

Editor's Notes

by Rod Spear

When I began working for the newspaper in the fall of 1971 The Battalion had a skeleton crew compared to the staff it has today. At that time there were only three reporters and two photographers. The editor himself, Hayden Whitsett, reported Student Senate meetings and took photos. Whitsett was a sharp editorial writer but the paper relied heavily on Associated Press wire news and photos and, when the end of his term came, the Student Publications Board was ready for some new blood.

The logical candidate for the '72-'73 Battalion editorship was Doug Dilley, Whitsett's managing editor. However, Mike Rice, a photographer and occasional reporter, entered the race as somewhat of a dark horse candidate and ran on a "more local news" platform. To the shock and dismay of the then Batt editors, Rice was the overwhelming choice for the top spot. Rice had had no experience with newspaper make-up and, when several staffers had quit in protest, he had to struggle just to get a newspaper out every day. Needless to say, the quality of the paper suffered tremendously but Rice did keep his promise and the amount of local news copy was increased. Eventually, The Batt quit using AP wire photos entirely.

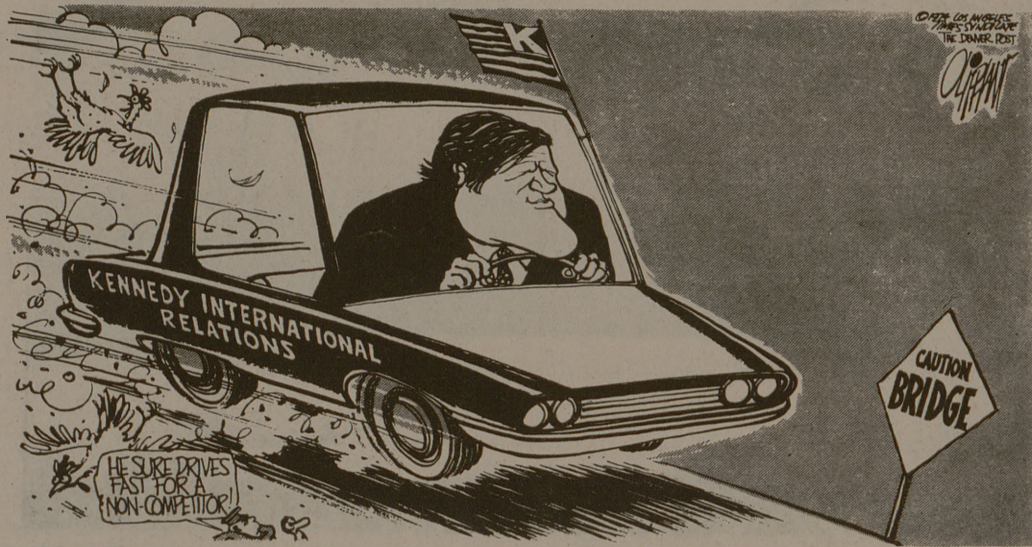
Rice did not relinquish the editorship until last December after staff members approached the Student Publications Board requesting his resignation. It was following that incident that your hero was appointed interim editor and later editor, and enjoyed his brief fling as top man for the spring semester.

I had high hopes to do great things this semester and met with both success and failure. Some obstacles arose that were hard to cope with—such as a shortage of manpower to meet our needs and losing a high-quality managing editor to a Student Publications Board ruling. Nevertheless, the size and scope of Battalion reporting grew and now we have a larger staff than I've ever seen here and often have more local material than we can fit in a day's paper and still touch on the state and national scene. In addition, staff involvement in the newspaper has increased, as now editorial decisions are not made by a committee of one at 3:00 in the morning but are determined by a seven-member board with input from the entire staff.

On the negative side, I had hoped to increase coverage of community affairs outside the university, but could afford to send reporters only to City Council meetings. Also, corrections this semester became almost a daily column as the depth of our reporting broadened.

Tuesday the Student Publications Board selected Greg Moses, my assistant, to be editor for the next school year as well as this summer, pending the approval of Dr. Williams. I am confident Greg knows this operation well enough to make a smooth transition into the new school term and further increase the scope and efficiency of the newspaper. He has elaborate plans for expansion, so as this university grows, so will The Battalion.

This is, in a sense, my closing column, but I'll have a final Editor's Notes Wednesday outlining some of Dr. Williams' philosophy on a few current topics.



\$17 million reported spent on Nixon homes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The final draft of a proposed House report concludes President Nixon's homes have cost \$17.1 million in federal funds and says agencies should try to recover any "improper expenditures."

The report, to be considered by the House Government Operations Committee next Tuesday, says the 17.1 million includes \$7.6 million in personnel costs, \$5.6 million for communications, \$2.2 million for administrative support and \$1.7 million for protection.

It still includes the findings previously disclosed that some of the spending was for items "far in excess of what was required to meet security requests" and that some were paid by the government after they had already been procured by Nixon aides.

The draft report recommends tightening controls over spending for protection of presidents under the charge of the Secret Service.

It also recommends that "appropriate government agencies should seek restitution or take other appropriate action with respect to any improper expenditures of federal funds."

Copies of the final draft were sent to committee members Thursday and were numbered to discourage leaks, but The Associated Press was permitted to take extensive notes from one copy.

The draft report also recommends that in the future permanent security be established at only one of a president's private homes, to be selected by him.

The report was reported to have received broad support of committee Republicans at a caucus Thursday morning because of a general softening of some of its language and addition of more information on security costs at past presidents' homes.

Several Republicans reached after the caucus said their approval in no way is a turning away from Nixon but simply a basic approval of the report.

The draft report does not estimate how much of the \$17 million personally benefits Nixon by enhancing value of his homes at San Clemente and Key Biscayne.

