

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Monday
December 12

Married students need homes too

The only things at Texas A&M more scarce than dormitory rooms are University apartments for married students. And they've been getting scarcer all the time. Year by year more and more of the World War II barracks that have passed for married student apartments are being demolished because they're just no longer habitable. But some members of the University system board of regents oppose building any more apartments to replace them — even though all the apartments are filled year-around, with a long list of married students waiting to get an apartment.

At their November meeting the regents put off appropriating money for design work on 100 new apartments because H. C. Bell of Austin, the board's building committee chairman, strongly opposed the idea.

"I don't think we should take care of people that went off and got married and then decided they want to come back to school," Bell said. He argued that the apartments took business away from local apartment owners; that the University needs dorms, especially women's dorms, worse than married student apartments, and that the married apartment areas are hard to "police."

But Howard Vestal, University vice president for business affairs, defended the new apartments as a way of helping students as much as possible. The 900 married student apartments are all making money, Vestal said, even though the University charges at least 25 percent less in rent than local apartment complexes. Most of the University's graduate students are married and those apartments are a real help in getting good graduate students to come to Texas A&M, he said.

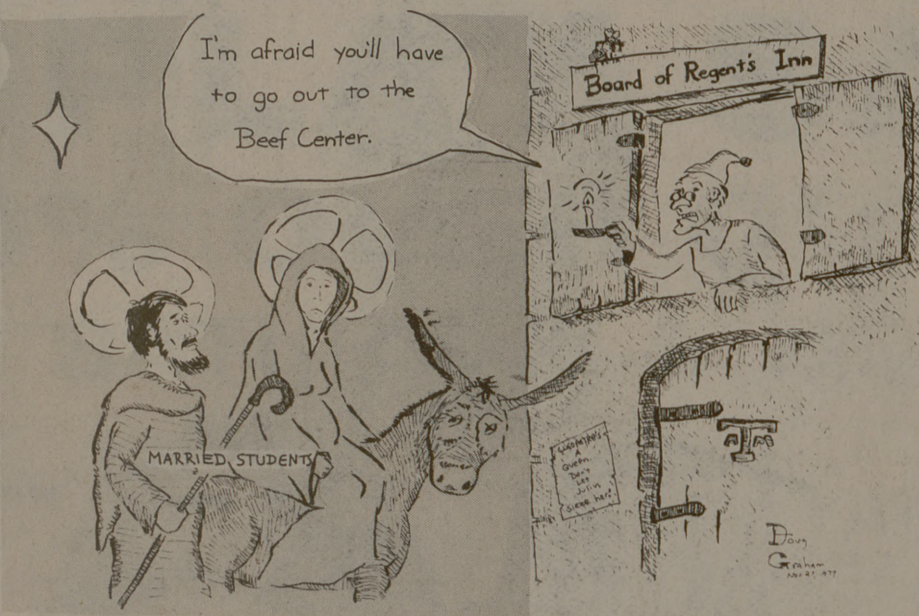
Bell didn't receive much support from fellow board members either.

Even though the University needs dorm rooms those rooms wouldn't satisfy the needs of married students, Dr. John Coleman of Houston said. Regent Joe Reynolds of Houston said lots of students wouldn't be attending Texas A&M if the cheaper married student apartments weren't available.

"I believe it would seriously handicap our graduate and professional programs," Coleman said in warning against reducing the number of student apartments.

"I'm not against poor people," Bell replied.

But it's getting very hard for those poor people to attend Texas A&M, especially if they are married. As Mr. Reynolds said, many future engineers



and scientists and businessmen wouldn't be here right now if they didn't have those apartments in which to live.

Even now the apartments are no sure thing. Married students often have to wait over a year to get a University apartment.

The regents delayed any decision on the new apartments until their meeting in January. At that meeting University officials will present more detailed information on the married student apartments in hopes of convincing the board to approve the new apartments. It'll be in the University's best interests for them to okay those apartments. It'll also be in the best interests of more than one young family.

As regent John Blocker of Houston said, "We've got to protect marriage all we can."
L.R.L.

Sadat no longer 'spokesman for Arabs'

Saudi Arabians may save Middle East

By W.G. KIROLOS
United Press International

CAIRO, Egypt — The rupture of Egypt's diplomatic relations with five hard-line Arab states casts serious doubt on President Anwar Sadat's ability to negotiate an overall Middle East peace settlement with Israel.

Egypt's move formalized the split in Arab ranks, which began with Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem last month, and may have jeopardized Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's coming tour of the region.

Sadat told the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, and has repeated since then, that he wanted to negotiate a Middle East settlement on behalf of all Arabs — and had no interest in a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

His aim, he said, is to negotiate an overall settlement, first in Cairo and then in Geneva, and later submit it to a summit of Arab chiefs of state.

But the rupture in Egypt's relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and Southern Yemen, as well as the earlier expulsion of Palestine Liberation Organization from Cairo, has all but destroyed Sadat's ability to act as spokesman for all Arabs.

