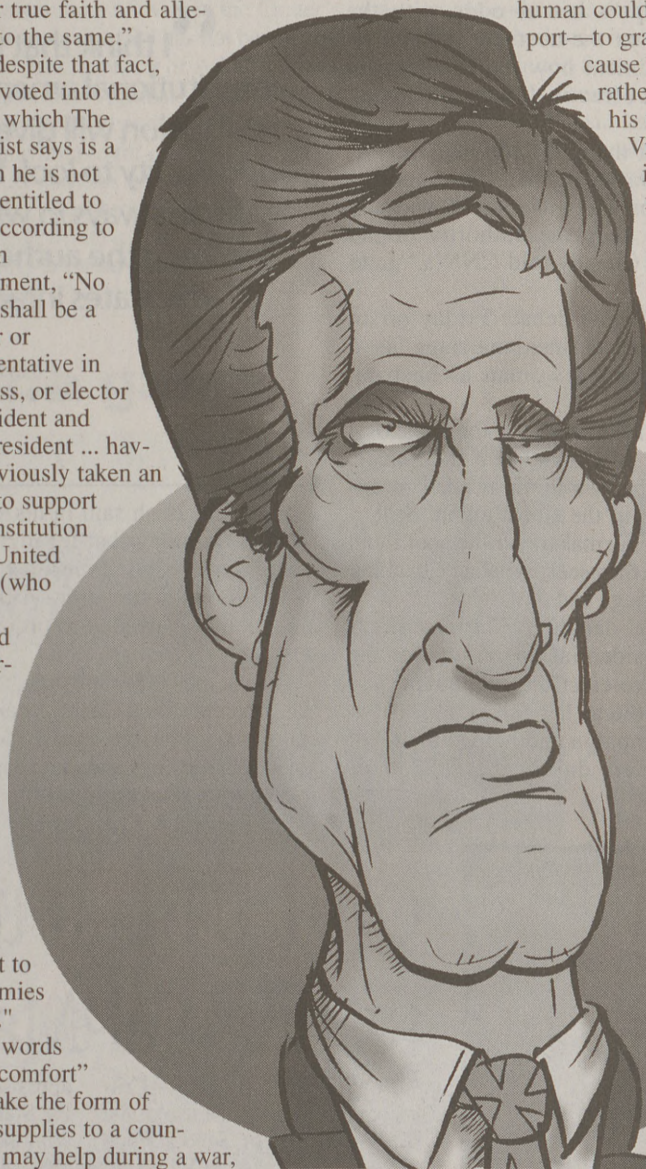
Yet despite that fact, he was voted into the Senate, which The Federalist says is a position he is not legally entitled to hold. According to the 14th Amendment, "No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President ... having previously taken an oath... to support the Constitution of the United States, (who has) engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

The words "given comfort" could take the form of giving supplies to a country that may help during a war,

but the most powerful form of support any human could give another is moral support—to grant him confirmation that the cause he is fighting for is just. But rather than giving such support to his fellow troops during the Vietnam war, Kerry was granting it to their enemy, in violation of military law.

There are many other claims that draw to attention his reprehensible conduct during the Vietnam War, from accusing his fellow soldiers of horrible war crimes to tossing medals on the White House lawn to founding an organization that would later plot the assassination of pro-war Congressmen during that time.

While these things are discussed on such Web sites as



<http://www.vietnamveteransagainstjohnkerry.com>, there may be some who are skeptical of Web sites

and even letters written by soldiers who fought beside him.

For those who are skeptical or may dismiss his antics as being "in the past," the sad truth is Kerry is still capable of such dishonorable acts—and is still performing them.

On Feb. 8 the *Tehran Times* published an e-mail sent by the Kerry campaign promising that, as president, Kerry would try to restore relations "at risk" due to "the actions and attitudes" of the Bush administration. "Disappointment with the current U.S. leadership is widespread," the e-mail said, "extending not just to the corridors of power and politics, but to the man and woman on the street as well."

The Student Movement Coordination Committee for Democracy in Iran was appalled. In its official response to Kerry, the committee wrote: "Senator, by sending such a message directly to the organs and megaphones of the dictatorial Islamic regime, you have given them credibility, comfort and embraced this odious theocracy. You have encouraged and emboldened a tyrannical regime to use this as propaganda and declare 'open season' on the freedom fighters in Iran."

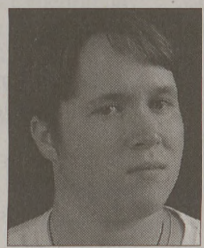
Given the facts, it would seem that The Federalist's petition to remove Sen. Kerry from office is appropriate. Further, it would seem that Kerry does not even qualify as a presidential candidate, according to the Constitution. By violating his oath and the laws of military officers and statesmen, Kerry has proven himself a traitor. Though traitors are no longer given the fate of "a long rope and a short drop," the least he deserves is to be removed from office and prohibited from ever occupying such posts.

Kerry is anything but a patriot.

Mike Walters is a senior psychology major. Graphic by Will Lloyd

Religious persecution in China cannot be tolerated by America

On June 18, Jiang Zingxiu was arrested and sent to prison for distributing Bibles to people on the streets of the province of Guizhou in southwest China, Zenit News Service reported.



