

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Wednesday
October 12, 1977

What they don't know won't hurt them

By GEORGE JOPLIN

The hour was late, the streets were dark and empty. A night watchman made his rounds from door to door of the downtown businesses. Most people had been home for hours, many of them already in bed asleep. But the lights still shone brightly in the newspaper office and the old manual typewriter clickety clacked away as the editor recorded what action had been taken at city council meeting that night.

Soon, thousands of people would read that story and learn what city council had done to perhaps change their lifestyle, alter their business routine or lower their insurance rates. They would learn how each councilman voted on an issue and who they should contact if they disagreed with the position a councilman took. The people wanted this information and knew they could find it in their newspaper.

That's why the lights burned late in the newspaper office, because an editor was dedicated to giving his subscribers a detailed accounting of just what transpired at that council meeting. The next night

would be a school board meeting, the next a civic club dinner, then a meeting of the planning and zoning commission and on and on. The newspaper would be represented at each of these. Stories would be written and published so the people would be informed of what was going on in their community.

"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press" the First Amendment to the Constitution states—the cornerstone of our democracy. Without this, all of our liberties would be insecure.

Yet these freedoms are being

threatened by representatives in government who assume the attitude that it is better for the people to not know what is going on, what action they are considering or have already taken. "What they don't know won't hurt them," they boast. But what they really mean is that if they transact their business under a cloak of secrecy, no one will know what they are doing and they can run the government as they darn well please.

How many times in recent years has it been noted in stories that a school board, city council, fiscal court or some other governing body has gone into executive

session to discuss a problem, a situation that possibly would be embarrassing? All too many! If it is public business they are discussing, then rarely should it be conducted behind closed doors.

When you pick up a newspaper today you have freedom in your hands, but will you still have that freedom of information tomorrow if governmental bodies are allowed to go unchallenged into one secret executive session after another?

The threat, the challenge rests in the hands of the people and if they—you and I—don't speak up and tell our representatives how we feel, personally or through editorials and letters to the editor, then we may soon find ourselves without a right to know...unable to hold freedom in our hands.

Then there will be no need for the lights to burn into the wee hours of the night in the newspaper office, no need for the typewriter to clickety clack. In fact, there will be no need for the night watchman to make his rounds.

(Joplin is president of the National Newspaper Association.)

Freedom In Our Hands
1977
National Newspaper Week
Oct. 9-15

Humphrey — the phenomenal senator

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International
WASHINGTON—Thirty years ago a journalism instructor, attempting to give his freshman students a taste of the real world, took his class downtown to interview the mayor.

His Honor gave the fledgling reporters an hour, holding forth at length on topics ranging from national politics to local "slum clearance" as it was called those days.

when they discovered they had been exposed to an oratorical phenomenon.

Years later this member of that class heard the first apt description of Hubert Humphrey's speaking speed: "About 250 words a minute, up to 500 in gusts."

Humphrey's machine gun delivery may have slowed down over the years, but many in Washington, accustomed to the measured drawl of southern speech patterns, never got used to it. Some reporters who followed his 1968 presidential cam-

paign came back calling him "Motor Mouth." A few years later, some of them were wishing Humphrey had been able to talk just a little bit faster in that campaign.

Humphrey was an impetuous young politician. He led the civil rights charge at the 1948 Democratic national convention that drove the Dixiecrats out of the party.

The conventional wisdom was that Humphrey, by driving the South out of the Democratic fold, had given the election to the Republicans. Tom Dewey be-

lieved that right to the end.

Humphrey once gave a speech in the Senate that was critical of Harry F. Byrd Sr. The Virginian responded a few days later and when Humphrey rose to reply, a dozen senators ostentatiously walked out leaving him to speak to a virtually empty chamber.

The Old Bulls of the Senate Press Gallery pronounced Humphrey stone dead on Capitol Hill and probably in national politics. Humphrey gave no indication that he recalled those obituaries when he became Senate Democratic whip, Vice President and his party's candidate for president.

In the early 1960s, the main reason many people in Washington were sure that significant civil rights legislation could not be passed was the known fact that the southern opposition held a monopoly on parliamentary know-how and "liberals can't count."

Humphrey managed the civil rights bill of 1954, coaxing Everett Dirksen out of his balloon, waiting until the right moment to move against the usual southern filibuster and, forgetting that he was only a South Dakota druggist by trade, holding his own in debate with the Senate's Dixie-trained constitutional "scholars."

By 1972, it was chic to dismiss Humphrey as a politician whose time had gone.

In 1976, one of the things that scared Jimmy Carter was the possibility that Humphrey might enter the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Enough said.

