

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

Monday  
January 23, 1978

## Yell-leading by proxy doesn't count

It may be early in the semester, but for some students academic pressures are putting a crimp on extracurricular activities.

Take the yell leaders. According to head yell leader Joe Reagan, three of them studied for tests Thursday night, one was ill and another was doing data processing homework. As a result, none of the men were on hand for the Aggie Ladies home basketball game at 5 p.m.

Games usually last about an hour and a half, and Reagan says the yell leaders usually make it to the women's games. But Thursday night he had substitutes fill in.

"We can't do everything," he said Sunday. "I asked a friend to lead the yells in case we weren't there. We're here for one reason — an education. We've got to ration out our time."

Yell leaders have had no problem rationing time for paid, out-of-town football and basketball games, or for men's games played in G. Rollie White.

Reagan admitted that the women "are Aggies, too," and he said he spoke to Coach Wanda Bender after the game. He said he should have warned her that the yell leaders wouldn't attend.

The men flew to Arkansas Tuesday for the Razorback game, and had to arrange study time accordingly. But they are the most visible of Texas A&M's student leaders, and it's a bit much to assume that members of the audience leading yells is an adequate substitute. The crowd's interest obviously warranted elected yell leaders.

M.A.W.

## Keep it simple and keep it quiet

By WILLIAM RASPBERRY

WASHINGTON — In these days when erstwhile liberals are styled neo-conservatives, when dyed-in-wool conservatives insist on government intervention in the market and when certified liberals are begging the government to get off their backs, we may need some new political definitions.

To that end, I propose a test. Read the two sentences following and decide which better describes your own attitude:

Left to their own devices, people — including people of modest means — are likely to come up with imaginative, workable solutions to their problems.

Left to their own devices, people — especially people of modest means — are almost certain to get screwed.

If you agree with the first, you're probably a conservative; if the second strikes you as more accurate, you're probably a liberal.

Knowing what you are, however, doesn't necessarily lead to automatic conclusions as to what you'd do under specific circumstances.

For instance, a group of women in Milford, Ill., left to their own devices, turned to informal day-care arrangements for child care. They hired neighbor women as

babysitters and went to work for Howard Industries, a local manufacturer of small electrical motors.

The informal arrangements — almost prototypically conservative — worked very well until a couple of months ago, when someone (doubtless motivated by good liberal impulses) squealed. As a result, the babysitters were told they'd have to apply for state licenses or go out of busi-

### Commentary

ness. (Anyone taking care of other people's children for 10 or more hours a week in Illinois is subject to the state laws governing day-care centers.)

Some of the babysitters balked at the notion of state inspectors "barging into" their homes without notice, and said to hell with babysitting. As a result, several of the women at Howard Industries (which employs some 80 percent of Milford's working women) have had to give up their jobs.

Another example: Black Philadelphians, left to their own devices due to the lack of long-term-care facilities for the black elderly, developed a long-standing tradition

of establishing their own nursing homes, generally under the auspices of their churches.

One of these nursing homes — the non-profit Stephen Smith Geriatric Center — dates back to 1864. As recently as a few years ago, there were 25 such centers, large and small, in Philadelphia's black neighborhoods.

Then in 1974, the federal government adopted the Life Safety Code, a set of safety standards most of the facilities were unable to meet. As a result, all but a couple of the nursing homes are out of business.

One more: Families across the country, and particularly in the South, left to their own devices for the care of orphaned and abandoned children, have traditionally "taken in" such children.

But state and county welfare agencies, insisting on certain minimum conditions for foster-care eligibility — outside windows, a certain amount of space, enough bedrooms to avoid mixing of sexes, and so on — have rendered the informal arrangements illegal for many families.

There aren't any obvious rights and wrongs in these situations. The state clearly has an interest in seeing to it that babysitters not expose children to unsafe

or unsanitary conditions. It clearly has an interest in seeing to it that nursing homes have proper fire exits, adequate fireproofing and adequate food and laundry arrangements. And it clearly has an interest in preventing some greed-driven family from stacking foster children six to a basement room in order to obtain the largest possible foster-care grant.

