

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Monday  
October 31, 1977

State

## Klansman denies stunt

Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke denied Saturday in San Antonio scheduled Klan patrols of the Texas-Mexico borders were a publicity stunt to enlist new members, but offered no evidence to support his claim the Klan was actually patrolling. "We feel the massive flow of illegal aliens is a real threat to the American way of life," he said. "They're taking jobs, creating a crime problem and disrupting the welfare program." Duke, surrounded by three body guards, conducted an airport news conference, then left in a private plane for a five-hour flight along the border. He said 173 klansmen already were patrolling the 900-mile Texas border and another group, headed by Texas KKK leader Louis Beam, was coordinating a patrol at Brownsville along the coast.

## Davis' defense witness to return

Karen Master, 28, who provided an alibi for Fort Worth millionaire T. Cullen Davis, will return to the witness stand today in the 11th week of Texas' longest jury trial. Master told jurors last week that Davis was asleep in her bed before his estranged wife, wounded by gunfire, reached a neighbor's home to report the assaults, presumably at the time the gunman was making his escape. Davis, 44, is being tried for the shooting death of his stepdaughter, Andrea Wilborn, 12. He also is charged with wounding his wife, Priscilla, 36, murdering her lover, Stan Farr, 31, and wounding family friend, Gus Gavrel Jr., 22.

## Nation

### Shippers/ILA members resume talks

Shippers and members of the International Longshoremen's Association resume negotiations today in hopes of ending the 30-day dockworkers strike against containerized cargo ships in New Orleans. Meanwhile, containerized vessels loaded with seasonal Christmas merchandise remained anchored in the harbor Sunday, with no prospects of moving until the strike is settled. However, union officials said merchants in the nation's second largest port would not be as hard hit by the strike as in the East where there are more containerized cargo vessels. "New Orleans is not a major container port to begin with," Wilfred Daliet, president of ILA local 1419 said Sunday.

### Congress rated left and right

A very conservative group rates New York mayoral candidate Edward Koch as the most "radical" member of Congress and Rep. Larry McDonald of Georgia, the champion of laetrile, as the staunchest conservative. The ratings compiled by the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress are unique because they measure every major vote in both Houses, amounting to 315 in the House and 249 in the Senate, on the basis of a "true conservative position." The CSCFC ratings on votes taken from January through the beginning of August show 70 percent of the House and 68 percent of the Senate belonging to the "left wing," defined as those with 54 percent or less approval from the group. Overall, the group says, there are 136 "radicals" in the House and 26 in the Senate.

### Two face second obscenity trial

Facing a second federal obscenity trial today in Kansas City, Kan. are James Buckley and Al Goldstein, concerning their publication, Screw magazine. Despite the differences between the two men, both share a strong belief in absolute freedom of the press, however, the defense in their trial cannot be based on the First Amendment freedoms, but solely on whether their publications violated the contemporary moral standards of Kansas. Under current court rulings, obscene material is not protected under press freedoms. The two would like to change that and consider themselves pioneers in the effort to extend First Amendment protection to sexually explicit publications—in this case Screw and Smut, self-billed as the world's dirtiest newspaper.

### Toymaker climbs 350-foot 'rock'

Stewart Leach of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group in Denver, Colo. says he wishes George Willig, the man who climbed the World Trade Center in New York City, had not climbed a nearly vertical 350-foot rock formation in Colorado before a television audience estimated at 20 million. The 27-year-old Willig, a toymaker on leave from his employer, scaled the rock formation in Eldorado Canyon in less than 20 minutes Saturday while TV cameras filmed the action. Willig made the climb without safety ropes or a helmet. Leach fears that children who saw the program might try similar climbs.

### Research support highest ever

Research at Texas A&M University received more than \$28 million in support during September to begin the new fiscal year at the highest level ever. The first-month figure of \$28,118,842 represents an increase of \$610,561 over September 1976 and a starting point of \$3.18 million ahead of the previous year. The 1975-76 and 1976-77 years were record-setters in themselves, marking the first time that the volume of research in a single year passed the \$40 million and \$50 million plateaus respectively. Texas A&M is now ranked 18th nationally by the National Science Foundation in terms of research volume.

## Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow. High today mid-80s. Low tonight low 60s. 20 per cent chance of rain tonight and tomorrow.

## The Battalion

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### LETTERS POLICY

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 verification.

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## Purse strings around universities' throats

How much does a private corporation buy when it makes a large grant to a university?  
At least one corporation expects some control over university speakers for their money.

Dow Chemical Co. last week withdrew approximately \$73,000 in financial aid to Central Michigan University because the university had paid actress Jane Fonda for an on-campus speech in which she attacked a number of corporations, including Dow.

Dow President Paul Orefice told the university's president in a private letter that the money was being withdrawn "to make certain our funds are never used to support people intent upon destruction of our freedom." In the letter, Orefice called Fonda "an avowed Communist sympathizer."

