

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Wednesday
November 23, 1977

Turning another page in A&M history

Very few times in this University's history has a single decision made long-term changes in the programs and education Texas A&M offers. One such decision may have been made yesterday.

The University System board of regents made that decision by approving, by a rare split vote, a plan for the Texas Engineering Extension Service to take over operation of the South Central Texas Regional Training Center in San Antonio. That center, now operated by San Antonio College, provides primarily skills and vocational training for disadvantaged and unemployed people.

The Engineering Extension Service provides supplementary training programs in a number of skill areas, such as fire, law enforcement and water-waste fields, now. But never before has the service, or any part of the University system, provided basic vocational training such as the training center provides. That change was one some of the regents didn't want to make.

"Is this really a function of Texas A&M?" Regent Joe Reynolds of Houston asked in a committee meeting Monday. Reynolds, Al Davies of Dal-

las and John Blocker of Houston voted against taking over the center.

"I realize the people need help, but I wonder if we should get into it," Reynolds said. Blocker agreed. "I think we may be taking on a social burden that can overwhelm us," he said. Both they and Davies questioned whether the center would lower Texas A&M's image as an institution of quality education.

There were other worries. Although officially San Antonio College administrators had said they "just couldn't handle it anymore," part of their problems seemed to be heavy political pressure from groups in San Antonio.

But in the heated discussion the board's other regular members supported the center.

The center would be a good way for A&M to establish a foothold in San Antonio, something the system lacks now, H.C. Bell of Austin said. Several regents pointed out the center would help unemployed people gain salable skills.

"I'm for anything that will get people off the welfare rolls," Richard Goodson of Dallas said. "If

it doesn't work after two years, we can step away." The system's commitment to the center is for two years, beginning Jan. 1, 1978.

"This (unemployment) is one of the real problems of society and we have the ability to help solve it," University President Jarvis Miller said in defending the center.

And he's right. When Texas A&M was established as a land grant college it was charged with educating the citizens of Texas in the agricultural and mechanical arts. The University has built a reputation of doing a superlative job in fulfilling that responsibility over the last hundred years. But it's no time to start thinking the University is too good to still do that job, to help Texans make better lives for themselves while making Texas a better state.

Texas A&M didn't become the great institution it is by keeping its distance from tough problems, by saying "it's not our job" or by acting "holier than thou." We applaud the regents for remembering that.

L.R.L.

Slouch

by Jim Earle

It starts with Thanks

What happened to holidays?

Have we worn them out or misplaced them, or are we just too busy to notice? We go through the motions well enough, but the meaning doesn't seem to be there.

Take tomorrow. Thanksgiving.

THANKS—GIVING. How many of us aren't going to rush somewhere, to gobble down some turkey, to prepare us for rushing somewhere else for football games, before rushing back to make up for work that we missed during the rushes?

But where ever you may be tomorrow, GIVING THANKS, think about it a moment. We're living in a world for the most part at peace with itself. No major wars, no eminent disasters, no scathing scandals. No Vietnam. The economy isn't in great shape, but's far better off than in many years not too far past. There's even some real glimmerings of hope in this world.

Isn't that something to be thankful for?

L.R.L.



Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

Letters to the editor

Don't doom adopted pets to slow death

Editor:

The holidays are approaching, and many students who have "adopted" pets for the semester will now be looking for another home for them. This is often difficult since there is now an overpopulation of unwanted and stray animals. There is presently no animal shelter in the Bryan-College Station area, so many students resort to abandonment, leaving the animal to slowly die of starvation, disease, or exposure, or to die under the wheels of vehicles.

The main goal of the Humane Society of Brazos County is to establish an animal shelter in this area for such animals, but until this is accomplished, we are providing for homeless animals turned over to us transportation to the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Anyone needing to release an unwanted animal to be taken to Houston may contact Humane Society members at 846-9248 (Anne Barrow) or 846-2825 (Kathy Nemece). Please call us if you need us. Do not be responsible for unnecessary suffering.

—Kathy Nemece

Smokers take care

Editor:

American smokers were asked by the American Cancer Society to give up smoking Nov. 17. The main reason for this campaign was to promote good health habits. Also, recent statistics show that smoking is increasing among teens.

According to a recent article in The Eagle, lung cancer kills 244 Americans a day. And 80 percent of the lung cancer is caused by cigarette smoking.

Not only is smoking an unhealthy habit, but it is dirty and very offensive to many people. Smoking is a personal decision, but when a smoker is in a public place, he should consider the non-smoker. There isn't anything more irritating to a non-smoker than having smoke blown into his face. Sometimes one can return from a party or sports event feeling and smelling as though he himself were a smoker.

What about standing in a smoke-filled elevator? Some people don't seem to realize that smoking in an elevator is against the law and a violation carries stiff penalties. The smoker could wait until he gets off—after all, how long is an elevator ride?