In fact, hardly anyone involved in any of the circumstances outlined here would argue for lower standards. It only strikes us as silly and counterproductive when, as a result of these perfectly valid standards, people wind up worse off than before.

But you can't have one set of standards to make it possible for the well-meaning to provide a useful service and another to keep the unscrupulous from taking advantage.

You finally have to decide whether it is better to prevent abuse, even if that means hurting the innocent, or to trust to innate human goodness, even if that entails the risk of abuse.

And for all the rhetoric they would hurl at each other, conservatives and liberals would probably come down at pretty much the same place.

(c) 1978, The Washington Post



## Smile, you're on candid Congress

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives is moving ever closer to the day when its sessions will be televised. But first it must resolve a dispute over who should control the cameras.

### The Lighter Side

Some want the House to have its own crews cover the proceedings and offer the networks a fee for public showing.

Others side with the networks, which favor having their own personnel handle the coverage.

In a recent article on this subject, Rep. John Anderson, R-Ill., said there was concern that "control of the cameras would

lead to control of the legislative process, even to the point of stopping debates for commercial breaks like the TV timeouts in football games."

The problem with football is that there aren't enough natural breaks in the action. In boxing, there's a break after each round. In baseball, there's a break after each half inning. And there isn't much to golf except breaks.

But football can keep the cameras occupied past the time for beer commercials. So the networks have a man on the sidelines to signal the referee to stop play for commercial breaks.

Congressional debates have even fewer natural breaks than football. In congressional debates you rarely see injuries of the type that occasion a time out in football. And you rarely find either side scor-

ing any points, which is another break time in football.

One solution might be for the networks to station an agent in the House gallery. When infatuation with the sound of his own voice caused an orator to encroach on the beer commercials, the TV man could flash a signal to the presiding officer, who would then order a quorum call.

The only thing on earth more tedious than a beer commercial is a quorum call. So that would be a perfect time for a commercial break.

Unfortunately, some quorum calls are rather lengthy. The networks might have trouble filling in the time after the commercials are finished. Two remedies come to mind.

They could have standby cameras avail-

able for cloakroom interviews during long quorum calls. Or they could switch to a line of chorus girls call the Quorumettes.

I doubt, however, that commercial breaks would be television's chief threat to the legislative process. I think the House has more to fear from instant replays.

There are times when several lawmakers seek recognition almost simultaneously. Theoretically, the first to rise gets the floor.

With cameras covering the action, instant replays would show whether a congressman was properly recognized or whether some other congressman actually got to his feet first.

These replays could be as embarrassing to House officials as they are to football officials who are shown making bad calls.

## Green doesn't mix with white...

Editor:

It seems that there are some Aggies who take a little longer than others to resume the processes of cogitation and celebration after the lengthy holiday recess. This phenomenon is to be expected given the diversity of mental capabilities in a group of thirty thousand Aggies and was manifested to myself and others on Thursday, Jan. 19.

On that particular day a group of those Aggies mentioned above displayed a suppression of cranial activity. The group, assembled on the walkway between Rudder Tower and the MSC, took it upon themselves to launch projectiles in the form of spherical agglomerations of snow and ice (snowballs, in the vernacular) at individuals in the pedestrian traffic on terra firma below them. It so happens that one of them met its mark on my head (Good shot, fellah!). There were others who were also at the end of certain trajectories.

Perhaps if the white stuff had precipitated two weeks hence they would have redeveloped thought and reasoning processes enough to realize that such actions are not becoming of good Ags. (Actually, such activities are infractions of the Texas A&M University Regulations. Refer to Section II: Student Life Regulations; Discipline Code; Paragraph 49, item 2a.)

I would like to extend an invitation to those Aggies (they know who they are) to commence thinking and continue to do so for their remaining days. Before you involve yourself in pranks, put yourself on the receiving end.

