

Editor's notes

# And still: 'It's all yours, boys'

The first issue of The Battalion was published on Oct. 1, 1893.

In that issue Editor in Chief E. L. Bruce said, "Boys, this paper is yours." This statement is as true today as it was in that first issue 82 years ago.

As your newspaper we will do our best to keep you informed. We will bring you news of the campus, the

community, the state, and the nation and the world. We will strive for fairness, objectivity and clarity. We will comment on the important issues and at times entertain you with features and cartoons.

This summer our production facilities underwent extensive renovation. With many of our production problems aside we will have

more time for research and improvement. This of course will mean a better newspaper for you.

We will expand our coverage to such areas as campus programming and student life. We will give you the information you need to plan your social, recreational and educational life.

Throughout the year we will solicit your comments through our

"Letters to the Editor" column. We will not however, be a sounding board for any special interest groups either from within or without the university.

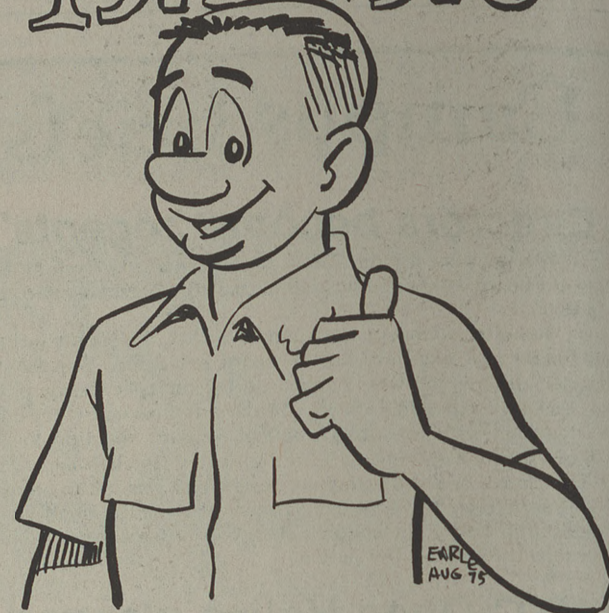
And, as we strive to meet our goals, we hope you will read The Battalion. After all, "Boys, (and I'd better mention women, too) this paper is yours."

SLOUCH

By JIM EARLE

WELCOME TO OUR BEST YEAR EVER

1975-1976



TALES OF THE GIGAGS

**SPECIAL FRESHMAN GUIDE TO GIGAG WATCHING AT A&M**

BE CAREFUL WHATCHA TRIP OVER!

GREETINGS! MY NAME IS BRAD W. FOSTER (BETTER KNOWN TO MY FRIENDS AS WEIRD!) AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE GIGAGS!

BRAD

© brad w. foster '75

THE GIGAGS COME IN ASSORTED SHAPES AND SIZES USUALLY AT ABOUT THREE FEET TALL. THEY LIVE IN THE MAZE OF TUNNELS, PIPES, AND CAVERNS BENEATH THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FAMOUS GIGAGS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT, IN CASE YOU HAPPEN TO MEET ONE COMING OUT OF A MAN-HOLE ONE DAY!

SORE IS GETTING CROWDED AROUND HERE!

DR. XAVIER VREK, A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, INVENTOR AND CHIEF CAUSE OF HALF OF THE DISASTERS AT A&M. HE'S ALSO PRETTY HANDY WITH A MONKEY WRENCH.

I'VE DONE IT! THE FIRE-PROOF MATCH!

...PAIN HURTS...

BUD BOOBY, DR. VREK'S NUMBER ONE ASSISTANT, HAS BROKEN MORE BONES, TESTING SOME OF VREK'S STRANGE CONTRAPTIONS THAN EVEL KNIGHT EVER DID.

RIGHT ARM!

GIGAGS ARE BETTER THAN HUMID BEANS CAUSE WE'RE CUTER!

RONALD THE RABBLE-ROUSER, SAT IN ON ONE TOO MANY R.O.T.C. LECTURES, HE DREAMS OF CONQUERING THE SURFACE WORLD. IF HE WASN'T SUCH A COWARD HE MIGHT DO IT!

SO HELP SEND A STARVING ARTIST TO SCHOOL! BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE GIGAGS AND ALL THEIR FRIENDS EVERY WEEK, RIGHT HERE IN "THE BATT!"

SEE YA THIS FALL!

THE PHILOSOPHER, NOW THIS IS A WEIRD DUDE! TAKE DOWN RICKLES AND SIGMUND FREUD AND STICK 'EM IN A THREE FOOT TALL GIGAG AND YOU'LL END UP WITH PHIL!

WHY DON'T YOU GO SUCK ON A ROCK, BRILLO HEAD?

IN ADDITION TO THE GIGAGS, CHARACTERS LIKE ED THE E.D., FREAK, THE GREAT GLOBULA, CATHY AND EARL, THE CAST OF 'PUMPERNICKEL STREET', CRAIG THE COMPUTING SCIENCE MAJOR, THE INMATES OF CESSPOOL HALL AND MANY OTHERS WILL BE SHOWING UP!

