

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Thursday
November 3, 1977

What 'really happened' on grass issue

By LYNN A. GIBSON

That we have been able to change traditions and our decision "Beaten the hell out of" in public, may you as the public, might want to know what really happened on the MSC grass issue.

No, we haven't changed tradition and don't want or plan to do so. Instead, we want to endorse the oldest tradition of A&M. It is the first and strongest tradition, "Respect and Courtesy to our fellow man!" If you don't believe in that tradition then truly, Highway 6 runs both ways.

Sit back and think how many A&M students you have seen walk on the grass around the MSC. How many times have you heard visitors cussed at because they violated a "tradition" they knew nothing of? Has your Mom and Dad ever been cussed because they "short cutted" to meet you? All they knew was they were supposedly at the friendliest campus in the nation. Too bad they left with another idea

in mind!
The MSC Council (which by the way has 18 student members, 10 with voting privileges, 5 faculty members, 2 alumni members and 1 staff position) has heard stories to answer those questions and more. Some people who have been ill-treated were former students or visitors, and they returned this with complaints to

Reader's Forum

The Former Students Director, MSC Director, President of the University, and Board of Regents. They came back to A&M expecting friendship, instead were given rudity and vulgarity.

You might be interested to know that the Former Student Association put together a fund drive to help build the Student Center. After it was built, Student Government asked that Muster be held on

the front lawn of the MSC. If you don't believe it, look at some of the old year-books, which once were named "The Longhorn."

Now some of you are probably asking "Why not put signs up around the building and let everyone know?" Well, how many signs would read them, especially on football weekends when this tradition receives the lowest of its respect?

We haven't changed traditions, A&M! We are trying to maintain one. We have always been able to pride ourselves as an extremely friendly campus. That tradition has been around for a long, long time and hopefully will be around even longer. We haven't changed the fact that traditionally one does not walk on the grass around the MSC. Some of us are going to politely continue to ask people to not walk on the grass. We are going to do it politely. I plan to apologize to anyone rudely treated by a

"fellow Ag" then turn the tide and give that "fellow Ag" a taste of his own medicine.

The policy adopted by the MSC Council reads: "As the MSC grounds are a living part of a living campus and at times are used as a teaching aid, the use of the Memorial Student Center grounds will not be discouraged." The policy does not change tradition, it speaks of the grounds as teaching aids as they are used for that purpose.

Let's return to the principles that A&M was founded on. Let's reaffirm the oldest tradition of our University. Let us remember the old tradition and start applying it more!

Lynn Gibson is the president of the MSC Council and Directorate and is a past speaker of the Student Senate. This commentary contains his own opinions and not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Carter almost too tolerant of goofs

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — In making the rounds at the White House in the past two weeks, this reporter has heard one comment about President Carter that is totally perplexing. The comment, expressed in different ways by different people, is that Jimmy Carter is showing himself remarkably tolerant of incompetence among his subordinates.

"There seems to be no penalty for fouling up around here," said one staff member. "I always assumed before I came to work at the White House that you would be terrified to make a mistake or to have your work thrown back at you for being unsatisfactory. But when that happens, there doesn't seem to be any penalty."

Another said, "When I read his book, 'Why Not the Best?', I figured Carter was the kind of subordinate who, if you messed up on an assignment, would fire you out the torpedo tube. But I don't know anyone who's been fired around here for a sloppy performance or, even seriously demoted."

Assuming that these comments and others like them are an accurate reflection of the President's managerial approach, then it certainly does mark a major revision from the expectations his campaign created.

The two key words of that campaign were "competence" and "compassion." And most of those who had studied the Carter record and attempted to puzzle out his complex character believed the emphasis would be at least as much as on the former as on the latter.

A key bit of evidence in that regard was

Carter's depiction of his relationship with Admiral Hyman Rickover, the brilliant, impatient martinet of the nuclear navy. Writing of Rickover in his autobiography, Carter said: "He may not have cared or known it, certainly not at that time, but Admiral Rickover had a profound effect on my life — perhaps more than anyone except my own parents."

He was unbelievably hardworking and competent, and he demanded total dedication from his subordinates. We feared and respected him and strove to please him. I did not in that period ever remember him saying a complimentary word to me. The absence of a comment was his compliment; he never hesitated to criticize severely if a job were not done as well as he believed it could be done. He

expected the maximum from us, but he always contributed more."

