

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Wednesday
October 5, 1977

Mansfield taking Japan by storm

By DAVID BRODER

TOKYO—In one respect at least, his Senate Majority leader, Mike Mansfield is still the first man in the office. He's in here most mornings before our shifts change," says the young Marine security guard at the American embassy. "What time is that? 7:30."

But, now instead of breakfasting at the capitol with his friend, Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt.), Mansfield breakfasts with his wife at the nearby embassy residence. "I don't know if she likes the new routine," he jokes. "But I do."

In the eight months since President Carter named him Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield has brought a touch of his native Montana and the Senate to one of the most sensitive diplomatic posts in the world.

Frederic Remington cowboy bronzes alternate with Japanese brush paintings in the embassy living room, demonstrating the compatibility of Western and Eastern art. A Montana Highway Department brochure and recent issues of the *Hungry Horse News* provide diversion for those waiting to see Mansfield at his office.

In addition to the customary picture of the President, Mansfield's office has autographed pictures of the House and Senate Democratic leaders—and Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), the first Nisei in Congress.

"I've tried to impress on the Japanese the importance of Congress," Mansfield told a recent visitor. His first major speech as ambassador dwelt heavily on Congress' role in foreign policy. He has backed it up with stern lectures on the danger of excessive exports of steel and other commodities triggering protectionist sentiment in Congress, where, he tells the Japanese, "the first rule is political survival." But ironically, as Mansfield has stressed the importance of Congress, he

has contributed to a cult of personality about himself, the man who led the Senate for 16 years, longer than anyone else in American History.

Mansfield is credited by one senior State Department official with being potentially "the most powerful and important ambassador to Japan since (Edwin) Reischauer," the Harvard scholar of Japan who was here in the '60s. Already Mansfield intervened successfully with President Carter to avert a showdown with the Japanese on a nuclear fuel processing plant. The President reversed himself with a scribbled note on a Mansfield cable

to Washington: "Tell Mike I agree with him." Commenting on the fact, the mass-circulation *Mainichi* recently ran an editorial on Mansfield, headlined: "A Giant Walks Among Us." This makes Mansfield distinctly nervous.

"Sometimes I think they expect too much of me and they build me up too much," he says. "That's what scares me. I'm no giant. I'm just a fellow embarking on a new career."

Mansfield who is now 74, has had a lifetime romance with the Far East, and he is a visionary about its future.

"The convergence of the four big powers—the Soviet Union, China, Japan and the United States—is here in the North Pacific, and this is where our future lies," he tells his visitors. "We have more trade with East Asia and Japan than we do with Western Europe. While the pull has been toward Europe, because most of us come from across the Atlantic, the push has been westward, across the continent and out across the Pacific. Why, when George Washington was inaugurated, there were 13 American clippers in the Canton harbor."

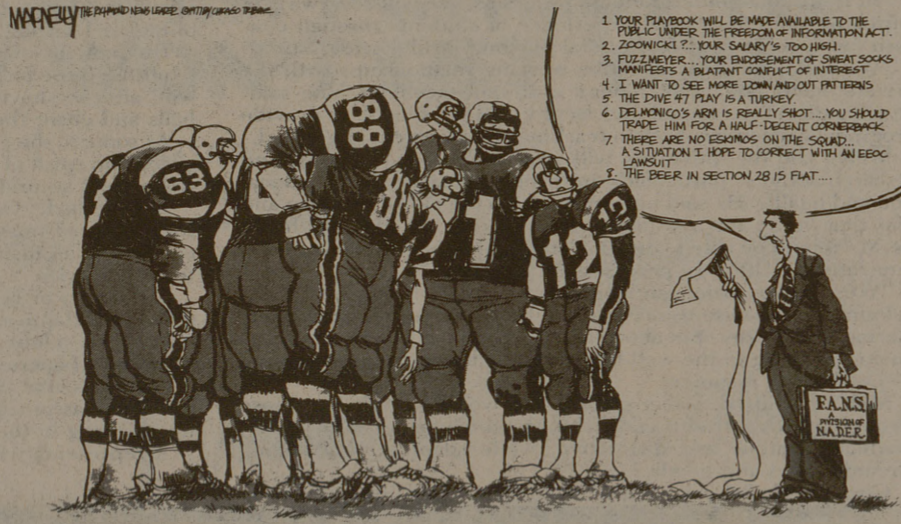
With the perspective that age and scholarship gave him, Mansfield, the former history teacher, sees the current problems of U.S.-Asian relations—the trade difficulties with Japan, the barriers to "normalization" of relations with China, the Korean troop reductions—with rare detachment. But he is worried about Japan.