Syria and the PLO already have rejected Egyptian invitations to take part in preliminary peace talks scheduled for the middle of December in Cairo.

The break in Egyptian-Syrian relations made it highly unlikely that Damascus would take part in any resumed Geneva talks.

Jordan has made its participation in the Cairo talks conditional on the presence of other "concerned Arab parties," that is, Syria and the PLO.

If Vance's tour is aimed at persuading moderate Arabs to give backing to Sadat's peace initiative, his chances of success appeared uncertain at best.

Vance will face much difficulty if he tries to persuade King Hussein to budge from his decision to steer a middle course between the two rival Arab camps. At the same time, the break in relations seemed

to rule out overt backing of Sadat by Saudi Arabia. Egyptian officials say Sadat has the private backing of King Khaled's government but the rupture has made open support difficult.

The official Egyptian statement announcing the break made it clear it was in retaliation for the decision of the Tripoli summit to "freeze" relations with Egypt.

Western observers say the fact that Sadat hit back quickly shows he means business and will go all the way in his effort to seek a peace settlement.

The president is confident of the backing of his people. Thousands have been calling at the Presidential Abdin Palace in Cairo every day to demonstrate support and loyalty.

Egyptian officials always contended that Cairo is the "center of weight" in the Arab world and there can be no war or peace in the region without Egypt.

They are confident that "what Egypt does today, other Arabs will do tomorrow" and that the Syrians and Palestinians will return as allies of Cairo like the prodigal son.

This may not happen so soon. Ironically, it depends largely on Israel — as well as the good offices of Arab moderates.

If Israel makes concessions at the coming Cairo talks, Sadat may have something to show to his Arab critics, making them roll back on their denunciations of him as a "traitor."

Also important is the role of moderate Arabs. Reports in the Jordanian press, published before the rupture was announced, said Hussein would make an Arab tour to heal the breach.

But even more crucial is the role Saudi Arabia can play. As the bankrollers of Egypt's and Syria's war machines, the Saudis have great influence in both countries.

Toward the end of last year the Saudis called a mini-summit in Riyadh, where Egyptian-Syrian differences, then caused by the Sinai disengagement agreement, were reconciled and an end to the Lebanon civil war was arranged.

The Saudis could conceivably do it again.



Letters to the editor

Time for people to stand behind what they write

Editor: This is in response to the letter of Dec. 1 signed J.B. and B.R., both of the class of '79.

I will not reiterate my letter; more than enough has been said about the A&M-Texas game. My complaint is this. I, like many others, do not agree with much of what J.B. and B.R. said. But as you will note, my initials are also J.B. and I too am from the class of '79. Because I have written to and for the Battalion in the past, several people assumed this J.B. was me. It was not.

J.B. and B.R. claimed the Corps could "dish it out but not take it." I submit that J.B. and B.R. can "dish it out but not take it" or they would have signed their full name, not just their initials.

If this was intentionally done by the Battalion editors, I regret this deviation from your policy. As I understand the letter-to-the-editor policy, all letters must be accompanied by a complete signature plus class designation.

If the initials were printed as a defense against recriminations to the authors, I feel you are in error. Other letters which were just as condemning of Corps and crowd actions were printed with the full name undersigned.

A policy in itself, implies that it will be applied in all instances without regard to personal preferences. I wish an exception had not been made with this letter. By protecting the authors you inadvertently caused me a good deal of frustration. There are lots of J.B.s and B.R.s out here; don't condemn us all for the pseudo-protection of two.

—Jan Bailey, '79

Editor's note: Yes, we do require that all letters be accompanied by a complete name, address and phone number;

however, it has been our policy to print only the initials of a letter's author or print "name withheld by request" if the author did so request. That was the case with the letter you described.

But we have revised that policy. Too many people are writing in and requesting that their names be withheld — apparently without any real reason for doing so.

So we will no longer be printing letters to the editor without a full name printed at the end, unless there are imperative reasons why the author should not be identified. In such a case the author should explain why he should not be identified when requesting that his name be withheld.

No absolute answers

Editor: In response to the letter concerning abortion, I think that Becky Adamietz is being selfish and uncaring. Being closed minded could cause a lot more suffering than her so called "murder."

I'm certainly not suggesting an abortion every time a girl gets pregnant and wants her freedom, but there are times when abortions are very merciful. Such as in the case of a pregnancy caused by rape, or if the mother's life is endangered, or if doctors know for sure there will be deformity or retardation. I would much rather not exist than to "live" my life confined in a bed, or retarded, as a burden to my family.

Instead of arguing over the rights and wrongs of abortion, I think that people would benefit more, if greater care concerning birth control and family planning were taken.

—Leslie Grice, '80

Concerts getting stale

Editor: Friday night before last the concert was good. As a matter of fact it was awfully darned good. A lot of people had a ball even before the concert started, until the girl in red stole and deflated it. The only people I saw leaving prior to the end were those with a distinctive air about them. This all brings up one question. "What next for Firefall?"