Washington Window

Riding the streetcar back to the university, several of the students compared notes. They could reconstruct the sense of everything the mayor had said, but no one had been able to get more than a few complete quotations on paper. The man had simply talked too fast for the students to write full sentences in their notebooks.

To say the least, it was a humbling experience for youngsters who had been told that accurate and complete notetaking was fundamental to the reporting craft. Some of the class gave up and went into advertising, but those who stuck with reporting quickly lost their feelings of inadequacy

Letters to the editor

Watch out for drinking friends; they're hard to lose

Editor:

A long time tradition of most Aggies is getting drunk on the weekends and, many times, during the week. One goes out to his favorite bar, gets "plastered," and then miraculously makes it home safely.

The familiar saying "if you drink don't drive" sounds like a sensible rule, but it is soon forgotten when one gets too drunk to think. But one seems to make it home anyway. It's pure luck.

I never realized how easily one could develop a drinking problem at a young age. But in my four years at A&M I have seen friends of mine become so obsessed with drinking that they have dropped out of school and have stopped caring about themselves and their friends. I also have friends who just drink too much.

I lost another friend this past weekend who was driving after drinking too much. It wasn't the first time he had driven home drunk, but it was his last. I feel a great loss and I can only wish that someone, realizing that he couldn't drive in his condition, had taken him home.

I would like to pass these feelings on to you who drink too much and to you who have friends that drink too much. Don't take the risk and gamble with life. Just because you made it home last week doesn't guarantee that you will this time also.

Most of all, watch out for your friends when they can't watch out for themselves. They're awful hard to lose.

—Teresa Huddleston

President's thanks

Editor:

The activities centered around the inauguration on October 4 were outstanding. We received lavish praise from persons in attendance. These activities reflect great credit on everyone associated with Texas A&M University.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep personal appreciation to each person who had a part in making this possible—particularly the students, faculty and staff. I firmly believe that no other institution in the country could have staged such an event with such style and meaning. Once again, the Texas A&M University

family has demonstrated to the public its character of greatness. I count it a real honor and privilege to be associated with you in leading this institution to even greater achievements. With the kind of spirit and cooperation that typifies this great university family, our achievements will be imited only by our own shortcomings.

Thank you again for the many kindnesses extended to us and for the very generous

efforts which have been made to make the inauguration a truly memorable occasion for everyone.

—Jarvis E. Miller
President

Greeks are Aggies

Editor:

I am writing to respond to "Greeks don't belong" printed in the Batt on Tuesday, October 11. May I make a correction, *There Are No Second Class Aggs!* It is discouraging to see that there are some with closed minds, though. Can't anyone see that Greeks are Aggies, and always will be? We participate in campus activities, display our spirit at football games and yell practices and most of all, we love this school as much as anyone ever could.

How can an Aggie justify labeling fellow Ags as bad people? I can't. It would be absurd for someone to say "you're a rotten person because you live in a dorm" as it is to say "you're a rotten person because you are a Greek! It seems a shame to turn people away who could be great friends if given a chance just because they're in a sorority or fraternity.

There is a common bond, a spirit, that A&M is famous for, one that accepts people for what they are, not for what they are labeled to be. Where is that bond now? I don't believe calling a group of people you don't even know "low quality" is an example of that spirit. It almost seems that Greeks are shown as having no feelings, but we do and it hurts to be called bad names and considered not Aggies.

I've been here three years now, I'm a member of Traditions Council and an honor society and wish to see Aggie tradition last forever. I am no exception to the rule; all Greeks want this.

Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, all I'm asking is to take a closer look at the person you're turning away. See if what the "label" says is true. Don't apply that to a whole group of people, but to each person you meet. Give a person a chance to disprove the stigma that's been placed on him or her. If you still don't like Greeks, then I'm sorry. We're not all bad, why not give us a break?

—Leslie Craig

We try harder

Editor:

My day was made by the letter entitled "No angels here." I was really pleased to see that someone realizes that Aggies are human.

To often on campus, someone (thinking that they are the good Ags) will lambast and criticize an organization or group for

something they might not have done, or did no wrong by engaging in what they were doing. Slowly but surely, every group on campus is picked at by others. Bike riders, the corps, kickers, fraternities, Blacks, Irishans, and others have all been accused of not being "true Ags."

If you stop and think for a moment you will see that every group has been picked at at least once. Does that mean that there are no Aggies on the Texas A&M campus? I sincerely doubt that. It just means that people have to realize that being an Aggie isn't being better, or perfect, or always right. Being an Aggie means you try harder to do your best for God, your fellow humans, and yourself.

True Aggies may not be number 1, but they sure as hell try harder.

