

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Thursday  
October 6, 1977

## Hand on the balance

President Carter has a long row to hoe before reaching his campaign goal of a balanced federal budget before his present term ends in January 1981. Achieving that promise will be no easy task.

The last time the federal government balanced its books was in fiscal 1969, when revenues exceeded expenditures by \$3.2 billion.

Under a current resolution adopted by Congress this month, a ceiling of \$458.25 billion was placed on federal spending in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Since revenues have been projected at \$397 billion, it doesn't take a (GS) maximum bureaucrat to figure out there is a \$61.25 billion deficit (red) difference between income and outgo.

Fiscal year 1978's budget essentially is the handiwork of former President Ford, inasmuch as work on it began during the final months of his administration.

It will not be possible to assess President Carter's spending priorities until the budgetary process for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 1978, is well under way.

Whatever the methodology, the prospect of borrowing \$60 billion is worrisome. Federal borrowing to finance the deficit and service the national debt only makes it more difficult for private borrowers to sell their own securities.

If Carter plans to pay more than lip service to his campaign for a balanced budget, his efforts are worthy of public support. If his ideas are nothing more than self-serving political eyewash, the public ought not to let such uncanniness slide by without vociferous outcries of condemnation.

Lubbock Tex. Avalanche-Journal

## The Kent memorial

Kent State University President Brage Golding's recent proposal for a memorial to everyone connected with the tragic shooting deaths of four students in 1970 isn't as outrageous as his critics have insisted.

Golding has suggested that the new Kent State University gymnasium be dedicated to the slain, the wounded National Guardsmen, the townspeople and the university community.

Whether the gymnasium could be the proper monument may be open to debate, but there is merit in his proposition that a monument should be all-encompassing.

The trauma of Kent State is shared by the entire nation. If a monument is to have any meaning, it should be in recognition of the event and not in memory of the slain students alone.

Wheeling W. Va. Intelligencer

## Dear Mom: Your black Aggie is lonely

Dear Mama,

Well, you said you wanted your little girl to be a Black Aggie and that's what she is. Here I am, Ma, I did it. The first one in our whole family to go to college. I'm a little older than the others, but here I am. I could be somewhere else, but we thought a degree from A&M would be worth just so much more. So, here I am.

I've learned to do all the things every Aggie learns to do—stand in endless lines, wait for hours at the "Quack Shack" to get medicine for my migraines. (I missed the first four days of class because of those headaches. I spent those four days standing in lines that reached as far as the eye could see. It seems as if every day when I got into a line and finally reached the end of it, it was for another purpose.) Ma, I have my I.D., my schedule, my football ticket and my books.

And I'm taking your advice about look-

ing for a husband, someone nice who would care about me. I've looked and looked, but he isn't here. Mama, Most of the black Americans on campus are jocks—here on athletic scholarships.

### Readers' forum

There's nobody for an older black student. I realize you are pinching pennies to keep me in school and help me raise my own children but those men aren't here.

Okay, so some women go to college for a "Mrs." degree, but maybe we'll have to be proud of a BA for this black coed.

A little good news and a little bad: I went to a seminar and the guest

speaker was a black woman and she says it's okay to say "Imo," that it's not just black people who talk that way. Mama, I want to apologize for making you say "I am going to."

There was also a black poet on campus that same day, imagine. And Mama, he is well-known across the nation. Maybe my daughter will read some of his poetry in American Literature one day.

Okay, now for the bad. Did you read about that man who won a Nobel Prize in Physics? He has a theory about us being genetically inferior to whites—as a race, a whole race. Isn't that sort of like what Hitler said about the Jews in *Mein Kampf*? This man now, he says Blacks have an inferior gene and we pass it right along from generation to generation. Well, he is going to be on the A&M campus.

Mama, you always told me that I was as good as anybody. And I believed you.

I went to the first football game. I did not have a date. There is a tradition here at A&M that every time the Aggies score, your date is supposed to kiss you. Well, I sure hope that someday I will be the kisser. But, Ma, do you know there are nearly 30,000 students here and only 125 of them are black? Why do you think that is? I am the only Black in every one of my classes.

But I'm here, I did it. I'm an Aggie. The truth is, Mama—well, do you think maybe I could come home? Or maybe transfer to a school with more blacks? There's gotta be a good school like that, Ma. The truth is, I never realized how lonesome I could be.

Your daughter,  
Erma Jefferson

Jefferson is a 36-year-old junior political science major.

### Letters to the editor

## Dippers and chewers need to remember others

Editor:

I would like to call attention to those students at Texas A&M who chew or dip tobacco.

Recently I went to class and put my books next to my desk, only to find that someone's spittoon had overturned on the floor. It was both inconsiderate and disgusting.

Tobacco products of any kind are prohibited from the classrooms by school policy. If this person had obeyed school regulations this would never have happened.