In certain respects, Carter does appear to be operating the White House in somewhat the same way Rickover ran his nuclear programs. He sets the model for dedication, working as long hours, or longer, than anyone else in the building.

He can be critical — even nit-picking — on details. Relatively junior staff members get memos back with their grammar corrected by the President of the United States.

But what came through in the conversations with the presidential aides is a sense that he is reluctant to crack the whip when there is a major foul-up — or allow someone to crack it on his behalf. Those with whom I have discussed this say they are

puzzled about the unexpected "softness" in Carter's personal relations and management techniques. So they fall back on surmise.

One theory that certainly has a degree of external plausibility is that Carter — like many others — is haunted by the memories of the rigid and rugged discipline enforced in the Nixon White House by H.R. (Bob) Haldeman. Any suggestion that "the Georgia mafia" had been transformed into another "German general staff" could be politically calamitous in the post-Watergate climate.

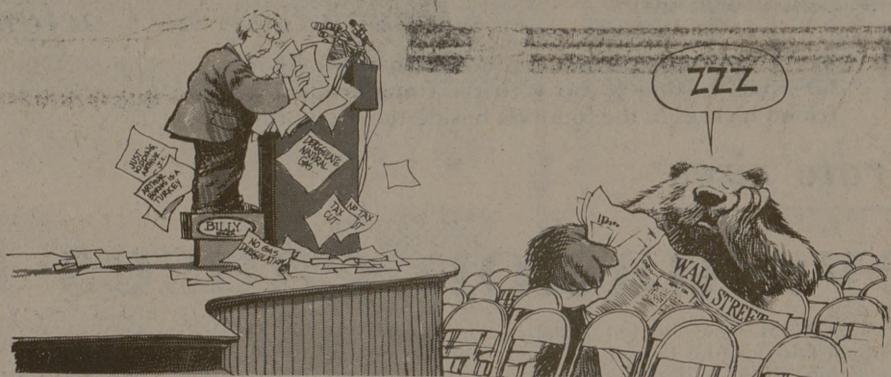
Another reason may be that the senior staff at the White House — the Georgians who occupy almost all the key positions — have such long and intimate associations with this President that they almost constitute his political "family."

For him to discipline a Frank Moore, a Jody Powell or a Hamilton Jordan for a major mistake in judgment, or for failing to maintain effective oversight over the operations of their subordinates, would be unthinkable, in this view, as the President's chastising Billy Carter for his flamboyant profligating off his brother's public position.

This theory — which is the "small-town White House" explanation — may explain the immunity of the senior staff, but not of the hundreds of others whose work for Carter has, on occasion, been found wanting. At a time when the operations of the President are getting critical scrutiny, the diversion from Rickover's rigid discipline is an intriguing — and important — puzzle.

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BULL and BEAR



Letters to the editor

More suggestions on missing funds...

Editor:

Upon reading the article in Tuesday's October 25, 1977 Battalion concerning the "Missing Cash Mystery, I just wonder what are the rules to this new contest? With a \$3,000 first prize, what's second prize? Journalism lessons from L.R.L.?"

I suppose that those who wish to enter the contest are to guess the location of the missing cash. Let's see, could the money be:

1. Hidden under Sully's Statue.
2. How about hidden in a foot locker buried beneath the MSC.
3. Perhaps it is hidden among the items belonging to a Corps Commanding Officer, and perhaps the real mystery is to figure out to which one of the 37 corps outfits it is hidden. Thus it may be returned at the half-time activities at the A&M vs. t.u. game.

4. Perhaps at the end of one of the football games someone spilled a coke into a Campus Chest Barrel and the money is stuck to the bottom.

5. Maybe it is located in the dumpster outside of Hughes Hall.

6. Maybe it was stolen to finish the bottom half of the Planned for the Future Statue.

7. The salads at Duncan and Sbisa have been green lately. Maybe the money has been mixed in with what they claim to be lettuce.

Does all this sound silly? It doesn't sound any more ridiculous than the editorial written by L.R.L. We have complete faith (Yes, A&M there are a few of us who believe in Student Government) in those who give their time and efforts in service to their fellow students. As for the \$3,000, we've been told it is out in loans. If the \$3,000 is missing it is because some of us have been taking advantage of a good deal. I for one, Mark Hugg, have repaid my \$75 loan and hope that the rest of the A&M's who have outstanding loans to Campus Chest will do the right thing and will pay their loans and get the Battalion off Student Government's back.

