

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 2, 1978

## Jim Lindsey: rich with friends

Newspaper people spend most of their lives writing about other people. Very seldom does anyone write about them. But this is such a time for one newspaperman.

Jim Lindsey retired Wednesday after 15 years as director of information for Texas A&M University. During those years, Mr. Lindsey has endeared himself to Battalion staffs as a frequent ally, occasional opponent and constant friend. But Texas A&M is only the last stop in his long and varied career.

Mr. Lindsey has crammed several lifetimes of Texas newspaper work, education and politics into the last 40 years. He spent over 20 years on Texas newspapers, including 10 years as managing editor of the Midland Reporter-Telegram after stints as managing editor of the San Angelo Standard-Times and assistant managing editor of the San Antonio Express-News. Mr. Lindsey spent seven years on the board of regents of his alma mater, Texas Tech University.

He resigned from that board in 1962 when he became Texas A&M's director of information.

Gen. Earl Rudder, president of Texas A&M from 1959 to 1970, asked Mr. Lindsey to become the University's information director. Mr. Lindsey had served as information officer under Rudder in the Army Reserve's 90th Division. A lieutenant colonel in the reserve, Mr. Lindsey fought in World War II as an enlisted man.

A life-time observer of Texas politics, Mr. Lindsey was a member of the State Finance Committee from 1969 until then-Governor Preston Smith appointed him to the State Banking Board in 1971. He remained on that state bank-chartering board until 1976. Not devoting all his time to public service, he has served on state committees of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

But a list of jobs-filled and posts-held can't give you an appreciation of the man. You see, Mr. Lindsey loves people. All people really, but young people especially. He admitted the other day that his greatest regret about leaving Texas A&M will be not spending as much of each day with students as he has in the past.

He often claimed that being around young people has kept him younger than the 63 years he is. In fact more often he's been the one keeping us young.



He's saved many a day for beleaguered students by walking up, extending a handshake with one hand while holding in the other hand one of the big Cuban cigars he always carries and less often smokes, and offering some sage one-liner.

Mr. Lindsey says he is retiring. But relocating would be a better word -- relocating to Austin where he can start another career in education or politics or information or whatever else strikes his fancy.

"Friends are the most valuable possession," Mr. Lindsey has advised many times. If so, you're a rich man, Jim Lindsey. L.R.L.

## The Record tells more than you think

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Congress is back — and not a moment too soon. Into the gray chill of a Washington winter, it brings the excitement and energy for which it is rightly renowned. And, more to the point, in a capital starved for entertainment, it brings the brightest and liveliest publication in the land: the Congressional Record.

There are those, truth to tell, who find reading the Record dull. Dullards they are. Where else can you find two prayers and several bits of poetry every day?

Comity between the House and Senate conceals a healthy competition, as all readers of the Record know, and the chaplains of the respective bodies are not immune to dueling each other for the larger share of the Lord's aid.

On opening day, the Senate's Edward L.R. Elson, D.D., bid God to "bind together the President, the members of Congress and all others in authority over us." Given the deadlocks of the first session, that seemed an ambitious order.

But the House chaplain, Edward G.

Latch, D.D., L.H.D. (who has one less middle initial but one more degree than his Senate counterpart), struck the true chord of legislative lyricism when he asked for "faith, hope and love which will make us more than a match for the mood of these moving moments."

Scarcely had the Record's readers absorbed that (not altogether clear) sentiment than they found Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.), who came to Congress with the New Deal, applying to the Muse for help in solving the farm problem.

The scene that Randolph depicts would warm your heart on a chilly night. Three farmers from Georgia — part of the army of militant farmers seeking higher price supports — "just stopped by my office," he said. Being hospitable, he treated them to reminiscences of his own boyhood, when he herded lambs and cattle "over winding, dusty roads to the railroad loading pens."

"As I talked with the visitors," Randolph said later, on the Senate floor, "I asked if they would forgive me if I recited a few lines which I had learned as a boy in the schools of the hill country of West Virginia."

In my mind's eye, I can see the three farmers — bulky men in their work jackets perched on the edges of their chairs in the imposing Senate office, their American Agriculture Movement strike caps balanced on their knees.

