

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 1978

TOP OF THE NEWS Campus

Honor society taking applicants

Freshmen with at least a 3.0 GPR and 15 or more class hours last semester may apply for membership in Texas A&M's chapter of Lambda Sigma, a sophomore honor and service society, said Lambda Sigma president Bill Jentsch. Applicants are screened and selected in the second semester of their freshman year and serve throughout their sophomore year. Application information will be available at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Room 108 of Harrington Education Center. Eligible students who cannot attend the meeting should contact Jentsch at 693-6392 or Karen Switzer at 845-1741.

Voting to start for Aggie Parents

Recommendations for Aggie Parents of the Year will be accepted in the student government office in Room 216 of the MSC Feb. 17 through Mar. 20.

State

Three convicted in Torres case

A federal court jury Wednesday convicted three former Houston policemen of civil rights violations in the drowning death of a Mexican-American prisoner who was in their custody last May. Terry Denson, Stephen Orlando and Joseph Janish, who were fired after the incident, face possible life imprisonment in the death of Jo Campos Torres. Torres was arrested on a charge of drunken brawling May 5, 1977. His body was found in Buffalo Bayou May 8. Testimony showed he had been beaten before he drowned. The defendants showed no emotion in the silent courtroom while the all-white jury of seven men and five women were polled by U.S. District Judge Ross N. Sterling. In individual responses the jurors said they believed the defendants were guilty on two of four indictment counts. Sterling said he will impose sentence on March 28. Defense lawyers may file notices of appeal only after sentence is imposed, and prosecutors said they expect an appeal.

Chilly weather across Texas

The season's most severe and persistent winter storm spread another layer of ice and snow across the northern half of Texas Wednesday, creating isolated power shortages. The Southwestern Public Service Co. at Amarillo said ice snapped a power distribution line to Claude, a small Panhandle town, early Wednesday, causing a blackout over parts of the city which lasted past noon. Natural gas and electric companies throughout the state reported record consumption and emphasized that the usage followed the coldest January ever for many Texas cities. The National Weather Service said ice stranded an estimated 200 vehicles early Wednesday on Interstate 35 near Hillsboro. Travelers' advisories were issued for the northern half of the state, with the worst areas located generally north of a line from Stephenville to Shreveport, La. A side effect of the snow is expected by the weekend in the form of moderate flooding in creeks and rivers from the melting snow and from rain in south Texas. Moderately warmer temperatures are predicted for today and Friday.

Nation

Appeals made for foreign aid

The United States must continue helping developing nations for its own self interest, a high-ranking Treasury official said Tuesday. C. Fred Bergsten, assistant secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, said this aid would help avoid wars and unchecked nuclear development in these nations. He also pointed out that oil shipments from developing nations are increasingly vital to American interests. It is essential that United States policy respond positively to the legitimate concerns of the developing countries and provide an effective framework for American relations with these nations, he said. In blunt remarks about Congress, Bergsten urged the lawmakers to restore \$835 million cut from American contributions to the international development banks, claiming the cuts hit poor nations hardest.

World

Viet invasion claimed retaliation

Cambodia charged Wednesday that Vietnam has launched a major invasion in the Mekong Delta region near Phnom Penh. Official Radio Phnom Penh said Vietnamese forces backed by 30 tanks, MIG jet fighters and helicopters, swept across the border Tuesday, Vietnam's New Year's Day. Official Vietnamese radio broadcasts said fighting in the area began Saturday after Cambodian forces invaded two Vietnamese frontier villages and Vietnamese troops crossed the Cambodian border in "hot pursuit" of the Khmer Rouge forces. The Cambodian broadcast said Vietnamese forces shelled peasants harvesting rice in the Parrot's Beak, an arm of Cambodia jutting into Vietnam west of Saigon. Speaking of the latest fighting, the Cambodian radio asked, "Is this what the Vietnamese mean by their daily incessant clamor about their desire to settle differences through negotiations?"

Weather

Continued cloudy and cold today. High today 42, low tonight 30. Winds from northeast at less than 10 mph. Sixty percent chance of rain today with a possibility of thunderstorms. Increasing cloudiness and cool with a chance of rain through the weekend.

THE BATTALION

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Lights, camera, action?

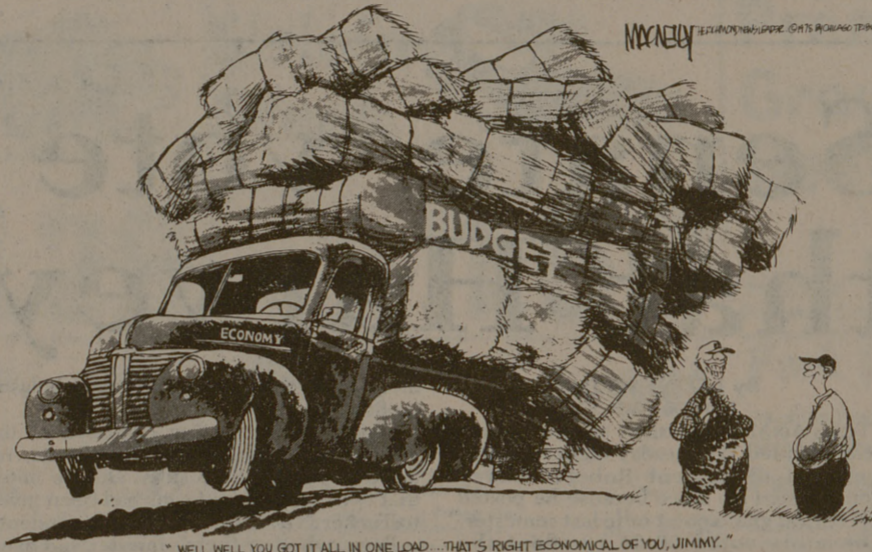
The House of Representatives last week took a look at itself; what it found was unpalatable.

