

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Thursday  
September 15, 1977

## Paying the bill

This is the time of the year when parents are writing the checks to pay for their offspring's college education, a financial jolt to most families in the lower and middle-income brackets.

According to a recent study, college costs have gone up 70 percent since 1970. The impact shows at the University of Pennsylvania where the total costs average about \$7,575. The director of financial aid for that university estimated half the students from families with incomes of over \$15,000 are receiving financial assistance.

It seems to us that it is in the national interest that college educations be affordable. College-educated men and women are most likely to become the leaders and managers of America's economy and government. The nation will depend on them someday.

At a minimum, families that are financing college educations should be allowed a federal tax break.

The Columbia S.C. State

## President losing valuable friend

# Carter must act in Lance affair

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — As the Bert Lance affair reaches its inevitable climax, the question of importance is no longer his personal fate but the consequence of his departure for the Carter administration and the country. There are some things that can still be done, even at this late stage, to keep a bad situation from becoming even worse.

Two serious losses are already inevitable. When Lance goes, Jimmy Carter loses one of the few men with whom he is at ease, a man of some ability and great good will, who could help bridge the gap between this rather aloof Chief Executive and Congress, the press and private groups.

More serious, Carter has been seen by the country in this situation as a man who was, first, over-hasty and incautious in his judgment; then, insensitive to the moral implications of his friend's actions; and, finally, indecisive about extricating himself from a bad situation.

None of that is reassuring. The worm of cynicism has begun to eat at the core of yet another President's small stock of public confidence. And that is costly to everyone, for as trust erodes, so does the capacity to cope with common problems.

The first step in limiting the damage is for the President, his associates and his allies to avoid the inclination to lash out in bitterness against those in the press and political worlds they can blame for Lance's downfall.

The motives of journalists and politicians are always open to question, and not everyone in this affair has behaved terribly well. But the fundamental fact is that Lance's difficulties arose, not from any personal, regional or political prejudice against him or the President, but from his persistent blurring of the line between his

business responsibilities and his private advantage.

That personal flaw was compounded by the singular failure of the President and his aides to take even ordinary precautions to see that his first major appointee was a man who measured up to the standards Carter himself had proclaimed.

That failure was further magnified by the fiasco of the senators who confirmed Lance without obtaining the information they needed to judge his record and fitness for office.

It was only at that point, when Lance's personal shortcomings had been magnified by serious institutional failures in both the

executive and legislative branches, that the press intervened—using its only tool, publicity. As always, the press was a blunt instrument, sometimes off-target, but its persistent attention to the Lance case was not only appropriate but necessary.

The President's press secretary, Jody Powell, was eloquent and impassioned in his defense of Bert Lance. He now has a heavy responsibility to combat the likely tendency of others in the administration—and especially the President—to see in Lance's downfall evidence of a hostile conspiracy against their cause. Personally, I have great confidence

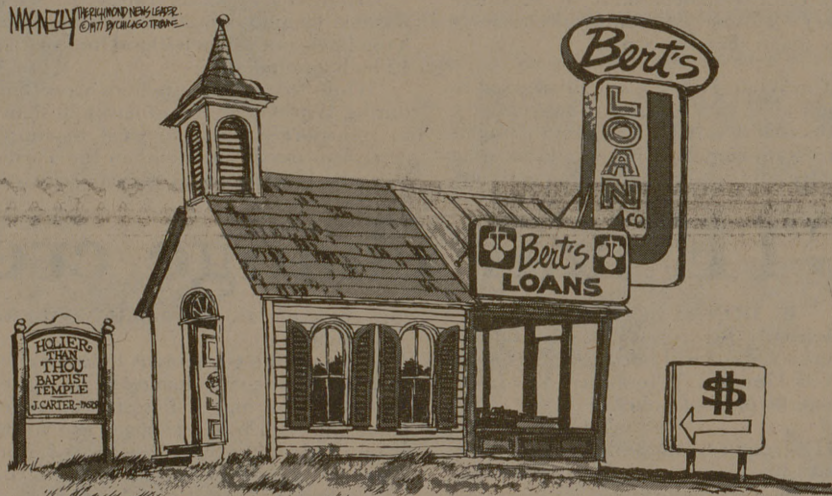
in the character of Jody Powell to resist any self-destructive impulse to construct a new enemies' list.

