

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 6, 1978

## Clear the air

It was inevitable that the student government grade controversy would stir up quite a bit of dispute. It was to be expected with the student government constitution so unclear. But there is a right and a wrong way to settle any dispute, and the emotional pitch of this particular controversy is heading us down the wrong track.

A mere constitutional question of grades has spawned a rash of innuendoes questioning the very character of everyone involved in this issue, from the student leaders in question to reporters covering the proceedings.

This is a legal issue and should be settled intellectually, not emotionally. It is a difficult issue to solve and a difficult one to report. But if everyone involved will keep the legal question in mind and personal characters out of the picture, we can be spared the muck that is bogging down efficient problem-solving.

## A 'C' for Carter's counter-productivity

By MARK ELAM

One of the favorite past-times recently in the news media has been to assess President Carter's performance his first year in office. Rather than be redundant and simply present a score card of Carter's performance, perhaps a few suggestions might appropriately accompany any praise or criticism that is set forth.

First, let us consider Carter's No. 1 objective this past year, the implementation of a comprehensive energy program. Although Carter's program is still being jostled about in Congress, it appears that this program is following a dreadfully fateful set of solutions which suggest anyone who happens to oppose this solution and favor another one (God forbid), has been branded as a special interest.

In regard to Carter's performance involving another ill which confronts our nation, inflation, it should be noted that Carter's anti-inflation packages carry all the punch of an aspirin and a "Please get well soon" card. Indeed, a series of Wednesday evening prayer meetings for the economy might prove more beneficial. Yet, despite this problem, and despite the fact that the market is several hundred points below normal, we have to realize that things could have been worse.

Things could have been worse, if, for instance, Carter would have endorsed the original version of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, or for instance, if Carter had

decided to cancel the cruise missile along with the B-1 bomber. Instead of appointing Andrew Young as ambassador to the U.N., he could have appointed comedian Dick Gregory, even though some would claim that both men seem to be equally humorous. We should at least feel fortunate

increase it. He could have worked to reduce governmental red tape and paperwork as he promised instead of increasing it. He could have kept his written promise with the governors of Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma by working for rather than against deregulation of natural gas prices.

The president could have stood for a truly meaningful and equitable human rights policy which did not ignore such nations as Cuba, Cambodia, Panama and Vietnam.

In terms of unemployment, Carter could have sought to prevent a large increase in the minimum wage, which even he admits will increase unemployment among the youth, especially the black and minority youth. He could have told the American people that a tax cut is really no tax cut at all when accompanied and offset by even higher tax rates for social security, real estate and numerous energy related utilities. And finally our president could have refused to fulfill the one promise he did keep. He could have refused to issue a pardon for draft evaders. Equally important, he could have praised through his words and actions, rather than ridicule, those men who faithfully served their country in times of war.

A CBS poll of Jan. 17 pointed out that a majority of Americans are openly dissatisfied with the performance of their government, and we are now told that we

should all lower our expectations concerning promises which were made, because they were too optimistic and perhaps unattainable. The truth is however, that President Carter's promises are not unattainable, they are simply being approached with incorrect emphasis.

In short, the solution to our problems center around the ability of each individual to solve his own problems, rather than the desire of a government to not only solve our problems, but to determine what our problems are, as well. Dependence upon old fashioned common sense coupled with a deep abiding respect for the ideals which brought forth our nation would serve as an excellent place for our government to look for examples of how to improve its record.

But let's not forget Carter's grade. Carefully considering the course of our economy, the present state of our defense capabilities, our prestige abroad, as well as the state of our union in general, I believe that it is fair to give Carter a grade of C for his performance thus far, not for an average performance, but rather for a counter-productive one.

Mark Elam is a junior political science major and president of Young Americans for Freedom at Texas A&M University. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

## Readers' forum

nate that we are no longer faced with a deluge of Amy Carter stories on the evening news.

But enough of this extreme pessimism, let us briefly consider how things might have been better. One of Carter's recent controversial blunders centered around his claim that the U.S. government purchased the state of Texas from Mexico, and thus rightfully owned it. But perhaps Carter was simply confused. Surely he meant to say that the U.S. bought the Panama Canal, which it did, rather than the state of Texas, which it did not. Carter could have opted to give away a U.S. possession that cost less than the Panama Canal, say for instance Hawaii or the Louisiana Purchase.

