



VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 2, 1979



Talk with Dr. Miller

'Beasts' on hit list

Dear Dr. Miller:

I realize that you must have quite a few large problems to deal with, but we in Hughes Hall have a very severe small problem. It's called *ants*. They invaded the dorm BEFORE Christmas, and when we complained, we were told that our rooms would be exterminated over the holidays.

However, over a month has passed, and the little beasts are still around in massive quantities, everywhere we turn! Supposedly, our dorm was exterminated, but I find that a little hard to believe.

Is there no relief for us? If you break my \$334 fee down into 5 months rent, it comes out to \$66.80 a month, which is more than some people I know pay for their one-quarter of two bedroom apartments, which DO NOT have ants!

I believe that the University is wronging us, and I'd like to know what we can do about it.

—Susie Slover, '81

Dear Ms. Slover:

I appreciate your Jan. 15 letter calling the "small" problem in Hughes Hall to my attention. Please understand that all problems, large or small, involving students at Texas A&M University, are of concern to me.

Representatives of the Physical Plant Department have indicated that an intensive effort was made over the semester break to spray all campus dormitories for insects. Hughes Hall was scheduled for spraying on Jan. 12. However, with students returning early for spring semester classes, treatment of Hughes Hall was not completed. Spraying in the dorm was concentrated in the trash chutes, mechanical rooms, stair wells, custodial closets, and around the outside perimeter of each floor in an effort to minimize disturbing students in their rooms.

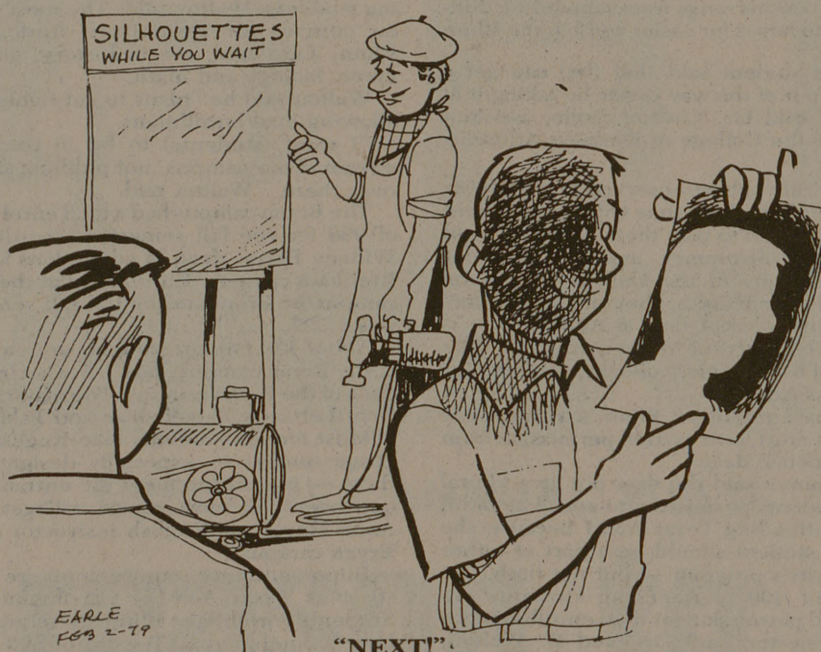
On Jan. 21, housing office personnel furnished the Physical Plant Department a list of areas in the dorms requiring additional treatment for insects. Hughes Hall was included in this listing and the work was done on Jan. 23 and 25.

I sincerely hope that your small problem has been exterminated by now. If not, please contact a Hughes Hall resident adviser so efforts may be coordinated to accomplish the necessary work.

—Jarvis E. Miller
President, Texas A&M

Slouch

By Jim Earle



Letters to the Editor

Volunteerettes?

Editor:

As a fellow Ag, I support you in your outcry for femininity! Women at Texas A&M must be represented. Don't follow the old maxim of "If you can't beat them — join them," instead start your own.

Gather the Waggies together and create the Ross Volunteerettes! The exclusive uniforms of the Ross Volunteerettes would proudly display delicate white lace petticoats underneath a maroon satin mini skirt coordinating to a smooth white satin V-neckline vest over white ruffled dickey.

The costume would be complemented by a maroon top hat and white cane. The privileged seniors would wear boots of course. I suggest high heel white patent leather boots like those of the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders!

—Sally Dennis, '82

and no less; Aggies should be gentlemen but cadets must be "officers" first and males second.

There is no excuse or reason for women to not have a place in the Band, RVs, or Cavalry beyond the fact that they're not good enough. The Band can accommodate them as it does its married members. If a Waggie has a horse and can ride it well enough to be a pride to A&M, Parson's should make her a member. Silver Taps is said for all students regardless of sex and RVs should be made up of all cadets who can earn their place.

