

Listen up

# Student condemns hearsay

**Editor:**  
I am a member of the Aggie Players and I would like to thank you for your support.

I'm referring to your editorial on October 1. I feel that Dean Maxwell should have read the play before making any decisions. It is difficult to pass judgement on something one knows nothing about. In making a decision, one should also not depend on hearsay or the words of one or two students.

I have come to know Dr. Joy and I feel that he would not intentionally do anything that would offend anyone at TAMU. We are all adults and if we have never heard the word sex before or know what it is, then we must be pretty much behind the times.

Dr. Joy is an intelligent man and he had his reasons for choosing

Marat/Sade. As he has previously stated, it was not an easy decision. After reading the play I can understand why.

I hope certain people have learned from this experience. I know I have learned some things.  
Nancy Hansel '78

## Caution needed

**Editor:**  
Because of an incident that occurred last week, I have been observing the driving habits displayed in the parking lots of the university owned College Avenue apartments.

I have seen people turn into the lots without slowing down or checking to see if anyone might be coming out. Many drivers "speed" around the lots without watching for cars backing out of parking spaces. And

this problem is complicated by those who don't look behind them when backing out of their spaces.

I, myself, have almost been hit in two incidences mentioned above and my bike was hit by a man who backed out without looking. Fortunately, the man is going to pay half the damages to my bike. But, how do you pay half the damages when someone's only means of transportation is out of commission? Or worse yet, how do you pay half the damages when someone's child is injured?

I realize that the parking lots around the apartments were built for parking first and safety last, but I feel that the students who live in this area should attempt to make up for the lacking safety features. It doesn't take that much time to pay a little more attention to how you are

driving in these areas, but it makes a lot more sense.

Deborah Caldeira, '75

## Privacy lost

**Editor:**  
I find it terribly disturbing that Betty Ford should be receiving such publicity about her breast cancer.

I realize that being the new First Lady does not involve secrecy. However, such "advertisement" as she has recently had goes to the ex-

tent of infringing on personal rights. Everyone is in need of privacy.

People are naturally curious and will look at her with wonder and think (or possibly say) "It does look like the real one!"

Being the wife of the President of the United States is a respectable position and should be viewed as such. I believe a small article on Mrs. Ford's condition would have been more than adequate.

Kay McMullan

## Slouch

Jim Earle



"He never seems to be able to write a paper for me; yet, he writes letters to the editor every other day!"

## Editorial

# Games judges play

The Brazos Valley Development Council distributes public funds for the seven-county Brazos Valley area. In fiscal 1973 it channeled about \$18 million dollars into local planning and development projects in law enforcement, transportation, economic development and public health.

As any body which distributes public funds and is supported through public funds, it should be accountable for exactly why and how those funds are spent.

Sept. 5, the BVDC awarded a contract in closed session. Brazos County Judge William R. Vance, legal adviser to the BVDC, admitted the meeting was illegal and said, "I have reservations as to the binding nature of the vote taken."

An insight into the reasoning of the BVDC was offered when District Judge W. C. Davis, chairman of the BVDC board, said that the BVDC had hired an employe and did not let a contract; therefore, the closed meeting was legal.

By Judge Davis reasoning, the university merely hires an employe when it contracts construction companies, the state merely hires an employe when it contracts engineers to build roads and the defense department merely hires an employe when it contracts an airline company to build a fleet of fighters.

But, Davis said, "If there's any question about it, we want to do it over. We don't want anybody to question the motives or methods of this council."

Oct. 3, the BVDC, in open session, reaffirmed its action: Southwest Research Institute of San Antonio was awarded a contract to look into the Brazos County emergency medical system for \$17,871. South/West Planning Associates of Bryan entered a competing bid of \$9,500.

Consider the two bids: one is from a local firm which will finish the job in 80 man-days for \$9,500; the other is from a firm 170 miles away which will spend 60 per cent of 90 man-days in Brazos County for \$17,871.

Judge Vance moved that the contract be awarded to the Bryan firm on the basis of cost and availability. No one offered a supporting argument for the San Antonio firm. Rev. Dolphus Jones of Burleson County seconded Vance's motion, but he was Vance's only supporter and the San Antonio firm got the contract at an extra cost of \$8,000.

"We don't want anyone to question the motives or methods of this council," said Davis. But when a council responsible for distributing public funds awards a contract in closed session (with four judges present); when the chairman of that council says it was merely hiring an employe (through sealed bids); when the body reconvenes in open session and awards the contract to the illogical choice; and when the reason for spending an extra \$8,000 of public funds is not explained—everyone should question both the motives and methods of that council.

# The Battalion

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YOU THINK MY PIANO WAS WASHED INTO THE RIVER, CHARLIE BROWN?  
IT MUST HAVE BEEN! BUT MAYBE WE CAN GET TO IT BEFORE IT COMES OUT OF THE STORM DRAIN...  
THERE IT GOES!  
I'LL BET BEETHOVEN NEVER HAD TO PUT UP WITH ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

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