A 90-day test filming of the chamber's sessions revealed that balding heads of the solons reflect television lights, and the deep circles under the eyes of others — perhaps brought about by overlong sessions at the Rotunda or the Sans Souci — create what one expert called "the raccoon effect."

All of this led Speaker Thomas O'Neill to opine that "it's not as easy as we thought to put in television" of House proceedings and suggested it will not be possible to meet the schedule he originally planned, that of putting television cameras in operation on Capitol Hill this year.

A House subcommittee headed by Congressman Gillis Long, D-La., found that the House should control and operate its own broadcast coverage, rather than turning the televising of its sessions to the networks. "Some means must be found to control the cameras in such a way as to produce proper framing of members, whether they are standing still or moving," the report said, adding "improper controls of cameras will produce amateurish pictures unworthy of the dignity of the House."

What that means is that the members are fearful that the roving eye of a TV camera might catch them napping at their desks. This is not, it would seem, unique. Given the quality of rhetoric in the chamber, it is also not inexcusable. But the remedy, should House sessions ever be televised, is



simply that the Representatives stay awake while public business is being conducted. At their pay scale this is not too much to ask.
San Francisco Chronicle

A case against keeping exotic pets

By KATHY NEMEC

The picture and article about the "dental work" performed on the lioness in last week's Battalion has prompted me to write about an increasing form of cruelty in our

Readers' forum

society — the sale and purchase of exotic animals as household pets. The lioness in the picture was a pet and was having its claws and the tips of its teeth removed so that it would be incapable of harming its owner. Unfortunately, these procedures also render the animal incapable of defending itself so that if the owner should tire of his unusual pet, it will be unfit even for a zoo. Wild animals are just that —

wild. They cannot be domesticated. Yet increasing numbers of exotic animals are being bought from pet dealers, usually as nothing but status symbols, curiosities or victims of the latest fad. They are subsequently neutered, defanged, declawed, de-scented and de-animalized to fit their owner's convenience. But that cute baby ferret, raccoon or monkey soon becomes a full-grown threat or non-toilet-trained nuisance.

At the present time there are more than 1,000 species of animals in danger of extinction. One of the chief causes is the exotic pet trade. Since 1967, U.S. imports of wild birds, mammals and reptiles have increased six-fold. Only two years ago records show that more than 3.3 million exotics were imported. Few of them went to zoos. Most were sold by pet shops or placed on roadside exhibit.

Yet these animals have less than a 50-50 chance of living a full life span; 60 percent die within a month; 20 percent die in the first year; at the end of two years only 10 percent are still alive. Wild animals require proper facilities, correct and careful handling and special diets. The average exotic-pet owner cannot adequately provide these requirements, and affection can't take their place. The result is usually death. Other pets are disposed of in a more efficient manner. Of the 13 million homeless animals that have to be destroyed each year by humane societies, a growing percentage of them have been exotic.

And this is not the worst part of the exotic pet trade. The majority of those shipped here never make the trip. According to one estimate, every seven or eight of 10 ocelots shipped north from South America die on the way. Only one in eight

primates survives capture and transport. For some birds the rate may be one in 50 survival rate. During shipping the animals die from exposure, starvation, thirst, fighting and suffocation. This mortality rate is no hindrance to dealers. If a dealer loses half his order, he still can make a handsome profit from the sale of the survivors.

The exotic pet trade is responsible for an incredible amount of suffering and death and is escalating the rate of extinction for a number of animals; the popular cockatoo is being depleted in numbers in its native environment; hermit crabs may be next. If you care about animals, DON'T buy an exotic pet.

Kathy Nemeo is a 1977 Texas A&M graduate. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

Feminism opening doors in politics

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The question that many of us have had for a long time about the women's movement in America has been this: At what point, on what issue, and in what way will it intersect with the traditional main concerns of American politics? That question, I would guess, is about to be answered.

Since it surfaced in its modern form, about a decade ago, feminism has forced open more doors — of consciousness and of power — than any comparable social movement of our time.

It has been, in its own terms, an extraordinary success. But so long as it focused principally on issues of particular or not parochial interest to its own adherents — whether rape law reform, abortion or custody questions — it was, to a measurable degree, fencing itself off from the mainstream political coalitions rooted in the economic issues of our society.

But now the intersection is about to occur. Women are focusing on the central political-economic-social questions of the cities and the poor, and they are doing so in a fashion that may well alter the way in which those issues are met.