As the senator — with his heavy jowls and rumbling voice, this powerful man who communed with Roosevelt and now dispenses public works projects and sentiment — pauses briefly, they eye each other nervously, not knowing what to say. Whatever they expected when they came to lobby the Senate for higher parity, they did not expect a poetry recital.

"They did not say yes or no," Randolph said, "so I began like this, and I will just give you the lines now:

"The doctor heals and the lawyer pleads  
And the miner follows precious leads  
But this or that, what're befall,  
The farmer feeds them all."

It is a weighty thought: "The farmer feeds them all." Randolph does not tell the Record reader what the farmers said when he had reminded them of that fact. I imagine them pushing back their chairs

rather hastily, and moving rather quickly down the hall, still exchanging puzzled glances.

On another page, the Record reader finds a handy checklist of allowable income tax deductions for the elderly, from abdominal supports to X-rays, considerably compiled by Sen. Ed Muskie of Maine. And, once again, a few pages later, for those with short memories, the same list is entered by Sen. Frank Church of Idaho.

Reading the Record you get a good idea of what former presidential candidates do with their time.

The House, on its opening afternoon, plunged directly into debate on the important constitutional question of game wardens' right to search hunters' cars without a warrant. Contrary to the myth of congressional indecision, the House voted in less than an hour and resolved the question by giving them that power — with certain limitations.

That night, the President of the United States came before Congress and declared that, working together, "we can move mountains."

None of us who reads the Congressional Record doubts that for a moment.

### Letters to the editor

## A&M spring break doesn't follow form

Editor: We are wondering why Texas A&M's spring break is not scheduled at the same time as all of the other major universities in Texas that we know of, such as Texas Tech, TCU, Baylor, Southwest Texas State, and Texas. We all have friends at these schools and it is sad to think that we will not be able to see any of them over our mischeduled spring break.

We can understand trying to divide the semester evenly into two eight-week periods, but it does not seem like it would be outrageous to divide the semester into a nine-and-a-seven-week period like all the other schools. This would not only allow A&M students to see their friends from other schools, it would also allow everyone an opportunity to spend the Easter holidays with their families. Someone must

realize that Good Friday is a world recognized Christian holiday.

We all like for A&M to stand out and be recognized but this is one time when A&M should be like the other schools and have spring break at a practical time. Having spring break the week before Easter would also allow students, faculty, and staff to observe a very important Christian holiday — something Texas A&M seems to have forgotten.

—Jeb Wait, '80  
Brad Freels, '81  
John Vanderhider, '81  
David Whiteside, '80  
Steven Barre, '79  
James Dreslar, '80  
James Michael Vanderhider, '81  
Craig Lester, '80  
David Teague, graduate student CE  
Tommy Ruddock, '79

Editor's note: A spokesman in the registrar's office confirmed that Texas A&M's spring break is scheduled solely to fall after midterm exams, rather than a week after exams and a week into the second half of the semester.

### Deposits ungodly

Editor: As a resident of College Station, I am totally disgusted with the cost of living. I am referring to utilities, phone, and gas. Before you can receive any of these services, you must first put down a deposit. The electric company has you put down a \$70 deposit, General Telephone Co. charges a \$80 deposit, and Lone Star Gas Co. charges about a \$30 deposit. In addition to the deposits, these companies also bill you service charges for installation and service. After we pay these deposits and service charges, who can afford to pay their ungodly bills?

—Pat Fry, '80

### Cancel subscription

Editor: My letter concerns non-school newspapers like "Today's Student" currently being distributed on campus. I would like to know what standards a publication must meet before it may be distributed. Also who decides which newspapers are acceptable and which are not?

"Today's Student" claims in one advertisement to be "A&M's newest approved newspaper." If "Today's Student" can be approved, what cannot? Today's student is a slanted, biased and opinionated pro-Christian publication. Any weekly issue under scrutiny will bear me out. Under the guise of objective reporting, it rarely (if ever) fails to end a story with a play for Jesus. This to me smacks of propaganda.

