

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Friday  
November 11, 1977

## Coming home

The House Judiciary Committee has approved legislation to get between 500 and 600 American citizens jailed in Mexico home by Christmas.

Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., described it as "a very humane and necessary piece of action." No doubt the action was speeded by last week's riot in the Jalisco prison in which inmates murdered notorious stooge pigeons and "favorites" of the guards.

Mexican jails and prisons are unbelievably bad. Bribery is a way of survival. The choice between buying food sent in from outside or slow starvation is often clear. Americans have often been subject to special abuse.

In view of all this, the proposal, yet to be approved by both the U.S. and Mexican congresses, is wise. Mexicans in American jails could choose to be transferred to Mexico, and Americans vice versa.

But there are some bugs, too. Would the Mexican government quickly release Mexicans accused only of crimes in the United States? This would encourage illegal aliens to commit offenses. And will those Americans caught in Mexico for trying to smuggle drugs northward count on trivial punishment if they reach the United States?

Let's not grow too sentimental about our home-grown creeps who were caught in Mexico before they could make fast bucks by smuggling drugs to America. The fact that they were victimized by Mexican jailers doesn't wash out their guilt. It is well to substitute humane for inhumane punishment, but let's not forget the punishment.

The Tulsa Tribune

### Slouch by Jim Earle



“SINCE YOU HAVE OFFERED SO MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT TO US TO WORK ON THE BONFIRE, WE THOUGHT IT ONLY FITTING THAT YOU GET OUR FIRST LOG!”

## A double standard? Don't be silly!

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON—The outcome of the Richard Helms case was largely determined before the former CIA director ever put foot in court.

Under the arrangement, he would plead no contest to charges of not testifying fully and accurately at a Senate hearing. The prosecutor, in turn, would make no effort to convict him on more serious charges and would recommend that he not be required to serve any time in jail.

They call this plea bargaining and I've no doubt the process serves a useful purpose in our system of jurisprudence. In Helms' case, it avoided a public trial that both sides apparently felt might not be in the national interest.

However, it started me to wondering what sorts of plea bargains might have been struck in some of the famous cases of the past.

**Case No. 1: The People vs. Napoleon Bonaparte.**

Vainglory leads the defendant into disastrous military adventures. He is brought

### The Lighter Side

before a French tribunal facing possible charges that could result in his being exiled for life.

But Napoleon still has many followers and the prosecution fears such harsh punishment would divide—and further weaken France in its struggles with the British.

He searches the statutes and finds that it is against the law for any Frenchman to conceal his right hand in his tunic while posing for a formal portrait.

The law is an outgrowth of an old scandal in which a general, suspecting that his wife is having an affair with an artist, sits for a portrait, then reaches inside his tunic, withdraws a pistol from a shoulder holster and plugs the painter right through the easel.

Napoleon pleads no contest to the charge and it given a suspended 90-day exile.

**Case No. 2: The People vs. Joan of Arc.**

The Maid of Orleans is suspected of sorcery and heresy, after leading French troops in lifting a British siege. If convicted, she could be sentenced to be burned at the stake.

The prosecutor is reluctant to proceed on that basis. He recognizes that Joan is a heroine to French soldiers and that the death penalty would make her a martyr.

After ascertaining that French army regulations make no provisions for military commissions as an act of God, he books Joan on charges of impersonating an officer.

She pleads no contest and is sentenced to three months of weekend guard duty, plus six days on k.p.

**Case No. 3: The People vs. Aaron Burr.**

After Burr's duel with Alexander Hamilton, both sides agree a murder trial might be damaging to the national interest.

Under a plea bargaining arrangement, Burr pleads no contest to a charge of unnecessary roughness and is sentenced to be penalized 15 yards in his next duel.

### Letters to the editor

## Getting to the bottom of dating problems...

Editor:

This letter is in reply to the "What's the Problem?" letter in yesterday's Battalion (Nov. 7). I realize that more people go to the football games without dates than with dates. I myself especially have faced this problem many times before.

There are many reasons for this problem: 1) We do not know you. 2) The girls we already know have dates before we get a chance to ask them. 3) We do know you and that is why we do not take you to a ballgame. This is not to say in any way that you are doing or something like that. What I'm saying is that we just might not want to take you to one of the ball games.

But after looking at the girls on this campus that only applies to a very few of you girls out there. I am a CT myself and am damn proud of it but as a lot of you out there know the Corps takes up alot of my freetime so that I or many others cannot go out girl-hunting.

One possible solution would be for you girls (or the guys) to start a billboard somewhere, in the MSC or in the dorms, that gave your name, classification, and phone number. This would not only solve the problem of getting dates, but also it would enable us to meet many more people than we are able to meet on our own.

So get out there and let yourselves be known of wanting dates and I'm sure you would get results. I would also like to add that A&M has the prettiest girls on campus of any place in the world.

—Robert Hardin '80

### Parking equality

Editor:

I wish to write concerning what in my mind, and in those of others I've talked to, is the misuse of available facilities.

