

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

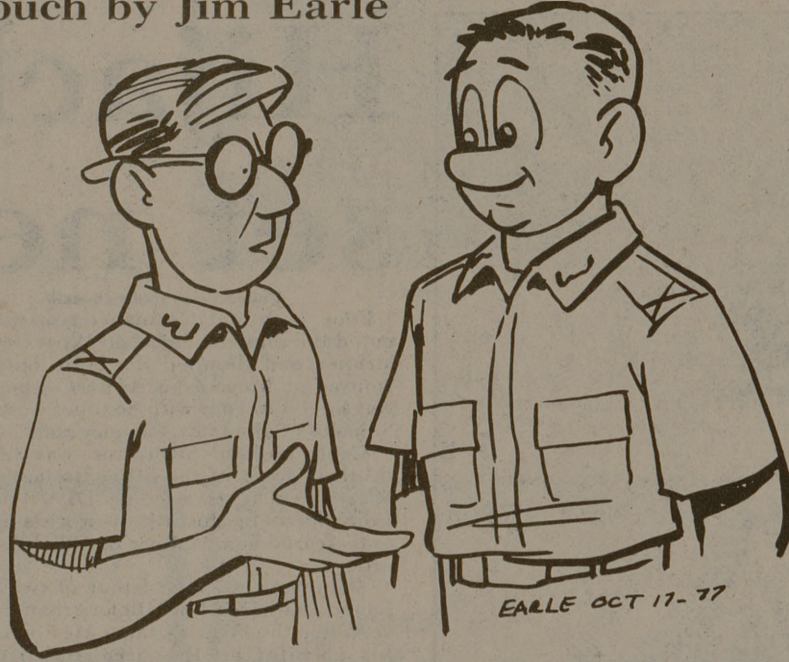
Monday
October 17, 1977

Writing for a friend

Slouch by Jim Earle

Dear Lord,
I know I've been slow about writing lately, but I wanted to drop you a note today to put in a good word for a friend coming to see you.
Of course you know I never met him, but I still feel I can call Bing Crosby a friend. You know how he was.
I can never remember a time he wasn't one of my favorite people. Not a favorite actor, or a favorite comedian or even a favorite singer — even though he was in a class by himself as all three — but a favorite person.
Now I know that you know what kind of super human being you have taken from us down here to you up there. Maybe you needed some new entertainment. But I wanted to remind you of a few things.
Much of the wealth he made from his songs and appearances went to charities. Most of his concerts in the last few years have been charity affairs.
During World War II he traveled more than 50,000 miles entertaining American troops. Yet he never stopped being a family man and a good father.
But most of all he never seemed to tire of people or to stop wanting to help and entertain people. He could have retired from entertaining long ago, without ever needing to work again. But he felt responsible for everyone around him it seemed, wanting to be a provider rather than a user. I know all this is nothing you didn't already know. But it's easy to forget.
So please take good care of him now. He's taken very good care of us for a long time.

Thanks,
L.R.L.



"IT'S NOT THAT I EXPECTED TO GET A NOBEL PRIZE, IT'S JUST THAT THEY NEVER ASKED IF I HAD DONE ANYTHING WORTHY!"