In response to some of the solemn promises set forth in his campaign, Carter could have actually begun to do such things as reduce the budget, rather than

## Letters to the editor

## Printed accounts of assaults beneficial

Editor:

This is in reference to Danna Richey's letter of Feb. 3, 1978 regarding the printing in the Batt of articles describing campus rapes as unnecessary journalism. Danna asks, "Where is our sense of ethical discrimination?" As we see it Danna, the question is "Where is your sense of responsibility to help protect each other against rape?" Just as one would want to be aware of a potential danger as in a poisonous snake, we would like to be aware of a potential danger of rape on campus, or anywhere. Reading about rape is ugly because rape is ugly. At least maybe you are aware that campus rape is more than something that could never happen to you.

— Barbara Fuchs, '77  
Pat Micks, '76  
Liz Abbott

## Need to know

Editor:

I am writing in response to Danna Richey's article, "Who Benefits?" that appeared in Friday's Battalion. The answer to that question is we, the students, benefit. Personally, I feel that Texas A&M is one of the safest campuses of its size in the state. Is it possible, however, that the students here are being misled concerning the frequency of rapes and assaults that take place on campus?

In my opinion the news is obligated to the students to print the facts, regardless of how unpleasant they may seem. It is far more dangerous to suppress news stories on rape and assaults at A&M than to print them because it deceives the students here into believing that these things don't happen when, in fact, they do!

As for our sense of "ethical discrimination," the news has no right to conceal the truth from anyone, which is exactly what that implies to do. The victims do have the prerogative of remaining nameless in the stories. But I, for one, want to be aware of the happenings on this campus, good or bad, because I feel, as a student here, I deserve to know.

— Jo Lynn Denton, '80

## Get together

Editor:

We, members of the class of '81, are glad to know that there are such gifted upperclassmen as Jay Gilbert, '80, who while attending the t.u. basketball game pinpointed the freshmen class out of the 7,000

in attendance as the guilty party whose conduct was not in the spirit of the good Ag.

We as Aggies attend basketball games to cheer for the team and school we all love. If Mr. Gilbert had spent as much time and effort cheering for the team as he has flogging the Aggie Spirit and penalizing the class of '81 we fricks might have a better upperclassman by which we can pattern our own conduct.

So come on Ags, let's spend our time and effort helping each other to support our teams rather than brow-beating each other's classes.

— Bill Richmond, '81  
Courtney Suttle, '81

## Another side

Editor:

To the authors of a letter to the editor Friday who contended that only one side of the student government grades requirement story has been told.

Having attended both the latest senate meeting and Judicial Board proceedings and knowing the authors of the articles concerning scholastic requirements for student government officials, I feel your letter was also one-sided, and definitely unfair. Even though the articles began appearing before the senate meeting, Robert Harvey waited until his 'State of the Campus' speech to reveal or admit that he did not have a 2.0 GPR. At no time did he defend himself by stating his cumulative ratio was above a 3.00. Nor did he explain to my satisfaction or the J-Board's which article of the constitution affected him. Not once did he attempt to claim his right to privacy as protected by the Rules and Regulations. His actions and those of Austin Sterling, Joe Young and Vicki Young have merely worsened the situation. Their refusal to state their grades, their lack of initiative in asking for an interpretation of the constitution, and their delay of the eventual consequences has surprised and appalled me.

But the J-Board has further worsened the situation by delaying its decision on the constitution. Yes, they now know exactly who doesn't have the grades, but what can they do? Immediately remove them or wait for them to be put on scholastic probation, which is it?

I would also question Stan Stansfield's delay in disqualifying himself as J-Board chairman, his aid to the plaintiff's lawyer, and Jim Conner's curious antics. Also,

what part did Carolyn Adair play in all this? How did she know about Robert Harvey's grades; she must have had some reason for encouraging Stan Stansfield to initiate action against him.

The Battalion has been fair and accurate in its treatment of Robert Harvey, but its omission of his past academic honors is as unusual as his modesty in defending himself. Jamie Aitken's deletion of Austin Sterling's magna cum laude graduation and his reasons for not signing the waiver, is highly suspect and astonished the reporter and myself.

I sympathize to a point with Robert Harvey. As a freshman, I have heard of his highly distinguished service to A&M. But his delay in telling the truth has cast a shadow on his reputation, and you cannot fault the Battalion for his actions or inaction.