—Charlie Andrews '80

Walkers' rights

Editor:

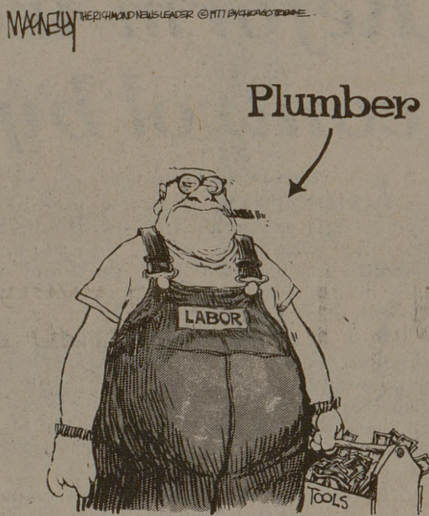
Over and over again, I have heard complaints from students about how bad gen-

eral traffic is on campus. The motorist gripes about bicycle riders and pedestrians who stray in front of him at their pleasure. Then, the student who peddles a bike grumbles about his rights to the road too and about the motorist who thinks that the streets are his alone.

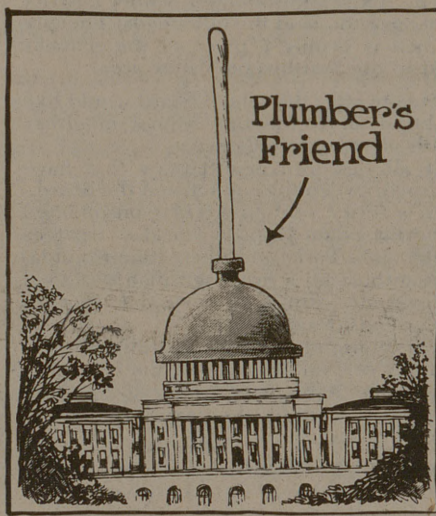
The only student I haven't heard from is the pedestrian. And that's me. Everytime I set out for class, I become paranoid. Haven't you noticed that behind every bush lurks a bicyclist waiting to rub me out? And behind every stop sign revs a car impatient to imprint its tread up and down my back? How many times have you been hit by a car or suddenly struck by a bicyclist on campus? And there's also the dear members of the corps. Have you ever been plowed under by some fish whipping out? It's a new experience, a blitzkrieg—you never know when it's going to happen!

If all Aggies would place themselves in each of these roles and realize the rights the others have, the campus would be safer. And once again it could be said that true to each other are Aggies!

—Beth Dzikowski '79



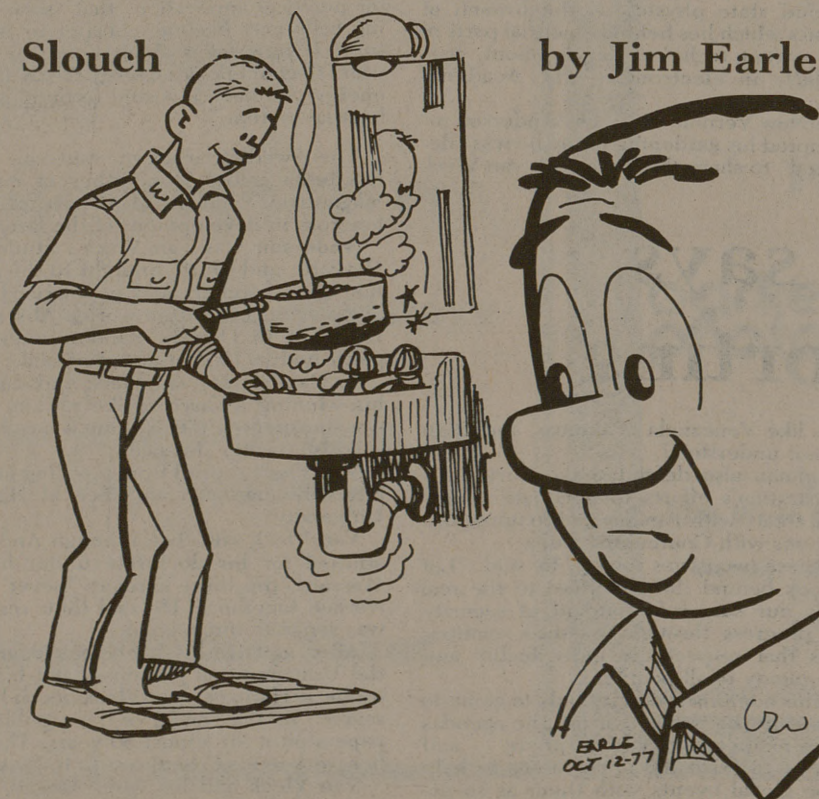
Plumber



Plumber's Friend

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"CAN YOU BEAT THAT? MY CHILI UNSTOPPED OUR SINK!"