Furthermore, there is no "letters to the editor" section where dissenters can receive equal time. (Another campus newspaper, "Texas Forum," has such a column. It also gives a slanted and conservative approach to journalism but the "letters" column makes Texas Forum a little more objective than "Today's Student".)

Finally, I would ask how to repeal an offensive newspaper's campus distribution rights. I also feel it is notable that no

other newspaper for other religious sects are being distributed as far as I can see.

I am a Christian and I don't like the image "Today's Student" feeds others about my religion. By its comment on politics "Today's Student" equates Christianity with right wing conservatism. I feel a state school such as ours should not condone nor permit the authorized distribution of religious materials on the campus.

—Glynn Echerd, '81

Editor's note: "Today's Student" was given campus circulation approval last semester by the University Concessions Committee, a committee of students and faculty who review such requests as publications distribution. A representative for the Texas A&M chapter of Crusade for Christ went before the committee to gain its approval. In the same way, any student who feels there is reason for the publication not to be distributed on campus may attend the concessions committee meeting to voice his complaint. The meetings are scheduled every Wednesday at 1:45 p.m. in Rm. 103, YMCA Bldg.

### Corrections

In "Women need to speak up," a story which appeared in Wednesday's Battalion, a word was inadvertently deleted from a quote from Vicki Young, Young, vice president for student services said, "I have found no evidence that women are being deterred on Texas A&M's campus." Michelle Scudder's story reported that Young "found evidence that..."

A story in Tuesday's Battalion also did not contain essential information. In "Four student officials issued subpoenas" by Liz Newlin, the following sentences were deleted:

Student Senator Joe Young could not be reached for comment on his subpoena. Austin Sterling who graduated magna cum laude in 1976, did not sign the waiver as "an act of defiance." Both said they posted above a 2.0 GPA last semester.

The Battalion regrets the errors.

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### State

#### Medical coverage denied

A Texas insurance company has denied that its major medical coverage applies to a woman who went into a coma before giving birth. American National Insurance Co. of Galveston has denied an application filed by Ricky Goforth five days before his pregnant teen-age wife lapsed into a coma. Laurie Goforth, 18, suffered a cardiac arrest at the couple's Borger home Dec. 17. She was transferred to an Amarillo hospital and gave birth Jan. 8 without regaining consciousness. The couple had made an application for major medical coverage Dec. 12 and received a conditional receipt from the company for payment of the first month's premium. But the firm decided Jan. 26 not to issue the health policy.

#### Execution by injection legal

There is nothing unconstitutional about executing condemned criminals with lethal drug injections instead of the electric chair, the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin ruled Wednesday. The court rejected two challenges to the new death penalty procedure by attorneys for Kenneth Granviel and Billy Joe Battie of Ft. Worth. Granviel and Battie sought to escape the death penalty, complaining the drug injections would be cruel and unusual punishment. Presiding Judge John Onion said the fact that the injection method is new and innovative does not make it cruel and unusual.

#### Officers buy stolen goods

Undercover officers operating out of a warehouse near downtown Ft. Worth purchased more than \$1.5 million worth of stolen property in the past six months, recording most of the transactions on closed circuit television. Officers began arresting the more than 100 people named in felony indictments because of the undercover operation. More than 50 of the people named in the 182 sealed indictments had been arrested by Tuesday night. Police chief A. J. Brown said the undercover project was designed "to apprehend career criminals and to develop information on persons dealing in stolen goods." Among the buys officers made were a \$30,000 Rolls Royce for \$350, a 1977 automobile for \$500 and a \$6,000 speedboat for \$600.

#### Porno law unconstitutional

A federal judge has ruled that Texas' new child pornography law is unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Jack Roberts made the ruling Tuesday in Austin in a case involving Jay Battershell of Amarillo, owner of a combination adult motion picture theater and bookstore. Last year state officials closed the theater-bookstore and seized its property and assets, purportedly to collect delinquent corporate franchise taxes. Roberts said the state's child pornography statute was "hurriedly enacted" and agreed with Battershell's contention that the law violated his constitutional rights because it is too broad and does not require films to be termed "obscene."