China on the move — somewhere

By DAVID S. BRODER

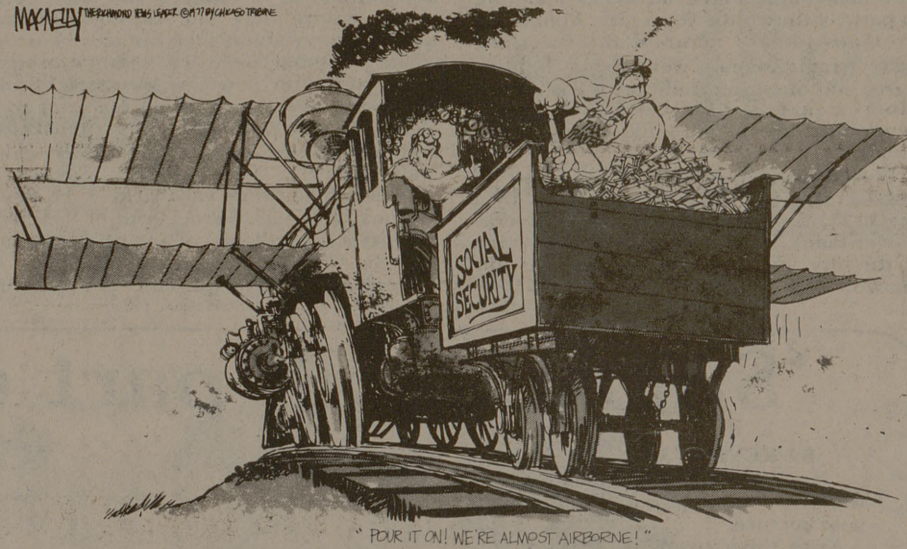
KWEILIN, China — China is a nation on the move. That statement is true at almost every level of meaning, but the sense in which it strikes the first-time visitor is the most literal. Almost everyone one sees is in motion.
There are, to be sure, landscapes of brush-painting serenity — misty hills, lovely trees, terraced fields and quiet figures. But after two weeks of travel by plane and train, by boat, by car and on foot, up and down this country, what is most vivid to the eye is not the serenity but the mobility of the Chinese people.
On your first morning in Peking, you awake to the sound of blaring horns. You soon discover why. Broad as the main streets are, they are not wide enough to allow the stream of cars, trucks and buses easy passage around the school of bicycles or past the slow-moving carts, tugged by animals or people. The drivers of the bigger and faster vehicles use their horns to intimidate the bikers and cart-tuggers, producing a cacophony that is louder even than the martial music on the loudspeakers.
The number of private cars on the road drops sharply once you leave Peking or Canton, but the bicycles with their jingling bells and the carts are sufficient provocations for the buses and trucks to make a racket, even on a country road near here.
Jay Matthews, the Washington Post correspondent in Hong Kong, reported recently that every vehicle of public conveyance in China these days is jammed to capacity. He is right. From the buses in Changsha carrying their natural-gas supply in canvas bags on the roof, to the

viscount jets that fly between here and Shanghai, there is not a seat to be had.
All this coming and going is the most visible evidence of the questing spirit of advancement that characterizes the current rulers of China — and a pragmatic, hardheaded group less interested in ideological quarrels than in pushing forward production and economic growth. Vice-Premier Teng-Hsiao-Ping is a man of such restless energy that even when he is seated in a quiet conversation he pulls deep on an ever-present cigarette and puffs the smoke as high in the air as the factory smoke-stacks in Chungking.
Most of the travelers are Chinese, but there is an increasing flow of tourists —

overseas Chinese, Japanese, East and West Europeans, and not least, Americans.
Kweilin, whose limestone cliffs, caves and rivers give it a landscape of unique beauty, is a tourist center of growing importance even though its leaders insist that industry and not tourism is central to their overall plan. A new airport terminal, a new railroad station and a new 12-story hotel have all opened within the past year and other facilities are being pushed to completion.
Tourism, of course, can be a valuable source of foreign currency, which China needs to finance the purchase of technology from abroad. But if this city is the

wave of the future, one has to view it with at least a tinge of regret. The Chinese have not resisted some of the worst aspects of commercialized natural grandeur.
For centuries their artists and poets have drawn inspiration from the landscape. The visitor traveling through the Yangtze river gorges on a steamer or floating down the Li-Chiang river here past the dramatic limestone karsts enjoys hearing the romantic tales inspired by the strange rock formations. But in the reed pipe cave featured in a glossy brochure in your hotel room and made all but mandatory for the Kweilin visitor, Chinese taste and restraint have been overwhelmed by some distinctly Disneyland touches.
Neon lights — a garish blue, orange and gold — are activated when the guide shines her flashlight on an electric eye embedded in the rock. Her recitation is anthropomorphism run riot. Every piece of stalactite or stalagmite is a hunter or a deer, a serpent, or a spider, a lion or a loon. No rock is allowed to be just a rock.

A magnificent natural cavern is lighted and described as a "crystal palace." And sure enough, on its 200-million-year-old walls some fool has inscribed in iridescent paint, "Long Live the Friendship of the Chinese and Laotian People." As you walk on the artificial concrete steps that cover the natural rock, you almost expect to see a candy bar wrapper at your feet.
Unless this Hollywood revisionist trend is halted, the day will come when a monorail carries visitors along the Great Wall, and Nimbo the Whale performs every hour on the hour in the moat of the Forbidden City. Please, Chairman Hua, don't let it happen here.



Letters to the editor

Battalion letters high point of the day

Editor:
I really must pause and give thanks for the Battalion's Letter column.
I come into my room after a hard day of skipping classes and checking mail boxes and I need a break. I need something that will lift my spirits and help me to escape my humdrum existence even if only for a few brief moments.
I find that thrill on the battle-letter page. Every day I eagerly open the paper to see which group has declared war on which. Will it be another spine-tingling episode between the pedestrians and the cyclists? Or will it be a new scene from Everyone vs. the Greeks? Even the Nonregs vs. the Corps will do as long as it keeps bad blood flowing. The less logic the better. (A good example of this is the sparkling, brand new definition of a "Good Ag," which seems to come out daily.)
I must admit I wasn't enchanted with these battles at first. I actually believed in the defunct idea that Aggies were a complex group of different people ideologically united in their belief that A&M is a great university and educational center.

