

THE BATTALION

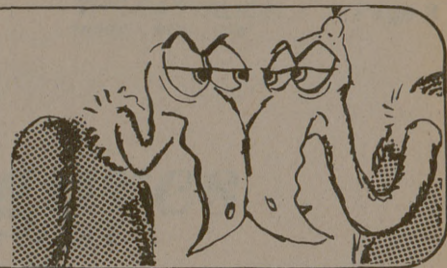
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The Texas A&M baseball team celebrates its second consecutive Southwest Conference championship after winning two games in the three-game series with Arkansas this past weekend in Fayetteville. This party on pitcher's mound preceded a

champagne celebration in the Aggie locker room after the games. The Aggies won the first two games, 6-1 and 5-0, while the Razorbacks won Saturday's nightcap, 6-5. See related stories on pages 10-11.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Nixon says he helped in Watergate cover-up

United Press International

NEW YORK — In a "selfish" effort to save his presidency, Richard Nixon concedes he fired his close friends John Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman for covering up Watergate — "things that I myself was a part of."

In the first installment of his long-awaited memoirs published Sunday in The New York Times and other newspapers, Nixon broke no new ground about the scandal that drove him from office. In fact, his account differed from what some of his closest associates have written.

The writing was cool, almost detached. The former president renewed a theme from his Aug. 8, 1974 resignation speech — that he had committed no crime or misdemeanor warranting impeachment, and was quitting simply because his political base had eroded.

And there was none of the emotional catharsis that accompanied portions of Nixon's television interviews last summer with David Frost, when he declared dramatically: "I have impeached myself. I let the American people down, and I have to carry that burden with me for the rest of my life."

Nixon's explanation of the first 12 months of the scandal was in the first of seven installments excerpted from "RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon," a 400,000-word book which will be published May 15 by Grosset and Dunlap.

In it he acknowledges his participation in efforts to cover up the break-in June 17, 1972 at Democratic headquarters at Watergate; and concedes that in all of his statements on the scandal "I failed to tell Americans what they wanted to hear — how a president of the United States could so incompetently allow himself to get in such a situation."

But he says his actions not only were not criminal, but the result of a series of tactical errors or misjudgments made as the Watergate web inexorably tightened around the Oval Office.

"I felt sure it was just a public relations

problem that needed only a public relations solution," Nixon wrote.

And when he sought to discredit the testimony of his fired counsel, John W. Dean III, before the Senate Watergate Committee, Nixon acknowledged "I worried about the wrong problem. I went off on a tangent by concentrating all our attention and resources on trying to refute Dean."

"In the end it would make less difference that I was not as involved as Dean had alleged than that I was not as involved as I had claimed."

Ironically, the first installment came on the fifth anniversary of the day Nixon accepted the forced resignation of Haldeman and Ehrlichman with the statement they were "two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know."

Ehrlichman was released Thursday from federal prison in Safford, Ariz. He had served 18 months for conspiracy and perjury in the Watergate cover-up and the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Haldeman, serving his Watergate cover-up sentence at the Lompoc, Calif.,

prison farm, will be eligible for parole in mid-June. Federal parole officials will interview him Tuesday and Wednesday.

A third Nixon confidant, former Attorney General John Mitchell, is on surgical furlough from the prison at Maxwell Air Force, Ala. It is considered doubtful he ever will go back, since he too is eligible for parole in mid-June.

"I knew instinctively that Haldeman and Ehrlichman were going to have to leave the White House," Nixon wrote. "I recognized that if they had stayed, they would damage the White House and damage me."

"But there were things that I had known. I had talked with Charles Colson about clemency. I, too, had suspected Jeb Magruder (a re-election official) was not telling the truth, but I had done nothing about my suspicions. And I had been aware that attorneys' fees and family support funds were going to the defendants."

"The difference between us was that Haldeman and Ehrlichman had become trapped by the circumstantial involvement; so far, I was not."

Four A&M students injured in car wreck

Four Texas A&M University students were hospitalized Friday afternoon after a head-on collision one-half mile west of College Station on FM 60.

Two of the students, Cynthia Hertz and Barbara Miller, received head injuries and were taken to Methodist Hospital in Houston. Both of them were still in intensive care Saturday morning.

Two others were admitted to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan. Joy Krueger was in good condition after surgery Friday night

and Colleen Vanderhider was treated for lacerations and held for observation.

A fifth student involved in the wreck, Gary Woodring, was released after treatment at St. Joseph. Woodring and his passenger, Hertz, were traveling west when Woodring's car and an eastbound tractor-trailer truck collided. Woodring's car spun and collided with an eastbound car containing the other three students.

Both cars were damaged and were towed away. The truck driver, Johnny Caudillo of Grand Prairie, was not injured.

Israeli troops withdraw from South Lebanon

United Press International

ABBASSIYEH, Lebanon — Israeli troops withdrew from 220 square miles of South Lebanon Sunday, turning over some 30 positions to U.N. peace-keeping forces, who promptly arrested Palestinian guerrillas infiltrating their lines.

Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana, commander of the 4,000-man U.N. Interim Force in South Lebanon, said he was determined to keep the area free of Palestinian guerrillas.