Just for the record, let me state that I, also, enjoy pranks, even if on the receiving end; but, fellas, there are different types of fun-and-games. For instance, I love a good combat with snowballs with my friends and acquaintances, where the chances of hurt feelings are almost nil. I have been quadded by my buddies and we all had a good time.

However, I have an extreme aversion for being attacked by complete strangers. I

think anyone would object to being accosted by someone he didn't know from Rasputin, if he were to think about the situation honestly.

I realize there was no seriously malicious intent in the day's going-on. My only goal is to persuade my peers to act responsibly and as if they shared their presence in society with other members of the same on an equal basis.

Finally, I hope it snows next week and we all can have a good snowball fight.

—Nicholas J. Green  
Graduate Student  
Chemical Engineering

### ...or grey

Editor:

Again I have become the victim of the irresponsibility and thoughtlessness of my fellows. This time the situation involved is a particularly emotional and touchy one, even on the national level.

It is my understanding, and should be clearly that of other breathing humans, that smoking is prohibited by law in certain areas. The case in point concerns the ride I took in the east elevator in Zachry Engineering Center the other day.

There is a deal stating "smoking prohibited by law" on every entrance to that particular elevator, except for the basement stop. It is my understanding, also, that the law applies to each individual. However, it appears that the law is neglected by individuals from all portions of the social spectrum.

There were four of us on the elevator at the time. Two present (that's 50 percent, carried burning cigarettes. One was white, one was black; one was dressed almost as shabbily (sic) as myself, the other was quite well dressed and groomed; one appeared to be 23 years old, the other was more than a few years older than I.

I, myself, can stand a few whiffs of the

smoke. In fact, I have spent no small amount of time in various drinking and gaming establishments which were enveloped in smoke. However, it was of my own volition that I subjected myself to those conditions at those times. I did not wish to be in such an enclosed space as a public elevator with smoke.

There are those, I am sure, who would say "If you don't like smoke, don't ride elevators." By the same type of logic why don't those who do not wish to abstain

from smoking on elevators excuse themselves from riding them.

I invite those who smoke to have common courtesy for their fellows as concerns the above matter and refrain from smoking in closed quarters, especially those in which smoking is prohibited by law. By all means, too, if you don't like the particular law, change it in the same manner as it was created in the first place. If you persist, you may even get legislation passed to preclude nonsmokers from riding elevators, etc.

—Nicholas J. Green

### Slouch by Jim Earle



"NOW HERE WE HAVE A SITUATION THAT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES WHY WATER FIGHTING IS NOT A WINTER SPORT!"

## Top of the News Campus

Art prints available

Art prints will be available for circulation from the Sterling C. Evans Library beginning Friday, Jan. 27. They will be on display on the first floor of Evans Library throughout the day and will be checked out from the circulation desk between 3 and 4 p.m. Only one print per ID card will be checked out to students for the duration of the semester.

### Application forms available

Application forms for Spring Awards Program may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 310, YMCA Building. All applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office no later than 5 p.m. March 1. Late applications will not be accepted.

## State

### New trial sought for Knorpp

Potter County district attorneys say they will seek another trial for county attorney Kerry Knorpp, cleared Saturday of 24 civil court counts of misapplication of funds and misconduct. Assistant District Attorney John Reese said the state would move for a new trial to have Knorpp removed from office. Judge H.L. Tipps said Knorpp's salary temporary suspension would "remain status quo." George Gilkerson, part of Knorpp's defense team, said he planned to file petition early next week to have Knorpp reinstated. The jury deliberated more than five hours Saturday before finding Knorpp innocent of using county funds for personal gain. He still must face criminal charges of felony theft, perjury and bribery beginning Feb. 20. Knorpp has contended the charges are the result of a personal feud with District Attorney Tom Curtis.