For all its economic achievement, he sees Japan as "terribly vulnerable," not only in current trade disputes, but in the prospective rapprochement between China and Russia, which Mansfield believes is a long-term, not a short-term, possibility.

"Some of them," he says, referring to the Japanese officials, "still want guidance, and they mention that we're the big brother and they're the little brother. I've been trying to downgrade that somewhat flattering relationship and to assure them that we're equals, we're brothers, and we're in this together."

"As the No. 1 and No. 2 economic powers, we have great responsibilities; together, we can accomplish a great deal. But apart, we can do great harm to ourselves and to the rest of the world."

Giant or not, big brother or not, one has to believe that it is a boon to both countries to have Mike Mansfield where he is. (c) 1977, The Washington Post Company



The metric morning after

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON—A concerted effort is underway to help Americans taper on the metric system.

Some radio stations now give the temperature in Celsius as well as Fahrenheit. Some road signs post distances in kilometers as well as miles—that sort of thing.

The Lighter Side

The big argument for scuttling our present weights and measures (the foot, cubit, butt, firkin, etc.) is that most of them began as approximations.

The cubit, as you may know was based

on the length of the forearm. I hardly need mention what the foot was based on. And I wouldn't even guess what the butt and firkin were based on.

There is strong resistance to switching from the one system to another. But if the metric system were applied to things that are now unknown quantities, I'm sure it would be readily adopted.

For example, it has often been pointed out that we have no precise system for denoting the intensities of hangovers. The units of measurements now in use are even more ambiguous than the cubit and foot were originally.

The most common designations of hangover magnitude are the lulu, the woozer, the really-a-pip, the beuat and the holy moses. These ratings, although undoubtedly descriptive, lack scientific exactitude. One may, I think, to expedite the met-

ric familiarization process would be to develop a standard, universal scale for measuring hangovers.

In the metric manner, the hangover scale should run from 0 to 100. Absolute zero would be the complete absence of morning-after symptoms. One hundred would represent total incapacitation.

The figures in between would denote temple-throbbers, ear-ringers, eye-wobblers, tongue-coaters, throat-parchers, stomach-bloaters, gorge-risers, pulse-pounders, heart-burners, mouth-cottoners, nose-cloggers, breath-polluters, tooth-looseners and the various other degrees of hangovers.

The first thing needed in devising such a scale is a base unit, as the meter is the basic unit for distance, the kilogram the basic unit for mass, the candela the basic unit of light and so on.

Perhaps the basic unit for a metric hangover could be called a pang. How, quantitatively speaking, shall we go about defining a pang? Somewhat in the fashion of the meter, I should think.

A meter, as you well know, is defined as 1,650,763.73 wave lengths of the orange-red light from the isotope Krypton-86, measured in a vacuum.

Although a hangover sometimes produces an orange-red light, particularly when the victim closes his eyes, its intensity cannot be equated with isotopes. So another standard will be required.

One possibility would be to define a pang as the amount of pain that can be killed by 1,650,763.73 micrograms of aspirin, taken internally.

That way, when you tell people you've got a megapang hangover, they'll know exactly what you mean.

Letters to the editor

Is Aggie honesty a vanishing tradition?

Editor: A good Ag is not determined by whether or not he or she belongs to a Greek organization or goes to Silver Taps, but something much more basic. That something is honesty. There are some dishonest people here who call themselves Ags.

On the night of October 3rd, my car, a foreign sports model, was parked at Sundance Apartments. Some so-called Aggie hit the back of my car and left without leaving a note or even attempting to contact me. Since the car's purchase, I have been very careful with it to the point of parking it away from other cars, as it was Monday night. Though this car might give the impression that I have a lot of money, I don't. I worked long and hard to pay for it and now do not have the money to repair it.

If there is one word which embodied Aggies, it has been "honesty." I hate to think that honesty is dying along with other traditions here at A&M. I'm disappointed in some Ag for not being honest and admitting their fault. Want a chance to redeem yourself? Come by Sundance Apartments 124.

—Bryan Miller '80

Park for everyone

Editor: The editorial "Keeping some green" in the *Battalion* on Monday, Oct. 3, was confusing.

