

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Thursday  
September 29, 1977

## Kyle Field: 'Decked out' for football

By J. WAGNER TYNES

Well, it looks certain that students are going to have to worry about another deck of seats in Kyle Field. That figures. Just when everyone was getting used to fighting over upper deck seats, they're going to add another one.

Here's the deal as I understand it. The present lower deck will also be the future lower deck but the present upper deck will become the middle deck, which will be larger than the new upper deck, which will be over the present upper deck (or future middle deck) and slightly smaller in length than the middle deck (or present upper deck).

Clearly as mud, ain't it? Actually, it's not that bad. After all, it will provide more seats for loyal fans to enjoy supporting their team. Imagine what it will do to the morale of a visiting team when they find themselves in the bottom of a gargantuan canyon of loyal Aggs screaming for their blood.

I can see it now. It's the last play of the game. The Aggies have a three point lead thanks to Thunderfoot Franklin, but the opposition has the ball and the best pass receiver in the nation.

The ball is hiked. The receiver breaks through the defense and hurtles downfield as the quarterback drops back and fires the

ball toward the goal in a last desperate bomb.

The receiver is in the clear, having outrun the defense in a burst of speed. The ball is coming right toward his hands and he's only ten yards from the goal.

Then the Aggies scream angrily. In a flash of unusual mental agility, the receiver suddenly makes a startling realization. Towering high in the atmosphere above him on two sides is an enormous crowd of Aggies, every one of which is hating him at the moment. As they yell at him, urging him to drop the ball, he realizes that it's no use. There's no way to win against such a crowd.

His steps slow, then falter, and he stumbles. Seconds later, the football whacks him in the head and he falls to the ground with a mild concussion.

The Aggies win, thanks to a true example of student support but even more thanks to a third deck of seats. (Oh, the dejected teammates of the poor pass receiver will probably have to carry their wounded player off the field as he quivers in fear of the Aggie crowd.)

So the new upper deck might help the school in a way. But there are certain problems that the Board of Regents might consider before they give the project final approval.

There are, of course, the obvious con-

siderations such as providing oxygen masks to compensate for the thin air up that high. But I'm sure these are being taken care of.

However, I wonder if the Board has thought about the possibility of an increased suicide rate once the new structure is completed. As of now, there are few good places to kill yourself around campus.

(Who can honestly say they have never tried to throw themselves out of a top floor in Rudder Tower on the night before an impossible final, only to find that none of the windows can be opened? I know I have.)

The third deck could also increase the Huff-and-Puff index (a simple measure of labored breathing) among students who have to trudge devotedly up to their seats. This could raise the likelihood of fatal heart attacks and block the ramps with dying bodies.

And there's another thing. What will happen when a disgruntled Aggie, however rare he may be, disapproves of a call on a particular play and hurries a harmless piece of ice toward the referee. By the time it reaches the field, it will have the velocity high enough to bore a chilly hole all the way through the official's head.

And think of the poor cold drink vendors who may have to lug those baskets of

coke all the way up three levels. By the time they get there, the "drinks" will be little more than dirty water and the vendors little more than exhausted.

Also, the Brazos Valley has notoriously soft ground. A third deck loaded with spectators may be just the weight needed to shove the existing decks deep into the bowels of the earth.

Lower deck seatholders may find themselves watching the game one minute and in an underground classroom the next minute.

The rationale for a third deck as opposed to closing the open end of Kyle Field or building a second deck of end zone seats is the poor marketability of end zone seats. In other words, fans would rather sit up in the stratosphere than in the end zone.

Actually, it's six one way and a half a dozen the other. The poor quality of end zone seats will probably be equalled by the extraordinary distance third deck fans will be from the field. I bet you could get a closer look by watching it on a TV set with a 3-inch screen.

And, on top of it all, I bet they'll still use those incredibly uncomfortable bleachers they have now.

Tynes is a junior journalism major. This column contains his own opinions and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of this newspaper.

## Top of the News

### State

#### CSA to help Crystal City

Officials of the U.S. Community Services Administration and LoVaca Gathering Co. will meet soon to negotiate an agreement restoring gas service to Crystal City, Mayor Francisco Benavides said Wednesday. LoVaca spokesman Don Newquist in Houston said the company has been contacted about a meeting, but the company would be willing to meet under certain conditions. LoVaca ended service to Crystal City after a two-and-a-half year legal battle during which the city accumulated arrears of \$800,000. The CSA has agreed to pay \$160,000 of the debt and will provide \$150,000 in relief aid. Benavides said, "to help families by buying necessary things to cook their food and heat their water." Aid came to the city after Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., arranged a meeting between CSA and local officials.

