

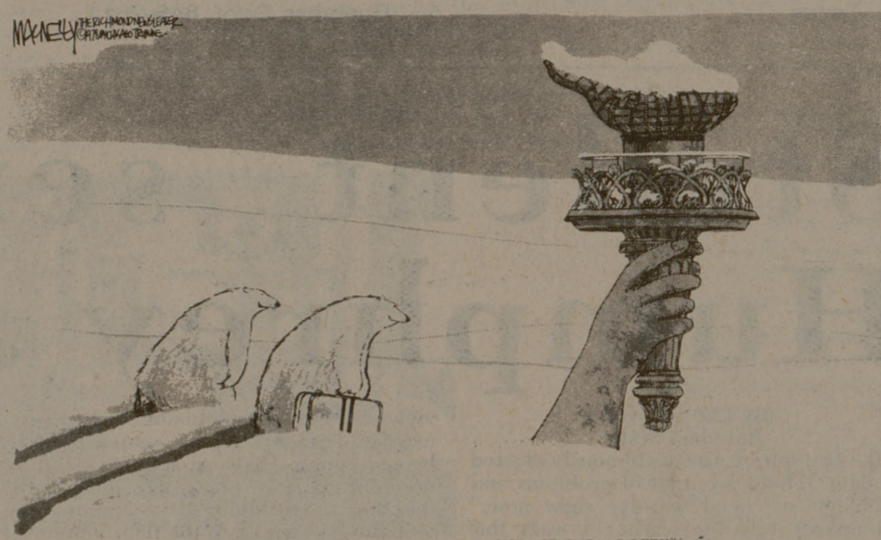
# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 15, 1978

## McCarthyism relived

"I have in my hand a list of card-carrying communists!"  
In the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy almost destroyed the country with those words. Communism was a pertinent issue, but McCarthy's list was a fake used only to drive home damning accusations that drove thousands of innocent Americans from their professions and robbed them of their reputations. Some of those McCarthy named might have been communists, but the senator had no proof.  
For those keeping up with the minimum grade requirement fiasco in student government these past few weeks, the method of McCarthyism is somewhat familiar.  
There is a pertinent issue before student government — that of determining minimum grade requirements for student government officers. But the senate, rather than working out this problem, has instead decided to wave it before the student body, expecting to convince the students that this is proof that various student government officers are unfit for office.  
The senate's vote for resignations instead of an answer to the actual problem is deplorable. And like the aftermath of McCarthyism, the results of the senate's actions are saddening. Those forced to resign may not be fit for office. But there has been no proof.  
And what's worse, throughout these ugly proceedings, the original problem has not been touched.  
Let's hope that with a new slate of officers the McCarthyism in student



LOOKS LIKE HE POKED A GOOD NEEK TO VISIT YOUR BROTHER IN THE PENALTY.

## Kay Jones: rookie in the Sixth

By JIM CRAWLEY  
This year's Sixth Congressional District primary race won't be the first time a woman has run against a field of men in recent years.

### Politics

Six years ago Sissy Farenthold surprised the Democrats, the Republicans and nearly everyone else in the state by running a reasonably close second behind Dolph Briscoe in the Democratic gubernatorial primary.  
This year, Kay Jones, wife of a Fort Worth restaurateur, is the only woman in the Democratic primary for this district.  
Beyond the fact that both Jones and Farenthold are women the similarities are few and far between.  
Farenthold is a firebrand liberal. As a feminist leader she is in the national political limelight, although her highest state office was that of a state legislator. Farenthold is a political veteran, who on occa-

sion has the slyness of a fox or the brutality of a political prizefighter with a grudge.  
Kay Jones, an unknown (among political circles) until she announced her candidacy in December, is a middle-roader. A moderate out to help the middle-income family cope with the government. She also calls herself the "alternative candidate". She believes her candidacy will give voters an alternative to the conservative and liberal candidates.  
Kay Jones is a political novice. She has never run for an elective office and at times appears to be uncertain on the stands she takes on the issues.  
She reminds everyone that she isn't a politician and that she doesn't have a lot of political ambition.  
"I've noticed many in Congress have been put there by the big-money interests and they usually speak for those interests and not for the people," Jones said. "I would like to turn that around, to speak for the people, not for one or two special interest groups."  
But even in this age of anti-Washingtonism, where a candidate with

government has burned itself out. Perhaps reason, instead of hysteria, will prevail and the senate will accomplish what should have been done weeks ago.  
J.A.