Persons should be able to choose whether or not to chew or dip tobacco, unless of course, it infringes upon the rights and sensitivities of others. If you are one of the persons who does indulge, you will do us both a favor if you will be kind enough to consider those who may be in the place you just left. —Renee Pevoto  
Class of '80

### Bikes dangerous

Editor:

The smell of burning rubber! The screech of tires! The protestations of near victims and casualties! Is it the Texas World Speedway? No, we are on the Texas A&M campus, overwhelmed with discourteous bicyclists.

Since school began, I have witnessed five minor bicycle accidents on campus between pedestrians and bicyclists. Each incident took place between classes, which should point out the fact that bicycles should be walked to and from classes while on campus. We've all got to get to class, but running into people only serves to make them late.

I am not just an angry pedestrian spouting off. I too, ride my Schwinn to school, but there is a difference. When the sidewalks become crowded, I walk my bike, and when I do ride, it is always at a leisurely pace.

So, for those of you who are whipping dangerously about, don't be surprised if nobody says "Howdy" to you! And please walk your bikes between classes.

—Kayce Glasse '78

### Brown-baggers pay

Editor:

As has been the case since we have been at A&M, we (graduate students and our major professor) went to the MSC dining area to eat. While our group was enjoying their sack lunches and yogurt, soft drinks, and candy bars purchased from the cafeteria, we were approached by Mr.

C.K. Borchardt, Dining Center Manager, and told we were not allowed to eat sack lunches in the MSC dining area. In the ensuing conversation, no sound reasoning for the anti-sack lunch policy was given, but we were told that the MSC dining area is not part of the MSC, our building use fees do not benefit the cafeteria, facilities for "brown-baggers" are available surrounding the basement snack bar, and that the next time we were caught eating sack

lunches in the MSC dining area, we would be forcibly removed by security personnel.

We question this "policy" on the principle that the MSC was built for general use by students and faculty. Similarly, the MSC dining area should not be restricted only to those persons eating food prepared in the cafeteria. We had spent as much or more money to purchase food items from the cafeteria compared to other persons sitting in the dining area, and we did not occupy any more space. Suppose a TAMU student or faculty member, who usually brings a sack lunch, is asked to eat in the MSC dining area with other students, faculty, or campus visitors, only to be physically ousted. This example demonstrates the absurdity of this policy. In addition, the facilities in the basement are extremely limited (29 tables), and the carnival atmosphere is distracting.

—Scott Lutz '77 and Chris Grue '77

### Some Aggies rude

Editor:

Before attending A&M, I had heard many testimonials about the "spirit of Aggie land."

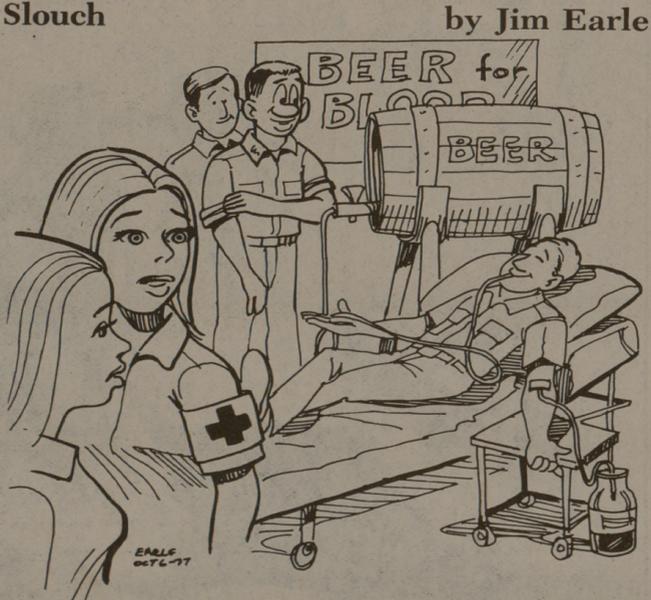
I had the opportunity to experience this feeling of brotherhood between students when I came to A&M last fall. I'm not sure "brotherhood" is the right word anymore.

I've observed so much rudeness and disrespect lately that it's hard to believe this is the same campus it was last fall.

In one instance this rudeness was directed at a faculty member. Students whistled at the instructor to get his attention; others disrupted class so badly that he had to ask them to leave. It is rude and maddening to other students to have to sit through such a class.

This is just one of the numerous instances I've encountered. I believe both faculty and fellow students deserve more respect than this. C'mon, Ags, pull yourselves together.

—Tammy Long  
Class of '80



"I KNOW WE PROMISED BEER FOR BLOOD, BUT AT THE SAME TIME?"



## Speaking simply?

We are in debt to NBC reporter Edwin Newman and to the Sacramento Bee for alerting us to still another new series of misdemeanors against the English language.

Newman, who has written books on the proper use of English, told a gathering of radio and television news directors in San Francisco last week that he might be fighting a lost cause. The language, he said, is still "dull, pompous, turgid, ponderous and overblown," and he cited a number of recent offenses.

The police chief in Madison, Wis., calls his jail "a total-incarceration facility." A mail-order catalog describes an ice-cream scoop as an "ice-cream transfer spade." A motel in Albany, N.Y., advertises its beds as "sleep systems." And the tags on many handbags describe the material as "man-made vinyl." The wild vinyl—a subspecies of the vicuna?—apparently has become extinct.