Senators like Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) and Charles H. Percy (D-Ill.) were severely embarrassed by their complicity in the charade that passed for a confirmation hearing on Lance. One can hope that they will emerge from the experience with a stronger realization that it is never a favor to a President for the Congress to do anything less than its full constitutional duty in the process of granting "advice and consent." Personally, I think they have learned that lesson.

For my colleagues in the press, I would say this is no time for us to be gloating. The exposure of Bert Lance was a necessary job, but it helps not at all in the more important mission of focusing public understanding on the serious public policy problems still confronting this country. His resignation doesn't bring energy self-sufficiency, or peace in the Middle East, or justice for minorities, or a nuclear-arms treaty one step closer.

As a more-than-occasional critic of President Carter, I also have to say that his behavior in this matter has not made me think worse of him. Quite the contrary. The rush to appoint Lance, despite his checkered financial history, the eagerness and overstatement of his defense of his appointee; the reluctance to fire him—all are evidence of a human vulnerability to the special claims of friendship. To one reporter, at least, they are far less disquieting than the self-delusion of some of this President's past moral posturings.

Carter has lost a lot in this unhappy affair, but nothing more costly in personal terms than the sustaining companionship that one of his few close friends could offer in the hard years ahead. On that ground at least, he deserves sympathy and understanding.



## Letters to the editor

# Prairie View voting investigation long overdue

Editor:

Thank goodness someone at TAMU realizes that Prairie View students have voter registration problems. Although this person is the managing editor of the Battalion, she is the highest within the TAMU hierarchy to admit the problem.

The Tax Assessor-Collector of Waller County requires that the students either license their cars within the county, or sign a statement that verifies they have a claim to the county.

The problem has existed for a long time. I have known about it for more than a year. During this year I have worked with Democratic Black Caucus to try to solve it. Each time we felt we had reached the person with the most clout, we were referred elsewhere.

Many of the Black Representatives of the State have spoken to the governor, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State concerning the tactics used to keep the young blacks from voting. We did not stop there, we insisted that the person we supported for Chairman of the Democratic Party would help us find a solution. The problem still remains and will likely not have been solved by the primary elections next year.

With this type of treatment from the elected officials in Waller County, it is not surprising that young blacks are disillusioned with the political system.

I helped to register many TAMU students last year and will do so this year. I am merely a deputy registrar. I have never been told to ask those I am registering if they have any claim in Brazos County. I wonder how many Aggies would have qualified if such a requirement existed in Brazos County. I suppose a questionnaire such as the one the Prairie View students are required to fill out would have been of much benefit to College Station when we voted on the ward system. Also, if we could have been so selective, Carter would have carried the county in the general election and we would not have been concerned about the Campus polling precinct. Why should the students 50 miles down the road be asked such questions? Are they to be considered more of a threat because they are black?

Is the pendulum swinging in the opposite direction? Is this the first step on the way to a return to the poll tax? If they have to have a claim to the county besides their residency, is the next step a literacy test?

If this is the trend, TAMU students will be hurt more than the Prairie View students because there are more out-of-state and county students there.

If we permit this to happen to them today, what's to keep it from happening to us tomorrow?

—Erma Jefferson '78

## Cheers for dorm

Editor:

Texas A&M deserves three cheers and a pat on the back for its decision to build a women's athletic dormitory similar to Cain Hall. Although co-ed students are still fairly new to this university, A&M is among the first schools in the nation to give proper recognition to the women's competitive sports program.