Effective Monday, Oct. 24, the Traffic division of the University Police Department set forth new rules on parking in Lots 24 and 40 (south of the Commons). What these new rules did was extend by one row girls parking in Lot 24 and granted junior-senior males three rows (159 spaces) in Lot 40, forcing out freshmen-sophomore guys who would, as a result, have to park in Lot 61 (across the tracks).

While I do feel that the junior-senior guys deserve the privilege of parking closer to their dorms, there is consistently a large number of empty spaces in the newly granted rows of parking. Although these empty spaces exist, freshmen and sopho-

mores are still required to park across the tracks.

I suggest that this problem can be corrected by opening up Lot 40 to ALL guys (red and green permits). This action would make better use of available space.

—Tony Hooten, '81

### The trouble with pigs

**Editor's note:** The following letter is in response to Arkansas graduate Vic Dubisson's letter in the Battalion, Nov. 20.

**To Mr. Dubisson:**

You I am sure are patting yourself on the back because you know very well you have achieved your goal in upsetting many Ag-

gies. To anger the Aggies you resort to the childish game of mudslinging and name calling. I am not one to get riled over such trivia (in your case B.S.) because the Texas Aggies play their game on the football field, not in newspaper print. But allow me to stand on my soap box for a moment.

I can't thank you enough for submitting your letter because it has motivated me to write this short note which allows me to convey this message to you and all other Arkansas fans: I dislike Arkansas more than any other school in the SWC (yes, even more than t.u.). Why? (Forgive me for coming down to your level of childish games, but I've been looking for the chance to say this for 3 years). It is because you and the other hog fans embarrass us and the other 7 conference schools nationwide by being the most arrogant bastards in the Southwest Conference.

—Bill R. Hill, '78

## ...and reverse discrimination

**Editor's note:** A letter from George Rooney in the Battalion Monday, Nov. 7, on the Bakke reverse discrimination case now before the Supreme Court, has received a number of replies. That letter defended a minimum quota of black students admitted to the University of California at Davis medical school. The following are typical replies.

**Editor:**

After reading George Rooney's letter on the Bakke case, I was awed by the distorted view of civil rights that has evolved during the last few years due to the continual clatter for minority rights, for the most part devoid of intelligent reasoning or Constitutional backing.

Granted, minorities have been discriminated against for far too long, but this injustice cannot be repaired by initiating an equal justice on another individual simply because he happens to fall in the majority. Two wrongs do not make a right—I believe that's the way it goes.

I was of the opinion that the Constitution guaranteed to Americans civil rights, (i.e. rights of the individual, not racial rights). Mr. Rooney is saying that the rights of a race as a whole are superior to the rights of an individual, therefore an individual can be discriminated against if it is for the good of the whole of society. Perhaps this view has been more clearly stated by a familiar ideology that holds that the individual exists in order to serve the "State".

The only way society can progress is by the increase of the productivity of its individual components. I fail to see how training people who are not the most qualified can maximize our productivity.

And as far as the comments on Mr. Bakke's inability to secure one of the 84 positions designated for white applicants—I say 85th out of several thousand ain't bad, and were does Mr. Rooney get the right to criticize his performance. Judging from the content of his letter, I seriously doubt that Mr. Rooney could equal it.

—R.C. Jones, '80

### Hindering freedom

**Editor:**

So far I have kept silent publicly on the Bakke case but after reading Mr. Rooney's letter in the Battalion Monday I feel I need to speak my mind.

He points out that minorities have been discriminated in the past. To this I have no argument. But when he says that Mr. Bakke should suffer just because of past injustices to blacks that is too much.

Mr. Bakke cannot help he was born with white skin, just the same as many of my friends cannot help they were born with black skin. The same can be said of past discrimination because Mr. Bakke had no control over what happened in the past. Since we can't judge applications to schools on criteria which an individual has no control over, (i.e. color of skin and past injustices) then other qualifications must be taken into account.

Furthermore if this is the land of the free then reverse discrimination hinders freedom just the same as the original brand did, and for the same reason, color of skin.

—Allen Vajdos, '80

### Back seat editor

**Editor:**

If I didn't know better, I could swear the Battalion was the student newspaper for t.u.

It seems that every time I open to the sports page there's a big spread about the longhorns (downcase intended) and how good they are. They sometimes even have more space than the Ags. Take for instance today's (Nov. 7) Battalion. On the first page of the sports section reads the headline "Longhorns just keep rolling along."

I have had enough, and I'm sure all staunch Aggies are with me. Heck, if I ran an A&M student paper, I'd cancel my contract with U.P.I. if all they sent me was B.S. on t.u. I'd sure hate for some t-sips to get hold of a few of those issues. **Beat the hell outta t.u.!**

—Don Jones, '81

### Slap in the face

**Editor:**

In response to the letter written by George Rooney (Battalion, Nov. 7), I would like to say how stupid I think it is to admit a person to professional school merely because of the color of his skin and not because of his ability.

I think it's a slap in the face to any student who has worked his tail off three or four years to get into the school only to be told that the remaining positions are being saved for minorities. I wouldn't care if 84% of those admitted were minorities if they had shown that they had the abilities and grades to be selected off the top instead of being chosen cheaply by pointing to the color of his skin.