#### Sect deadline moved to Saturday

An attorney representing 500 Mexican and Canadian Memmonites seeking a permanent colony in West Texas said Wednesday that the Washington office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service has extended the Sept. 22 deadline to Saturday to prove immediate deportation would cause a severe hardship. According to immigration officials, the Memmonites, who have been in the Seminole area for eight months, were "victims of schemes" and were apparently misled about immigration laws by the persons who sold them the 6,400 acres. The families said deportation would be a hardship because it meant leaving unharvested crops and they had \$2.5 million invested in equipment.

### Nation

#### Antipoverty plan to create jobs

A Carter Administration official says the unemployed would not be forced to relocate to find work under President Carter's anti-poverty proposal. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall spoke at a session of a national symposium on regional change at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin Tuesday. Marshall said the program, which would provide 1.4 million public service jobs for 2.5 million persons, includes incentives for the unemployed to find work in the private sector. Carter's anti-poverty welfare reform plan also includes a strong anti-discrimination policy, an employment opportunity program for those expected to work and a cash assistance program for those unable to support themselves, he said.

#### FBI reports crime moderate

For the first time in four years, serious crime failed to increase substantially last year, the FBI says. The FBI said Tuesday 11.1 million serious crimes were reported to the FBI in 1976, a 0.4 per cent increase over 1975. Adjusted figures showed the gain was more than the population increase, it said. The agency hailed the leveling off as a reversal of the upward trend in crime that had continued since a 4 per cent overall decrease in 1973. The FBI had already reported a 9 per cent crime reduction for the first quarter of 1977.

#### Gem cutter found with diamonds

Shlomo Tal, a gem cutter who has been missing for three days with \$30,000 in diamonds, was found Wednesday unharmed. Tal said police he had been abducted by two men. Tal said they took \$180 from him, but did not find the diamonds which were under the front seat of his car. Police are still looking for Tal's business associate, who vanished more than a week ago with \$1 million in diamonds. Police have no clues to the whereabouts of Pinchos Jaroslawicz, the business associate.

### World

#### Japanese jet hijacked by leftist

Suspected terrorists of Japan's ultra-leftist Red Army hijacked a Japan Air Lines DC-8 on a Paris-to-Tokyo flight with 141 passengers and 14 crew members aboard shortly after takeoff from Bangkok Wednesday and forced it to land in Dacca. The jet is said to have at least one American aboard. The pilot told the Dacca International Airport control tower the hijackers were members of the Red Army acting against the "repressive" Japanese government. An airline spokesman said there apparently were two hijackers and they had yet made no demands.

#### Bodies found in Malaysia crash

Rescue workers today recovered the body of an American and 10 other persons killed in the crash of a Japan Air Lines DC-8 jetliner raising the death toll to 32, officials said. The American Embassy said of the five Americans aboard the flight from Tokyo to Singapore via Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur, one died, one is missing and three survived with burns and broken limbs. A police spokesman said of the 79 persons aboard the plane, which crashed Tuesday night into a muddy hillside after having twice circled Kuala Lumpur's Subang airport, 43 survived and four are missing. Officials said the plane split into three sections and most of the casualties were in the front section, which exploded upon impact, while many of the survivors were in the tail section.

#### Weather

Mostly cloudy and hot today. Southerly winds 12-16 mph decreasing to 2-5 mph tonight. High both days mid-90s. Low tonight mid-70s. No rain expected.

## The Battalion

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## Carter following in Nixon's footsteps

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON—In the course of his 1976 presidential primary adventures, Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) acquired the same expertise about Jimmy Carter—and from the same perspective—as all the other three-year-olds in the country got this year about Seattle Slew.

Udall learned a lot about what this President looks like from behind.

It was his observation a couple weeks ago that the course of the Carter administration is beginning to resemble that of the first Nixon administration. And it strikes me that developments in the last couple of weeks make Udall's notion quite plausible.