Fonda had told her campus audience that giant corporations, including Dow, were monopolizing and manipulating the nation's economy.

A Dow spokesman has said the financial aid will be restored when the corporation is assured none of its money will be used "to finance the efforts of those who want to overthrow the country." But the threat of cutting off large grants of financial aid is a potent threat for corporations and other donors to wield against universities.

The fear of enraging private contributors could keep many universities from permitting controversial speakers anywhere near their campuses. It's the old-fashioned theory of economic control.

Dow has the right to tell people how they want their

gift money spent. But the company should not expect that grant to give the corporation a say in everything that happens at the university. Officials at Central Michigan said none of the Dow funds had been directly used to pay Fonda.

But the real threat is to the basic role of universities to act as an open forum for a complete spectrum of ideologies, views and cultures. Nowhere in today's society is there a better place for exposing and expressing every man's own opinions and beliefs — and for learning that "my way" isn't the only way — than the modern university.

If universities must feel corporation purse strings draw tight around their throats every time someone says something different on campus, one of the university's most valuable roles is doomed. L.R.L.

## Congress feeling force of 'gray power'

By DONALD H. MAY  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It all began with Otto Von Bismarck.

In 1889, in the western world's first state-supported old age pension system, the chancellor of the German Empire, defined "old age" as 65.

Other countries eventually adopted the same figure in setting up their retirement programs. So did the United States when it established Social Security in 1935.

The House Committee on Aging, which recounts this history, argues that the original choice of age 65 must have been somewhat arbitrary. Bismarck, at the time, was an active 74.

Wilbur Cohen, a former secretary of

from 65 to 70 the age at which most employers can require workers to retire. A compromise and final enactment appears likely by the end of the year.

Support for these measures caught hold

in Congress for several reasons:

Senior citizens have gained political power. Recession and inflation have cut retirees' standard of living.

And it has become evident that Social Security is becoming increasingly expensive. One reason is the number of retired persons is growing compared to the

number of workers paying into Social Security.

Business groups argue that relaxing mandatory retirement will make it harder to run efficient companies — that, with fewer openings at the top, there will be fewer promotions below; it will be harder to keep good workers; vitality and new ideas will be lost.

Civil rights groups are divided on whether the legislation would result in fewer jobs and promotion opportunities for the young, members of minorities and women.

The National Organization for Women said women stand to gain because they have a particular need to work into old age: they outlive men; they frequently enter the job market after children are grown; they work for lower wages and earn lower pension benefits.

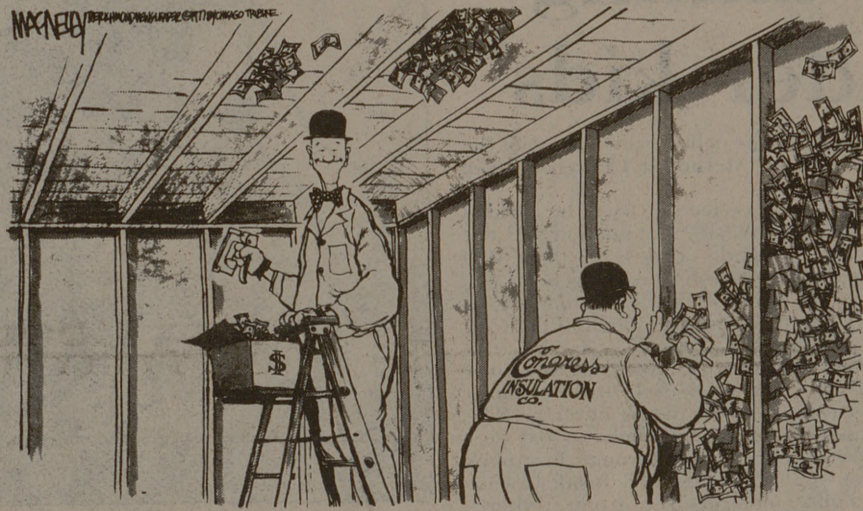
Sponsors of the bills say the effect on unemployment will be small because relatively few elderly persons will work longer. Most Americans covered by mandatory retirement now are retiring before the required age. The trend in the country is toward earlier retirement.

One study showed that of a typical 100 retired men, 54 were covered by mandatory retirement, 24 of those remained on the job until the fixed retirement age, and 10 of those went out to seek other jobs.

Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., chief sponsor of the Senate bill, said it would add not more than 200,000 workers to the job market annually, in an economy which last year produced 3 million new jobs.

One idea to which Washington appears opposed, however, is raising the age — now 65 — at which people are eligible for full Social Security benefits. They can retire earlier on lower benefits.

Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps once broached that subject and got a heated letter from Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., head of the Committee on Aging. Kreps replied that neither she nor the administration were proposing such a plan.



## Washington window

health, education and welfare and one of the drafters of the U.S. Social Security program, has written that there was "no scientific, social, or gerontological basis" for the United States picking 65. It was the general consensus that 65 was the most acceptable age.