Editorial Director L. R. L. mourns the constant construction at A&M that takes away the "grass and open space" we have left. Then he praises the future construction at Hensel Park because all that is left at the park is "...open grassy areas and stands of trees."

What do you want? Open spaces and grass, or asphalt trails, artificial lighting and decorative fences that cost \$265,000?

—Kerry Falls

Editor's note: We want a park that students and everyone else can use. The construction planned for Hensel won't remove or cover up any of those grassy areas and stands of trees — as most campus construction has — but it will make

them more accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Right now there just aren't many facilities in the park, especially near and after dark when there isn't enough light there to make the place seem very safe.

Certainly Hensel's natural beauty should remain. The park improvements approved for Hensel are designed to preserve the nature there, while making the park more accessible and attractive to the people who could benefit most from it. That's what we want.

Theories 'absurd'

Editor: On Nov. 9 the Black Awareness Committee of the MSC is sponsoring a debate between two gentlemen, Dr. William Shockly and Dr. Richard Goldsby. The topic of the debate is whether intelligence is racially determined. Dr. Shockly, a Nobel prize winner will argue that intelligence is hereditary and therefore blacks are inferior. Dr. Goldsby, a genetic researcher, author and professor at the University of Maryland will counter that intelligence is based on environmental factors.

In my opinion Dr. Shockly's theories are absurd. His data is out-dated and biased. He appears to have drawn his conclusions and then accumulated data which would substantiate it. I urge the people of A&M to boycott this debate. Do not dignify Mr. Shockly's theories by attending and arguing with him. The debate, being based on such an emotional and personal topic, cannot help but become destructive.

Instead I propose a constructive alternative. I propose a seminar to promote the unity of the races, an opportunity for all to get together and learn. Perhaps speakers who would emphasize the growing ability of people in the world to work together could be brought in.

This boycott should be organized and should begin now. To make this effective we must be prepared with a successful program. If you agree or want to help let me know.

—Ann Castle 846-1462

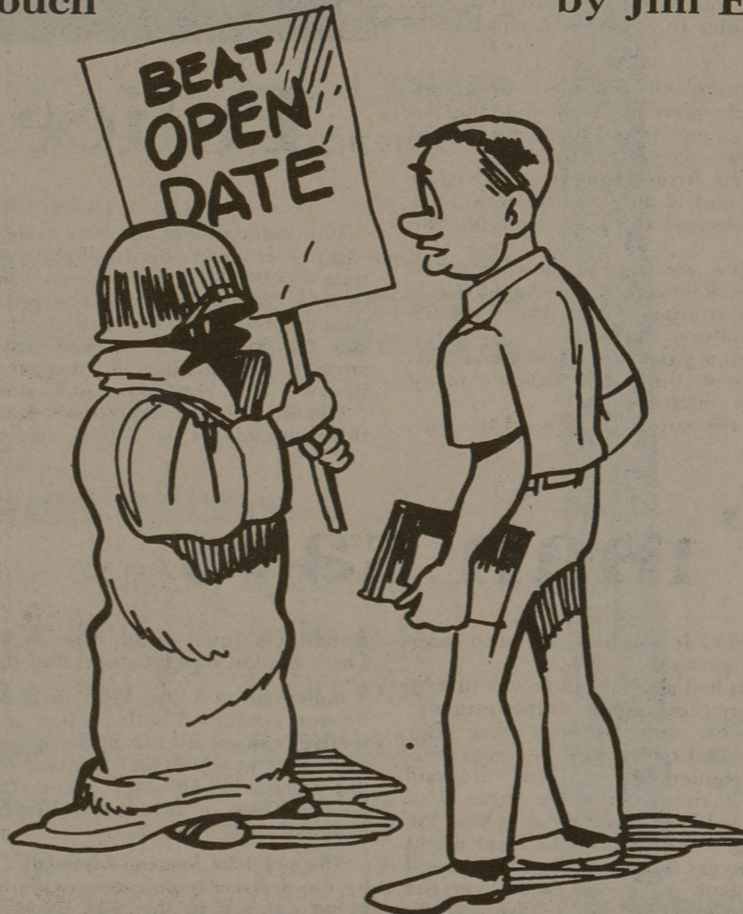
Game not a loss

Editor: On October 3, 1977, the Bryan Eagle

ran a sports editorial (a column by Sports Editor Jerry Waggoner) on the A&M vs Michigan game. Perhaps it is indicative of the current trend of newspaper writers, non-Aggies, and un-Aggies, to forget that Texas A&M is, and forever will be, Aggie-land. If anyone will recall, the Spirit of Aggie-land prevails no matter what the final score might be. So the "humiliation" that the "eminent" sports observer alluded to, was felt only by himself and others (on and off campus) who are not Aggies.