That, at least, is one of the strongest impressions this reporter drew from last

week's White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development, the national "town meeting" on America's economic future.

Commentary

In part that impression was created by the happenstance fact that the two Cabinet members most intimately involved with the issues on the conference agenda are Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Roberts Harris.

They are feminists of a very special sort — highly intelligent, highly successful economist (Kreps) and lawyer (Harris) who compel attention by the force of their very different personalities.

While they have been allies in some past battles inside the Carter administration, they are very much antagonists now in a rather mean turf-and-policy fight over the future direction of federal programs for the cities and their people.

That is a measure of strength, not a cause for consternation. When, if ever, before in our national history has a major

question of domestic policy (billions of dollars and the hopes of many people turn on the outcome of this argument) depended so heavily on the skills of two women politicians?

But Kreps and Harris represent only the beginning of the women's surge to positions in the forefront of the urban-and-welfare debate. The last five years and particularly the last two, have seen a real breakthrough by women in local leadership. It is reflected by the central role of female city politicians in setting the tone and shaping the recommendations of the White House conference.

From Barbara Mikulski of Baltimore to Carol Bellamy of New York City to Lila Cockrell of San Antonio to Phyllis Lamphere of Seattle, it was the women U.S. Representatives, mayors and council members who gave the most pointed definitions to the choices facing this society in urban policy: Is private investment enough? Can the federal government help, or is it too ensnared in its own inflexibility? Can community values find expression beyond the level of the neighborhood without segmenting the larger society in the process?

One reason the women can speak more effectively to these questions is that they are newly enough arrived in positions of

power not to be defensive about the mistakes of the past. They can tell it like it is.

But one also begins to sense that they can also bring a fresh perspective and suggest new avenues for action, by the way in which they redefine the problems.

One day, Lt. Gov. Mary Ann Krupak of New York, Dr. Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women and Carmen Votaw of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women held a joint press conference on behalf of eight feminist groups to talk about poverty in America. Their essential point was very simple. As they put it, "More and more, poverty is becoming a female problem."

They cited some simple but stunning statistics in support of that proposition. "Women are the sole heads of 34 percent of all minority families and 11 percent of all white families. In 1972, 52 percent of the former and 25 percent of the latter were below the poverty level."

By contrast, they said, only five percent of the families with an adult white male in them were in poverty.

Those simple facts came as a surprise in my part of the room. And they certainly suggest a different way of looking at — and perhaps even dealing with — the poverty problem in America.

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Letters to the editor

University rules & regs should end GPR conflict

Editor:

Re: Robert Harvey's letter of Feb. 8, 1978.

Alright, it's time for the Student Government members to pull their heads out. Last spring Robert Harvey asked a few of us to keep an eye on him and that he expected us to do so.

Well, it's time to speak up. This grade point ratio business has not tied-up Student Government for better than a month. Through this entire time only once, in a Battalion article "Constitution change suggested" has the Texas A&M University Regulations 1977-78 been referred to on this matter.

It quite simply states the solution on page 27 of the "Blue Book". In Section II under "Student Organizations," Part (2) "Minimum Requirements for students

selected as officers in officially recognized student organizations... shall be as follows:

(a) "Have at least a 2,000 overall grade point ratio at the time of the elections and at least a 2,000 grade point ratio for the preceding summer terms at the time of election and during the term of office."

I also might note that nowhere does it state that the Student Government Constitution may override these minimum requirements, nor does it say a word about scholastic probation.

In conclusion I suggest to all concerned in Student Government to stop this massive waste of their constituents' time, because as stated above, the Student Government cannot override the University Regulations. And to quote an old cliché:

"That is that!"
— Owen D. Massey, '79

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"THEY TELL ME IT'S AN EXPERIMENTAL MODEL THAT FIGHTS BACK!"

Thanks for aid

Editor:

My wife and I wish to publicly thank the University for much needed assistance during our recent crisis. Specifically, Mr. Ron Blatchley and student financial aid, Drs. Black and Gooch for coordination and guidance with academic problems and for moral support. Thanks also to Col. Juins and the entire Marine Corps staff and M.E.C.E.P. students for offerings of time and other valuable resources, for professional advice and moral support. And special thanks to Dr. Cleve Want of the English Department and again Dr. Black of the History Department for getting together gifts of clothes and toys, making what we had left of Christmas a very special Christmas. My wife and sons and I will hardly remember our house burned because of all the emotional rebuilding by friends. If we have left out anyone, I thank you.

— Sgt. Karl Klicker, '79
Pam Klicker, '80

Pull together

Editor:

An open letter to all Aggies: Come on now, what separates Aggies from the run-of-the-mill fan? A spirit, a kinship! I thought that meant through the good and lean of everything. What am I getting at? The lack of this kinship when an athletic team is not winning — particularly, the lean season our basketball team is having, but it holds true for any of the sports. It doesn't mean those athletes are not playing as hard nor a coach unhelpless. We in the stands are not coaches nor players. Let us, as true Aggies, win or lose gracefully and show your SUPPORT of the teams by ATTENDING

— Scott Pendleton