



VIEWPOINT

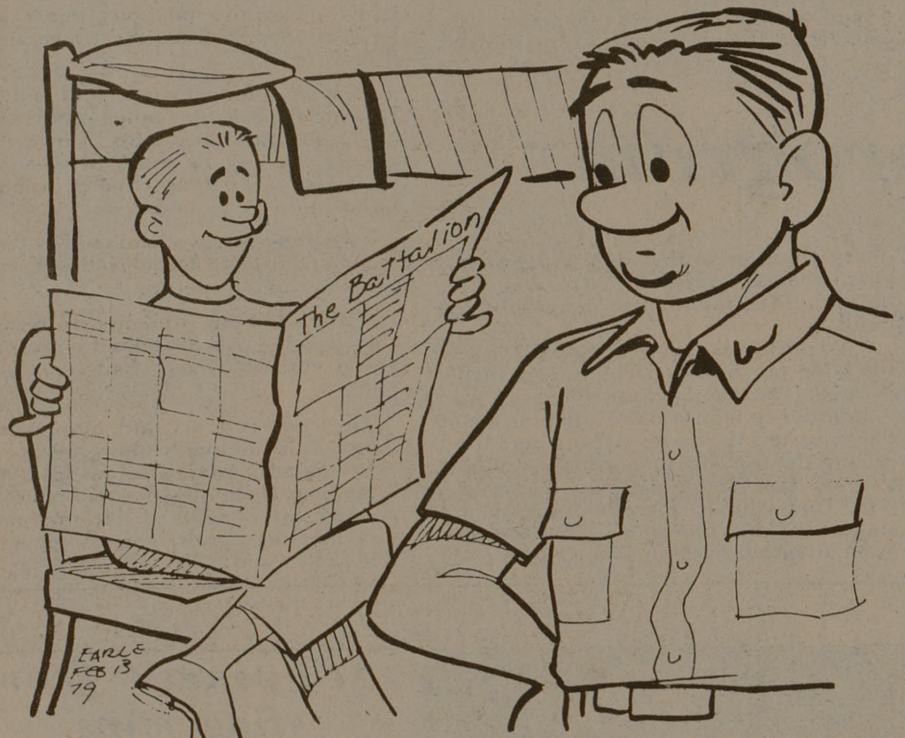


THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 13, 1979

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I WONDER WHAT TH' ATTITUDE TOWARD WALKING ON THE GRASS WOULD BE IF OIL WAS DISCOVERED UNDER THE MSC?"

New seniority system-reform and subvert

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — What goes on in this town sometimes defies description in the tepid prose of contemporary journalism. Only the rhetorical fashion of a time gone by seems adequate to explain some things.

Example. The House of Representatives changed its rules to permit committee members to elect their own chairmen instead of giving the chairmanship automatically to the most senior member of the committee. This was supposed to provide a check on committee chairmen who abused their authority and ignored the wishes of committee members.

But this year a liberal junior member upset a moderate senior member for a subcommittee membership. It turned out that a number of the junior member's votes came from colleagues for whom he raised campaign funds last fall.

This new wrinkle in the fabric of congressional reform seemed to require more than a routine explanation. Finding a proper commentator was easy. So with trepidation and apologies to Finley Peter Dunne, we will try to move back in time to a saloon in Chicago, where a lone customer and a bartender are discussing the events of the day.

Rattling his newspaper, Mr. Hennessy announced: "The House iv Rayrepresentatives has rayformed itself."

Mr. Dooley took the news with remarkable calm: "You don't say so, Mr. Hinnessy. Is it himselfes that is telling us that?"

"No, 'tis the Washington correspondent of the Traybune that says so. He says they have given up the seenority system that has bred so many tyrants and are going to illicit committee cheermen by the same dimmycratic system of majority rule as illicit them to Congress."

"Well, I hope they ain't relying on the dimmycratic system in this ward," Mr. Dooley said with a flick of his bar rag. "We got the most pure of seenority systems — the candydade that can vote the oldest ghosts wins the iliction."

