

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 8, 1978

## Yelling's not easy

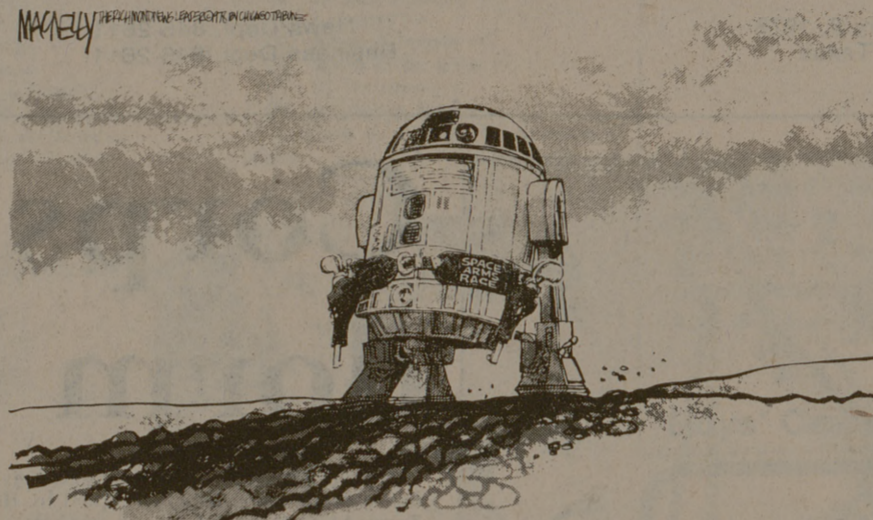
The yell leaders have been yelled at lately for their absence at a recent women's basketball game. It appeared that only big money-big crowd events brought the men in white for our yelling pleasure. The contention that less attended University-recognized athletic activities deserved the yell leaders' presence is a valid one. But there's another side to it. There aren't enough yell leaders to go around.

Presently there are about a dozen recognized sports on this campus. Although not all of them are in full swing simultaneously, there are enough seasons coinciding to make yell leading a fulltime job.

True, not every sport would appreciate the yell leaders' vocal support. Imagine a golf championship hanging on a final five-foot putt. The gallery grows deathly quiet, the putter swings ahead... "GIG'EM, GOLFERS!" Get the point?

How to divide the yell leaders' limited resources, namely themselves, among a myriad of sporting events is, however, a serious question; one which the Yell Leader Committee will probably tackle this semester.

We might find the Yell Leader Committee considering dividing the yell leaders among the various sports, or forming a backup yell-leading squad, or even declaring some sports more important than others even though they all merit yell leader participation.



Whatever the answer, it probably will not please everyone. But some policy is necessary before yell leader attendance becomes the highlight of the game. J.A.

## Gramm pushes issues on a narrow road

By JIM CRAWLEY

Two years ago the Phil Gramm for Senate campaign office was in chaos. The Democratic primary and his defeat to Lloyd Bentsen were three months off. The office in the 707 Texas complex was inundated with paper. Campaign brochures, press releases, posters, signs, fund-raising letters, and just plain waste paper.

### Politics

Last week, Phil Gramm was seated in the well-kept study of his Bryan campaign headquarters. The foyer of the office was devoid of the clutter that characterized his attempt at the U.S. Senate. The only thing reminding a casual visitor of a campaign headquarters was a box of campaign letters and a "Phil Gramm for Congress" sign leaning against the paneled walls.

This time Gramm is running for the Democratic nomination in the Sixth Congressional race. And his campaign strategy is as neat as his office.

Gramm has what appears to be a detailed plan for his primary campaign. Each precinct in the district has been researched with each county being detailed in loose-leaf notebooks. One county, one loose-leaf notebook.

On the wall of the 35-year-old candidate's office a floor-to-ceiling map of the district is pricked by colored pins indicating the battle plans within the district. Each pin signifies either a campaign headquarters, a campaign committee, previous visits or the location of billboards.

"My whole plan is to just stay on the road — stay with the issues. I'm not going to be dragged off the issues and onto the side of the road. If I stay on the road for the rest of the campaign and we don't start slinging mud, I'll win in May," said Gramm, gesturing as if his hand was a car trying to negotiate a narrow road.

With the recent attacks on Gramm by fellow candidates Chet Edwards and Don McNiel concerning Gramm's use of a University-compiled mailing list, he might find it difficult to steer clear of the obsta-

cles thrown in his path. Gramm said the list was taken from the Directory of Former Students.

