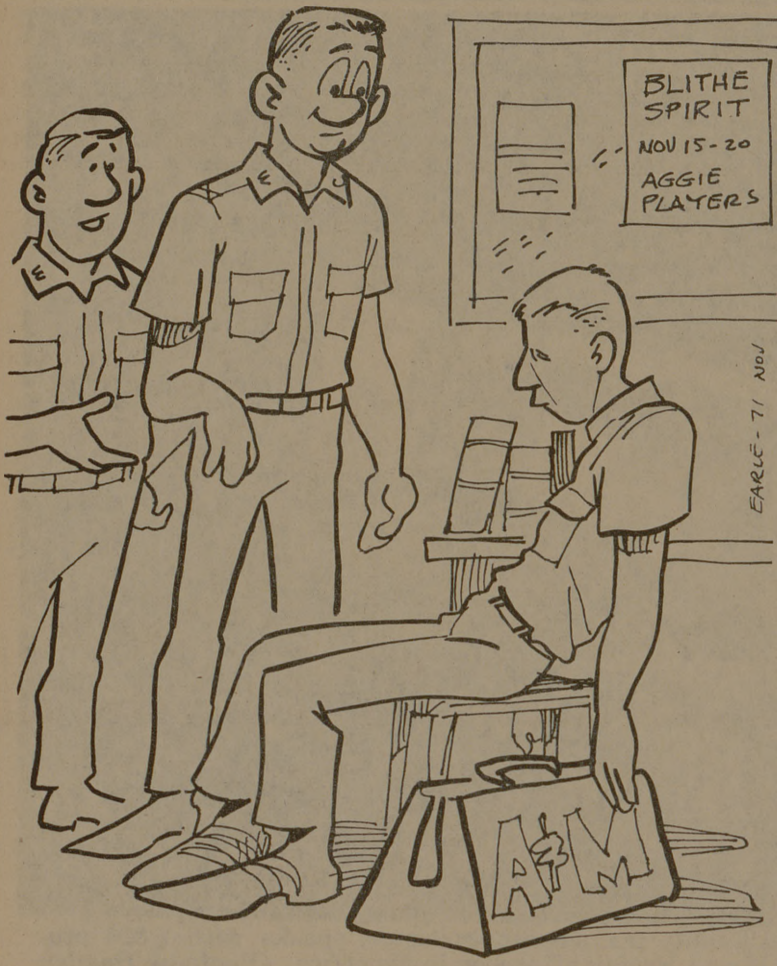


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"You'll hafta remember, it will take a while before his nervous system can adjust to winning football games!"

Correction needed

There are times when a newspaper blows it. Last week this newspaper blew it—by the reaction, sky-high. We placed ourselves in an untenable situation in "Sign burners," an editorial in which we said as a matter of fact that members of the Corps of Cadets burned those signs.

We still feel that members of the Corps probably did burn those signs. Note that we say probably, for that was the key word left out of the past editorial. It does change things a bit. It was a mistake to leave it out in the first place and it was a mistake we have learned from.

The intent of the editorial was not to blame the Corps in general, as some have thought, but to blame certain members of the Corps, as stated. We do not feel that the editorial, letters, and photo changed the result of the elections any at all because of The Battalion's late arrival at the dorms. For most people, the elections were over before they had an opportunity to read The Battalion.

Steve Hayes

Prejudice and predators

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Vehlow is a graduate student in the division of Wildlife Science. This past summer he worked for Ralph Nader, investigating the predatory mammal control program conducted by the US Department of the Interior. His report, just completed and sent to the Center for the Study of Responsive Law, will be incorporated in Ralph Nader's report to Congress and the American public. This will run in four parts.

On May 2, 1971 Jim Steadman, a high school coach, and conservation-minded outdoorsman, was driving his pickup truck on a rocky, cactus lined road on a west Texas ranch. After rounding a curve, he came upon a mesquite tree, ornamented in such a way that turned all his thoughts away from relaxation. Dead coyotes and bobcats were hanging from each limb in a grotesque display, supposedly as a warning to any other carnivorous animals that might wander by.

The ranch raises few domestic livestock and suffers little from depredation, but the foreman and ranch-hands have neither knowledge of nor interest in ecological principles. As a result, they kill any coyote or bobcat upon sight, with complete disdain for the actual merit of carnivorous mammals.

Such prejudice against predatory animals has continually overshadowed accumulating eco-

logical evidence of the benefits provided by these animals, especially to the balance of nature, and has advanced the development of a self-perpetuating, bureaucratic program of federal control costing over \$8 million annually, and indiscriminately killing thousands of wild creatures each year.

The gray wolf has all but disappeared from the United States, and the mountain lion and the grizzly bear are found only in remote country and in constantly diminishing numbers. The black-footed ferret, which feeds exclusively on prairie dogs is nearly extinct, and the coyote and the bobcat continue to be labeled as the ruthless murderers of livestock. Innumerable species, such as foxes, martens, and badgers not intended for control have fallen victim to control programs by feeding on poisoned baits or by stepping in traps or other devices. A member of the President's Council on Environmental Quality has stated that "during the past 150 years, the rate of extermination of mammal species has increased 55-fold."