My final plea to smokers is that they

show some courtesy to non-smokers while eating in public dining halls. Some people are sickened by the smell of smoke. And having to watch someone put ashes in his plate is too much!

Of course not every smoker is this inconsiderate or this sloppy, but all smokers should remember that many people are allergic to tobacco—even someone else's. Also, research shows that exhaled tobacco smoke is in some cases more dangerous than the smoke inhaled by the smoker.

—B.M.B., '80

One more time

Editor:

I would like to respond to Karen Boswell's article in the Nov. 17 issue of the Battalion entitled "Helmet Law Needed."

I am deeply concerned when young Americans such as Karen are maturing under the philosophy that laws which restrict personal freedoms are the means to cure the ills of our society. Lord knows, we have more ridiculous laws now than we can live with. A law like the helmet law is simply another step towards socialism in which "big brother" is saying, "I know how to take care of you better than you can take care of yourself."

Karen, you must understand that it is my privilege to bust my head if I want to, so long as I do not interfere with the rights of others while doing so.

Shucks, Karen, let's pass a law preventing hang-gliding, a proven dangerous sport. And rodeo, let's outlaw that too; several riders are killed and seriously injured each year. Oh yes, let's pass a law requiring 15 hours of instruction and a permit to own a ladder. After all, it is the leading cause of home accidents. Don't forget auto racing and boxing and skiing, midnight yell practice, walking...living.

—Corkey Sandel
International Student Advisor
Texas A&M University

The right to sleep

Editor:

You could kill a man and say that you did it to make him free and happy. Such would be fulfilling the sections of the Constitution guaranteeing individual freedoms and the pursuit of happiness. This would

of course be taking the whole subject of constitutional guarantees completely out of perspective, and in fact you would be committing a totally ludicrous act. Further, you would be infringing upon that person's individual rights.

All of this is of course perfectly obvious to all of us. What I want to talk about however are these same subjects of perspective, individual rights, and each individual's responsibility to respect individual rights.

In the past few days, we have had groups of individuals stomp through Utag Hall at various times of night. They kick on doors, yell, and have on occasion come through with running chain saws to cause further racket.

Now I do not want to be heard as an enemy of bonfire. The annual anticipation of the T.U. game gives this school a rallying point which is unparalleled. Moreover the spirit and unselfish donation of time and effort given by those who construct the stacks is really inspiring. But like everything else there must be perspective, even to the subject of bonfire.

To get worked up while putting together the stacks and anticipating the upcoming T.U. game is natural and healthy. But care must be taken not to let this spirit take control of our actions and make us forget our responsibilities to others.

I myself was awaked twice or three times on four consecutive nights last week (two nights were school nights). The result was a drastic reduction in the amount of sleep I got, and I dare say a like reduction in my classroom effectiveness.

Above all let us remember where we are. No matter how important bonfire spirit may be, it cannot be allowed to overshadow our main reason for being here. That is getting an education, in case some have forgotten.

—Scott Lane

Day duck lonely

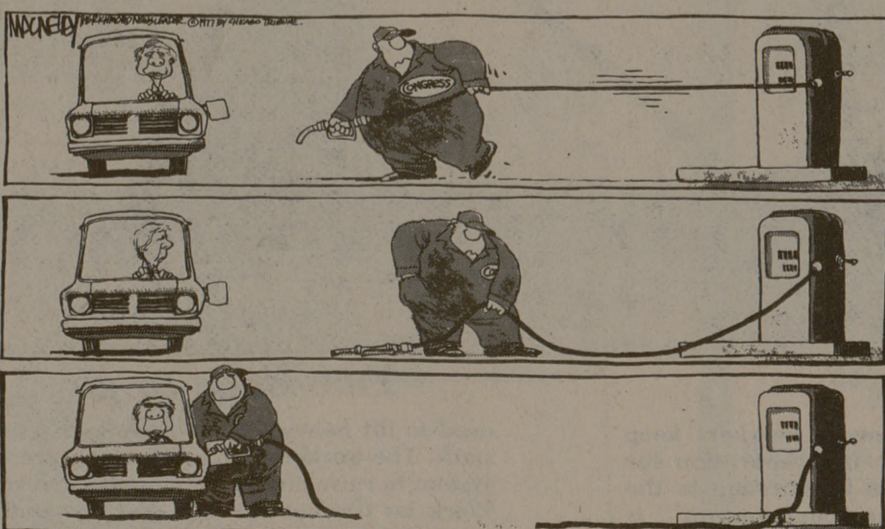
Editor:

I can sympathize with the poor dating situation on campus, but what about the off-campus students? Unfortunately, two-thirds of the student body is forced to live in houses or apartments. The dating situation here is desperate.

How many guys know the feeling of their heart sinking as some sweet young thing jumps off the shuttle bus as he is about to ask her name. Apartments are bad, (most people know only a few of their neighbors) but houses are worse. My neighbors include an 80-year-old farmer, a married couple or two, and a large doberman. A party raid here would result in a severe dog-bite or a night in jail for disturbing the peace.