—Mark "Thumper" Hugg '78
Troy "Tross" Ross '78

...and the truth

Editor:

We always like to read a good article in the Battalion, but sometimes what seems to cause headlines is sometimes incorrectly reported. On October 11 and Oc-

tober 25 two articles which were read by the students and former students of Texas A&M University stated that \$3,000 was missing from the Student Government Campus Chest. Since the writing of these articles, many of our friends and other members of this University have made jokes to us about the spending of the \$3,000. For the benefit of those who wish to find the truth about this missing money, we would like to clarify a few points brought out in the editorial of October 25, 1977, written by L.R.L.

First of all, \$3,000 never disappeared from the Campus Chest Fund. This money happens to be tied up in delinquent loans from the past two years.

Secondly, if the reporter had taken the time and read all the entries in the account he could have found out where all the money was.

Thirdly, the statement was made that two of the past three fund directors received loans. It should be pointed out that the past two directors of the Campus Chest Fund were Carl Luker and Fred Pfeiffer and not Mary Ellen Martin Davis and Susan Price. Neither of these fund directors received loans. I wish to point out that Mrs. Davis and Miss Price were Executive Directors of Student Government.

Fourthly, the report written by Susan Price explained where the money was located. She put off publishing this report because she wished to present it to Dr. John J. Koldus, Vice President for Student Services, personally before it was released. She prepared it a week ago but was under no obligation to release it Tuesday.

It is normal policy in professional journalism to check all sources so that all statements are true and correct. In the editorial that was written there was no check on the accuracy of the statement about Susan Price and the fund directors.

In closing, I request an apology be written by D. Graham and L.R.L. to the Student Government secretary, Mrs. Robert L. Boone, for the cartoon which was in poor taste. Mrs. Boone had nothing to do with the report. I also request that it be known that Susan Price has been active in Student Government for the past three years, but that this year she is not involved.

—Susan L. Price, '77
Geri Campbell, '78

Editor's note: The Battalion is as eager to clear up the question of the Campus

Chest Loan Fund as anyone else and we have worked to make sense of the issue. However, records of the Loan Fund activities have been hard to decipher and, thus, it's been difficult to put the record straight. Following recommendation of the editorial you mentioned, Dr. John J. Koldus, vice-president for student services, has requested that an independent auditor assess the books of Campus Chest. When that report is completed, we should all know the answer. In addition, it was hardly our intent to imply that Mrs. Boone was connected with the loan issue. You're reaching there.

Another gay side

Editor:

I would like to thank David Kotara for his comments. I for one see how true they really are.

This is my first year at TAMU (after having attended two other universities). I have noticed while being here, that the people I have come in contact with are quite surprised to find that I am gay. They still believe in the stereotyped homosexual that their parents so instilled in them.

Well, people, I have found that not only do you not know what we are, you are also frightened at the thought of us even existing. Yes, you can shut your eyes and think we are not here (trying hard to stick to your myths about us). But what I would really like you to do is see us as we really are. We are not out to corrupt and convert America's youth, but we are out to get an understanding going between gays and straights.

As a Jewish Rabbi once said after being freed from a German concentration camp: "Freedom means not having to lie about who you are." I say to you — that I am gay and very proud of being so. Accept me for what I am, not for what you think I am.

—Kenneth Whidden

Officials defended

Editor:

In response to Mr. Atkinson's letter of Nov. 1 on the poor quality of intramural officials, I must call to his attention the fact that he has committed the fallacy of composition — what is true for some elements of a collection is not necessarily true

of the whole collection.

I myself have been a sports official for five years, three at Texas A&M and two for the American Legion, and in those five years I don't think I've seen a better prepared group of officials. Before the football season started this year, the IM officials had logged ten to twelve hours of training classes and been required to pass a 100 to 150 question exam over the "fine-print" rules of IM and NCAA football. I wish the teams had taken these, then perhaps they would know their rules better.

Evaluation and testing of all officials continues on throughout the season. Team captains are given a chance to rate the officials at the end of each game. These ratings are logged on each official's record. Our job rests on the quality of work we do.

Many officials (including myself) have worked with several teams before and after their games to help them with the rules (all of this was on our own time). I realize, Mr. Atkinson, that not every one of our officials is up to par excellence, but you should remember — one bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch."