Undoubtedly, many people still believe animal populations would be better off without predators. The classic example of this misconception is the fiasco of the Kaibab Plateau. This area, located on the north rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, was made into the Grand Canyon Na-

tional Preserve in 1906. All public deer hunting was cancelled and a systematic elimination of predators began under the title of "game protection". In the next 25 years 781 mountain lions, 30 wolves, 4,889 coyotes, 554 bobcats, and an unknown number of eagles were slaughtered. The deer population flourished . . . and flourished. By 1924 the original herd of 4,000 had multiplied to one of 100,000. That winter the vegetation was finally exhausted, the land was stripped of all green, and deer starved by the thousands. By 1940 the herd had dwindled to 10,000 deer. As a result of overgrazing, the capacity of the range (Kaibab) to support a given number of deer had decreased by two-thirds. The Kaibab incident taught us the merit of predators. A deer herd subject to predation is more apt to be a vigorous herd, free of disease and starvation, and more likely to stay within the carrying capacity of the range; thus a quality habitat is more easily sustained.

Scientific evidence constantly and consistently has demonstrated the worth of predators and has proven that prejudices against these animals are unfounded and unnecessary.

Yet as the wool growers are quick to point out by example, we seem to learn very slowly by our past errors.

Tomorrow: predation and the livestock industry.

Listen up

The Bonfire: 'a senseless and destructive act'

Editor: Among our many traditions here at A&M is the annual bonfire for which preparations are now being made. This year, as in the past, we are going to carry forth this tradition, a tradition that compels us to destroy the few precious trees that remain on the face of our earth. The time is long overdue to cast aside the blinds of tradition and cease this senseless and destructive act. To redirect the tremendous energy that is expended on the bonfire is not impossible. As a suggestion, we could transplant one of those beautiful trees every year. An awesome array of trees could stand where there is ashes today.

As university students we have within our grasp to reshape tomorrow. If our training is constructive today we can truly make this world a better place to live for all.

Jerome J. Hansmann  
★ ★ ★

Editor: I am writing in regard to Mr. Schronk's letter of last week and the comments he made about the conflict between the civilian students and the corps. Also being one of those fortunate enough to have been here as a civilian student and a member of the corps, I would like to add to his comments.

There has been no real reason for the conflict to exist at A&M. Incidents such as the one concerning the burning of the coed campaign posters in front of Duncan have been blown out of proportion and used to perpetuate the conflict.

If A&M students would look at each other as individuals and not as civilians, maggies or c.t.'s; the student body would go a long way in solving an unnecessary problem.

It is unfortunate that the actions of a few are misconstrued to represent those of the entire civilian body or corps. For awhile it looked as though the students had made progress toward a united student body but now a negative attitude toward coeds retards this progress.

Change has been the picture at A&M the past six years. Increased enrollment, more coeds, new buildings and modification of University regulations and corps policies have all been evident.

Many other changes too numerous to mention have occurred.

Why not a change in the attitude students have for one another? After all the university is the students.

George Howard '69  
★ ★ ★

Editor: After reading the most recent issues of the Batt, I decided to write a letter of a different nature to the "Listen Up" column.

I for one do not have any complaints or criticisms of A&M. I chose to attend this university of my own free will, accepting it as it is. Granted changes are needed and are being made. They go with progress. I think that changes can eventually be made which will satisfy the old, the present, and the future Aggies through compromise.

In my opinion, Texas A&M is a great school. The traditions are a tremendous part of A&M and help to create a bond for those students who desire such a bond. However, some students do not feel it is important to have such bonds. It is no crime for them to feel this way. I think that those students who enjoy participating in the traditional activities and those students who do not should be able to live on this campus peacefully, if they just accept each other.

Almost everyone wants peace in the world, but they can not understand the basic reasons for the existing international conflicts. If we could all learn the value of compromise now—on this campus, and on those across this country, maybe our generation could contribute something toward that "world peace" everyone talks about so much.

Rebecca McKee '74  
★ ★ ★

Editor: Much was said last week on the hassle with a certain College Station official who would not allow students to register for the Dec. 14 City Council elections. Gregory Holman and student leaders such as John Sharp and Layne Kruse put up a valiant fight and won a partial victory. The Battalion wrote a clever editorial which described the petty politician. This was followed the next day by one which lambasted the Aggies for not registering to

vote in the aforementioned College Station election.

I feel that it was most important that students have the right to vote in the election and I would advise anyone with a real interest in it to register and vote on December 14. Still I don't feel, as the editor did that it is a major crisis because only 60 students registered for the election last Thursday. I am registered to vote in my hometown as are, I hope, most of the students here. While I am extremely interested in what happens in elections there, as well as state and national elections, I am not very concerned over a College Station election which will put a man on the City Council for four months.