As far as I know, the only reason women shouldn't (not can't) work on Bonfire is the language used at the cutting site. If a woman has a place at A&M, she has a place in Bonfire and I don't mean serving cookies. I mean on the stack and at the cut. Traditions are made, not created through prejudice.

Last, to those who I've described: Your behavior shows that you hold the values which make America strong in such low esteem. To have men such as you defend our country is to make our enemies appear more human and compassionate in comparison. Equal opportunity, equal justice, and equal treatment. "Vis per Unitatem" strength through unity, men and women working together.

—Max Triola, '81

Correction

An error appeared in an article about the closing of Exotic Wildlife Unlimited on the front page of Wednesday's Battalion.

Dr. Robert F. Playter, head of the small animal medicine and surgery department in the College of Veterinary Medicine, was incorrectly identified as Dr. Robert Playton.

The Battalion regrets the error.

Jimmy pulls plug on energy crisis

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — "Dear sir," a citizen writes. "In his State of the Union address this year, President Carter hardly made more than a passing reference to energy conservation, which he had previously elevated to the 'moral equivalent of war.' Does this mean the energy crisis is no longer with us? And if so, what happened to it?"

Upon receiving that letter, I put in a call to Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Crises.

If there be any doubt about his bona fides, it was Mr. Keen who amazed the world almost 20 years ago by finding out what happened to the cranberry crisis.

That crisis, older readers may recall, developed in the fall of 1959. At the very time people were laying in provisions for Thanksgiving, the government reported that possible harmful levels of a cancer-causing chemical had been found in two shipments of cranberries.

Talk about your consternation! The reaction was the hysterogenic equivalent of a stock market panic. Shoppers wan-

dered dazed around supermarket aisles, not knowing which brand of cranberry sauce to buy.

Then, like a little, red, round Judge Crater, the cranberry crisis vanished.

Called into the case as a consultant, Mr. Keen was able to trace the crisis' disappearance to cranberry growers who had stopped spraying their bogs with a potentially lethal weed killer.

Humor

Could it be that the energy crisis had gone the way of the cranberry crisis, the ozone layer crisis and assorted other causes of national alarm that had dropped out of the public eye?

Mr. Keen, at my behest, has been trying to track down the answer. His preliminary findings are both puzzling and slightly ominous.

Strangely, he advises, the disappearance has never been officially reported to the Bureau of Missing Crises. Therefore, there has been no formal inquiry into its whereabouts.

Unofficially, Mr. Keen has learned that the energy crisis was last seen last fall shortly after passage of legislation freeing natural gas from federal price controls.

One minute it was there, as big as life. Or maybe bigger than life — a giant exingency casting a shadow over the entire nation and threatening generations as yet unborn.

The next minute — poof! As if by magic, the crisis seemed to evaporate into thin air.

At this point, Mr. Keen is dependent on theory and speculation. Circumstantially, there are grounds for suspicion that the crisis was done away with by persons unknown. But Mr. Keen has not written off the possibility that it is being held incommunicado and may surface again during the next fuel price debate.

So what we have here is the mystification equivalent of a suspense story. If the butler didn't do it, it must have been the CIA.

Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.

✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.

✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification.

Letters to the editor are printed as a service to our readers. Publication of a letter is never guaranteed. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters to remove grammatical errors and to avoid litigation.

Address letters to the editor to:
Letters to the Editor
The Battalion
Room 216
Reed McDonald Building
College Station, Texas 77843

Don't lump all 'Waggies' in one category

By ED RAMOS-ECHANDI

Recently various "pro-Waggy and anti-Waggy" comments have appeared in The Battalion. I disagree with both groups. It's impossible to determine an organization's membership requirements or practices by lumping them together in a "women-yes or women-no" category. Instead, we should look at color guards, the Ross Volunteers, Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, and the Aggie Band as a whole in terms of military effectiveness.

The criteria for being on color guards should be drill, discipline, and hard work. In the past certain women have met these criteria but unfortunately been turned down. Other schools and our own armed services have mixed color guards with no drop in effectiveness. Therefore, if a Waggie applicant can do as well as the best male applicants, she should be accepted.

The RVs and Parson's Mounted Cavalry are different because they are student organizations in the Corps unconnected with the individual services; their membership is determined by senior members or by

the purpose for which the organization was formed.

New RVs run several miles 3 times a week high-porting 10 lb. weapons, are subjected to high personal abuse from seniors, and go through a secret initiation procedure much like a fraternity's pledge period.

Reader's Forum

Apart from the questionable femininity of this, the RVs do allow women to apply — but like fraternities everywhere, members can deny admittance to applicants they dislike — men as well as women.

Parsons' Mounted Cavalry is similar but it's official purpose is to recreate the horse-unit as it existed in 1942, and as is well known, women were not a part of those historical units. However, the way is always open for an RV-type selection process by original members allowing women to apply.