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR AN OPEN DATE!"

Top of the News State

Humphrey invited to Turkey trot

Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., Tuesday invited Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., to attend the Great Gobbler Gallop in Cuero, Texas. Tower will judge the event Sunday which began several years ago in disagreement over the site of the original turkey trot — Cuero versus Worthington, Minn. The two communities settle the argument with a race between the best turkeys from each state. The event will feature Ruby Begonia of Cuero against Paycheck of Worthington.

Longshoreman begin to picket

Houston Longshoremen Tuesday stopped unloading 10 barges and began picketing in a four-day-old East Coast dock strike. When the selective strike against automated and containerized cargoes began at midnight Friday, local dockworkers continued to unload the barges, which already had been removed from their mother ships. But Wells, president of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1273, Tuesday said ILA national officials had clarified anticontainer strike policy and told the locals to halt the unloading.

'Tailcone-less' shuttle to takeoff

NASA announced in Houston Tuesday plans for another Shuttle approach and landing test at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Oct. 10. Astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly will pilot the 8 a.m. EDT test, the first with the Shuttle's protective tailcone removed. Tailcone off means more turbulence for the carrier aircraft, said spokesman Terry White. "It's going to be kind of a rough ride for the 747."

Joan Hill 'frantic', says friend

Ann Moore Buck, a friend of Joan Robinson Hill, testified in Houston Tuesday on behalf of Ash Robinson, the target of a \$7.6 million wrongful death suit brought by survivors of Dr. John Hill, that she visited Joan Hill about 10 o'clock the night she died of a mysterious virus. Buck said she encountered Hill and his wife in a private hospital room where they appeared to be having a heated discussion. "Joan tried that entire time to get me out of the room. She (Joan) kept asking me for help. Every time I would try to leave she would call me back. She was very frantic," Buck testified.

Nation

Don't breathe too deeply. . .

The source of carbon monoxide that spread through the ventilation system of Marlborough Elementary School in Kansas City, Mo., Monday sending 150 students to the hospital was an improperly maintained boiler room where crucial doors were left open, Bob Robert Wheeler, superintendent of schools said Tuesday. "It has been reported to us by hospital officials that no children were seriously injured," Wheeler said. The superintendent also said the city was looking into the possibility of negligence and that school officials already have taken steps to correct the situation and to prevent recurrence at other schools.

Income rise exceeds inflation rise

A new study on income released Monday by the Census Bureau said the income of American families exceeded the rate of inflation last year for the first time since 1973, and the number of persons living in poverty showed the first decline in three years. The median family income last year was \$14,960, an increase of 9 per cent over the 1975 figure, and 25 million persons earned less than \$5,815, the federal poverty level for a non-farm family of four) dropping 902,000 from the 1975 total.

World

Peace talks allow unofficial PLO

Israel publicly has damned a U.S. policy shift toward the Palestinians, but an authoritative Israeli source says the Jewish state will allow unofficial PLO participation in Geneva peace talks. "If they enter the Geneva conference as members of the Jordanian delegation we will accept them," the source said. The U.S. shift, contained in a joint U.S.-Soviet statement issued Saturday saying a new Geneva conference should insure "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," was the first Washington endorsement of "Palestinian rights."

Human rights violators criticized

Communist states violating the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accord were criticized by Western nations at the opening of the Belgrade, Yugoslavia, security conference Tuesday. The NATO allies refrained from naming specific countries or cases. The Western delegates noted, however, that of the 10 founders of the Moscow group monitoring Soviet compliance with Helsinki, five are in prison and three were forced into exile.

Gandhi — released, hailed

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, arrested Monday on charges of corruption in her administration, was released from custody Tuesday and thousands of cheering, dancing supporters mobbed her as she left the courthouse. Magistrate Ripu Sudan Dayal told a packed courtroom there was "no reasonable ground to order the detention of the accused. I order release."

Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow. High today high 70s with a low tonight in the low 60s. Winds out of the southeast at 8-12 mph. 10 percent chance of rain today and tomorrow.

The Battalion

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