But I've seen the light. It's much more fun when people don't accept one another. Expecting many replies,
—Robert Strahan '80

Fight noise

Aggies:
Are you having trouble studying because the bass on your neighbor's stereo is reading 7.3 on the Richter scale? Have you memorized the lyrics of his favorite record? If you have experienced similar situations and have not taken action, read on.
You have a right to privacy, like anyone else — let the fact be known. Bang on the walls, ceiling, or floor to show the noisemaker you are annoyed. He may not realize his music is bothering you.
Call or visit him if your first attempts fail. If he is indifferent to your efforts, contact your room adviser or apartment manager. They can take action or guide you in your quest for silence.
Remember, you have a right to privacy

— don't let inconsiderate people infringe upon that right.
—Chris Cain, '80

Corps parking poor

Editor:
The parking situation for all Corps members is in poor condition. Every cadet is required to have a special Corps parking sticker on his car. The sticker contains the person's name, dorm number, and room number, which is not very intelligent because it advertises the information to anyone who wants it.
Another problem is the Corps freshman parking situation. Parking lot number forty is a freshman-sophomore parking lot, but the freshman cadet cannot park there. To be fair about the problem they should let all the freshmen park there, or not let any of the freshmen park there.
The best solution is to eliminate the Corps responsibility in the parking matter. That way all cadets and non-cadets will have the same parking opportunities.
—Peter K. Goggin

Warning primitive

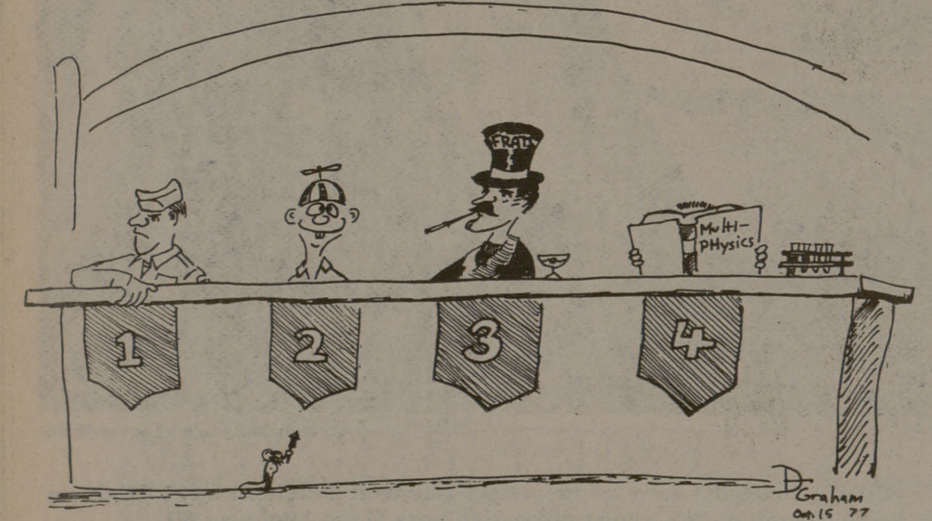
Editor:
I would like to deliver this comment to the Director of the Library. The present system of switching off the lights in the entire library momentarily as a warning of closing time is a ridiculous system. It is frustrating to an individual to have the lights turned off on him while he is in the middle of a sentence with full concentration, and have to wait in the dark for the lights to come back on. It practically forces him to leave the library at that very moment.
Now, the library is supposed to facilitate research and learning which is going on in this institution and, with the facility open for such a limited hours as it is, users of the facility should be entitled to the very last minutes of its opening hours without being forced to leave by the primitive warning system.
I suggest that a more tolerable warning system be employed in place of the miserable system of switching off the lights in the entire library.
—R. M.

Speaking of zzzs

Editor:
Regarding Gail E. Smila's letter in which Cepheid (deliberately?) was misspelled: while we consider Zepheid Variable to be like a zo-ed fraternity (sozety), there are certain distinctions which we feel deserve comment.
In the first place, Zepheid Variable is an MSZ zommittee, not a zlub. Sezond, our primary funztion is programming szienze fztion and zantasy related activities such as zfilms, AggieZon, and lezturers. Third, our membership is open to anyone interested in szienze fztion regardless of sex, raze, zreed, or zolor.
Our zommittee gets its name from the type of star zalled "zepheid variable." Suzh star types are alternately bright and dim whizh dezcribes our behavior perfectly.
—Betty Zrozket
Ruth White, Kimberly Weber,
Jeff Morgan, Bezky Matthews,
Don Zravens, Stephen D. Poe,
John Joyze, Trazy Villareal
members Zepheid Variable Szienze Fztion/Fantasy Zommittee

Sticky problems?