He did not suggest—in any way—that the characters of the two Presidents are alike or that their careers will end in the same way. Quite the contrary. His point was that Carter was very likely in for a bumpy passage, but that anyone who thought he was getting into an irreparable bind should remember the Nixon recovery of 1971-72.

The parallels are rather interesting. It is no longer easy to recall the mood of the early Nixon years. But in fact, his inauguration—like Carter's—was welcomed as a fresh start after a period of turmoil. Nixon, like Carter, made an impressive diplomatic debut on his first presidential trip to Europe. And Nixon, like Carter, offered some venturesome legislation—including a major welfare-reform proposal.

The first eight months in office for both Presidents went rather smoothly. Then, in the autumn of their first year, both men faced the first serious challenge to their authority.

For Nixon, it came in the form of the massive anti-Vietnam war protest

marches. He countered effectively with his "silent majority" speech, but never completely regained the confident manner of the early months.

For Carter, the challenge arrived in the Lance case. Like Nixon, he appears to have found an effective strategy to cope with the problem. He managed last week both to separate himself from the source of serious, continuing controversy within his administration and to suggest that, by his steadfastness, he had helped a friend walk out of town with his head held high. But this President was as shaken by the experience as Nixon had been by the shouting demonstrators who surrounded the

White House in his time.

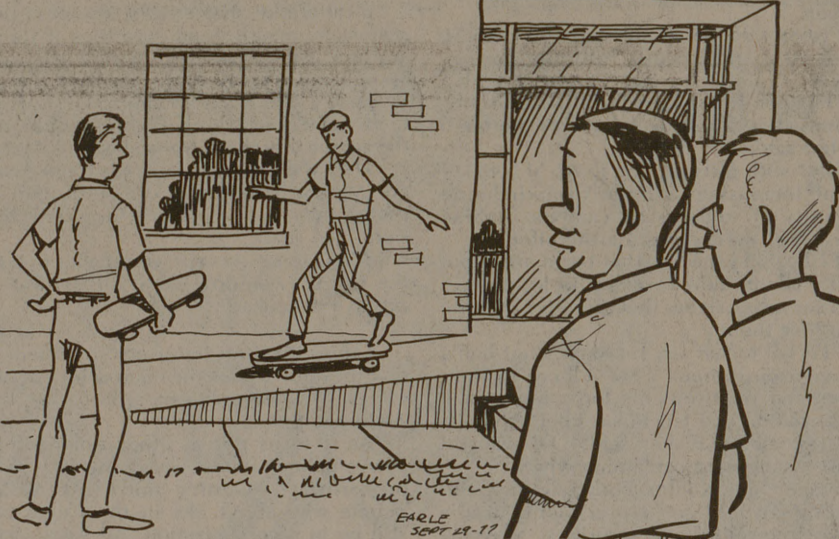
Whether Carter is any more able to regain stride after the Lance affair than Nixon was after the confrontation with the Vietnam moratorium is hard to say.

It seems quite likely to me that events will bear out Udall's hunch that the next 12-18 months will be rough for Carter, just as the comparable period was for Nixon.

Nixon suffered in his second year from the growing public impatience with the pace of withdrawal in Vietnam, from the rising controversy over the caustic tactics used in Vice President Agnew's speeches, and—most of all—from the severe economic slump.

### Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I CAN SEE WHERE THE RAMPS WILL HELP THE HANDICAPPED, BUT THEY MAY CAUSE HANDICAPS TOO!"

### Letters to the editor

## Buying books becoming true college 'culture shock'

Editor:

Being a freshman who has learned a great deal in the last month, I can now confirm the hypothesis of a college "culture shock" which was expounded by my musty high school teachers a short time ago. However, while the hypothesis is correct, the emphasis is misplaced. The shock I speak of was borne not of academic or social dilemma, but rather of materialistic concerns (my money has been going down the tubes).

Specifically, the cost of books has made me recoil in anger and frustration. Yesterday, I bought what I hope to be my last book for this semester. Total expenditures for books thus far: \$109.70. This is outrageous!

At first glance, I theorized that all of the local bookstores were conspiring against me. Then, I realized that everyone was paying a comparable amount, or more. Indignant, I asked several bookstore clerks why the prices of books were so astronomical. Alas, they were only students themselves and the typical response was "I only work here. Perhaps I'm just paranoid, but following these encounters, I started likening book industry retailers to the infamous "Tammany Hall Machine" of 19th century notoriety.

