



'MOSCOW SAYS THEY KNOW IT'S THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT AND SO WHAT?'

Listen Up

BQ explains band discipline

Editor:

I, too, am a transfer student, but I did not come from a major university as did Tommy Duer, whose comments were aired in the Batt of February 12. Nevertheless, I agree with Duer on some of his comments concerning music education at A&M.

But I am also a BQ. And for that reason I take exception to some of the remarks by Duer. The Aggie Band is not merely "a group of soldiers." Nor is the Aggie Band just a group of musicians. The Band at A&M is a way of life that many have tried and not so many have decided

to remain in.

According to the A&M catalogue, the Aggie Band "furnishes music for military ceremonies, yell practices, and athletic events." Duer made several comments about the music programs at other schools. I don't give a damn for other schools, if I did, I most likely wouldn't be here at A&M. But A&M, like the Aggie Band, is unique, and for this reason above other schools.

Being a musician involves talent and discipline. The Aggie Band is the finest band of its nature in the nation because of much talent and greater amounts of discipline. This discipline involves short hair, uniforms (issued, not purchased), and living in 40-year-old dorms.

I agree with Duer that the music program at A&M falls short of that at

other schools. But if he has half the talent and discipline found in the average BQ, he should be able to organize something. If he can't or is not willing to work for what he believes in, he can hop on his bike, stuff a pom-pom up his nose and cookiepish his way to any of those "other" schools. Besides, with the other pressing problems of being an Aggie, i.e. passing, money, sleep, I don't see how Duer has energy to bother with being in the Band because I wouldn't have it any other way. But then, Duer would gladly have it any other way.

Tommy Duer, get to work or get lost. If you want a music education, go to a music school, or start building one.

Mark Kelley

The economic reply

Friedman explains needs
Batt economist tells how

By MIKE PERRIN

Milton Friedman says he likes freedom. But he is willing to do it in.

Friedman made several statements during his speech last Thursday, which if true, mean the future of freedom is not bright, because Friedman is unwilling to take the steps needed to ensure our perpetual freedom.

His statements were:

"Government tends to grow... government is inefficient... government becomes a master instead of a servant over time... there has never been a successful government program... government projects which are unsuccessful only get more money... everyone wants special privileges... freedom depends on alternative employment opportunities... it is inevitable that regulatory agencies will be taken over by those they regulate... our tax structure makes certain undesirable tactics profitable... government has no mechanism to eliminate mistakes or bad programs... the Federal Reserve is a terrible, crazy way to operate..."

The implications of these statements are obvious: government is not viable as a problem solver because it is not oriented toward performance; the only job a politician must do is to get re-elected. Government failures can be expanded because government revenue is obtained by force, not in the marketplace. Government inefficiency is the

only reason we aren't taken over already. But the same government inefficiency makes government of no value in promoting positive action.

Government regulation has eliminated or cut to a minimum competition in many areas: doctors, lawyers, in short, most "professional" positions. It is no coincidence that the people in these fields tend to be high-income earners.

This is why the American Medical Association likes for government to give it the power to license doctors, the American Bar Association gets the power to license lawyers and so on.

Who controls the AMA? Doctors. Who controls the ABA? Lawyers. Who benefits from each? Doctors and lawyers. The public is supposed to be protected against incompetence and so on, but the actual case is that doctors and lawyers and protected from competition.

And as far as government efficiency goes, how about Urban Renewal; how about the Postal Service? Don't forget Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which made it profitable for households to have only one parent — the result was that the number of homes without fathers increased during this period. The list of government failures goes on and on; can you name a good governmental program?

Yet government grows; why? Because government has the power to extract income from you whether or not you want to pay. Not only that — you pay bureaucrats to sit around all day and dream up ways to increase their sphere of influence; you think of ways to cut it only in your spare time.

And yet Dr. Friedman is willing to have a government with the pow-

ers it has even though he admits that it will inevitably grow and spread its influence. Forty years ago, the government spent 10 per cent of the national income; today government spends 40 per cent of national income and that figure is still rising.

And yet Friedman does not suggest some sort of institutional control on government. He only hopes that "the population will wake up to the fact that government is not viable as a problem solver." But he is not willing to suggest a cure; he wants government "for some things."

There are only two things which make government the unique institution it is: the power to tax and the power to deficit finance. The cure then, for government is this: eliminate the power to tax and let government finance only by selling bonds. This will do two major things: 1.) The government will then have to pass programs which people will want to support. Otherwise, no one will have to pay any contributions to the government; 2) In selling bonds, the payback revenue will have to come from programs (not taxes). The government will have to have a rate of return on investments, like any other business.

This means that government will have to operate in the real world of money. Instead of merely increasing their tax rate, they will have to offer more services and have to sell more bonds.