"One of our main functions is to insure that the area is sealed off and that there are no armed personnel. We have made several arrests and this will probably be ongoing and something we have to face every day," he said.

A formal ceremony marking the pullback was held at Abbassiyeh and scores of reporters, photographers and television technicians scrambled among bemused Israeli, Senegalese, French and Norwegian soldiers.

"Well, we're almost ready to go. But there are too many correspondents here," Israeli Brig. Gen. Hiram Efraim told Erskine. "Can't we move some of them out of the way?"

"There's nothing we can do about it," was Erskine's resigned reply.

Israeli troops didn't have a flag to take down when they left their Abbassiyeh roadside positions. So they fetched a flag and pole from their main camp in the hills and set them up again by the main road.

Saluting, they ceremoniously lowered the flag about an hour later for the benefit of the cameras.

On a more serious note, Israeli military sources in Tel Aviv said the withdrawal from Abbassiyeh — close to the Palestinian-controlled port of Tyre — will be a test case to see if the U.N. troops can control the guerrillas.

The pullback coincided with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's arrival in the United States for talks today with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Begin will also take part in week-long celebrations marking the 30th

anniversary of Israel's independence.

Despite a promise by the Palestine Liberation Organization to cooperate with the U.N. forces, the PLO has said it will carry out hit-and-run attacks against Israeli troops remaining in south Lebanon.

Before his departure from Tel Aviv, Begin said that while Israel has no intention of staying in Lebanon it wants to insure that the guerrillas will not return to their former positions. "That will take time," Begin added.

The withdrawal covered about one quarter of the 800 square miles captured by the Israelis. The new Israeli line in the south is about six miles north of the Israeli border, approximately the "security belt" Israeli forces first seized at the outset of their operation March 14.

Israel still retains control of the Christian enclaves in the border area, including the town of Marjayoun in the eastern sector.

Israel prime minister arrives in Washington

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's scheduled visit to Washington today came amid continuing controversy on the proposed package sale of jet aircraft to the Middle East.

Begin's morning visit coincided with two developments in the debate over the jet sales:

— A public clash in separate television interviews by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan Sunday over the wisdom of providing two of Israel's Arab enemies with U.S. jet fighters.

— An apparent compromise patched together between Vance and congressional leaders late last week to drop the "package" format while technically not retreating from the linkage on the arms sales.

Begin's arrival early today is part of a U.S. swing commemorating the 30th anniversary of the creation of Israel.

He was due to meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and President Carter on his 4½-hour visit to the capital. The talks were scheduled to be a continuation of discussions Vance had with Dayan last week, centering on ways to bypass the problems that have delayed peace talks.

But the timing made it all but inevitable the jet sales also would come up, although President Carter has said Begin "never mentioned to me one time any concern he might have about the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia or Egypt" during his most recent visit earlier this year.

Vance, in an interview on CBS-TV's Face the Nation, said the \$4.8 billion pack-

age deal is necessary to maintain U.S. ties to the moderate Arab governments of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Dayan, interviewed by Barbara Walters on ABC-TV's Issues and Answers, said the United States is simply supplying arms that can one day be used against Israel.

"In any way," Dayan said, "you would be walking in the Russian shoes in the Middle East, preparing... the Arab countries for the next war against Israel by supplying them with American war-planes."

Vance, who urged congressional approval of the package, said failure to go forward with the sales "would seriously jeopardize our relationship, not only with Saudi Arabia, but with the moderate countries in the area as well."

There has been considerable opposition expressed in Congress to the sale of 60 F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia. Other elements of the White House plan call for sale of 75 F-16 and 5 F-15 jet fighters to Israel and 50 F-5s to Egypt.

Vance and Deputy Secretary Warren Christopher late last week proposed a letter saying the plane deals would be sent to Congress as separate offers for consideration "on their individual merits," in effect, giving Congress public assurance that the White House did not question its right to act as it sees fit.

The compromise apparently was acceptable to the leadership, but fate of the sales programs remained in doubt.

Each house of Congress must, in the next two months, vote the sale down, if it is to be rejected. If only one house votes against the deal, it automatically goes through.

Aggies win SWC baseball crown

By DAVID BOGGAN

Battalion Sports Editor

Like a team of government agents, the members of the Texas A&M baseball team went on a self-assigned mission this past weekend — a mission that took them to Fayetteville, Ark.

Their assignment was clear. They had to win two games of the three-game series with the University of Arkansas if the Aggies were to remain the Southwest Conference champions for the second consecutive year.

Mission accomplished.

The Aggies wasted no time in securing the needed victories. Mark Ross won Friday's game for the defending champions, and Aggie ace Mark Thurmond shut out the Hogs in Saturday's first game, 5-0. Aggie centerfielder Mike Hurdle raised his arms in victory as Arkansas' last attempt to rally fell into his glove, clinching the championship for Texas A&M.

A 20-minute celebration ensued, as the entire team and several of 70-plus Aggie supporters at the game rushed onto the pitcher's mound for an impromptu party.

