

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 1978

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Scholarship deadline nears

Application forms for Spring Awards Scholarships may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 310, YMCA Building. All applications must be filed with the office not later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday. Late applications will not be accepted.

Volunteers needed for flu study

The Texas A&M University College of Medicine is asking for student volunteers for an influenza prevention study. About 600 students are needed for the study which will last six to nine weeks. The use of the drugs Amantadine and Rimantadine will be studied. Further information can be obtained at meetings on Wednesday from 12 to 1 p.m., Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m., and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. All meetings are in Room 107 of the SLAB.

LOCAL

Board reopens field house bid

In a special meeting called to discuss field house construction, the A&M Consolidated School Board voted Monday to hire an architect or engineer to draw up the necessary specifications for building firm to bid on the construction project. There was \$132,000 set aside in the last bond issue to build the field house, but the architect's estimate was \$210,000. A new estimate was lower, but bidding is necessary to determine the actual cost.

Voter number needs check

College Station residents need to check their voter registration tickets for precinct number. Residents previously voting at Bee Creek Park, Precinct 31, will now be voting at A&M Consolidated High School. The Brazos County Commissioners met yesterday and voted to change the location because the Bee Creek facilities are too small for an election. In other business, Tax Exemption Status was granted to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, St. Anthony Catholic Church, and The Answer, a Christian Counseling Center. Commissioner Bill Cooley suggested that an inspection be made of the railroad tracks in Bryan and College Station because of the increase in the number of derailments in the past year.

STATE

Hill requests court review

Texas Attorney General John Hill said Monday he will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider or defer its decision ordering reapportionment of legislative districts in Tarrant County before the May 6 primary elections. The court had issued a brief order implementing a new districting plan for election of 10 House members from the Fort Worth area. Candidates in each of the races have already filed under the 1976 district boundaries thrown out by the court, and the filing deadline has passed. Hill said he will advise the secretary of state and the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to begin immediate preparations to conduct the May election using the new district boundaries.

NATION

Gas rate hike approved

The Supreme Court let stand Monday a multibillion-dollar increase in natural gas rates—the largest in history—approved in 1976 by the Federal Power Commission. The court turned down appeals by both public interest groups and producers from the nationwide rate hike. Consumer groups, states and cities, public utility commissions and farmers told the Supreme Court the rate hike could have a devastating effect on consumers. Producers said the cost of finding and producing natural gas has risen dramatically, and argued it is in the interest of the consumer to provide an incentive for new exploration and reproduction.

Electromagnets heal bones

A new type of electromagnetic therapy—applied from outside the body—has healed leg bones that failed to unite after surgery, according to a report to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Dr. C. Andrew Bassett of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons said the new therapy, which stimulates bone growth by pulsing electromagnetic fields, averted amputation in leg bones that otherwise failed to heal. "Although the success rate in this study exceeded 70 percent, recent changes in pulse characteristics promise even greater effectiveness in the future," Bassett said in a report released Monday. The treatment is conducted at home for three to six months. The patients feel no sensation while plugged in, Bassett said.

WORLD

Prisoner swap negotiated

Negotiators in four nations are attempting to arrange a swap of political prisoners, including two leading Soviet dissidents, an American who spied for Moscow, an Israeli pilot and a group of Chilean communists. The negotiations have been conducted in Chile, East Germany, Israel and the United States. The prisoner swap negotiations were disclosed by American Jewish officials and other sources in West Germany and Israel. The negotiations were indirectly confirmed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Luers, who said he was aware of the proposals but stressed the U.S. government was not formally involved. Other sources said the negotiations were being conducted by private individuals. The American prisoner is Robert Glenn Thompson, 43, of Bay Shore, N.Y., who was sentenced in 1965 to 30 years for spying for Russia.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today with fog, turning partly cloudy and warmer this afternoon. High today mid-70s, low tonight mid-40s. High tomorrow mid-60s. Winds from the southeast at 10-18 mph. Cloudy and cooler on Wednesday.

THE BATTALION

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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. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Best charter under circumstances

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, after months of deliberation, has brought forth a proposed charter for all U.S. intelligence agencies. It is complex, wide-ranging and hard to evaluate. What the charter does demonstrate, if nothing else, is the difficulty of imposing legal safeguards on intelligence operations under a democratic society.