Several "governments" could spring up under this proposal. For example, if you want assurances of quality products, then corporations will spring up like Consumers Union and Underwriters' Laboratories. Right now, the competition from the federal government is so high that corporations

cannot come in. The government can waste money in research to make up for its inefficiency. It can also give away its results, which a business cannot. People pay for the results through forced taxes now; in the future, only those who use the test results will have to pay. In the same way, government services which are viable will be performed. Those which are wastrel in approach will not.

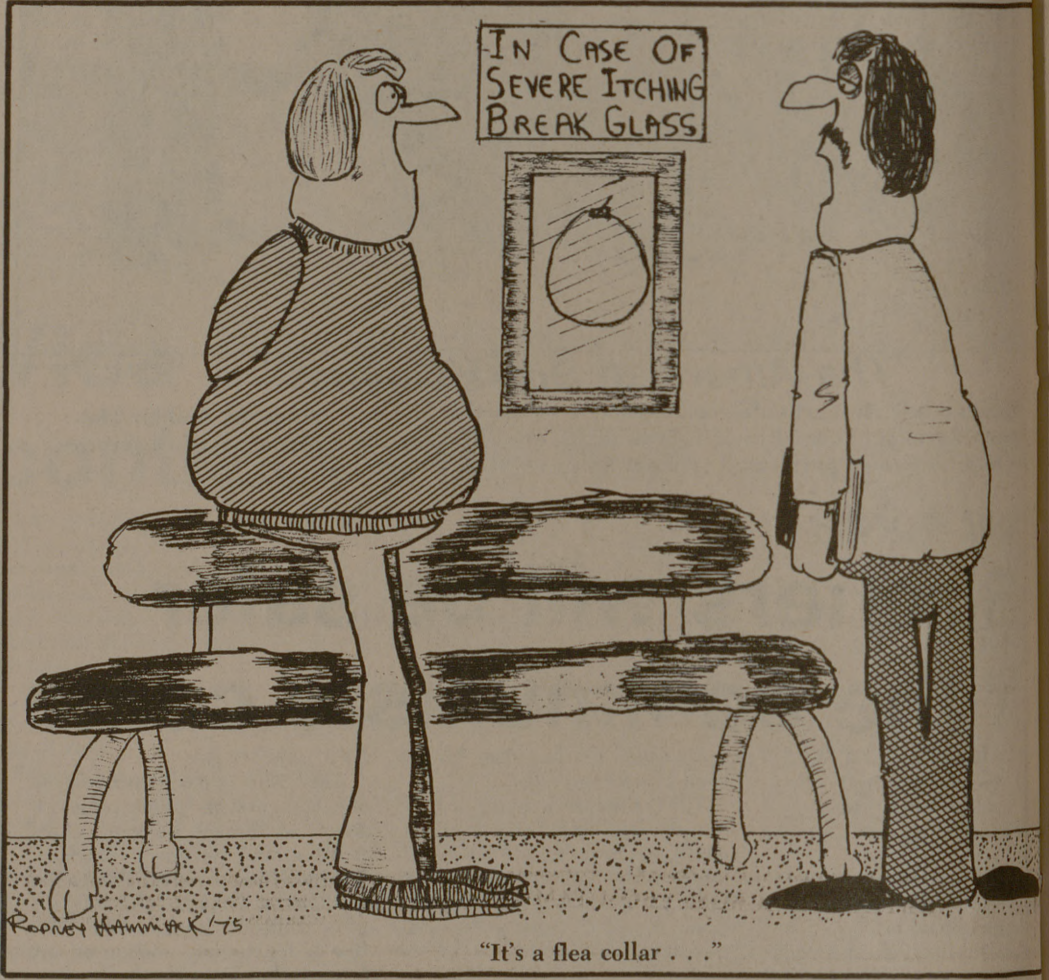
Charity will move into the private area instead of through wasteful government programs; more and better services will be provided.

Why should we set up a government which can force us to pay for programs we disagree with and even use our own money as legal fees against us? If government is doing a good job, then there will be voluntary support; if they are not doing a good job, then why should they exist?

This institutional bulwark of no taxes can prevent government from growing past the point of diminishing returns, can prevent it from wasting 40 per cent of the national income, can prevent it from creating inflation in its haste to spend and reluctance to tax. In short, Dr. Friedman showed us the why of change. This column suggests the how.

Coasters

By RODNEY HAMMACK



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Beef	1.70	2.25	2.75	3.25
Sausage	1.70	2.25	2.75	3.25
Anchor	1.70	2.25	2.75	3.25
Canadian Bacon	1.70	2.25	2.75	3.25
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The Battalion

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PEANUTS

Today is the observance of Washington's birthday.

Actually, his real birthday is not until this Saturday.

There is a reason for this.

He could not wait to open his presents.

PEANUTS

HERE'S JOE MOTOCROSS GOING OUT TO START HIS BIKE...

VAROOM!

RIP! RIP! RIP! RIP! RIP! RIP!
POOOOOOSH!!!

THE NEIGHBORS HATE ME!