Editor:
I certainly hope that Renee Pevoto's letter of October 6 concerning those who chew and dip tobacco got the people it concerns to think. There is one other group I would like to call attention to who fall in a general category with the above. Those who chew gum in the classrooms.
I do not really mind if you chew gum. I mind what you do with it afterwards. In the past few weeks I have stepped in your gum, sat in your gum and gotten it on my books.
There are enough garbage cans in the buildings and around campus that if you would wait for a few minutes, one would surely come along. I realize this might be a slight inconvenience, tasteless gum is bad, but please remember, you might be the one to step or sit in it next.
—K. B. '81



"Will the REAL Aggie, Please stand up?"

Top of the News

Campus

Taps to be held for Cunningham

Silver Taps will be conducted in front of the Academic Building tonight at 10:30 p.m. in memory of Claudia Kay Cunningham, whose death occurred Wednesday, Oct. 11. Cunningham was a resident of Mosher Hall.

FSO exam applications due

A competitive written examination will be given Dec. 4 for Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Information Officers. Applications for the examination must be received in the examination center no later than Oct. 21. Information and application forms to take the examination may be obtained from Dr. J. M. Nance, Department of History, Room 426, Academic Building.

State Lawyers ask for new trial

Lawyers Mike Ramsey and Bob Bennett in Houston Saturday filed motions for a new trial in the death of Joe Campos Torres Jr. Former policemen Terry Denson and Stephen Orlando initially were charged with murdering Torres May 6, by beating him and throwing him into a downtown bayou, but a Huntsville jury two weeks ago reduced the charge and found them guilty of negligent homicide and put them on probation. Ramsey, who defended Orlando, said in the original trial he should have been allowed to enter Torres' previous arrest record to show the jury he had a history of fighting.

'Economy problem,' Brock says

William Brock, a former senator from Tennessee and head of the Republican National Committee, says the economy still is the biggest problem facing politicians today and one which Democrats have done nothing to solve. While addressing the Texas Republican Executive Committee Saturday in Austin, Brock said economic conditions were making it impossible for many people to attain goals such as employment, home ownership and college educations.

Smith claims polls support

Former Gov. Preston Smith claims his polls show a minimum of 25 percent of the voters will support his re-election bid. Smith, in an interview with a panel of reporters on "Capitol Eye" in Austin, disputed suggestions by another candidate that he will not be a significant factor in the race for governor. "We've had some surveys made and we know wherein we stand pretty well in so far as polls are concerned," Smith said. "We haven't any polls showing us less than 28 percent." Smith said his polls indicate Attorney General John L. Hill would be a stronger opponent than incumbent Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Money makes difference?

Marvin Collins, one of four Tarrant County prosecutors in the murder trial of millionaire T. Cullen Davis, says the biggest difference between this trial and any other is Davis' bank account, and the attorney he could hire to defend him. In Amarillo, Collins said he felt the state already had sufficiently proven Davis murdered his 12-year-old step-daughter, but said attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes should not be underestimated. "If money can get you off, he's the man who can do it," Collins said. "There isn't anything being done differently in this trial that couldn't be done in any other trial, except for the defendant's pocketbook."

Nation

Opposition 'lacks logic'

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., says President Carter's opposition to deregulation of natural gas prices "lacks logic" because it implies continued payments to foreign producers for energy which could be produced domestically. In a commentary written for United Press International and released Sunday in Washington, Bentsen said deregulation would encourage domestic energy exploration which would produce jobs.

World

Mexico's prisoners fear riot

American prisoners caught in last week's bloody riot at the Jalisco State Penitentiary said Sunday they fear being taken hostage if new violence erupts in Guadalajara, Mexico. "As soon as the visitors are Mapalon, 34, of New York City. The prison, built in 1932 for 800 inmates, was crowded Sunday with families visiting the 3,000 prisoners. The prison's director, Pedro Parra, admitting the situation is not under control, told UPI. "It could blow up any minute. I can't stop rioting because I don't have enough guards or arms to do it."

Weather

Fair and warm today and tomorrow with southerly winds 5-8 mph. High for today and tomorrow low 80s. Low tonight low 50s. No rain.

The Battalion

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