It's about time that colleges and universities became aware that women's athletics are as important as men's. Women have been treated as second-rate athletes for far too long. TAMU women currently in intercollegiate competition are housed in dorms that cannot compare with Cain Hall for comfort and easy access to the gyms, pools and other athletic equipment. This new dormitory will be a giant step forward for sports-minded women at this institution.

Thank you, A&M, for giving the Aggie women an even break.

—Ava King  
Class of 1980

Editor's note: The real thanks go to Mr. Donald Morris. Morris, Class of '51, donated to the University the over \$400,000 in stocks which will finance all or most of that women's athletic dorm. Morris made that donation with the stipulation that at least 100 of the dorm beds were to be reserved for female athletes. And that's not Morris's first donation to Texas A&M. He and his wife were already donors of a \$25,000 President's Endowed Scholarship to the Aggie Club's athletic scholarship fund. Who says old Aggies don't want girls at A&M?

## Buses still slow

Editor:

I would like to comment on the article, "Shuttle system increases buses, blocks, and bucks," in the Friday, Sept. 9, "Battalion."

The shuttle system may have increased the number of buses, the number of route divisions and the number of dollars a rider must pay to get a bus pass, but it has not increased the service.

Each morning, I wait for the shuttle bus 30 minutes, from 7:20 until approximately 7:50. After I finally get on the bus, it takes 20 more minutes to arrive on campus, causing me to be late for my 8:00 class.

According to your article, buses are scheduled every 15 to 20 minutes, but I usually wait one-half hour. Sometimes when a bus finally does arrive, another bus will be right behind it. This disorganization is very annoying.

The Scandia-Sevilla bus route often has three bus drivers while the Willowick-Doux Chene route has only one. I can see no reason for this uneven distribution of drivers among the bus routes.

According to Col. Thomas R. Parsons, director of security and traffic for the Texas A&M University police department, over \$65,000 in shuttle bus passes has been purchased this semester. This means that over 3,000 students depend on the shuttle bus to get them to school on time.

The shuttle system ought to improve with the large number of bus passes and the number of students who depend on it. I believe it would improve if there were competition for student transportation dollars. I feel that this is just another case in which the University takes advantage of the student whenever possible.

—Teresa Roach  
Class of 1980

## Drinks too high

Editor:

I was thoroughly disgusted at the overpriced drinks sold at the TAMU-KANSAS game Saturday.

It was 90 degrees at kickoff time. The heat brought on a thirst that forced spectators to pay 50 cents for a 12-ounce drink.

Checking with the distributor who holds the contract for beverage sales at TAMU, I

learned that the distributor pays handsomely for the sole right to sell drinks at the games, and that the A&M Board of Directors approve the prices.

The distributor's representative added that a large percentage of the profits are returned to the University. Recently, she said, some of the profits paid for the new press box.

I compared prices from the game Saturday with prices in the Memorial Student Center cafeteria. I found that 16-ounce drinks cost 29 cents at the "C." The 16-ounce drinks were priced a dollar at the game.

I protest students being forced to absorb prices that are unnecessarily high. It is unnecessary for the University to make such large profits off drinks sold at the games. The University has many alternatives.

These prices affect others too. Dehydration prompted reporters, photographers and thousands of spectators to pay the high prices. These people are not connected with the University and will not benefit from the drink profits.

If the University wanted to be fair, it would allow different companies to sell drinks at the games. Fair competition enables consumers to CHOOSE whether or not they want to pay for a new press box.

—Connie Burke

## Ags need to read

Editor:

This is an open letter to all those Aggies who forget how to read sometimes. For those of you who do not know, Lambda Sigma, the sophomore honor society, maintains most of the bulletin boards on campus. Many hours have been spent cleaning these displays and posting material each week. We would sincerely appreciate it if people would please read the University Regulations concerning posting procedures, such as materials to be used and dating requirements. We can continue to provide this service only with the cooperation of all Aggies.