One has to marvel at the campaign strategy outlined by Gramm. In the last 45 days before the primary, Gramm plans to make his name known to every voter in the district. To achieve this goal Gramm plans to have a campaign letter sent to every voter in the district, then a TV and radio campaign throughout the district, followed by a phone call to every voter. A newspaper ad campaign is also planned. The cost of this campaign push will be approximately \$175,000. Gramm's current treasury has over \$100,000 to spend for the primary.

The soon-to-be-sent letter is an example of Gramm's detailed work. The letter will be signed not by Gramm, but by prominent community leaders backing him. The cost of sending letters to every voter in the district: \$30,000.

The entire campaign push is for one reason. Giving Phil Gramm a platform from which he can present the issues of the

world and the district and telling the voters his view of the issues.

"People don't just want to shake your hand, they want to know your qualifications and where you stand on the issues.

"I'm not campaigning, I'm trying to influence policies.

"I think my activities are indicative of a guy not just running for Congress, but of a guy that understands the issues."

Gramm wants to make the "free enterprise" system the undisputed economic system of the United States. His philosophy is conservative and his stands on the issues are conservative.

He is in favor of gas deregulation, against the increasing government bureaucracy and against a national health plan.

In other developments in the Sixth Congressional District race, the final list of candidates has been filed at the state Democratic Party headquarters.

The contenders: Chet Edwards, Ron Godbey, Phil Gramm, Don McNiel, and Will Powers.

## Capital punishment euphemistic murder

By VICKI WHORTON

"By lethal injection," the newspaper said, an 18-year-old "man" was given the death sentence Feb. 3 for killing a restaurant manager during a robbery. He is the youngest person in Texas to receive the death penalty since it was re-enacted in 1973. A clinical psychologist and an assistant principal of the man's junior high school testified that there was little chance of the man begin rehabilitated. It took jurors in the court a little over an hour to decide to end the life of another human.

Who has the right to judge whether a person should live or die? God is the only one who can pass judgement, and that is what the courts of the United States, a country that is "one nation under God," should reflect.

Capital punishment has been a major Letters to the editor

issue in recent years. But there should not be an issue. No person on this earth has the right to judge another, especially when life or death is involved.

### Readers' forum

Many U.S. citizens take pride in the fact that our country is free and democratic. Many people feel that the United States is "enlightened" in most areas. But how can anyone take pride in the fact that capital punishment remains in our country during these "enlightened" times.

The days of hangings and lynchings are over with, or so most think. But a group of people are still able to decide, under U.S. law, to murder someone.

Oh, it may be under the guise of fancy

words and new methods, such as "a lethal injection," but the end result is the same. Murder is murder, and every human, no matter what crime he has committed, has the right to live.

The United States needs to eradicate the death penalty. Life imprisonment presents a much better solution to this moral issue. The death penalty is too steep of a punishment. Some may feel that nothing is too steep of a punishment. Some may feel that nothing is too harsh for someone who has killed a person, but life imprisonment could be, in some ways, worse than death. The sentenced would know he would never again be allowed to live in the real world. He might be tormented by guilt. Perhaps he would realize his wrong. He may even be able to make

something out of his life inside the prison. Life imprisonment would be far better than taking a life. Some may argue that the cost of keeping prisoners for life would be too much, but cost should not be a factor when dealing with a life.

Measures would have to be taken to insure that no one sentenced for life could be paroled. Capital punishment is wrong, but so is letting killers out into the world.

As human beings, we should respect each person's right to live. No one should be able to judge if another person's life should be taken.

Vicki Whorton is a freshman in general studies. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

## Harvey explains views on GPR requirements

Editor: I have discussed with Liz Newlin and Kim Tyson the question of whether or not they had been made aware of the fact that my overall was above a 2.0. I was of the opinion that they had been but were choosing not to cover that side of the issue.

After the discussion with them, however, it seems apparent that they were not aware of what my overall was and that had they been, they would have included the fact in their coverage. For these reasons, then, I extend my apologies to Liz and Kim for any aspersions that I may have made concerning their fairness in covering the matter.

As for my grades: I did not post a 2.0 GPR last semester, my overall is approximately a 2.9, and I am not on scholastic or disciplinary probation.

I express my status in this way as each statement is pertinent to a specific clause in the Student Body Constitution defining

qualifications for remaining in office. Article I, Section IV, states "All members of the Student Government Executive Committee shall have an overall Grade Point Ratio of at least 2.500 at the time of their election or appointment and post at least a 2.000 GPR during their term of office." Article III, Section II, Paragraph (b) states, "No person elected within the provisions of this Constitution may be removed because of scholastic reasons unless he is placed on scholastic probation, in which case he shall be removed from office immediately."