### 'Cheap food policy problem'

The president of the national Farmers Union says the Carter Administration's cheap food policy is the main problem facing American farmers and ranchers. "The problem is an administration firmly welded to a cheap food policy and the mistaken belief that the only way our farm products can be competitive in world markets is by what amounts to a giveaway," Tony Dechant of Denver said Saturday. Dechant told reporters at the 74th annual Texas Farmers Union convention that Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has the authority under existing law to lift price supports of around 50 percent to 90 percent of parity. Congress has before it several realistic bills that could solve the farm crisis, the former Kansas wheat farmer said. The organization of family farmers called for amendments to the farm act to set loan rates on farm goods at not less than 90 percent of parity and target prices at 100 percent.

### 'Family farm image wrong'

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown says the image of the small family farm sought by many farmers is incompatible with operating a big business. "We want to enjoy the concept of agriculture that once was — mama cooking the apple pies and everyone loving the family farmer," he said Saturday in Austin. "We will maintain the family farm in Texas but it's going to be a different type of concept." Speaking on the weekly radio interview show, "State Capitol Dateline," Brown said the nationwide farmers strike has served its purpose by calling public attention to the plight of farmers and ranchers, but now it is time to write legislation to cure their ills. "One of the problems is that it's an unorganized group," Brown said of the strikers. "Some of their demands can't be accomplished. I think the thing to do now is sit down within the system and get legislation that will be more helpful to us."

### Texas-made wines, soon on shelves

Delegates to the Texas Grape Growers Association say Texas-made wines soon will appear on liquor store shelves around the state. "At least by 1980, you should look for Texas wine in Texas liquor stores," said Thomas Qualia, whose grandfather founded the Val Verde Winery at Del Rio in the early 1880s. Currently, Texas wines are sold at wineries, but Clinton McPherson said Llano Estacado Winery on the High Plains hoped to place its four varieties in the hands of wholesalers within two years. This does not mean that every liquor store in Texas will carry Texas wines, the grape growers say. Their vision includes liquor stores stocking regional wines, those bottled from grapes grown in a 150-mile radius. "I don't know if we'll ever look at a marketing scheme outside of Texas," said George R. McEachern, an extension horticulturist at Texas A&M and secretary of the association. The initial barrier for the Texas wine-makers is increasing their production sufficiently to meet wholesalers' orders.

### Bone marrow transplant postponed

A rare bone marrow transplant for an 18-month-old Dallas boy has been postponed at Childrens Hospital Medical Center because his brother can not be a donor. Tony Olivo and his mother, Deborah, left Boston for their Texas home Sunday, where he will continue to undergo treatment at Parkland Memorial Hospital for Wiscott-Aldrich Syndrome. Tony had lived most of his life in a germ-free room at the Dallas Hospital. His plight gained national attention last November when he made the jet trip to Boston inside a plastic bubble to protect him from infection. Wiscott-Aldrich is a hereditary blood disorder characterized by an inability to fight off infection. Tony and his 3-year-old brother, Carl were at first believed ideal for transplant procedure, but Carl has been found not to be a perfect prospective donor. Now Tony must wait and see if his condition improves before another possible transplant.

## Weather

Considerable cloudiness with a chance of some rain today. High today upper 40's, low tonight upper 30's. High on Tuesday upper 50's. 20 percent chance of rain today 50 percent tonight, and 30 percent tomorrow. Fair Wednesday with a chance of rain Thursday and Friday.

## The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

### 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. Re presented nationally by National Educational Advertiser 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,

Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to UPI. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

### MEMBER

Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Congress  
Editor: Jamie Miller  
Managing Editor: Mary Alice Wood  
Sports Editor: Paul Kiser  
News Editors: Marie Homeyer, Carol Moore  
Assistant Managing Editor: Glenna White  
City Editor: Rusty Gault  
Campus Editor: Kim Tipton  
Reporters: Liz Newlin, Dan Boggan, Mark Patterson, Lee Roy Leschper Jr., Gary Welch, Karen Bagg, Photographers: Susan Webb, David Keefe, Cartoonist: Doug Gault

Student Publications Board: Bob C. Rogers, Chairman, Joe Arredondo, Dr. Gary Halter, Dr. John W. Hanes, Robert Harvey, Dr. Charles McCandless, Dr. Clinton Phillips, Rebel Rice, Director of Student Publications, Donald C. Johnson.