## Pyramids tripped up by red tape

By DICK WEST  
United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Some research projects that are otherwise soundly conceived may pursue the wrong objectives.  
Such a flaw is evident in the basic concept that has prompted a Japanese university to undertake the erection of a new 36-foot pyramid in Egypt.  
The university wants to test theories of how the original pyramids were built some 4,500 years ago. A more relevant test, I submit, would be a project to determine whether the pyramids could have been built under conditions that exist today.  
Let's use as a case in point the Great Pyramid erected at Giza as a tomb for the late King Khufu.  
It took 400,000 peasants 20 years to complete the structure, which included

two million stone blocks each weighing more than two tons.  
Okay. If current conditions were made retroactive, the first step in Khufu's entombment would have been the preparation of an environmental impact statement.  
A number of questions would need answering, such as: would a stone polyhedron with a polygonal base and triangular faces meeting in a common vertex 481 feet in the air pose a menace to aviation?  
Or, suiting the question to the times, was there a danger that Ra, the Egyptian sun god, might snag the top of the pyramid with the wheels of his fiery chariot?  
And what of the ibis and other birds native to the area? Were they in danger of colliding with the pyramid the way American birds keep banging into the Empire State Building?  
If ecological questions could be answered to the satisfaction of environmentalists, work might commence. But ere the first layer of stones could be placed it might be discovered that the 13-acre site was the sole breeding ground of the Egyptian sand flea.  
Construction would then be halted pending a study to determine whether the fleas could be trained to breed in another part of the desert.  
Once work resumed, the premises undoubtedly would be visited by inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

### The Lighter Side

### Letters to the editor

## Student senate vote was not unanimous

Editor:  
Please allow me to express my feelings over this current crisis in student government. As a senator, I have tried to look at this situation as objectively as possible, but it has been difficult because the people involved are my friends. Furthermore, when I see two fine people unfairly represented, slandered and hounded out of office, you can understand why I feel as I do.  
I was raised to believe that we have laws to base justice on. But when those laws are ambiguous it is up to society to change them before someone gets hurt. As I told the senate, our laws concerning the grades of our elected officials are unclear and therefore should not be used as a basis for resignation. Last week's vote of 26-24 in favor of Robert Harvey's and Vicki Young's resignations was the most unfair representation of student input I have ever seen. Maybe the outcome would have

been different if only half of those senators absent had been present and voting.  
There is no victory in this at all, only a deep sense of shame that we could not prevent this from happening.  
Robert and Vicki, I want you to know that I admire and respect you that much more for your unselfish decision. Your concern that "the show must go on" is an indication of your maturity and sacrifice. Above all, thank you for your dedication to your jobs...no one can find fault with your accomplishments in that area.  
— Gail Jolly, '80

### Matter of opinion

Editor:  
In reference to the article of Feb. 14, in which the vice presidents of the student

senate were reviewed as possible candidates for the office of student body president, we feel that this is one of the worst possibly timed articles that the Battalion has published in quite some time.  
We feel as though the Battalion slandered some of the vice presidents and definitely prejudiced the entire issue before it had been brought in front of the senate.  
This article also assumed that the student senate had already accepted the resignations of both Robert Harvey and Vicki Young. We feel that this also biased the meeting. In conclusion, we feel that an apology is in order.  
— Wayne Morrison, '79  
Susan Price, '77  
Nancy Bunch, '80  
Geri Campbell, '78

Editor's note: The Battalion feels no apology is in order. One of the services we try to give our readers is insight to complicated matters, and the political state of student government is certainly a complicated matter. The only information many readers receive about their student government comes from the Battalion. We feel they have a right to know what is developing behind the scenes as well as what transpires in the senate chamber.

### What if?

Editor:  
In response to Vicki Wharton's letter concerning capital punishment, I would like to share some ideas with her and with anyone else who advocates the banning of the death penalty. I admit that I am not one to preach on the rightness or wrongness of the death penalty — I'm not even sure what is right and what is wrong — but I have some views that might make some people stop and think.  
Vicki, put yourself about 15 or 20 years in the future. You're a pretty young housewife, are happily married, your husband is a success, and you have a beautiful 9-year-old girl. She's the pride of your family, and Vicki, she has the confidence,

and the potential to really be someone outstanding, except that one day the police come to your house with some terribly painful news — your daughter has been hurt and is in the hospital. You rush to the hospital and see your daughter lying unconscious on the stretcher, a pool of blood outlining her abdomen. Your daughter has been the victim of a perverted rapist who obtains his thrills by assaulting young girls and then leaving them unconscious to keep his identity unknown.  
I know that this is a painfully ugly picture, but Vicki, the horrible fact is that this man was a convicted murderer and rapist who received the life sentence, but was released on parole after 10 years. You may say, "That's too far out. It could never happen to me," but it is not too far out at all, because it happens every day. I really don't see how you could allow your daughter on the streets knowing that if she is the victim of a repeat-rapist, she will have to bear the searing pain and the utter humiliation that invariably accompanies child rape.  
As our judicial system stands now, a life sentence is not an assurance that these criminals will be displaced from our society. And I agree with you, it hurts me to think of taking a man's life for some crime he committed, but if it comes to a choice between his life and the safety or life of my own family, then there's no way I can tolerate his presence in society.  
— Vic Vines, '80

### Pinky pleased

Editor:  
We wish to thank everyone for making Pinky Wilson's birthday a happy one. We also wish to thank the Battalion for the story printed on the front page of Monday's paper. Our grandfather has been very sick and there just hasn't been much to cheer him up. We are sure that the cards that were sent have made his birthday a very happy one.  
— his grandchildren  
Deborah, Scott and Dana Walterscheid

## TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS  
College sets open house

All prospective and interested students are invited to the Texas A&M University College of Medicine Open House Feb. 21, in room 215 Animal Industries Building, with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. A tour of the College of Medicine will be given.

