

# Opinion/Commentary/Letters

## Experimental sidewalks may not be working

**Editor:**  
I am alarmed at the increasing number of sidewalk hazards that exist on Texas A&M University's campus. The hazards I refer to are those depressions and holes created by collapsing areas in the newly-

constructed resin and pebble sidewalks.  
This may seem a rather trivial matter when compared to the many inconveniences we've suffered through due to construction. But it is definitely a problem.

The safety hazard exists in the fact that people hurrying from class to class do not see these holes until they have stumbled into them. They are difficult to see as they are well camouflaged with loose rocks that were once solid sidewalk. The holes are large enough to cause an unwary pedestrian to lose their balance or injure an ankle.

Bicyclists are also falling victim to these sidewalk traps. I have been one of them. In an effort to dodge people on the sidewalk, one's attention is not centered on the ground. Thus, several times I've lost my balance and fallen, or witnessed others in the same predicament (Not very good for limbs, bicycle tires and rims.)

Another factor which makes these areas even more dangerous is that they exist in the most strategic pedestrian traffic areas (i.e. — on the side of the Academic Building, the English Annex, etc.) When filled with water on rainy days, it is next to impossible to see the holes until you are ankle-deep in water.

With all the money that has been spent on construction and remodeling, it is a shame the University has failed to act on this problem. What is even more upsetting is the fact that so much money was invested in these resin-pebble sidewalks—and they aren't lasting!

This university excels in friendliness. I would hope this asset is not inhibited by people having to walk with eyes cast downward in order to find a safe place to walk.

Jeannine Atzenhoffer, '79

## Attack opinions not persons

**Editor:**  
On December 3, a letter to the editor written by Scott "Chach" Bond (incorrectly spelled Catch when printed) was published. In his letter, Chach simply stated his opinion that there isn't much to do in College Station in the way of night life except for those people liking country or disco music, or those people who enjoy studying quite a bit. He said nothing to the effect that he loathed academics, that he parties every night (I'm sure he would have stayed at SWT if he wanted to do that), and nothing about the politics of neither the USA nor the USSR. Most importantly, he said nothing to put down the writer of the article on night life in College Station, he just disagreed with her. Maybe if Mr. Bozeman had gone to the peace and quiet of the library to read Chach's letter, he would have caught the meaning of the letter also.

Knowing Chach personally, I know he does study (he has about a 3 point), though not as much as some people, because he knows there is a lot more to life than just books and lectures. Due to this, he is a Coop student and has played guitar and keyboards in various bands through the years.

The main point of this letter goes to future writers of a letter to the editor. Contradict the opinions that have been put forth, without calling those who believe in those opinions names. As for you Mr. Bozeman, if you don't want to drive over any bridges designed by Chach, swim!

Doug Rogerson '80


## What happened to artisans?

**Editor:**  
A \$200 course in dowsing? And a \$300 dowsing rod! Does the melting pot of the city strike again — even in the small city of College Station-Bryan? Such natural gifts as dowsing should be passed on in communities from father to son, or at least from master to pupil. Should the people — such as Ben Polley in Brenda Grissom's article (Batt, Dec. 7) — have to resort to commercial entrepreneurs to "learn" of their latent gift? I discovered how to divine for water — using only a piece of copper wire and instructed, free, by a friend who knew how. Sheep have to be fleeced for others to benefit. Are people really sheep, and must they also be fleeced?

Colin Crombie, '79

**Slouch** by Jim Earle

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## Connally's influence on decline

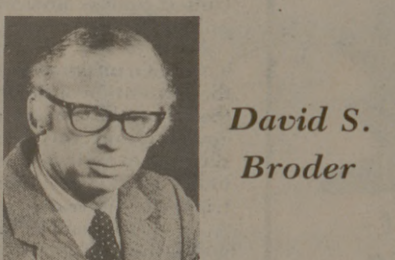
WASHINGTON — For 14 years now, this reporter has been laboring under the assumption that John Connally may be the smartest fellow in American politics. But you can't prove it by what he's doing these days.