Hence, the entire issue in Student Government at the moment centers around whether officers must post a semester GPR above 2.0, post an overall above 2.0, or simply remain off of scholastic probation. I believe that the latter provision clearly prohibits the removal of any elected official for anything less than scholastic probation.

As an officer of Student Government, I do not respect the action taken by individual senators who formed a "credentials committee" to check grades. It is the responsibility of the Senate to establish such a committee or similar mechanism to enforce the provisions of the Constitution. It is my responsibility to support the Senate in its efforts to meet the requirements, expectations, and interests of students. For these reasons I did not release my grades to committee not authorized to receive them by the Senate.

However, the grades are now in, and the time has come for the Senate to act. The Senate has the responsibility to the Constitution and to the student body to establish clear guidelines for elected officials to follow and to enforce these guidelines fairly and openly. The evidence is in, the arguments have been presented; we await the decision.

—Robert W. Harvey  
Student Body President

(Pinky) Wilson, writer of the Aggie war hymn is the man we are speaking of. On Feb. 12 Pinky Wilson will be 81 years old.

Right now Pinky is confined to a wheelchair and has spent considerable amount of time in the hospital the last few months. How about all you good Aggies sending Pinky a birthday card? As loyal as he is to A&M, that would be the greatest gift he could receive. His address is as follows:

J.V. (Pinky) Wilson  
605 North Pierce  
Burnet, Texas 78611

Thank You. We know he will appreciate it. —His grandchildren, Deborah, Scott and Dana Walterscheid

### Keep canal

Editor: The signing of the Panama Canal Treaty will be a slap in the face to every U.S. citizen. The treaty will give our access and control of the canal to the Marxist Panamanian Government, and we will pay them \$50 million a year plus \$350 million in military aid. The canal is a vital link enabling our one-ocean Navy to protect us in several oceans, without the canal we will be highly vulnerable to any world power. We also cannot afford to lose our 14 military bases in Panama.

The majority of the traffic passing through the canal is originated to or from the U.S. We can be sure that Panama won't make it easier or cheaper for ships to go through the canal. This can only cause the higher prices to be passed on to the consumer.

If Panama is really upset with our presence there, why haven't they offered to pay us to relocate and build a new canal? Perhaps it's because the U.S. will have put over \$9.3 billion into the canal. A pretty good deal, for Panama that is.

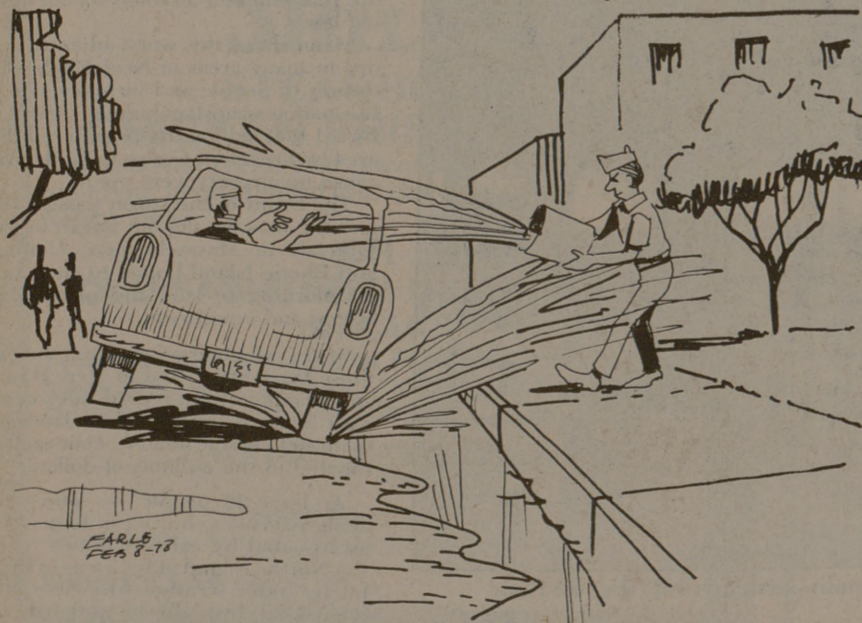
I lived in Panama for 4 years and never once did I see the Panamanians not benefit from our presence. The U.S. supplies thousands of jobs to the Panamanians who would have no other means of support.