Hennessy went back to his paper. Soon he looked up again: "Oh, but there is a hitch, Mr. Dooley. The rayform is being soob-verted, the Washington correspondent says. Members of the committees are ousting the wrong men — committee cheermen who niver did a thing to offend good taste and the dimmycratic processes."

"Why are they doin' that, Hinnessy?" "Well, it seems one of the rayforming rayrepresentatives, a young fella with not much seenority but an itch to raise his own estate in the world, went out and raised a pot of money from his friends of a like disposition for rayforming Congress wicked ways."

"Thin he distributed the proceeds to his fella committee members for campaign purposes. Thim that got re-ilicted naturally began to see the advantages of rayform over seenority. So when their bennyfactor the rayforming rayrepresentative ran for cheerman, they rayformed the incumbent, who the Washington correspondent says has both seenority and merit but not much to offer in the way of campaign funds."

"So there ye are, Hinnessy," said Mr. Dooley.

"Where am I?" said Hennessy with a puzzled look.

"Why man, ye're at the thrishold of two definytions ... of rayform and of soob-vention of rayform."

"And them are?" "Rayform is fixing something that ain't working the way you want it to. Soob-vention of rayform is fixing something you don't think is broke."

50 new ways (\$) to leave your lover

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Mr. Marvin, meet Mr. Simon.

The party of the first part is Lee Marvin, famous actor who has been sued by his ex-mistress for half of the property he acquired while they were living together.

According to testimony at the celebrated trial in Los Angeles, Marvin occasionally asked his attorney, "How do I get rid of this board?"

The party of the second part is Paul Simon, famous singer and composer whose many hits include a song called "There

Where will it all end? In the Supreme Court, most likely. Meanwhile, if Paul Simon is as sharp as I think he is, he will record a sequel to "There Must Be 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover."

I don't mean merely updating the lyrics with such lines as "Just jump aboard ship, Flip" or "Just take to your feet, Pete." I'm talking about a whole new song, which also should be a big hit and which would be called "There Must Be 50 Ways To Sue Your Lover."

Some of the lines would virtually write themselves. For instance, the obligatory reference to the Marvin trial could be: "Make him post bail, Michelle."

If Simon needs any additional help in doing for jilted ladies what he already has done for exiting paramours, here are a few other suggested lyrics:

- "Just litigate, Kate."
 - "Make it into a case, Grace."
 - "Prefer a large claim, Mame."
 - "Have your lawyer appeal, Lucille."
 - "Get a bank garnishee, Marie."
 - "Put him under arrest, Bess."
 - "Get a lien on his home, Joan."
 - "File a couple of pleas, Louise."
 - "Give the jury your charge, Marg."
 - "Throw his tail into jail, Raquel."
 - "Ask the judge to arraign, Elaine."
 - "Grab his estate by escheat, Marguerite."
 - "File a writ of error, Sarah."
 - "Go to court for a decree, Valerie."
 - "Try a writ of certiorari, Rosemary."
- In other words, put their backs to the wall, Paul.

Humor

Must Be 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover.

One line in the song advises, "Just turn in the key, Lee."

I don't know whether Lee Marvin was familiar with those lyrics or how he finally left his lover, Michelle Triola Marvin. But obviously the procedure he followed wasn't as simple as Simon made it sound.

Indeed, Simon to the contrary, the Marvin case may be a threat to every Lee who turns in his key, to every Gus who hops on a bus, to every Jack who slips out the back, to every Roy who doesn't try to be coy and to every Stan who gets a new plan.

Already, a woman named Penelope McCall has filed a \$1 million, Marvin-type suit against rock star Peter Frampton, and Kayatana Harrison is suing comedian Flip Wilson for a like amount on similar grounds.

Letters to the Editor

New parking 'solution'

Editor:

I would like to offer one final suggestion as a solution to the "MSC Grass Question."

Self-admittedly, this is a tasteless suggestion. But it could possibly offer relief to another growing problem. How about making the area around the MSC into parking space? I know ... tasteless.