Top of the New Campus

Student government filing open

Filing for election candidates for Off-Campus Student Organization representatives, Class of '81 officers and five freshmen senator candidates will begin at 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday. Students wishing to run for a position should go to Room 216A of the Memorial Student Center and fill out an application. The election will take place Oct. 27.

Leaving the driving to us

Charter bus rides to and from Waco for the Baylor-Texas football game are still available. The cost is \$8.25 per person. Gas tickets are not included. Buses will leave the Rudder Tower parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. They will return immediately after the p.m. game. Reservations may be made at Association of Former Students' offices in the Memorial Student Center. If the bus does not go, it will be cancelled and those who have reservations will be notified. Buses will arrive at Baylor Stadium in time for persons to walk nearby restaurants, but club officials suggest carrying a sack lunch. Refreshments will be available on the buses.

Goldwater to speak on energy

U. S. Rep. Barry Goldwater, Jr., R-Calif., will speak Thursday at Texas A&M University on energy at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Admission will be 50 cents per student and \$1 per non-student. The program will feature a question-answer session. Eldest son of Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the lawmaker serves on Public Works and Transportation, and Science and Technology Committees in Congress. He works on subcommittees dealing with aviation transportation research, and energy research, development and demonstration.

Medical students to be honored

Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, president of the Yale-New Haven Medical Center at Yale University, will deliver the main address Friday at a convocation recognizing Texas A&M University's 25th member inaugural class of medical students. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. A public reception honoring the students and program guests will be held immediately after the convocation in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom. Members of the inaugural class will be presented by Dr. William E. Ward, associate dean of medicine. The class has a younger average age (20) and higher average grades (3.83 on a 4.0 system) than its counterparts nationwide, according to statistics.

State

First oil pumped into salt domes

Federal and state energy officials Tuesday opened the nation's second underground salt dome oil storage site at Bryan Mound on the south edge of Freeport, Thomas E. Noel of the U.S. Department of Energy, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Mack Wallace and local officials witnessed the 2 p.m. throwing of a switch that started the first 250,000 barrels pumped into the dome. Eventually, some 10 million barrels of oil will be stored at Bryan Mound as part of the nation's strategic petroleum reserve program begun at another salt dome in West Hackberry, La., July 21.

Yarbrough's trial delayed

The forgery and aggravated perjury trial of former Texas Supreme Court Justice Donald B. Yarbrough has been delayed to give prosecutors and defense attorneys more time to prepare their cases. Judge Mace B. Thurmond of 147th District Court in Austin reset the trial for Oct. 31. Thurmond had been scheduled Monday to hear preliminary motions. Assistant District Attorney Steve Brittain said a heavy caseload has prevented prosecutors from being properly prepared for the Yarbrough trial. Yarbrough, who resigned from the high court July 1976 rather than face legislative removal proceedings, is accused of forging an automobile title and lying about the transaction to a grand jury. Defense attorneys, led by former Attorney General Waggoner Carter, also wanted time to review original tapes of a conversation between Yarbrough and William Rothkopf. Rothkopf was a key grand jury witness against Yarbrough.

Funds raised 'to defeat Tower'

Texas Democratic chairman Calvin Guest Tuesday said party officials hope to raise more than \$30,000 in a four-week telephone mail campaign to aid in registering voters and persuading them to vote in 1978 elections. "Our number one priority in raising money is to defeat John Tower and replace him with someone who will effectively represent the majority of the people of Texas," Guest said at a news conference in Austin. He said, however, none of the money raised during the campaign will go to the Democratic candidate who challenges Tower in the U.S. Senate campaign. "The money will be given to the candidates, it will be put in our regular fund to the benefit of all candidates."

World

Helsinki accords violated?

The United States Tuesday accused the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia of violating the Helsinki agreement by tampering with international mail. Northwestern University law professor, Joyce Hughes said the interference constituted "a continuing pattern of disregard for the pledges we have all made." Hughes, vice president of the National Urban League, is one of five "public members" on the U.S. delegation at the Belgrade conference reviewing implementation of the 1975 Helsinki accords on European security and cooperation. Speaking for the United States, she named specific countries for the first time at the 35-nation meeting, singling out the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia as persistent violators of both the Helsinki pledges and the Universal Postal Convention. She said both ordinary registered mail was being "improperly handled" by some of the Helsinki signatory states.

Weather

Sunny and mild today and tomorrow with westerly winds 10-14 mph. High both days low 70s. Low tonight 46. No precipitation.

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 correspondence. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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