The Bee directs its attention to the rampant acronym, which we believe to be the greatest of all threats to the intelligibility of the language. One of its reporters found the following paragraph in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's guidelines for development of a state health plan in California:

"The SHPDA shall submit a Preliminary State Health Plan, containing recommended revisions of the HSPs, to the SHCC for review. The SHCC may require the SHPDA to revise the PSHP prior to its approval of the SHP."

GRRRR.

Los Angeles Times

## Top of the News State

### Texas gets discount air fares

Texas International Airlines announced Wednesday new discount air fares of nearly 60 percent to several cities in the state. "Peasants" fares, offered on selected flights between Lubbock and Austin and Lubbock and Houston, take effect Nov. 13, the airline said. Fares on flights between Lubbock and Austin will be \$25, and \$40 from Lubbock to Houston, depending on the time. Other cities in Texas to receive discount prices are Amarillo, Beaumont-Port Arthur and Wichita Falls.

### Jury still out in policemen's trial

The seven-woman, five-man jury deciding the fate of the Houston ex-policemen charged with murdering a Mexican-American prisoner deliberated through Wednesday without reaching a verdict. State District Judge James F. Warren had instructed the jury they have five alternatives: acquittal, murder, involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide or assault. Defense lawyer Bob Nett said Texas law requires proof of intent to do serious harm for murder conviction. He said that one of the policemen, Terry Dennis, had testified he had no such intent and that Joe Campos Tom Jr., 23, had jumped or fell into Buffalo Bayou while trying to escape.

## Nation

### Barring of Utah judge urged

The U.S. Justice Department has asked that a 78-year-old Utah federal court judge be barred from handling further federal cases. The department sought the unprecedented action against Chief District Court Judge Willis W. Ritter. In a petition, the justice department said Ritter mismanaged the local federal grand jury, failed to follow proper procedures, mismanaged his criminal trial calendar, forced the government to consent to non-jury trials, was hostile in trying misdemeanors, ordinarily barred the government from making opening statements in criminal statements in criminal cases and has shown contempt for appeals court judges. The department said the Ritter has "brought the administration of justice to a standstill in much of Utah and has brought the judiciary into disrepute."

### Reds can 'kill' our spy satellites

American spy satellites that watch the Soviet Union are now vulnerable to attack from a Russian "killer satellite" and the United States does not yet have the ability to retaliate. Defense Secretary Harold Brown disclosed Tuesday that the Soviet weapon, previously described as only partially successful, now has an "operational capability" in the event of hostilities. A U.S. space weapon that would knock out enemy satellites by homing in and colliding is under development, "preliminary exploration and design stage" under a contract recently let by the Air Force, Brown said. President Carter earlier this year disclosed he had suggested a ban on anti-satellite weapons to the Russians, but Brown said the Soviet press had recently charged U.S. tests violated an agreement not to have anti-satellites.

### Officials confused over illness

New Mexico state health officials are confused as to the cause of the illness which struck 40 members of the El Paso Riverside High School marching band and Rangerettes drill team. The high school students were treated at hospitals in Alamogordo Sept. 16-17 for what the health authorities originally diagnosed as a mass case of food poisoning. New Mexico state laboratory tested samples of food eaten by the 29 students and no possible source of food poisoning was found. A two-week-old student of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency, Alamogordo, Fred Wood, said last week there was a "strong possibility" the illness was caused by chemical poisoning from hair spray.

## World

### Iceberg paddlewheel proposed

Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohamed Al Faisal proposed Tuesday equipping huge Antarctic icebergs with giant paddle-wheels to bring water to his parched homeland. He proposed installing paddlewheels with huge arms that would propel 100-million-ton icebergs from the Antarctic to the Arabian peninsula or any arid nation. "The towing speed recommended for the transportation of icebergs is considerably slow for the existing tugs to run with reasonable efficiency," Faisal said. "It is suggested the icebergs be equipped with their own propulsion in the form of paddlewheels." His plan called for paddlewheels to be attached to both sides of an iceberg, with powerplants situated on its top. Faisal said that by equipping both sides with paddlewheels rather than placing the propulsion system at the rear of the iceberg, the ice mass could be navigated with ease.

### Ransom okay brings resignation

Justice Minister Hajime Fukuda resigned over Japan's decision to pay the Japanese Red Army hijackers \$6 million in ransom and release six prisoners to save the lives of 151 hostages aboard a Japan Airlines seized last week. Foreign Ministry officials waived the right to seek extradition of the hijackers and return of the ransom money from Algeria, where the six-day hijack drama ended Monday. Algeria said Tuesday through the national news agency there has been no formal extradition request for the guerrillas, who took over the Paris-Tokyo jetliner with 151 other people aboard over India last Wednesday. Fukuda and other cabinet officers protested they were not consulted about the decision.

### Weather

Mostly to partly cloudy today and tomorrow with Southeastern winds 8-12 mph. Continued mild with a high for today mid-80s and tonight's low mid-60s. 10 per cent chance of rain.

## The Battalion

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