I don't propose any simplistic answers to the price problem and I would concede that my criticism of the industry may be improperly focused on book retailers. However, considering the existing market structure and our oft admired free enterprise system, I am of the opinion that if SOMEBODY, somewhere isn't receiving "kickbacks" from SOMEONE... they ought to be!

Roger D. Follis, Class of '81

### Tech misbehaves

Editor:

A lesson in the importance of good sportsmanship was offered to all A&M

students at the Tech game in Lubbock, Texas.

After the football game, Aggies of all ages were bombarded with obscenities and Raiders willing to challenge A&M in other forms not offered on the football field.

Hand signs, words, and fists were being handed out to Aggies as they passed through the crowd to their cars.

The campus newspaper criticized A&M in an unnecessary and unethical manner. During the pep rally, Tech students ridiculed the Aggie tradition of Silver Taps, which is, of course, a highly respected occasion.

The score in every contest determines a winner and a loser. Nevertheless, good sportsmanship provides a winning position for all contestants. There is really no reason why a team must be a loser in two ways.

I hope that A&M students will realize the importance of good sportsmanship, no matter what the scoreboard reads.

Texas A&M University is a highly honored university. The behavior of students reflects upon the school. Therefore, let's profit from Tech's actions and make sure we uphold the traditions and values upon which our university was established.

—Paige Beasley

### Some profs 'rotten'

Editor:

This is one letter I thought I would never have to write. But educational priorities are in order.

The professors at Texas A&M are generally very highly motivated, provocative, and relatively concerned about their job of educating little Aggies. However, much to my dismay there are flagrant irregularities—namely "rotten profs." That of course is a subjective evaluation and needs to be qualified. Definitely defined, a "rotten prof" is a teacher who fails

to communicate verbally or otherwise with the majority of his students. This may be caused by blatant inability to teach or simple boredom with his/her job. Many other factors are of course involved also, but these are the two I've encountered.

Without being vindictive and not knowing the hiring policies of this university, it would seem a few professors are hired simply because they hold a doctorate degree. With this justification the university then seems to feel the particular person in question is qualified to teach. But a doctorate degree does not predicate teaching ability. Many people are intellectually oriented and highly motivated enough to secure a doctoral degree, but who are at the same time exasperating failures in communication.

This seems to be the problem in my particular case. Although I've always felt that a student's failure in a particular class usually turned out to be his fault and not the professor's, I'm convinced that the particular professor teaching a class I'm enrolled in now is directly responsible for the antipathy I hold against the subject. This professor simply cannot communicate with the students. One moment he is exceedingly redundant and in the next becomes so complex that even he can't explain what he's talking about. His lectures have no form of order whatsoever. Everything I've learned in the course so far has been straight from the text. So I ask: What is the Professor's purpose? I'm the first student who hates complainers, but I'm sure there are other students who fall into this same predicament. I only wish the student had more control over the selection of professors. Or at least some sort of screening process to evaluate his teaching ability and not whether he has written one-hundred books or journal articles, or was past president of the Brookings Institute with honorary degrees from Harvard and Oxford. Indeed, in the final analysis maybe it should be the students who hire and fire.

—William L. Irwin '80

### Taps for everyone

Editor:

We would like to express our appreciation to those Aggies who attended Silver Taps, Tuesday night to honor and respect their fellow Aggies.

Now we would like to express extreme displeasure with the majority of the student body (Note how we refrain from calling them Aggies.) either do not bother to go, or else they go with the express purpose of talking through the ceremony or gawking at the Firing Squad as if it were "Parade Day."

We do not need to name these people—they know who they are, but we would like them to consider this thought: If one of you "non-Aggies" died tomorrow, the very same Silver Taps ceremony would be held for you as it would for a loyal, devoted Aggie. So if you people can't attend the beautiful Silver Taps ceremony with the respect it deserves we suggest that you take yourselves and your bad manners to another school.

We are sure you can easily find one that does not have our tradition of honor and respect for fellow Aggies.

Ro McDonald '78  
Cyndi Newberry '79

### The blackout plan

Editor:

President Carter would be proud of the electric companies in this area for their new energy conservation policy.

The two blackouts held in September should help keep our electric bills at a minimum.

However, I think the next blackout should be announced at least a week in advance so everyone could stock up on candles, ice, batteries and beer.

—Cheryl Hickman '80