The Aggie Band is also a fraternity with its own traditions, but is also a major unit in the Corps controlled by the Trigon. All new males are accepted who have high school band experience.

Reasons given for an all-male band include living in their own dormitory as a regular military unit and coordinating practices and their schedule in such a way that any other arrangement is impractical.

Moreover, it is doubtful whether the men of the Band would want to work with Waggies or tolerate the physical exemptions they'd have to make for females in "crap-outs" and runs.

The Band's cohesion in keeping out women would make them possibly *reservé* en masse to form their own private organization with less Trigon control and more possibility for harassment and abuse.

Senior boots represent a tradition which is historically part of the male officer's uniform. In recent times women have taken some of this same pride in their own uniforms and traditions, while maintaining an esprit de corps for their service as a whole. Likewise, five years ago it was expected

that Waggies would have different, yet "Corps-like" uniforms to wear. They do.

The Corps has a uniform committee with both men and women to determine what that uniform is. Consequently, part of Corps discipline is standard uniform wear by all Corps members as determined by that committee.

In closing, women should be in the Texas A&M Corps and allowed in color guards and other "non-fraternal" organizations. I believe that at Texas A&M they receive the best possible ROTC training anywhere. I also like, respect and admire many of them as friends and future officers.

I hope in the future male members of the Corps would treat Waggies as individuals with their own merits and faults, that what one Waggie or CT does should not reflect on all, and that we act in a gentlemanly manner consistent with Corps ideals.

Ed Ramos-Echandi is a graduate student in business and a junior in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.



TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Blood pressures to be screened

Since the American Heart Association has declared February National Heart Month, the Texas A&M University Emergency Care Team will sponsor a blood pressure screening Feb. 15-16. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the main hall of the Memorial Student Center across from the post office. The screening takes only a few minutes and is free.

LOCAL

Rodeo tickets on sale Saturday

Tickets for all performances of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be on sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in the Main East shopping center parking lot. The shows will run from Feb. 21 to March 4, with rodeo performances starting Feb. 23. The Astrodom scorecard will recognize Brazos County residents and congratulate the winner of the \$1,500 Brazos County Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo agricultural scholarship during the 2 p.m. performance March 4.

STATE

Clements opposes primary delay

Republican Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday he will veto a move by Democratic legislators to shorten campaigns and delay primary elections until July, August or September. Clements said he was glad to see work begun on establishing a presidential primary but opposed the primary election delay plan.

Divers look for oil spill cause

Divers for Exxon Co. USA and the Army Corps of Engineers Thursday surveyed the Neches River Channel near Port Arthur for a possible submerged hazard that could have torn a major hole in a tanker causing a massive oil spill. Coast Guard Cmdr. Merrill Louie reported "excellent progress" Wednesday in cleaning up Sunday's spill of 250,000 gallons.

Girl, 8, dies as result of beating

An 8-year-old girl, whose mother has been charged with attempted murder in the slaying of her 11-year-old stepbrother, died early Thursday of injuries she received in a beating Jan. 12 at her home in Dallas. Amy Jean Gray, who had sustained a punctured lung, fractured skull and other broken bones, never regained consciousness. Her mother, Kathleen Gradi, 32, has been charged with two counts of attempted murder.

NATION

Adviser barred from testifying

The White House has invited more adverse reactions from women's groups by ordering presidential adviser Sarah Weddington not to testify at a Senate hearing. Weddington was to testify at a Senate Human Resource Committee hearing on women's problems at work. The order was based on a White House decision that the president's personal staff cannot testify at a hearing.

Leukemia victim ordered home

A Plymouth, Mass., judge gave parents of 3-year-old leukemia victim Chad Green one week to avoid a contempt of court charge by returning from a Laetrlie clinic in Mexico where his son is being treated with the drug. Superior Court Judge Guy Volterra said he will drop the charges if Gerald and Dianne Green voluntarily return to Massachusetts within one week. The Greens went to Mexico last week after being ordered to discontinue Chad's Laetrlie treatments.

WORLD

Plane crash kills 5 Americans

A U.S. Air Force C12 aircraft crashed south of Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, killing five of seven Americans on board, an American military spokesman said Thursday. He said the plane was on a routine flight from southern Iran to Tehran and crashed near the village of Nadiz, some 50 miles south of the capital. The names of the victims and survivors are being withheld pending notification of their next of kin, the spokesman said.

Pope home from Latin America

Pope John Paul II arrived Thursday in Rome from a one-week trip to Latin America, his first foray outside Italy since being elected spiritual leader of the world's 700 million Roman Catholics. The pope was met by a crowd of hundreds at the airport.

WEATHER

Thirty percent chance of rain through Saturday. High Friday low 50s. Low early Saturday mid 40s.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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