"Now I can relax for the last game," Texas A&M coach Tom Chandler said before the nightcap. Maybe the Aggies relaxed too much, because Arkansas won the last game in the bottom of the ninth, 6-5. But Chandler's crew had what they wanted — the SWC championship.

"Doesn't it feel great to win!" exclaimed senior Robert Verde during a champagne celebration in the locker room after the game.

Chandler credited Verde and catcher Buster Turner with giving the Aggies the momentum in Saturday's opener when the Razorbacks had the bases loaded in the first inning with one out.

"Robert just made one heck of a play scooping up that grounder and getting it to Buster at the plate, and Buster got rid of the ball quick to force turn the double

play," the Aggie coach said. "That was probably the key to the series. If we would have let them score in that situation, they would have taken the momentum into the last game."

Senior Robert Bonner made several key plays from his shortstop position, including breaking a SWC season record for assists, 73, and adding to the Aggies season record for double plays.

"This championship is better than last year's," Bonner said. "Last year, people said we backed into the championship. We had our minds made up that it wasn't going to be like that this year. We had to win two games to take the championship, and we did it. It was a total team effort."

"I am very excited and very pleased for these boys," Chandler said. "They have worked so hard this year and I think they are truly champions. And I'm the luckiest guy in the world to have a great group of kids like this."

Texas lawyer named as energy counsel

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Senate this week takes up a nomination that some members consider an example of the "revolving door" relationship between government agencies and the industries they regulate.

President Carter named Lynn Coleman, a Texas lawyer with long experience in oil and gas cases, to be general counsel or the top lawyer of the Department of Energy.

The Senate Energy Committee approved the nomination by a 12-6 vote Feb. 9 and referred it to the full Senate, which is scheduled to take it up Monday.

Coleman's nomination is expected to be approved, with votes from senators who support him outright combined with some who feel Carter has the right to fill slots subject to his appointment with whom ever he prefers.

For example, Sens. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and Frank Church, D-Idaho, said jointly they approved the nomination in committee even though they had reservations about the Energy Department "having, for its chief lawyer, one who has been so closely associated with energy industry interests."

Opponents of Coleman said the most they expect is a respectable minority against the nomination, plus a chance to debate Carter's handling of energy policy and Energy Department appointments.

Both sides say they consider Coleman eminently qualified for the job. He is a partner in the Houston law firm of Vinson and Elkins and has often represented well-known energy firms.

But the opposition contends he cannot be a good, impartial energy industry regulator in light of his past commitment to the companies regulated.

Coleman assured the Energy Committee he could step aside for any legal matter affecting clients of his law firm.

But Sen. John Durkin, D-N.H., told UPI that, considering the companies Coleman has represented, "he would have to excuse himself from so many cases, his

job would turn out to be an honorary post."

Durkin recalled the Carter once called the energy crisis "the moral equivalent of war," and said, "During the moral equivalent of war, you do not hire somebody from the enemy camp."

Sex doesn't sell, study reveals

United Press International

DALLAS — Men definitely will remember advertisements featuring a sexily dressed woman, a study shows. But they are more likely to remember details of the woman's anatomy than the product being promoted.

University of Texas-Arlington graduate students Ben Judd and M. Wayne Alexander began the study in order to determine whether or not sex sells.

It doesn't, their recently completed study reveals. Sex, they found, distracts.

Judd and Alexander asked 219 men and women to view 12 slides of various levels of female nudity, paired with pictures of a product and the brand name. The subjects viewed three slides in each of four categories: a landscape, a smiling woman's face, a female's face and breasts, a frontal view of a nude female.

The products included automobiles, household furnishings, jewelry and sporting goods.

After viewing the slides, subjects wrote down all the products and brand names they could remember.

Results showed the rate of recall dropped by 50 to 60 percent for the ads containing females, regardless of whether subjects were viewing total nudity or merely a woman's face.

Both males, who generally liked the idea of nudity in ads, and females, who strongly disliked it, forgot the products and brand names in the sexy ads at the same rate.

Judd said women can help certain ads — those promoting suntan lotion, bathing suits, lingerie and other items in which a female body has some relation to the product.

But the ads in which a female body has no direct relationship to the product — a woman draped across a set of stereo speakers — probably do little good, Judd said.

"For the life of me, I can't imagine a bare-breasted woman walking down the street carrying a soft drink," he said. "I just don't think that would contribute to anything."

Five grants awarded to A&M researchers

Development of Texas energy resources was stimulated last week with the awarding of five grants totaling \$182,000 from the Texas Energy Advisory Council to Texas A&M University researchers.

Heading the list was a \$56,352 grant for testing the efficiency of a newly developed low pressure mobile trickle irrigation system and a \$40,000 grant to look at the environmental impact of strip mining lignite in Texas.

Design of the irrigation system will be conducted by Dr. Bill Lyle of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Half-

way. The lignite study is a multi-department effort involving four Texas A&M scientists in soil and crop sciences and geology.

Other presentations included \$39,945 for design and development of solar cooling with freon jet pumps, \$27,982 for a demonstration on how to outfit a modular solar house and \$18,200 for development of a desiccant dehumidification with plate heat exchanger.

Money for the energy projects comes from the Texas Energy Development Fund. The fund is formulated to support