The House-Senate Internal Revenue Taxation Committee estimated that figure at \$92,298 and concluded the President should pay taxes on that amount as, in effect, job benefit income.

The draft report says unauthorized expenditures not originally asked by the Secret Service include a fireplace exhaust fan, boundary surveys, a sewerline, a beach cabana and landscaping.

It says also landscaping to cover over security devices cost more than

200,000 at Key Biscayne and San Clemente, compared to \$1,500 at former President Lyndon B. Johnson's Texas ranch.

It lists "excessive expenditures" as a \$13,500 heating system at San Clemente, and a \$40,000 aluminum spike fence at Key Biscayne whose purpose could have been served by a 5,000 cyclone fence.

The draft report says the \$17.1 million includes \$9 million for San Clemente, \$8 million for Key Biscayne and \$176,000 for the retreat on Grand Cay in the Bahamas.

Faculty awards

Twelve faculty and staff members Thursday received \$1,000 checks and commemorative watches from the Association of Former Students for distinguished achievements.

Former Students President Joe H. Moore presented the awards at a general faculty meeting which included remarks by TAMU President Jack K. Williams and Dr. John C. Calhoun, vice president for academic affairs.

Categories for the Distinguished Achievement Awards are teaching, research, extension and student relationships.

FOR BEST RESULTS TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED

Listen Up

White proposed to be only rational color for tower

Editor:

How is it that a university can misplace its knowledge so easily? If the water from the new water tower is to be used for cooling purposes, or is to be cooled for use, the heat absorption caused by painting the tower any color at all will cause a very significant and most unnecessary energy drain.

Show that A&M can let its thinking cross barriers by painting the tank the only rational color—white. The water will be as much as five degrees cooler and the tank carry

half the school's symbol as well.
Terence P. Yorks

P.S. If administrators would be willing to take off their coats this summer, those of us who like to dress so as not have to use air conditioning could be infinitely more comfortable in multiple use buildings. Overheating in the winter can be charged to waste heat, but vanity is the only reason that I can see for excessive cooling. It costs money, energy, and comfort everywhere it is not needed for the maintenance of special ex-

perimental conditions.

Not serious

Editor:

I'm very pleased that so many folks took my letter about the color of the water tower as being serious, but if you will reread the letter you will see that I was talking about "the fighting Texas Aggie Spirit" and not the color of a water tower. It just goes to show that the best Aggie joke is an Aggie acting like an Aggie.

John Howard

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by a majority of the editorial board.

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 Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, Randy Ross, T. Chet Edwards, and Jan Faber.

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

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor Rod Spear
Managing Editor Will Anderson
Assistant to the Editor Greg Moses
News Editor T. C. Gallucci
Photo Editor Gary Baldasari
Sports Editor Kevin Coffey
Ass't. Sports Editor Ted Boriskie
Staff writers Vickie Ashwill, LaTonya Perrin, Mary Russo, Tony Gallucci, Cliff Lewis, Brad Ellis, Hank Wahrmond, Norine Harris, Sally Hamilton, Julia Jones.
Makeup Bob Chaney
Photographers Roger Mallison, Alan Killingsworth, Steve Ueckert, David Spencer.

INSURANCE — HOME LOANS
BUSIEK-JONES AGENCY
1200 Villa Maria — 823-0911
FARM & HOME SAVING ASSOCIATION (Nevada, Mo.)

SANDWICHES SUBMARINES
"Where no two sandwiches are alike!"
Situating at Northgate across from P. O.
Resami Sandwich Shoppe
For Mother on Mother's Day—Ham and swiss on rye with a Michelob on draft. To you, Mom.
329 University Dr. 11 a. m. til 7 a. m. 846-6428
OUT-A-SITE SALADS CHEESECAKES

MAZDA
HARRY DISHMAN
Sales & Service
603 Texas Ave. C.S. across from campus — 846-3316

Professional Quality Photography
At Discount Prices
Specializing in wedding, graduation and portrait photography. We've got a story to tell about our services. CALL US AT 846-6740 AFTER 7:30 P. M. TO FIND OUT MORE.

SHARE THE RIDE WITH US THIS VACATION AND GET ON TO A GOOD THING.

Us means Greyhound, and a lot of your fellow students who are already on to a good thing. You leave when you like. Travel comfortably. Arrive refreshed and on time. You'll save money, too, over the increased standby air fares. Share the ride with us on weekends. Holidays. Anytime. Go Greyhound.

GREYHOUND SERVICE				
TO	ONE-WAY	ROUND-TRIP	YOU CAN LEAVE	YOU ARRIVE
Dallas	\$8.11	\$15.41	2:55 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Houston	\$4.44	\$ 8.44	12:45 p.m.	2:55 p.m.
Waco	\$4.49	\$ 8.53	2:55 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Fort Worth	\$8.11	\$15.41	2:55 p.m.	7:55 p.m.
Port Arthur	\$9.18	\$17.44	12:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.

Buses leave from U-Tote'M store across from campus main gate.
Greyhound Terminal
1300 Texas Ave., Bryan 823-8071

Greyhound
A change for the better

ride on your college textbooks

It's easy—when you finish with your books, you trade them in for cash! Then head out and get yourself a new set of wheels.

Whether it's enough for an old beater or a brand new 10-speed depends on how many books you've got to sell, what condition they're in, and whether or not they'll be used again next term.

Whatever you want to use the money for it will sure beat just letting them lie around collecting dust. So bring your books over to the professional book buyers at the bookstore now, while your book is worth the most it will ever be.

Wait too long and chances are your books won't be worth a bicycle pump.

sell them for cash at

Texas A&M Book Store

University Center
MAY 13-17