

Shuttle bus service disorganized

Editor:
After seven days of late shuttle bus service in as many days of school, I feel it is necessary to bring attention to the poor service off-campus students are receiving.

Students pay \$15.00 per semester to ride shuttle buses from their apartments to campus. Because there are not adequate parking areas, day students have no choice but to ride these buses and pay the fee.

The stated policy for the east bus route is that buses arrive every 10 minutes from 7:00 to 9:30 a.m., every 15 minutes from 9:30 to 5:30 p.m., and every 30 minutes from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. I have not been privileged with timely service as this, but have waited as long as one hour at the designated bus stops only to be passed by three to four buses which are loaded to capacity. Many off-campus students have evening labs from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and consequently have absolutely no shuttle bus service to get home afterwards.

Obviously there is a lack of organization somewhere. The \$15.00 per person should provide ample funds to purchase and service these buses. Students are tired of waiting an hour and being late for classes. This not only angers a person, but also interferes with his education.

66 per cent of the TAMU students live off-campus and that majority certainly deserves better service than is presently provided. Figures as of September 4, 1976 show 18,241 students living off campus. If just half of these students purchase shuttle bus passes, \$547,230 are paid for the transportation system.

A re-evaluation of scheduling could alleviate this mass confusion for day students and allow us to get to class on time. Education is our prime directive and class attendance is essential. I hope this problem is soon solved and the ulcers can begin to heal.

— Laura Brockman

Ed. Note: The Battalion is exploring the shuttle bus situation. A report will be forthcoming tomorrow.

Say 'howdy!'

Editor:
When I came to A&M two years ago, the thing that struck me about Aggies was how friendly they were. You couldn't walk down the street without hearing "Howdy!" from everyone you met. Now, speaking to a stranger practically sends him into a state of shock! Of all the changes that have come to Aggieland recently, this is the one I most regret.

I realize the campus population has grown by 10,000 in the last two years, and that life here is getting more frantic each semester. But it doesn't take much time or effort to say "Howdy," and it sure would make the place seem a lot smaller

Listen Up

and more relaxed if we all had a smile and a friendly word for each other.

Maybe it's not the "thing to do" where you're from to speak to a stranger on the street, but when have Aggies ever cared what the rest of the world does? A&M is unique, largely because Aggies have always had a genuine interest in and concern for each other. In a world where

more and more it's becoming every man for himself, a place where a premium is put on friendship and caring is a special place indeed. All of us need to recognize the value of what we have at A&M, and I urge you to help keep that attitude of concern for the individual a part of the Spirit of Aggieland.

If you're a "city slicker" and don't feel that "howdy" fits into your vocabulary too well, try a "hi" or a "good morning" or a "how's it going" next time you see an Aggie. Anything is better than the stony-faced,

straight-ahead stares I've been seeing so much of lately!

— Debbie Lightfoot

Band wants field

Editor:
As a member of the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band" I feel it is in our best interest to tell the student body the way the band feels about its drill field.

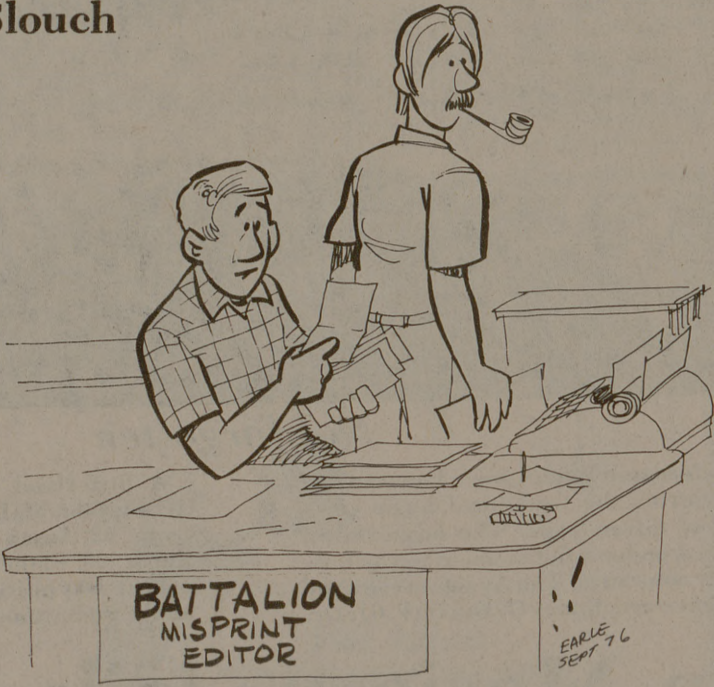
Most everyone knows it has been a tradition for only the band to walk across the drill field. Anyone who violated this tradition would be soaked with water by several Aggie Band fish. Several of these incidents occurred last year concerning some non-band members. The band was reprimanded and told that none of these practices would continue or the band would suffer the consequences. As a result of this it is now a privilege for all seniors in the corps, any student or professor to walk across the drill field and not be sprayed with water. This action was not met with any great amount of enthusiasm to say the least. But the band is willing to accept its part of the agreement. We are asking that you please stay off the drill field because we are in the middle of a very strenuous practice schedule and would like to keep the drill field in good shape.