—Mary Robinson, '80

Pay no heed, Eric

Editor:

Two days before the SWC signing date, a Texas A&M "supporter" speaks his mind in the Battalion (Feb. 12) in an effort to get attention and, in effect, hampers A&M's chances at signing perhaps the nation's most highly sought high school running back. I'm referring to poorly-informed Mike Carroll's letter concerning the predecessor to Earl Campbell and Billy Sims on the list of Heisman Trophy winners from the great state of Texas.

Mr. Dickerson was open-minded enough to carefully evaluate USC, Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, and A&M, and made what he thought was the right decision in choosing A&M. After visiting A&M at his own expense, Dickerson decided that the "friendly" atmosphere and the academic program best fit his needs. Hopefully he did not read Carroll's letter, for if we lose one of the best prospects in years because of one letter, our "hellacious" football team will have to find another way to compete with Houston, Texas, SMU, Baylor, and Tech.

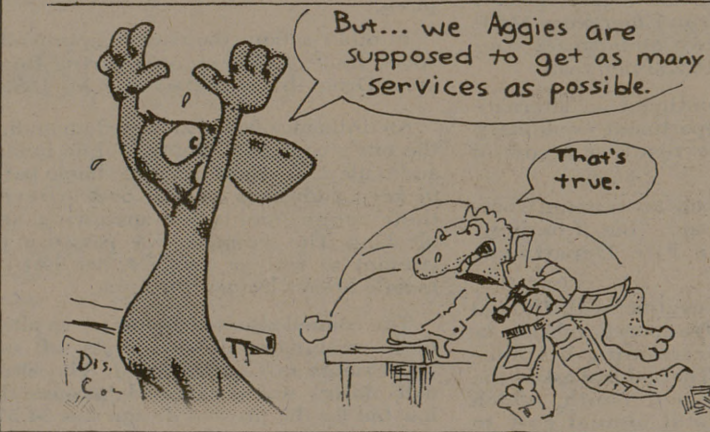
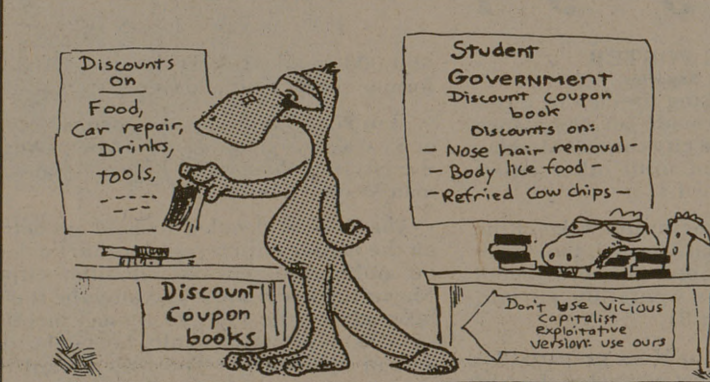
As for the validity of Dickerson's blue-chip status, I think his credentials speak for themselves.

Mosley, Dickey, Dickerson, and the high-schooler from Texarkana would make for a heeter-than-heet offensive threat.

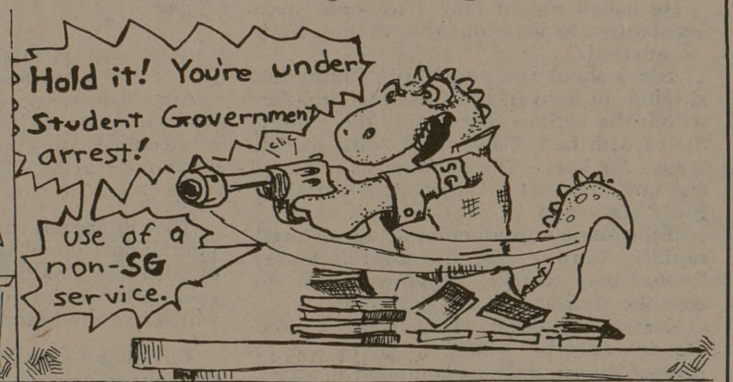
So I hope that if Eric Dickerson gets a copy of Monday's Battalion, he will realize that there is one and only one person at A&M unwilling to welcome him and be blessed with his presence.