The proposed charter has two principal aims: first, to centralize control over all intelligence work in one official, the director of Central Intelligence and to prohibit certain abuses such as assassination, terrorism and torture. It is in the nature of intelligence work that the first goal is more likely to be met than the second.

For example, the draft legislation does allow electronic eavesdropping and even break-ins under certain circumstances when the president and the Congress approve. It does not bar CIA involvement in activities aimed at overthrowing nondemocratic governments. And the measure also would authorize the attorney general, in certain special circumstances, to give intelligence officials provision to violate federal law — such as when counter-espionage tactics were needed.

On balance the measure will satisfy neither the CIA's most devoted admirers nor its severest critics. This fact is probably the best sign that the Senate committee has done a responsible job.

Providence R.I. Journal

You're as good an Ag as you feel

By STEVEN HENRY

It's the "Who's the good-bad Ag game," and it's suddenly become the newest tradition here in Aggieland. Seldom a day passes without someone, in all their mighty wisdom, declaring someone else to be a 'bad Ag.'

Yes, at one time I lived in absolute terror of the thought that someone might one day walk up to me, stare me straight in the eyes, and with a multitude of witnesses, accuse me of being a 'bad Ag.'

I became obsessed with the desire to be the "good Ag." More and more, I began to leave my bicycle at the apartment, basketball games were given a much higher priority than those insignificant final exams. Yes, I was truly a "good Ag."

But, like life, success is sometimes accompanied by failure (i.e. chemistry, calculus, etc.) and I knew something must change. I had become so obsessed with conformity, that I was now 28,000 people in

one body, and boy, was it crowded. I knew I couldn't go on like this.

Then one day, after an assertive group meeting, I was strolling past the

Readers' forum

MSC when a ravishingly beautiful, young lady caught my eye. Blinded by passion and desire, I committed the unforgivable sin, I accidentally stepped off the sidewalk and onto the grass.

Panic gripped me as I nervously looked about for witnesses of my crime. I broke into a cold sweat. What if someone had seen me? What would I say? What would they say? What would my parents say when they found out?

Immediately, I bolted across the street and ran, non-stop to my apartment where I

locked myself in the 'crapper' and began pacing the tiles.

What if someone reported me? Headlines reading, "Henry found guilty — awaits sentencing" flashed before my eyes. In desperation, I considered my alternatives...

(1) transfer to t.u.,

(2) join the corps, in hopes of redeeming myself.

(3) lead the entire student body in a rousing chorus of "Farmers Fight," or

(4) quad Paul Arnett.

But alas, nothing seemed to ease my stricken mind.

Then, after a day or so, sanity and calm overcame me. I unlocked the door, went to the kitchen (you get awfully hungry in a day or so), and began to analyze rationally, the good-bad Ag question.

I asked all those people inside me for help, but, with 28,000 different pieces of advice, I found it rather difficult to choose

between them. So, I said 'to hell' with everyone else's advice and started listening to myself.

If we are all individuals, how can we judge another's actions to be right or wrong? If I am different, does that qualify me for the 'bad Ag' category? Am I justified in condemning others because they do not agree with me? No, all I may offer in an opinion, not a judgment.

Yes, now is the time for all good individuals to stand up and support their right to be what they are, not what someone else would have them be. Everyone is a 'good Ag' unless they, not someone else, declare themselves not to be. And no amount of whining and complaining will ever alter that.

Steven Henry is a sophomore bio-environmental science major. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

Civil rights revolution in retrospect

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

WASHINGTON — Ten years ago tomorrow, the Kerner Commission concluded that the civil rights "revolution" of the 1960s had failed to bring racial integration to the United States.

"Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate but unequal," the commission said.

Inherent in the commission's conclusion was deep fear based on the premise that only integration — acceptance of blacks by whites as equals — could bring racial peace to the country.

The feeling was that as long as blacks were seen as different, they would be treated as inferior. And that, it was assumed, would assure the continuation of the violence that had been wracking the country. The riots that followed the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. five weeks after the report was issued seemed

to certify that conclusion. But there were then, and remain today, both black and white Americans who regarded the goal of integration as unrealistic in a society steeped in racism.

Washington Window

They believed the best strategy for blacks was to unite, rather than try to assimilate, and use the weight of numbers to extract from the white majority the legal equality, educational opportunities and economic rewards they had been denied for centuries.