Greg Nordyke '72  
★ ★ ★

Editor: As all Aggies will recall it was only a month ago that mention of Gene Stallings was accompanied by snide and/or rude remarks. I must admit I myself made a few. This was at a time of great disappointment (so far as our football hopes were concerned) for the football team and all Aggies, including Gene Stallings. Students and exes alike were calling for a replacement for him.

In the last four weeks our fortunes have changed. I was in Houston Saturday with many Aggies to watch the game and was quite proud to be an Aggie. We won. Now I think back to some of the things I said and heard said about Gene Stallings and my pride is lessened. I think of how narrow minded I have been. I also ask myself if everyone else has simply forgotten what they said last month now that we are winning.

I ask them now to look at themselves and see how it feels to say one thing when we are losing and another when we are winning. I also ask them to join me in congratulating the Aggie football team and staff on a remarkable comeback.

It takes desire and courage to keep trying after a poor start. Our team has this. I know that on Thanksgiving they will be trying as hard as they can to beat the hell out of t.u. I hope that this letter may cause other Aggies to realize that the team and coaches need their support—win

or (especially) lose. Sometimes it takes more of an athlete and a person to see his mistakes, learn from them, and try to correct them. The team has. I hope I have and I hope everyone who pulled out their dusty "Gene Stallings for President" stickers has, too.

Pete Davis '70  
★ ★ ★

Editor: I was shocked at Mr. Buratti's advocacy of full enforcement of the University's Alcoholic beverage policy. Its enforcement in College View and Hensel would put an extra burden on the already overworked apartment

managers. After all instead of studying they spend their evenings trying to see if any one is breaking other nebulous rules of it is.

Also I feel sorry for Mr. Buratti or any one else for the matter who decides that they can't have something they try to deprive others of it. However, I feel that some good would come of this incident if Mr. Buratti's letter was forwarded to Dean Hannigan since this university is always looking for someone who is willing to stay the nights figuring out new ways to put the screws to the students.

John Brieden '72

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**GIVE THE NATION BACK TO ITS PEOPLE**  
John W. Gardner, Chairman  
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Who said citizen action is futile? Populism in the nineteenth century left an indelible mark on the nation. Citizen action won the vote for women in 1920 and brought the abolition of child labor. The labor movement, the civil rights movement, the peace movement, the conservation movement — all began with concerned citizens. If we had waited for the government or Congress or the parties to initiate any of them, we'd still be waiting. Try to think of a significant movement in our national life that was initiated by the bureaucracy. Or by Congress. Or by the parties.

For a while, we lost confidence in our capacity to act as citizens, but the citizen is getting back to his feet. And citizen action is taking on a tough minded professional edge it never had before. Never has our society needed more desperately the life-giving spark of citizen action. We must make our instruments of self-government work. We must halt the abuse of the public interest by self-seeking special interests.

The special interests buy favor through campaign gifts. What flows back is literally scores of billions of dollars in tax breaks, in lucrative defense contracts, in favored treatment of certain regulated industries, in tolerance of monopolistic practices. And the taxpayer foots the bill.

To combat such pervasive corruption, we must strike at the two instruments of corruption in public life—money and secrecy.

To combat the corrupting power of money, we must control campaign spending and lobbying, and require full disclosure of conflict of interest on the part of public officials.

To tear away the veil of secrecy, we must enact "freedom of information" or "right to know" statutes which require that the public business be done publicly. And that's only a beginning. We can regain command of our instruments of self-government.

To accomplish this, each citizen must become an activist, especially the college student with his newly acquired right to vote. He must make his voice heard. Common Cause, a national citizens' lobby, was created to accomplish just that. It hoped to enroll 100,000 members in its first year, and got that number in 23 weeks! On its first anniversary, it had 200,000 members.

- It was the chief citizens' group lobbying for the Constitutional Amendment on the 18-year old vote.
- It joined with environmental groups to defeat the SST.
- It brought the first real challenge in a generation to the tyrannical seniority system in Congress.
- It helped bring the House of Representatives to its first recorded vote on the Vietnam War.
- It has sued the major parties to enjoin them from violating the campaign spending laws.

There is much more to do. And the time to do it is now. The American people are tired of being bilked and manipulated. It's time to give this country back to its people. For additional information, write Common Cause, Box 220, Washington, D.C. 20044.

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The Battalion

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**PEANUTS**

?????? MY HANDS AREN'T SHAKING ???!!??

I'M NOT DIZZY ANY MORE... MY STOMACH DOESN'T HURT... I'M ACTUALLY HUNGRY!

I MADE IT THROUGH THE WEEKEND WITHOUT MY BLANKET! I DID IT! I DID IT!

AND I DID IT MY WAY!!

SWEET, DARLING, DEAR SISTER... GUESS WHAT...

I'VE BROKEN THE BLANKET HABIT! I MADE IT THROUGH THE WEEKEND WITHOUT MY BLANKET! I DID IT! I DID IT!

AND I DID IT MY WAY!!

THAT'S THE SCREAMING AND SHOUTING AND POUNDING ON THE GROUND AND MAKING A FOUL OUT OF YOURSELF WAY...