— M.J. Triola, '81

Ed. note: The omission of Austin Sterling's reason for not signing the waiver form was inadvertent. A correction to that effect was run in Thursday, Feb. 2, Battalion.

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"MY RAINCOAT IS IN TH' CLEANERS!"



# TOP OF THE NEWS

## Campus

### Interviewing workshop set

A workshop on interviewing techniques will be presented to the American Humanities Association by Joe Collard, vice president for personnel for Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation. The seminar will be held Tuesday at 6:15 p.m. in MSC 203. For more information, contact Suzy Murphy at 693-5269 or call the American Humanities office at 845-3837.

## State

### Eagle killers to be sentenced

U.S. District Judge John Wood Jr. Monday today in San Antonio will sentence three men convicted of conspiring to kill at least 70 federally protected golden eagles from a helicopter at Leakey, Texas. Real County Commissioner Lanny Leinweber, suspended government hunter Andrew Allen and ranch foreman Norman M. Paper could receive \$5,000 fines and one year in jail on each count. The Dec. 9 convictions have added to the controversy between conservationists and ranchers who claim the eagles are a menace to sheep and goats. Eagle killing has become a campaign issue in the 21st congressional district which stretches across sheep, goat and cattle country from San Antonio to San Angelo. Leinweber was convicted of one count of killing eagles and one count of violating the aerial hunting act. Paper was convicted of conspiracy, two counts of killing the birds and one count of aerial hunting.

### 'Officer had fun harassing'

A surprise rebuttal witness for the government Sunday testified in Houston that one of the police officers accused in the drowning death of Joe Campos Torres Jr. claimed he "had fun harassing" Mexican-Americans. The disputed testimony came in an unusual Sunday session of the federal civil rights trial moments after the defense rested its case. Carol Stager, who worked in a bank where former officer Joseph Janish was a part-time security guard, said the young officer had told her Mexicans caused him a lot of trouble in his work as a patrolman for the Houston Police Department. Janish, 24, Terry Denson, 27, and Stephen Orlando, 22, face possible maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted on the federal charges. Torres, 23, drowned in Buffalo Bayou downtown on May 6, 1976, following his arrest for drunken brawling. His body was found two days later.

## Nation

### Four die in plane crashes

Four Air Force officers died in a series of plane crashes in a region dubbed the "sagebrush triangle" and the search for a 21-year-old civilian was postponed Sunday in Las Vegas, Nev. because of snow, high winds and rain. Six men were aboard three planes that crashed within a five-day period last week in southern Nevada. The three crash sites were located Saturday. All crewmen aboard two military planes were killed. An off-duty air force officer walked away from the crash of his rented civilian plane but his son has not been found. Lt. Col Billy Helton, 46, North Little Rock, Ark., survived the crash of a Piper Cherokee in Wallace Canyon north of the 11,000-foot snow-capped Charleston Peak. His son, Michael, remained unaccounted for Sunday afternoon.

### Mardi Gras nonviolent this year

City officials in New Orleans said Sunday French Quarter revelers participating in the pre-Lenten celebration of Mardi Gras were some of the most nonviolent in recent memory. Police and volunteer workers said arrests were down sharply this year and for the second year since the violent 1960s, officers on street duty shed their protective helmets. "I guess the people have been pretty good and staying out of trouble," said Brad Smolkin, a law student volunteer for the Mardi Gras Coalition. "Most of the arrests I saw were municipal charges for sleeping in the bus station — there were hordes of those — and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana." The coalition staffs a switchboard at Tulane University to offer free legal aid to arrested revelers, provide emergency medical treatment on the street and direct ill-prepared visitors to food and shelter.

## Weather

Increasing cloudiness today becoming cloudy with a chance of light rain or drizzle tonight. High today in the mid-50's, low tonight low-mid 40's. High tomorrow near 50. Winds from the East at 8-15 mph. Forty percent chance of rain tonight & tomorrow.

## 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.

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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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## Corrections

In Friday's Battalion, Jeanne Lopez's story on sororities' housing plans incorrectly stated that Alpha Chi Omega has proposed a nine-bedroom home in College Station. The sorority's correct name is Chi Omega. Alpha Chi Omega does not have a chapter in Bryan-College Station.

Also, a story on skiing gave an incorrect title to Laurence Korwin, director of the Sports Training Institute. The article stated that Korwin directs the sports training institute at Texas A&M. No such institute exists on campus. The Battalion regrets the errors.