If we are to expect the same performance from our "wonderful" (choke) Town Hall Committee, we will get the same performance for next year's bonfire as we got Friday. Just because an act is good doesn't mean we should look forward to it next year. There are lots of good acts in the music world from which to choose. Why, in the name of Heaven, does Town Hall's calendar look and sound like a television guide in the summer?

Sure, Michael Murphey was good. Ronnie Milsap was a fine performer. But even I get tired of A&W Root Beer sometimes. Someone in Town Hall had best pull their heads out.

With a budget as large as that committee's and the price of tickets around bonfire time, I think we should and are entitled to expect more variety for all of the Folk, C&W, rock, and other type fans we have here.

Come on, Town Hall. Gilligan's Island is getting real stale and so are y'all.

—Joel Krouse, '78

Aggie against Aggie

Editor: Nearing the closing of this semester, ties

between CT's and nonregs once again proves to be an ugly situation. This spite between the two, whom both call themselves Aggies, does not apply to all people, but as Aggie spirit lifts this school far and above any other University in pride and honor, it seems hypocritical that hate has to be so prevalent between any Aggies. Name calling, stereotyping and prejudiced judgment are unnecessary actions taken by both sides.

This is a proud school, a school different than any other University. The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets contributes a great deal to making this University unique. As far as traditions, the corps is the oldest, and does an always demanding effort of keeping Aggie traditions which are a main characteristic of A&M. The Corps itself is a notable organization whose actions can not always be explained. Those who go through the Corps, and believe in it, find its values priceless. The Corps gives something to all those who partake in it such as pride, self-confidence, respect for the better things in life that are taken for granted by most, and discipline, a lost but very essential and necessary function of society.

Behind everything good there is bad, and the Corps is no exception. Yet, the Corps is involved in developing a better person, one who has the leadership and radiance that has to make him stand out from others.

As for those few cadets whose personalities are unexplainable: well, the Corps just doesn't perform miracles, but the Corps does accept anyone.

The thing to remember is that we are all Aggies, non-reg's and CT's alike, and we must all help each other and work hard to preserve the Aggie image of honor, pride, honesty, school spirit, together.

—Art Cuellar, '80

Top of the News

Campus

Battalion ends 1977 publication

The Battalion will publish its last issue for this year Wednesday. The first issue for 1978 will be published January 4, with another issue January 11. Regular Monday through Friday publication will resume Monday, January 16.

Walton resident dies

Robert J. Mitchell, 22, a senior microbiology major from Houston, died Saturday morning at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan. Cause of death has not been determined, but an autopsy has been scheduled. Mitchell was a resident of Walton Hall. Memorial services are pending at Waltrip funeral home in Houston.

Health Center to begin closing

A.P. Beutel Health Center will begin closing its clinic at 4 p.m. beginning Jan. 3, says health center officials. The earlier closing means clinic hours will now run 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, but emergency room service will remain in effect after hours.

Veterans to receive extra checks

Veterans attending classes at Texas A&M University will receive an early Christmas present in the form of extra benefits. The checks recently mailed contain the new higher rate of assistance of November and October, said a campus Veterans Administration liaison spokesman. A six percent increase was signed into law Nov. 23. The same law increased VA tutorial assistance payments, the hourly rate for VA work-study payments and the maximum amount of a VA educational loan. About 1,400 veterans attend Texas A&M classes on the GI Bill.

State

71 persons to die in Texas accidents

The director of the Texas Department of Public Safety predicts 71 persons will be killed on the state's highways during the combined Christmas and New Year weekends. Col. Wilson E. Speir said Saturday some of the deaths could be prevented if motorists would drive carefully and participate in the state's "Light the Way for a Safe Holiday" program.

The "Light the Way for a Safe Holiday" program urges motorists in Texas to drive with their low beam headlights on day and night during the holiday weekends.

Nation

Three guardsmen killed in crash

Three National Guardsmen were killed Sunday afternoon when their helicopter crashed and fell in a river in northern Arkansas. Killed were Chief Warrant Officer David H. Irvy, 32, and Staff Sgt. Randy Lee Atterbury, 25, or North Little Rock and Spec. 6 William H. Goodwin, 27, of Little Rock. "We don't know what happened, why they were where they were or anything," Lt. Cissy Coleman, a public information officer said. She said although a flight plan had been filed, she did not know what was in it. State police, however, said the three-man crew was on a flight exercise from Camp Robinson in North Little Rock to Harrison, Ark. On the return trip, police said, the helicopter was flying low, hit a power line, crashed into a bluff and dropped into the Buffalo River near state highway 65.

More than 300 POW's gather

More than 300 former prisoners war had a turkey dinner, swapped stories and "just had a great time" at a Christmas party Saturday night in Jackson, Miss., a Jackson couple who spearheaded the affair said. The prisoners, who came from Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana, were invited to Jackson by a former POW and his wife who decided to give each other the party as a combined Christmas and 29th anniversary present.

Weather

Cloudy and mild today and tomorrow with southeasterly winds 10 mph. High today mid-60s. Low tonight low 50s. High tomorrow low 70s. 20 percent chance of rain.

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.

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 furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216.

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