## STATE Murder suspect called 'sane'

A psychiatrist testified Monday that Van Ballew, a Garland attorney, is sane and dangerous. Ballew is on trial for the stabbing and beating death of his teenage daughter. "In my opinion, Ballew is sane," testified prosecution witness Dr. John Holbrook. Asked if Ballew might commit violent crime in the future, the psychiatrist said, "In my opinion, yes, he would." Ballew, 44, is accused of using a pistol and bed slats to club his daughter, Julie Ann, 17, in her bedroom last July 27. She also was stabbed several times in the chest with a butcher knife. Ballew has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. Holbrook said videotapes made in municipal court during attempts to arraign Ballew showed the lawyer was coherent "once you cut through the emotional outbursts."

## Explosives found in home areas

As many as 56 highly explosive military projectiles may still be scattered throughout residential areas near Lackland Air Force Base, police said Tuesday. The police bomb squad issued the warning after another of the 3 1/2-inch long, bullet-shaped projectiles was found Monday night near Adams Elementary School in West Bexar County. Robert R. Ellis of the bomb squad said 81 of the air-to-air missiles were stolen in a 1974 burglary of a civilian firm that was doing search for the Air Force. The explosives have been found on lawns and in vacant fields in subdivisions north of Lackland since last Wednesday. "There were 81 of these explosives taken in the burglary," Ellis said. "So far, 25 have been accounted for." He warned the projectiles were extremely dangerous and should not be handled.

## NATION Siamese twins separated

Siamese twins with a common heart and liver have been successfully separated by surgeons at a Salt Lake City hospital, but they remained in critical condition Tuesday. Doctors Monday would not predict the chances of survival for the girls, born to an Idaho couple Feb. 2 in Logan, Utah. It was the second set of conjoined girls born in Utah in the past year. Hospital officials declined to release the names of the parents, saying the couple wished to maintain their privacy. Dr. Michael E. Matlak said the infants were joined at the chest and shared a common heart, liver and abdominal wall. The girls were separated during an 8 1/2-hour operation Saturday by a team of specialists led by Matlak and Dr. Dale Johnson, both pediatric surgeons at Primary Children's Hospital, which specializes in the treatment of childhood heart diseases.

## Fire destroys historical site

A fire that sent flames leaping 200 feet into the air Tuesday destroyed a half-block of the Natchitoches La. district, including a building constructed 75 years ago. The fire, which caused no injuries, leveled the old Williams Building, a landmark built in 1903 that was under consideration for historical renovation. One adjacent structure was gutted. A third, the only buffer between the fire and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, was badly damaged by smoke and water. The church was not damaged. The blaze was confined to the midtown block of Second Street. Firemen from five neighboring communities in Natchitoches and Sabine Parishes were called to help extinguish the blaze. It finally was declared under control at about 6:30 a.m.

## Snow worst in more than decade

The winter of 1978 has belted the nation's midsection with the heaviest snows in more than a decade. Monday's snowfall, the worst in 16 years in Kansas City, closed schools, offices and factories and stranded hundreds of travelers on highways and in airports. The storm swept across the Central Plains and the Missouri Ozarks, but diminished in strength as it headed into the Ohio Valley and Middle Atlantic states. Although the National Weather Service predicted snow of four inches or more for New York, Philadelphia and Washington, it said blizzard-battered New England would escape the brunt of the system.

## WORLD

### U.S. sells jets to Mideast

In a major Mideast policy shift, the administration announced Tuesday the unprecedented sale of 50 jets fighters to Egypt. Saudi Arabia and Israel would also get jets in a Mideast package deal. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said the sale of supersonic F-15s to Egypt — the first sale of lethal U.S. weaponry to that Arab country — will not upset the balance of power in the Mideast. But it is sure to anger Israel although even more sophisticated F-15 and F-16 fighters would go to Israel and the Saudis unless Congress kills the deal. The three-way sale, announced at an afternoon State Department briefing, would send Saudi Arabia 60 F-15s — 15 of them are training models. A total of 75 F-16s and 15 F-15s would go to Israel. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat personally asked President Carter for the jets. Carter's decision follows refusal by Israel to give up what the State Department calls "illegal" settlements in occupied Arab lands.

## WEATHER

Cloudy and cool today and tonight with light rain and a chance of thundershowers. High today mid-50s; low tonight low 40s. High tomorrow mid-50s. Winds from the east at 10-15 mph, with 20 percent chance of rain today, 30 percent tonight and 20 percent 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.

### 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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### by Jim Earle



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