—Lambda Sigma ('80)

# Top of the News State

## Hill files suit at Prairie View

Attorney General John Hill filed suit in a state district court Wednesday to force Waller County tax assessor-collector LeRoy Symm to stop using questionnaires about residence as a condition for registering voters. Secretary of State Mark White, the state's chief elections officer, on Sept. 1 issued an emergency order instructing Symm to stop using the questionnaires on grounds they discriminated against students at predominantly black Prairie View A&M University. White said no questionnaire beyond the normal voter registration application should be used to qualify voters.

## No rate hike allowed due to suit

It would be improper for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. to increase rates because of a \$3 million libel and slander judgment against the company, a Public Utility Commission spokesman said Wednesday. Bell vice president John E. Hayes had said earlier the telephone company would consider the \$3 million judgment as a regular cost of doing business. John Bell, general counsel for the Public Utility Commission which regulates telephone rates in Texas, said Wednesday, "I feel Southwestern Bell's inclusion in the company's cost of service of the \$3 million loss in its recent lawsuit would be most improper. This lawsuit is a matter that should be addressed by the company and its stockholders and should not be borne by the rate payers."

## Economy center given budget

The Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise, approved by Texas A&M regents last spring, received a \$165,000 operating budget this week. The center will teach market economy to high school teachers and serve as a clearinghouse on free enterprise information and teaching methods.

## Briscoe blamed for failing to act

Attorney General John Hill criticized Gov. Dolph Briscoe Tuesday for failing to make appointments to a statewide health coordinating council. Hill, who is expected to announce his candidacy for governor at a news conference Monday, said the council is urgently needed to assess the demand for nursing home care and alternatives such as visiting nurse care for the elderly.

## CIA admits covert UT contacts

The Central Intelligence Agency has confirmed it was involved in a covert contract with the University of Texas in 1961 and 1962, but university officials say that at no time were mind-altering drugs used. The CIA has been under fire for mind-control tests it performed on unsuspecting students, soldiers and mental patients in the 1950s and 1960s. The CIA's contract with UT involved a newly developed device that measured cell heat, which the spy agency wanted to use in connection with body antennas, personnel tagging, polygraphy and other areas.

## Nation

### Vietnam protestor out of hiding

Mark Rudd, a radical student protest leader of the militant Weather Underground during the 1960s, emerged Wednesday from seven years in hiding. Rudd, his hair cut short, is to be arraigned later on a variety of charges stemming from the violent campus and street demonstrations of the Vietnam War era.

### Jaworski may seek out Park

Leon Jaworski may go to Seoul to question Tongsun Park on the House probe of Korean influence-buying in Congress, sources close to the investigation told the House Ethics Committee Wednesday. Jaworski's visits hinges on South Korean assurance that Park will cooperate fully. The South Korean foreign minister said Tuesday his government might ask Jaworski to come to Seoul and would encourage Park to talk to Jaworski.

## World

### Inquiry begun into African's death

An inquiry into the death of Steve Biko, founder of South Africa's black nationalist movement, is being prepared by the African government. Police said Biko, 30, died in detention Monday night after a hunger strike beginning Sept. 5. Police Minister Jimmy Kruger said Biko was arrested in connection with riots in Port Elizabeth, and the drafting and distribution of pamphlets to incite violence.

### Europe hit by cholera epidemic

A cholera epidemic has spread to Europe from the Middle East, where it already has afflicted 2,300 persons and killed 69. Health officials warned that Moslem faithfuls returning from their annual Mecca pilgrimage could spread the disease around the globe. Officials fear if the outbreak is not contained by the peak of the pilgrimage season in two months, it could turn into a repeat of the 1891 pandemic, which spread from Europe to North America.

## Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today, tonight and tomorrow. Easterly winds 8-14 mph. No rain. Both days low 90s.

# The Battalion

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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.

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