If I can help any of your teams, please contact me.

—A concerned veteran official
Billy Jobe '79

Another kind of spirit

Editor:

Although it is obvious that one would not like to give a rape attempt on the A&M campus front page coverage, the response of our students, who foiled the attempt and captured the suspect would cancel any ill effects. Thus I am surprised at the location and tone of the article on page seven of Tuesday's paper.

I am proud of our research accomplishments, our merit scholars and of our football team, but this involvement by the students — caring about each other — that is what makes us unique. Let us make it page one when the Aggie Spirit becomes so evident.

—William H. Bassichis
Associate Professor of Physics

Editor's note: A point well taken. However, on Friday, Oct. 28, we printed a letter from the would-be victim, as well as an editorial comment praising the actions of students who came to her rescue.

Top of the News

Campus

Registration drive meeting

A meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. today in Room 302 of the Rudder Tower for all people or organizations interested in helping in the fall voter registration drive. The External Affairs Committee of Student Government is coordinating the drive.

Absentee balloting

Absentee balloting for the seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution ends at 5 p.m. Friday at the Brazos County Courthouse. County Clerk Frank Borisiek said Wednesday that only 11 absentee votes had been cast in Brazos County in the constitutional amendment election. Regular balloting will be Tuesday.

Nation

Carter not playing favorites

On the anniversary of Jimmy Carter's election Wednesday, a survey of Southern political leaders showed the South has not reaped many benefits from his presidency. United Press International quizzed Southern governors, political party chairmen, legislators, and administrators about the president's performance. The response was that he has been impartial, and, in some cases, favored other regions of the country to prove he is not favoring his homeland. Perhaps the most prominent display of Carter's impartiality was the inclusion of Tennessee Valley Authority projects and the Richard B. Russell Dam between Georgia and South Carolina in the president's "hit list" of public works projects to be axed.

Former congressman eyed

The House Ethics Committee is investigating former Rep. Otto Passman, D-La., because of allegations he received a large sum of money from Tongson Park in the Korean influence-buying scandal, sources said Wednesday. Passman denied taking any money from Park, but the sources said Passman is a "prime target" in the committee probe and investigators are "taking a hard look at him," especially after the New York Times reported he may have gotten thousands of dollars from Park.

State

Drug testimony in Davis trial

Attorneys for T. Cullen Davis are assembling testimony that casual, excessive drug use was common among the millionaire murder defendant's estranged wife and the "entourage" frequenting her mansion. Testimony in Amarillo Tuesday indicated Priscilla Davis, 36, obtained hundreds of tablets of pain-killers in short periods of time, including one occasion when she picked up 200 tablets using prescriptions from different doctors at different pharmacies on the same day.

World

U.S. diplomats recalled

The United States is recalling two diplomats from South Africa and is already cutting off shipments of military and police equipment to the Pretoria government, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced in Washington Wednesday. "These actions reflect our concern in respect to the recent events in South Africa ... because the regrettable steps taken recently have been a major step backwards," he told a news conference.

Dutch tycoon released

Dutch real estate tycoon Maurits Caransa was released in good health by kidnappers on a downtown Amsterdam square early Wednesday in exchange for a \$4 million ransom, police said. Some police said privately they were "flabbergasted" by his sudden reappearance, which seemed as mysterious as the events of his brief but bizarre kidnapping. "The abduction had no political implication," police spokesman Bob Hoorstra said. But he gave few details of the ransom payment, saying only that the 10 million Dutch guilders (\$4 million) had been paid "in new bank notes of 1,000 guilders (\$400) each."

Brezhnev offers nuclear ban

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, in a concession to the U.S. position, Wednesday offered a ban on all peaceful and military nuclear explosions and proposed an end to the production of nuclear weapons by all nations. Brezhnev made the offer in a wide-ranging, 90-minute speech in Moscow before the top Soviet leaders and dignitaries at functions marking the start of celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Nov. 7 Russian Revolution. The Soviet leader said that in the interests of reaching a nuclear test ban treaty with the United States, he was giving up Soviet demands that peaceful nuclear explosions be exempted from the treaty.

Weather

Fair and cool today and tomorrow with northwest winds 5-8 mph. High both days mid-70s. Low tonight mid-40s. No rain.

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 verification.

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