That was the real essence of "Black Power," the phrase that so alarmed white Americans when it was chanted by march-

ing blacks. Some blacks may have thought they were going to bring white society to its knees, but given the amount of power in the hands of the majority, that never was a realistic possibility.

Whatever the reason, violent outbreaks began ebbing after 1968, and the thrust of black power was applied to "the system." This got some results, notably in politics: the number of black elected officials increased by 264 percent between 1969 and 1977.

But the intention here is not to argue that the achievements of the last decade mean the nation's racial problems are on the way to solution. Nor is it to contend that continuing inequity and discrimination, which can be amply demonstrated, means that the situation is getting worse.

Instead, a narrower point: the Kerner Commission probably was right about the trend toward polarization of racial at-

titudes, but mistaken about its consequences, at least in the short run.

What seems to have happened is that society, in its untidy and inefficient way, has begun to adapt to two facts.

The first is that whites will not easily give up their deep prejudices against blacks. The second is that blacks, accepted as equals or not, will continue to press their claims.

What seems to have happened is that blacks have moved away from bricks and firebombs and toward the judicial and legislative processes to get what they want.

And whites, whatever their perception of blacks, generally have accepted the outcome of black efforts in those areas.

This adaptation obviously has both flaws and limits, especially for those of both races who had hoped to see racism rooted out of the national character. But that does seem to be what has happened in a less than perfect world.

Letters to the editor

Two sides and the end of 'Today's Student' flap

Editor:

Earlier this semester the Batt ran my letter in this column concerning "Today's Student's" on-campus distribution rights and their hopeful restraint. Since that time the "Student" has gone as far as to declare all opposition to these rights as a "loosely organized coalition of student athletes."

I am not an athlete; I am a Christian. Since "Today's Student" will not acknowledge this fact I hope the Batt will, I urge all Christians (and Ags) to contact the concessions committee and let your voice be heard. (Soon).

— Glynn Echerd, '81

'Student' replies

Editor:

As a representative for Today's Student in the state of Texas, I would like to respond to Thursday's letter, "Student" under fire. Although not the writer of the article, I was present at the meeting in question.

First of all, the article did not intend to insinuate the meeting was a special hearing but, as Ron Blatchley indicated, a regular meeting of the Concessions Committee. It was, however, investigative from the standpoint that the students in opposition were told they could come to present their side, and those supporting the paper were instructed they could do the same. The obvious intent was to hear both sides — investigate the pros and cons — before reaching a decision regarding the distribution of the paper on campus. The writer of the article, not being an Aggie and unfamiliar with A&M's various committees, unassumingly called it an investigative hearing because of the nature of the meeting and the procedure followed.

Secondly, the committee did not make an official ruling that these grievances were "personal expressions against God," nor were those in opposition put under judgment for taking such a position. It was obvi-

ous to me, as well as the writer and I believe the others in the room, that their opposition to a belief in the living God is what prompted them to be present. This was not a judgment, but an observation by the writer, and probably should have been stated in the article as such.

Our apologies to Ron Blatchley and the Concessions Committee if in any way their credibility and integrity were questioned. "Today's Student," being the largest and most popular national student newspaper in the United States, is very selective as to its journalists and journalism. Even at best, unintentional mistakes are made and unfortunate misunderstandings develop. We trust that our apologies will be accepted and the circulation of the paper will continue to increase. The intent of "Today's Student" is to present an alternative viewpoint of issues seldom presented in the classrooms, yet having as much, if not more, factual credibility based on scientific, historic and philosophic evidence. It has been called "the paper for thinking people," and we encourage Aggies who have not yet picked up a copy to do so and judge for themselves.

— Ron Tewson

"Today's Student" representative

Editor's note: Ron Blatchley, who heads the concessions committee, said Monday that shortly before the committee's hearing concerning "Today's Student" he was in the process of locating the group responsible for the paper's distribution to advise it of the University's permit regulations. Blatchley said representatives of the paper came to his office asking about reports that they needed a distribution permit, and this led to the committee's hearings. Blatchley said he did not "catch up" to the paper's representatives, as a previous letter implied.

These viewpoints close this section's look into the distribution of "Today's Student."

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SEE A BUNCH OF 'LETTERS TO THE EDITOR' IN REGARD TO OUR RELATIONS WITH TEXAS TECH!"