### Nation

#### Skylab may fall to earth

Space agency officials plan to adjust the orbit of Skylab to prevent the 200,000-pound craft from plummeting to earth. A National Aeronautics and Space Administration spokesman in Houston said Tuesday that officials estimate, at the present rate of orbit decay, Skylab would fall to earth by late 1979 or early 1980 if no adjustment was made. The adjustment to Skylab's orbit will be one of the early Space Shuttle missions. Skylab is not radioactive, but officials said it probably would not burn completely if it fell from orbit.

#### Unvented gas heaters banned

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission will propose a ban today on the manufacture of unvented gas heaters. The commission said the heaters have caused 60 deaths, mostly in the South and Southwest, since 1973. Unvented heaters depend on normal air flows to remove their combustion waste. If a room is not well ventilated, carbon monoxide can build to deadly levels. A spokesman said most of the victims were elderly or low income persons, since the heaters are relatively inexpensive to purchase and operate.

### World

#### Brezhnev and Castro meet

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev met in Moscow Wednesday with Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro to discuss "international affairs of interest to both countries." The official Tass news agency said Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov also took part. The meeting with Brezhnev came at a time when Cuba is expanding its interests in Africa, particularly on the Horn, where it is assisting the Ethiopians in battles against the Somalis and Eritrean secessionists in the north. Sources in Washington have said there are as many as 26,000 Cuban soldiers in Africa, with about 2,000 of them serving as "military advisers" in Ethiopia.

### Weather

Continued cloudiness through Friday with a gradual warming trend. High today upper-40's, low tonight upper-30's. High today low-50's. Winds from the Northeast at 10-18 mph. Twenty percent chance of rain today, 30 percent tonight and 20 percent tomorrow. Cloudy with rain on Saturday. Decreasing cloudiness & warmer on Sunday.

## 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.

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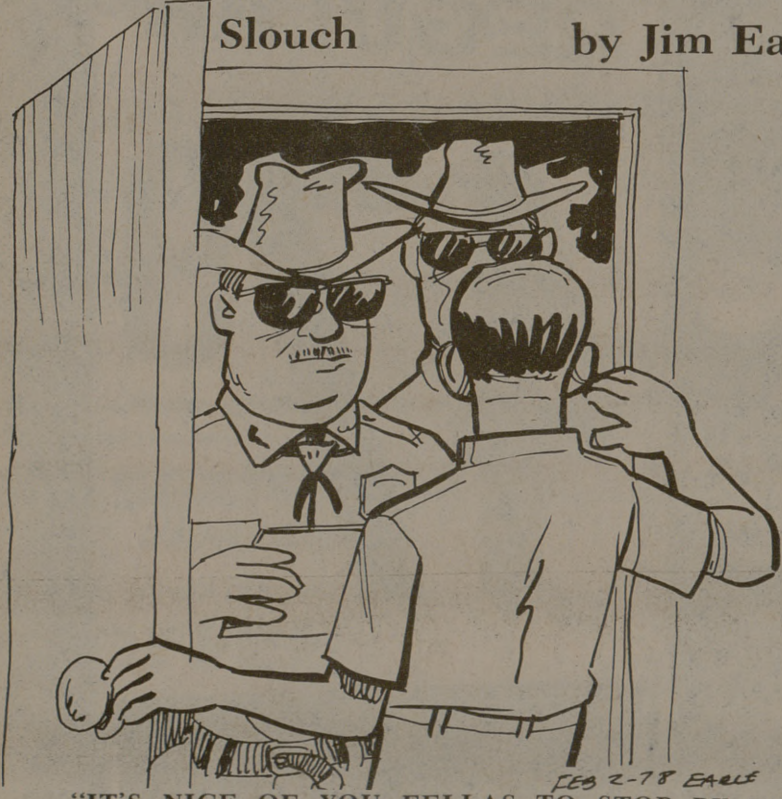
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### Slouch by Jim Earle



"IT'S NICE OF YOU FELLAS TO STOP BY TO CHAT ABOUT THAT HOT CHECK, BUT TH' GUY BY THAT NAME IS ON TH' FACULTY!"