He added that 65 was intended as the age when benefits would begin, not as a compulsory retirement age for everyone.

Now, Congress is tinkering with this traditional concept of "old age."

Different bills have passed the House, (359 to 4) and the Senate (88 to 7) raising

## Letters to the editor

### University protecting students from reality?

Editor:

I am a freshman student taking Psychology 107 on MWF at 4 p.m. This past week our class had an "open" discussion of homosexuality, and I was appalled by the exchange of ignorant opinions, of opinions that gays are crazy or sick. The discussion reflected what I feel is the general attitude of TAMU and its students. By refusing to accept people different from themselves, by suppressing those individuals, and, more specifically, by ignoring the existence of the gay community, Aggies have managed to set the entire issue of human rights back a decade. It appears to me that, with its present efforts to keep C.S.S.O. off the campus, TAMU (and most true Aggies) are trying to perpetuate the existence of a university where concerned parents may send their children (and they are children in the truest sense of the word) to be protected from inevitable realities of the modern world.

In my opinion, TAMU's childishness has done irrevocable damage to the myth of Aggie "traditions." Recently, letters have appeared in this column urging all Aggies to band together, to be one for all and all for one, that Aggies stand by one another. Obviously, in view of the recent

C.S.S.O. controversy, the idea of Aggie loyalty applies only to those who fit the traditional Aggie role, and certainly not to gays. And I submit to you that, when a tradition applies only to those deemed "fitting" by the majority, that tradition becomes hypocrisy. As for Aggies, tradition is simply a ruse to justify narrow-minded hangups and camouflage unfair discrimination.

Furthermore, if, as one reader has proposed, a 2-percenter is an Aggie who is not an Aggie with all his heart, I am a self-admitted 2-percenter, for I feel less pride in being an Aggie than I do in being gay. —David Kotara

### Impossible dream

Editor:

We would like to know who in the hell is getting all the good football tickets. It seems to me that after three years here at A&M we should be able to get better seats. We are all juniors and have been sitting in the horseshoe since we were freshmen. One would think that by now we would have at least moved up to the 20- or 30-yardline.

—Ron Hoelscher '79  
Marcus Schneider '79  
Gary Freitag '79  
Ray Rabroker '79  
George McAnelly II '79  
Michael Wesp '79

### God 'credible'

Editor:

I must respond to Lamont Hall's letter printed last week. I address this to him (and the other Ags):

Obviously there are many who don't believe in God. The "In God We Trust" on currency is an issue of minor importance to me, but your statement about credibility is. You said: "How many of us really consider God to be the driving force in our lives and can say so with any degree of credibility?"

Well, I can honestly say that God in the form of the Lord Jesus Christ is the driving force in my life. There are several hundred other Aggies who live under the guidance of Jesus Christ, but I can't speak for them. I can only tell you that Jesus Christ is alive in my life. I would probably be a junkie or in a car wrapped around a tree if not for Him.

You ask about credibility. My only way to respond is to let you decide for yourself if Christ is a "dominant force" by meeting me. He is dominant in my life. I believe that you'll find that God is not only "credible," but also incredible.

If you, Lamont Hall, or any other Ags want to see if God is relevant today, call me. 693-2916. I'll find time to get together and talk about it. I won't "pressure" you, but I'll let you see a living God, and the way He affects every day of my life. —Steve Upham, '80

### Witch, come home

Editor:

I do not qualify as an Aggie in that I have never attended classes at the University. However, I work on campus and my husband is a graduate student here. I DO feel that I am an Aggie by adoption and choice and have been very proud of the traditions and spirit of friendliness I have found everywhere here (and which are lacking so many other places).

Since I work and my husband is a full time student and also works, there arose the question of where to put our two children during the daytime and Wee Aggie-land was the happy choice. This brings me to the point of this letter. In yesterday's (Oct. 26) *Battalion* there was the enclosed ad.

When I saw it I immediately pictured our 5 1/2 year old son coming out to the car one afternoon a few days ago and announcing with tears in his eyes that someone had stolen their "witch". Every day it is mentioned when he goes to school as both he and the 2 1/2 year old look anxiously to see if she has returned. I would hope very much that it was not an Aggie student or students responsible but, if whoever did take it happens to see this letter, it would surely be a great gesture if they would "steal" Ms. Witch back to where she belongs so all the children there can enjoy her again.

Thank you.  
—Mrs. John L. Hamstreet

HELP!  
PLEASE BRING OUR  
WITCH BACK

We miss our gypsy head too. Her eyes roll and she laughs loud when you pull the string under her chin. Children of Wee Aggie-land

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Slouch  
by Jim Earle

"IT'S WHAT WE CALL A PERPETUAL FOOTBALL SIGN THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE CHANGED REGARDLESS OF WHO WE PLAY! NEEDLESS TO SAY, OUR SHORT-SIGHTED SOPHOMORES DIDN'T LIKE IT!"