At least on-campus students have mixers and Sbsis. Social clubs are open to off-campus students, but somehow I find it hard to ask out the girl next to me while the Pre-Vet Society is showing pictures of mutilated horses. We are all Aggies! Let's have some mixers to include the Day Ducks.

—Mark Homer, '80



Top of the News

State

Tax breaks false for farmers

A new state law giving tax breaks to farmers and ranchers is nothing more than an empty promise because taxation guidelines cannot be revised by passage of a state law, the chairman of the House Education Committee said Tuesday in Austin. Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, and Farmer County Attorney Johnny Atkinson asked Attorney General John Hill for an opinion on the constitutionality of the measure approved by the 65th legislature. The bill would allow some farm, ranch and open-space ranch land to be assessed on the basis of its agricultural productivity rather than its market value for property taxation.

Women to seek more funds

Leaders of the National Women's Conference in Houston will seek federal funding for another meeting to promote feminist goals, despite protests of dissident delegates who walked out of Monday's closing session. President Carter's top women appointees said they will meet next week to prepare a special report on the meeting for the president. Carter also will receive 25 recommendations approved by nearly 2,000 delegates from across the nation. No date was specified, but conference leader Bella Abzug said the next meeting might come as soon as 1980.

Hughes estate trial delayed

Texas Attorney John Hill says a lawyer for the administrators of the Howard Hughes estate is attempting to deny the state its inheritance claim on the vast holdings of the late recluse. The trial was delayed for two weeks to determine Hughes' legal residence on a request from Frank Davis, the attorney representing administrators of the Hughes estate. Davis said Hughes had not lived in Texas for more than 40 years and was a Nevada resident. Hill accused Davis of a last-minute attempt to delay the trial for which both sides have been preparing for the last nine months.

Longview cop killed by suspects

Two suspects in some early morning convenience store robberies Tuesday shot and killed a 28-year-old Longview policeman who stopped them for questioning, then exchanged gunfire with officers who trapped them at nearby Gilmer, Texas. Police said a woman identified as Marilyn Gail Means of Longview was struck by a shotgun blast during the short gunbattle outside Gilmer. Her companion, identified as Emmet Holloway Jr., 23, surrendered unharmed. The couple was charged with capital murder in the death of policeman Marshall Jefferson Sowders.

Nation

Phillips Petroleum fined by judge

A federal judge in Tulsa, Okla. Tuesday fined the Phillips Petroleum Co. \$30,000 for conspiring to make illegal political campaign contributions and for filing fraudulent income tax returns over a four-year period. Chief U.S. District Judge Allen E. Barrow fined Phillips a maximum \$10,000 for raising funds in overseas accounts and using the money for illegal campaign contributions. He also fined Phillips the maximum \$5,000 each on the four tax counts.

Coal policy might drown cities

A physicist warned Tuesday that a national energy policy relying entirely on coal would generate enough waste heat to begin melting the polar icecaps and result in coastal flooding that would rout 70 million Americans. New Orleans would be under water in 60 years, Miami would submerge in 90 years and Washington would be inundated in 140 years, Dr. Peter Fong of Emory University in Atlanta predicted in a paper delivered to the American Physical Society in Bal Harbour, Fla.

World

Reaction to Sadat trip varied

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said Tuesday his trip to Israel resulted in "respect for our will, for the will of the Arabs," and "there is no longer any room for complexes." Sadat returned Monday to a triumphant welcome in Cairo from his dramatic and unprecedented trip to Israel, a trip which infuriated hard-line Arab states, drew an embarrassed silence from the oil-producers and expressions of support from fellow moderates in Sudan, Morocco, Oman—and on Tuesday—Jordan.

Rescuers working after cyclone

Rescue teams worked Tuesday to reach more than 100,000 people left homeless by the worst storm to hit India in more than 100 years—a cyclone that killed more than 6,000 people and washed away scores of villages. While the southern state of Andhra Pradesh was still reeling from the cyclone and the tidal wave that smashed the southern coast over the weekend, another cyclone—India's third in the past week—threatened the coast of Bombay.

Boys ok after forced landing

Two young men from Austin, Texas, were expected to be turned over to American authorities Tuesday after an airplane they were flying ran out of gasoline and made an emergency landing outside Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Mexican authorities identified the Texans as Craig Staggs, 14, and Jimmy Lackey, age unknown, and said the airplane was believed stolen in Austin. Officials said the two boys were flying in a Cessna airplane belonging to Lt. Col. Earl C. Hawthorne of Austin, when they made the emergency landing Monday. The boys were not hurt and the airplane was not damaged, the officials reported.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow with variable winds 5-10 mph. High both days mid-70s. Low tonight upper 50s. Extended outlook for Friday through Sunday calls for mild temperatures with little or no rain.

The Battalion

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

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates fur-

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