The band is very proud to be a part of this great university and all the traditions that go along with Texas A&M University. We also realize that many of the students and faculty did not know of the traditions of the drill field until it was too late. But because we do not want our drill field turned into a parking lot we will refrain from these former practices.

Soon there will be signs posted around the drill field asking that you not walk across it out of respect for the Aggie Band and what it represents.

— Wayne Nelson

Slouch



"Remember that news item where we asked for suggestions as to how The Battalion could be distributed better? Most of the responses were rather forthright about what we could do with them!"

The Battalion

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Editor's notes

Let your voice count

The Texas A&M Student Senate holds its first meeting of the new year tonight.

Many people in our country today are looking upon governments as ineffective means of guiding public and social policy and are not exercising their right to get involved in the democratic process.

But true democracy is based on the will of the majority of those represented and operates on the assumption that the electorate is informed.

With this in mind The Battalion will publish the list of student

senators, the constituency they represent, and where they can be reached as soon as a current list is compiled by Student Government.

The Battalion will also publish during the semester a tabulation of how each senator votes on controversial issues provided that Student Government takes votes on these issues in such a way that the vote of each senator can be recorded.

The individual senators have a duty to responsibly represent their constituency, but just as importantly, the individual student has a re-

sponsibility to inform his senator about his feelings on issues.

With the backing of a majority of the student body, Student Government would be in a position to request of the administration input into the actual policies of the University.

It seems at times that Student Government decides issues which are of little direct importance to students and this is a problem which must be approached. But in the meantime, we should work on getting involved in what we have requested more.

Carter's base of support leaves Ford with uphill battle



David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — As the fall campaign begins, it may be useful to attempt to cast the current political balance — not because it will predict the November presidential outcome but because it provides a base from which to measure the changes that are certain to come.

The current public opinion polls need to be regarded in the same light as one viewed polls before the first primary in New Hampshire. They measure, with accuracy, a contest that is bound to change after the first presidential debate on Sept. 23.

The current polls show that after both President Ford and Governor Carter got quick dramatic lifts from their own conventions, Mr. Ford has settled back into a 15-point deficit. He trails Carter, 52-to-37 per cent with 11 per cent undecided, in the latest Gallup Poll.

That deficit is embarrassing for an incumbent, but not inherently irremediable. However, it probably minimizes Carter's real advantage — in political terms — as the race begins.

Since public opinion is volatile, it is worthwhile to look at those measures of strength which are less transitory. Three are of particular importance:

Party—Despite the increasing proclivity of voters to split their tickets and ignore party labels, party strength is still one important variable in the election. The Democrats are the larger party, claiming the adherence of 46 per cent of the vot-

ers in the latest Gallup measurement, compared to 22 per cent who call themselves Republicans.

The Democrats also appear to be more unified behind their candidate. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Ford can enlist the enthusiasm of the Ronald Reagan conservatives, who provide much of the vital volunteer effort in Republican campaigns.

Further, the Democrats are better-regarded by the public, being trusted to do a good job on the major problems by twice as many people as those who give the Republicans an advantage in that regard.

Interest Groups—The involvement of business, labor, agricultural and professional groups in politics is an important adjunct to the efforts of the two parties. Carter enjoys a substantial advantage here.

He enjoys the broadest labor support of any recent Democratic candidate, even though he was not the original choice of many union leaders. George Meany and the old-line AFL-CIO unions, who sat out the

1972 election, are in line for Carter along with the so-called "cooling" unions, including the United Auto Workers, which operate independently of Meany's leadership.

In addition, Carter inherits support of the building trades unions, traditionally Republican, now seeking political reversal against Mr. Ford for his veto of common situs picketing bill.

The shift of the building trade from the Republican to the Democratic side of the ledger leaves the Teamsters among the major labor blocks outside the Carter camp.

A second important shift, also in Carter's favor, is the mobilization of the education professionals as a political force in the presidential election for the first time. The endorsement of Carter by the 1.87 million member National Education Association is a significant political development. The teachers have proved themselves potent campaigners in state elections, having both know-how and leisure time. They will likely be important in the presidential campaign.

Farm organizations are divided in their political leanings, but Mr. Ford's problems in the farm belt were acknowledged by his selection of Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas as his running mate.

Finally, business—traditionally the greatest source of Republican support—is more hamstringing politically in this election than in any recent presidential contest.

The federal campaign finance act has barred direct private contributions to presidential candidates, and business giving through other channels is inhibited by the continuing cloud of Watergate. With spending ceilings on the presidential race, the traditional Republican advantage in the campaign treasury has been eliminated by law.

Electoral Base—Despite official disclaimers, the Ford campaign realistically must concede many states to Carter. Most of the South—and perhaps all—plus several normally Democratic states as Minnesota, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and the District of Columbia are probably out of the President's reach.

That Carter base approaches 200 electoral votes. By comparison, Mr. Ford's base is hard to establish as Reagan campaign manager John Sears kept pointing out. If one assumes that he secures his home state of Michigan — today a battleground — and that Dole delivers all of the normally Republican farm belt and mountain states, his base would be only in the 100-electoral-vote range.

To win, Mr. Ford would have to add to his base either Texas or Florida in the South, plus virtually all the "swing states" in the middle band from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio to Illinois and California.

That is a large order. The President needs virtually all the breaks to win a close victory, while Carter realistically is at worst a narrow loser and has the potential for a very big electoral college win.

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