Secondly, what is all this about compensation for years of wrong doing? I have never seriously discriminated against anyone on the basis of race and I know for a fact that most of my friends haven't either—why should we have to compensate?

Mr. Rooney also speaks of "the land of the free." What he forgets is that in this country we are all minorities because in essence we are all immigrants. Maybe I should apply to medical school and point out my German heritage so that I can call myself a member of a minority in order to be admitted to the school via quota.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I believe that we are all Americans, not minorities, and should have the same opportunities as the other man. In this case I can only say that I believe the quality of the student should be taken into account instead of minority quotas.

—Michael A. Paulus

# Top of the NewsAg

## Campus

### Football parking explained

As a reminder, Tom Parsons, director of traffic and security, has designated areas that may or may not be used for public parking during the football game. Parking lots 49 and 61 are open to the public, contrary to the handbook. In addition to these areas, about 1,500 spaces will be available in the bonfire area. According to reports, there are large numbers of spaces available in lots 50 and 7. Students are also reminded that areas 60, 48, 62 and 56 must be vacated by 10 a.m. or cars will be ticketed.

## State

### Many susceptible to rubella

State health officials said Thursday a survey shows almost 20 percent of the women of prime childbearing age in Texas are susceptible to rubella. The Texas Department of Health tested a group of women in the 16 to 30 age bracket as part of a rubella screening pilot study conducted through the offices of private physicians and public health clinics. Dr. Charles R. Webb Jr., chief of the bureau of communicable disease services, said the disease can kill or cripple unborn children, causing brain damage, deafness, heart defects, or blindness. Webb said reported cases of rubella in 1977 are running about three times greater than for the same period last year.

### LBJ estate owes \$2.5 million

An Internal Revenue Service audit of the estate of President Lyndon B. Johnson showed his heirs owe about \$2.5 million in inheritance taxes, the Houston Post reported in a copyrighted story Thursday. That total is about \$1.3 million higher than the amount the Johnson heirs initially reported owing. The Post story said the IRS audit increased the taxable value of Johnson's share of the community property from the \$2.9 million originally claimed by the family to about \$5.2 million.

## Nation

### Derailment loses ammonia gas

A railroad tank car overturned at about 6 p.m. Wednesday in Pensacola, Fla., sending ammonia gas fogging through a wealthy residential area. One man was killed and 16 others people were hospitalized, four in critical condition.

Emergency crews still were working early Thursday to dissipate, with fire hoses, the anhydrous ammonia liquid leaking from the ruptured, 33,000-gallon tanker, one of 35 derailed cars from a Louisville and Nashville freight train. The derailment was the 19th in the area in the past 18 months and the second serious derailment involving ammonia-carrying tank cars in less than a month.

### Round-the-world pilots return

Two Colorado pilots who set a record for an around-the-world flight in a piston-driven airplane took part in a welcoming parade but ducked out of a celebration barbecue featuring roast goat to get some sleep. Harold Benham and Jack Rodd, both of Cortez, Colo., touched down in their Beechcraft Bonanza at 2:33 p.m. Wednesday, exactly 11 days and 23 minutes after they left in pursuit of the record Oct. 29. The previous record, held by a California dentist, was 12 days, three hours, 29 minutes. Benham said he would "never" attempt such a flight again, but Rodd said his companion probably would change his mind after he got some sleep.

### Heroin smugglers arrested

Seventeen people have been arrested in an international smuggling ring that brought an estimated \$200 million worth of heroin into the United States, the government said Thursday. John E. Van Diver, regional director of the Drug Enforcement Administration in Miami, said four other people were being sought. A federal grand jury returned secret indictments against the 21 persons Tuesday. Van Diver said the ring had smuggled in more than 800 pounds of heroin from Mexico since 1971. Arrests were made in Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah.

## World

### Young labelled "racialist"

South African leaders have denounced Andrew Young as a "racist" and accused President Carter of using double standards. Two government ministers, in separate speeches Wednesday also defended the government's Oct. 19 crackdown on black dissent and denied any police involvement in the death of black leader Steve Biko, who died in police custody. Foreign minister Roelof Botha, told a cheering campaign rally Young hated white Americans for what they "had done to his forefathers as slaves." Botha and Vorster have become increasingly enraged by the mandatory U.N. arms embargo imposed last week against the white-ruled republic.

### Queen's pay raise angers labor

Labor reacted with anger to Queen Elizabeth's \$522,000 pay raise, one union leader warning it made "us all a bit more bloody minded." Despite the government's adamant defense of its 10 percent wage ceiling, Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey announced Wednesday the 18 percent raise in the queen's pay from \$2.9 million to \$3.42 million, citing rising costs. But Willie Hamilton, a member of Parliament from the ruling Labor Party, attacked the action, saying the pay raise "is thumbing a nose at working-class people who are being asked to tighten their belts."

## Weather

Fair skies with a warming trend for today through Sunday with variable winds 5-8 mph. High today mid 60s. Low tonight mid 30s. High tomorrow near 70. 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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