WHO ATE THE BEANS!

SEE YA THIS FALL!

## Organized crime A billion per year

AUSTIN — Organized crime was a billion dollar business in Texas last year, with bookies, \$1,500 a week prostitutes, fences, car thieves and drug pushers part of a vast operation that even included motorcycle gangs.

That is the conclusion of the annual report of the Texas Organized Crime Prevention Council.

Intelligence reports indicate that bookmaking on both college and professional football and basketball games "continued to be the biggest organized criminal activity in Texas during 1974," the council said.

Texas placed an estimated \$1 billion in bets with illegal bookies in 1974, yielding a \$120.8 million profit, the report said.

It said subpoenaed records indicate that bookies in the Belton, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Midland, Odessa and Wichita Falls areas were in daily contact with other bookmakers in 117 cities located in 78 Texas counties and 119 cities in 36 other states.

And "these bookmakers represent... less than 5 per cent of the total of bookmakers known to be operating within the state," it said.

The council said that the Texas Department of Safety Organized Crime Unit had identified 1,628 prostitutes, 535 procurers and 89 bawdy house madames between January 1968 and December 1974.

"Intelligence reports revealed that the average income of prostitutes was \$1,500 per week. Assuming that all of the identified prostitutes made at least the average amount per week, the estimated income to organized crime from prostitution would amount to approximately \$126.9 million a year," the council said.

A prostitution ring working out of Corpus Christi was identified in 1974, the report said, with a circuit that extended into Austin, Houston, LaGrange and San Antonio.

"The Dallas Area Organized Crime Task Force identified 200 prostitutes working in 50 massage houses during the calendar year," it added. "This operation was further identified as part of a prostitution ring which included the cities of

Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, Tex.; Miami and Pompano Beach, Fla.; New Orleans, La.; and Honolulu, Hawaii."

The council said Texas law enforcement agencies have not been able to positively identify any Texan as a member of La Cosa Nostra.

The so-called "Dixie Mafia" has 213 alleged members or associates in Texas, the report said, including seven who were "known to be pilots and were believed used to fly associates and members to various locations when desired."

The Dixie Mafia was described as "a group of highly mobile criminals operating throughout the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and other southeastern states who specialize in extortion, burglary, robbery, murder, theft and numerous other criminal offenses."

While several outlaw motorcycle gangs were present in Texas, the Bandidos were the largest and most organized, with chapters in most of the state's cities as well as several other states, the report said.

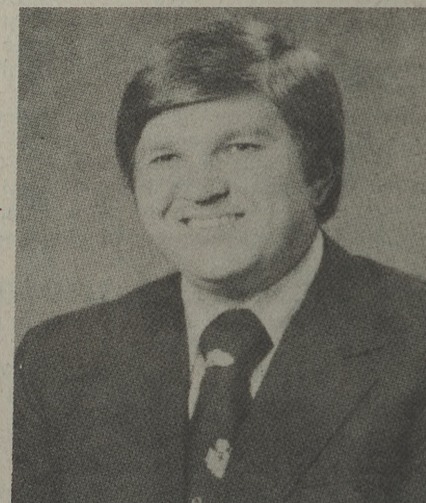
"Intelligence reports have identified 858 individuals as dues-paying members of this organization... They do not belong to any legitimate motorcycle association or organization. They claim to be 'one per centers' — the one per cent that does not fit or does not care. The term 'one per cent' refers to that portion of the total population who are earning their living through unlawful means," the report said.

It said the Bandidos were involved in armed robbery, burglary, murder, murder for hire, narcotics and prostitution.

Another motorcycle gang, the Conquistadors, began to challenge the Bandidos for a portion of the South Texas prostitution business, the report said, and "this activity of the Conquistadors has been expected to result in acts of violence that could develop into open warfare between the two organizations."

The council recommended several new laws, including legalized wiretapping and a statute providing greater penalties for offenses committed as part of an organization than by an individual.

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## The Battalion

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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.

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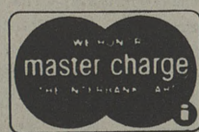
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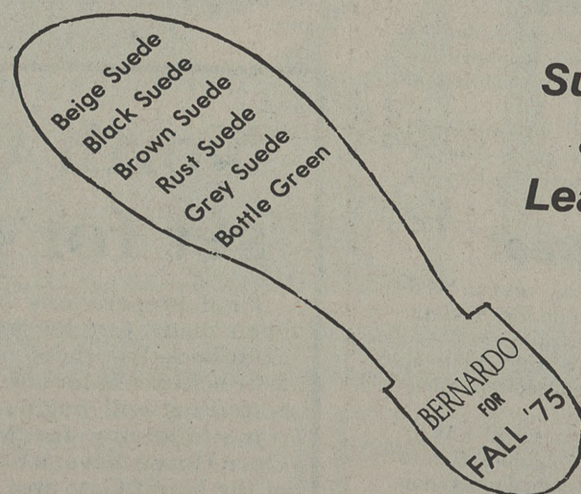


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