Let's not come out of this deal with the short end of the stick as usual. Let's stand up for ourselves for once and be proud to be Americans.

—Mark Hinkle, '81

### Slouch

by Jim Earle



### Arnett gets 1 vote

Editor: The Feb. 6 Batt carried an article by Paul Arnett, about Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams entitled "Nothing Changes but the Changes."

As an Aggie sports enthusiast, I have tried to keep up with the sporting news in The Battalion and in particular read the letters to the editor.

During the past seven months, I have yet to read a letter that has had anything good to say about Mr. Arnett, or about the articles he has written. All of the letters have been either detrimental or bordering on outright hostility to Arnett.

I enjoyed his article on Godine and Williams and will look for more such articles.

—Bill Miller, '79

### Pinky's birthday

Editor: We are writing to direct attention to the most loyal Texas Aggie fan we know. J.V.

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### State

#### Six representatives will not run

Six members of Texas' congressional delegation, among them the state's most influential voices in Washington, are not seeking re-election in 1978, creating scrambles for the offices they are vacating. Those who did not file for re-election, all Democrats, are Rep. Barbara Jordan of Houston, Rep. W.R. Poage of Waco, Rep. Olin Teague of Bryan, Rep. George Mahon of Lubbock, Rep. Omar Burleson of San Angelo, and Rep. Bob Krueger of New Braunfels, who is surrendering his House seat to campaign for the U.S. Senate.

### Nation

#### Webster nominated head of FBI

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the nomination of federal Judge William H. Webster to head the FBI, clearing the way for expected confirmation by the full Senate later this week. Ten committee members present voted in favor of Webster with no debate. Webster, 53, of St. Louis, has served on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals since 1973 and was nominated by President Carter last month to succeed Clarence Kelley, who plans to step down as FBI director Feb. 15. If confirmed, Webster will earn \$57,500 a year as FBI director.

#### 'Strangler' offers to surrender

A man claiming to be the Hillside Strangler, rapist-killer of 12 girls and women, has offered to surrender with an accomplice, to Mayor Tom Bradley. The mayor issued a public appeal to the strangler Monday to continue the communication, assuring him he would be safe if he gave up "to me, here in my office." Bradley said the man wrote him, saying "he is the Hillside Strangler and that he wanted to turn himself and a friend in to the mayor's office, but that he was concerned that it be only the mayor's office, instead of the police department, because of some fear for their lives and their safety."

#### 23 die in Eastern snowstorm

A fierce snowstorm ripped through the New England area Tuesday leaving New York City paralyzed and the entire city of Boston blacked out. The death toll mounted sharply from the storm with at least 23 weather-attributed deaths. New England alone counted 17, including three persons who died of asphyxiation in stranded cars in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts each counted two deaths apiece. Evacuation of coastal areas left hundreds stranded and helpless. National guardsmen and other rescue workers were called to assist the storm-battered states. Sixty-two armories across the area were also opened to assist those people who needed shelter.

### World

#### Family asks for political asylum

An East German family aboard a hijacked Czech jetliner has asked for political asylum in West Germany. The Czech engineer, Ladislav Molnar, 24, seized the plane and faces air piracy charges today in a Frankfurt court. "The East German asked West German authorities for permission to stay in the Federal Republic of West Germany with his child and wife," a police spokesman said Monday night. It was a virtual certainty their request would be granted. Bonn's constitution makes no distinction between West and East Germans and anyone living under the Communist regime may settle in West Germany at any time. The jetliner left Frankfurt Monday night — without Molnar and the unidentified East German family — for its original destination of Prague, police said.

#### Ethiopians inflict heavy losses

A government spokesman said Ethiopian troops had launched a "concentrated action" in the six-month desert war and inflicted heavy losses on the Somalis, driving them in panic across the border. He described the fighting as "certainly the heaviest in weeks." Capt. Fikre Selassie Wogderess, secretary general of Ethiopia's ruling council known as the Dergue, said earlier on Radio Addis Ababa the Somalis had been "crushed" by the Ethiopians and were fleeing "tormented by hunger and thirst." In separate remarks to reporters, Capt. Wogderess said the "Somali forces are being routed in all directions and suffering from the full brunt of Ethiopia's revolutionary forces."

### Weather

Cloudy and cold today and tonight. Cloudy and a little warmer tomorrow. High today 36, low tonight 30. High tomorrow in the mid-40s. Winds from the north east at 10-18 mph.

## THE BATTALION

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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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