—Chris Lawless, '82

Thotz



By Doug Graham



TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Silver Taps will be held tonight

Silver Taps is scheduled tonight for Pamela Jean Forest, a freshman physical education major from Midland. She was killed Saturday in an automobile accident in Bastrop. Funeral services are set for this afternoon in Midland.

LOCAL

Area problems to be discussed

Community leaders and the staff of KAMU, Texas A&M University's public and educational broadcasting facility, will meet next week to discuss issues and problems of significance to the people of Bryan-College Station and the Brazos Valley. More than 400 community leaders have been invited by letter to attend any of four special meetings planned for 7:30 p.m. next Monday through Feb. 22 in Studio A of the Joe Hiram Moore Communications Center on the campus. Anyone interested in attending the meetings should phone the station for more information.

Superintendent search continues

In a special session Monday night, A&M Consolidated School Board trustees continued their search for a superintendent to replace Fred Hopson, whose contract was terminated Nov. 20. Trustee Bruce Robeck said the board "wouldn't be at a decision point until we have sufficient background." He indicated long-distance telephone calls would be needed to supply this information and instructed board members to keep a record of all expenses "to assess the cost of the program." No further meetings of this screening committee are immediately planned. The board terminated Hopson's contract citing "disagreements concerning educational policy and policy implementations." His renegotiated contract will expire on June 30.

STATE

Cuevas granted murder retrial

Jury selection in the capital murder retrial of Ignacio Cuevas, accused in the 1974 slaying of a prison librarian, opened Monday. Cuevas, 46, was convicted and sentenced to death in April 1975, for the murder of Julia Standley. Opposing lawyers agreed the concept of "criminal responsibility" would be important because evidence in the inmates' 1975 trial showed he did not fire the shot that killed the hostage librarian. Evidence in the first trial showed Standley was killed by bullets from inmate Rudolfo Dominguez's gun, but the law provided Cuevas could be held criminally responsible for participating in the breakout effort. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled District Judge Miron A. Love erred during jury selection at the first trial.

Gunman shot by Denton police

An unidentified gunman who abducted a female North Texas State University officer and shot her twice in the leg as she tried to escape was shot to death early Monday by Denton police. Two police vehicles attempted to set up a roadblock and the suspect wrecked his car attempting to evade it. After the wreck, the suspect began shooting at the officers and police returned the fire, killing the man. Authorities said security officer Barbara Miller was treated and released from a local hospital.

NATION

Funds for solar station needed

A top National Aeronautics and Space Administration official has urged Congress to provide additional funding to continue studies of a proposed space orbital solar energy transmitting station. As proposed, the solar space station would involve a large Earth-orbiting satellite that would collect the sun's rays and then beam them to Earth by microwave for conversion into electrical current. Committee members also heard testimony that the nation's \$6.5 billion space shuttle program is almost on schedule and that landing of the first orbital shuttle craft will be at NASA's Northrup Strip on the southern New Mexico missile range.

Recruiting practices questioned

House Majority Leader Jim Wright has requested a House subcommittee investigation into Army recruiting practices in Fort Worth and throughout the country. The recruiters said that in an effort to meet enlistment quotas for the all-volunteer Army, some recruiters have given answers to questions on service qualification tests. They also charged that some recruiters have asked prosecutors and judges to drop or reduce charges against potential recruits so they can enlist.

WORLD

Queen to be treated like a man

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip left a snowy London Monday, aboard a special Concorde flight for Kuwait, the first stop on their 18-day tour of Arab oil states on the Persian Gulf. After Kuwait, the royal couple will fly to Bahrain where the queen plans to look at some of the finest Arab race horses in the Middle East. From there, the queen will fly east to Riyadh where she will be the first British monarch and the first woman sovereign to visit the Islamic Saudi kingdom. The Saudis, who do not believe in the equality of women, are expected to circumvent tradition by treating the queen and her four ladies-in-waiting as "honorary men."

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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