CODY SAIN

On July 5, it was reported that Zingxiu had been brutally killed while in prison. Jiang's mother-in-law, Tan Dewi, was also arrested but later released. She said that during the questioning process Jiang was repeatedly struck by the agents.

According to Zenit, China only allows a limited number of Bibles to be published and distributed each year. Bibles are also banned from being sold in bookstores across the nation. Because of these religious restrictions, the crime that Jiang was charged with was "inciting social disorders."

In America, where a Bible is placed in nearly every hotel room, and especially at Texas A&M, where students are known for spreading their faith through leaflets, pamphlets, tracts and other evangelization methods, the thought of being arrested for distributing or selling Bibles is absurd. Americans should be outraged by news such as this.

This is not an isolated action by the Chinese government to maintain state controlled religions.

In December 2003, Catholic World News reported news of a Chinese Christian who was arrested for posting information on a Web site about the government's crackdown on underground churches.

Bishops of the underground Catholic Church in China (the church loyal to Rome) have often been targets of persecution. Zenit reports that in March, Bishop Wei Jingyi of the Diocese of Qiqihar was arrested at a tollbooth coming back from an airport for allegedly traveling illegally. He had been arrested twice before and sentenced to labor camps.

Representatives from the Vatican called this and similar arrests "obstinate persecution of bishops, priests and laity, the faithful of the universal Church" by the Chinese government.

To legally practice religion in China, one must belong to an official church that has been sanctioned by the government. Thus, a person who is legally a Catholic belongs, at least on the surface, to the "patriotic" church and not the Church of Rome.

Anyone with a basic knowledge of the history of Christianity knows that the distinguishing mark of the Roman Catholic Church, as compared to the various Protestant churches and the Eastern Orthodox Catholic churches, is the centrality of Rome and the authority of Pope. Any so-called Catholic church that is not under the authority of and loyal to the Bishop of Rome is not the Roman Catholic Church.

China's legal brand of Catholicism, though it may appear to be the Roman Catholic Church, amounts to nothing more than a feigned attempt a religious freedom.

The Communist Party of the United States of America says on its Web site that "All socialist countries have substantial religious freedom. In China, Vietnam and Cuba, there are many religious institutions, many millions who worship freely, many churches that are growing."

However, when a government has a list of "approved," as opposed to recognized, religions, when a government forbids the sale and limits the production of sacred religious texts, forces people to have to worship secretly in homes and abandoned buildings to avoid being arrested, forces the Pope to name bishops and cardinals secretly and where only God and a few select men know about it, there is no religious freedom.

The people in countries that enjoy true freedom must speak out

for the rest of humankind. Christians especially must help their fellow brethren in Christ.

St. Paul described the followers of Jesus as the "Body of Christ" and wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, "And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it."

Persecution in China and other parts of the world affect the church worldwide. To ignore or be indifferent to these injustices is an injustice in itself.

The average American need not become a human rights activist to make a difference. All men and women can show concern by writing letters to their political representatives, alerting them to the lack of religious freedoms in China and other countries and urging them to reexamine and possibly alter U.S. policy toward China.

Christians and other religious people can and should pray for deliverance of those being persecuted. Also, when possible, one could protest by simply refusing to buy Chinese products.

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." These are poignant words that one should never forget. If true peace is ever to be obtained, there must first be a concern for justice, for as long as injustice persists, true peace will never exist.

The only thing more evil than an injustice itself is indifference to that injustice. The silence of Americans must end.

Cody Sain is a junior philosophy major.

MAIL CALL

Women can find satisfaction at home

In response to *Tori Foster's July 7 column:*

Ms. Foster's article about women's "moral dilemma" is both insulting to women and slanderous to men. First of all, she states that women have to choose between a satisfying life, a career, and an altruistic life, raising a family. This is a slap in the face to the many women who gave up promising careers, not because society forced them to, but because motherhood is what they wanted. My own mother feels insulted every time she hears someone suggest that, because she gave up a career in engineering to raise children, she is somehow less than she could have been.

Furthermore, this article invokes a horribly unfair stereotype that men are lazy. It is true that many women do more housework in the evenings than their husbands. It is also true that many men stay at home mowing the lawn on Saturday while their wives are out spending their hard-earned paychecks on a new pair of shoes.

Finally, she suggests that any woman who wants a career can't even get married. This is ridiculous. Many women are very satisfied in their marriages without ever having children. The truth is that life requires setting priorities and making choices. The more things you want to be successful at, the harder you are going to have to work. This applies to both men and women who want families.

Cindy McReynolds
Class of 2005

Priorities must be reset for Life Sciences Center

In response to a July 8 news story:

In the article on the Life Sciences Debate, I was quoted as saying "No one tells departments who to collaborate with." I hope I said "No department tells their faculty who to collaborate with." The point I was trying to make is that I do not agree with those faculty who argue that the traditional departmental structure of universities is an impediment to flexibility or collaborative interdisciplinary research.

I should also note that no one I know opposes the Life Sciences Complex project in the sense of opposing new facilities for the Life Sciences. We all agree that TAMU needs much more than the one building currently proposed can satisfy. While this argument can look very heated to an observer, it is important to realize that we all want excellence in the Life Sciences for the future of TAMU. We're just arguing about how priorities should be decided to use our limited resources to reach that shared goal.

Jim Hu
Associate Professor and Associate Head for Graduate Programs

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 200 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 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be mailed to: 015 Reed McDonald, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mailcall@thebattalion.net



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