The judgment about Connally's mental prowess goes back to 1962, when he retired as Secretary of Navy to make his first race for Governor of Texas. Sent south to observe Connally's primary campaign, I arrived in San Antonio just in time to attend one of the damndest political rallies I have ever seen.

It was an indoor barbecue, with a throng that filled a big sports arena. The remarkable thing was not so much the size of the crowd but its diversity. Everyone in San Antonio and Bexar County, from socialites in minks to Chicanos in dungarees, had turned out to hear Connally.

Later that evening, back at his hotel, I remarked to Connally on the amazing mixture of the crowd and asked, quite innocently, how such a rally had been put together. The response was a one-hour lecture on the politics of that bilingual, bicultural community and its varied Democratic factions. The lecture was so rich in humor and so shrewd in its appreciation of human vanities and ambitions that one longed for a hidden tape-recorder.

As it was, I walked away absolutely awestruck — knowing that I had just heard a virtuoso in action. In subsequent years, the experience has been repeated, as I have seen Connally fascinate and dazzle



David S. Broder

an audience of two to two thousand, whether his subject was international economics, politics, wine or Georgian silver. The man is something else.

But, increasingly in recent years, that boyish faith in John Connally has been put to the test. It's been obvious for a long time that when Connally shaves, he sees a President of the United States looking back at him. And he's entitled. In terms of sheer ability, he is at least the match for anyone in either party who's run for the White House in his political lifetime.

But during his six years as governor of Texas, when he might have moved that state out of its retrograde policies and into the modern era, he chose, instead, to govern by the most restrictive standards of corporate conservatism. As a result, he felt further and further estranged from the Democratic party in which he was raised.

So it was no surprise to find him in Richard Nixon's Cabinet or the head in 1972 of something called Democrats for Nixon. His gamble that the Republican President would help

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## City sighs as students leave

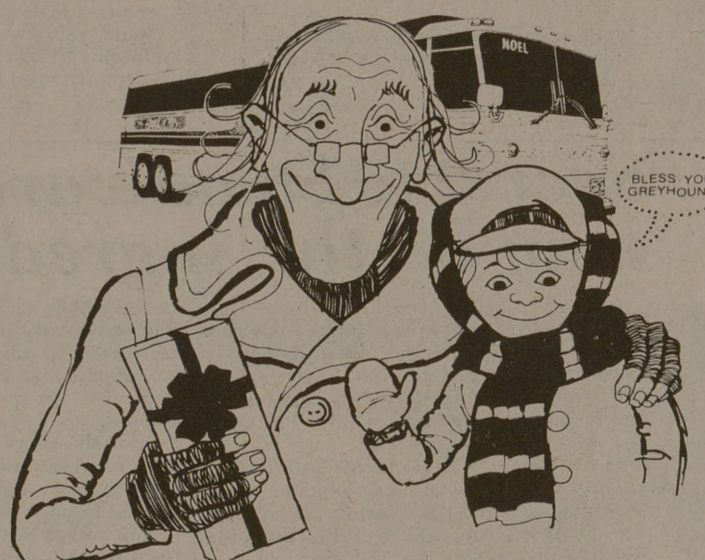
**Editor:**  
As I recall from my undergraduate years studying engineering at Texas A&M, I rarely had time to notice the scarcity of night clubs and such that Mr. Bond describes in his letter of Dec. 3. Furthermore, having been born and raised in College Station, I can honestly say that my hometown is at its best during Christmas Break, prior to the first summer session and immediately following the second summer session. So to Mr. Bond, and all the rest of you who bemoan College Station's "backwardness" I trust that you will enjoy the holidays

as much as I will here in the unwelcomed College Station I know year-round.

## Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to the forum should be:  
• Typed triple space  
• Limited to 600 characters per page  
• Limited to 100 lines  
Submit articles to: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. Author's name and phone number must accompany all submissions.

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