

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
MAY 2, 1978

Confession time

This is a confession. We left a story untold in the belief that telling it would do more harm than good. But not telling it changed nothing and did no good at all. The story is that of KAMU-FM, the University's radio station. The University budget for next year has been approved by University administrators and sent to the board of regents without any funding for KAMU-FM. Without renewal of the money the station received from the University for its operating costs this year, KAMU-FM will go off the air Aug. 31. The station is not providing enough educational opportunities, administrators say. The Battalion first reported January 18 that the station's funding would probably not be renewed. At that time the entire University budget was still under-going that marvelous crap shoot called the budgetary process. And everyone "knows" that a story about anything more in that budgetary process is sure to doom it to banishment from the budget. So an interesting thing happened. Another story on the radio station's budget cut did not appear in the Battalion until April 23, over three months after the first story. That story reported that University administrators had made a final decision to cut KAMU's funds and only the board of regents could save the station.

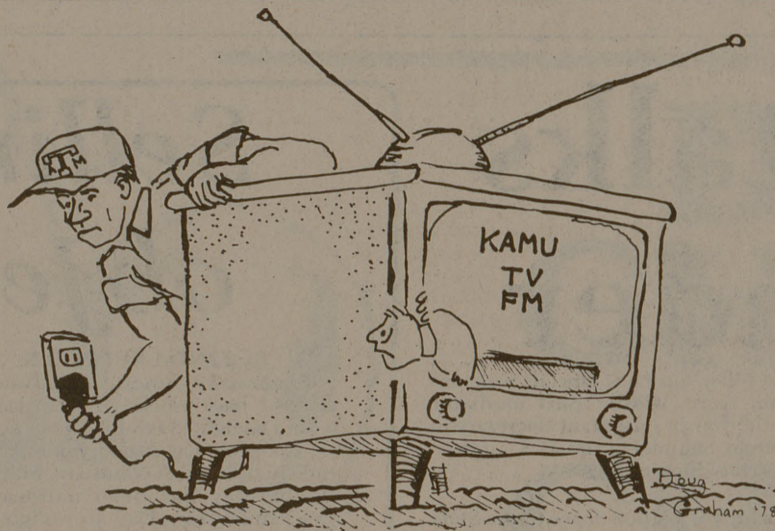
The problem is this. The majority of both KAMU's student staff and the Battalion staff are in Texas A&M's communications department. Believing it would be in the best interest of the station, we said nothing, hoping for a miracle from the budgetary mumbo-jumbo.

We blew it. Given a golden opportunity to let some light into the dusty closets where most budget decisions are made, we procrastinated when we should have printed. Would we have done the same for another department's budget problems?

So, KAMU-FM seems doomed. The board of regents simply does not make many changes in the budget which the University administration recommends each year.

It seems a shame to cut off the station hardly a year after it came on the air. Whether more extensive Battalion reporting could have saved the station is a moot point. But more reporting might have better illuminated that budget process that every single element of Texas A&M must undergo to remain in existence.

—L.R.L.



The 'Tiger' speaks

By JIM CRAWLEY

Olin Teague, the retiring local Congressman, did what he promised he wouldn't. But no one really expected him to keep his promise.

His endorsement, Friday, of former Teague aide Chet Edwards brought obvious joy to Edwards. Disgruntled by the announcement are Phil Gramm, Ron Godbey, Don McNeil, Kay Jones, and Bill Powers. They oppose Edwards in Saturday's Democratic Party primary for Teague's 6th Congressional seat.

Teague said he was forced to endorse Edwards because of the "intellectual dishonesty" of forerunners Gramm and Godbey.

THIS LATE ENDORSEMENT can only help Edwards and take away from the other five candidates, Edwards' campaign needs the boost that the endorsement will give him in the last week of the campaign. Teague backers and political allies have been given the word by their leader. And the words are "Vote Edwards."

Several instances of "dishonesty" were cited by Teague.

Politics

Concerning Gramm, Teague said the Texas A&M economics professor was "misrepresenting the truth" at several points during the campaign. Some of these charges were: Gramm claimed the backing of Teague supporters and Teague himself, maintained he worked in Teague's campaign in 1974, and said House Majority Leader Jim Wright of Fort Worth was interested in his (Gramm's) abilities.

Teague charged Godbey with renting an unfurnished apartment within the district for his 1976 campaign against Teague and Teague said the former TV weatherman also didn't vote in the 1976 primary and general elections.

EDWARDS' ELATION over the endorsement was expected. The other candidates issued press releases, commenting on the endorsement, which tried to play the entire situation coolly. Gramm and Godbey issued separate statements saying that Teague was incorrect in his charges of "intellectual dishonesty."

Gramm stated Friday that Teague's charges were wrong. He then attempted to use the occasion for his own advantage.

Godbey stated that he lived in his apartment during the 1976 primary election and that he voted in both 1976 elections.

McNeil said, "Most people I talk to think that Mr. Teague's shoes are too big to be filled by a 26-year-old aide whose

only full time job has been on his own federal government payroll."

Teague's endorsement wasn't a shock to anyone. A few people were surprised that Teague reversed his earlier decision not to endorse anyone for his position. But Teague has been helping the Edwards' campaign for the past five months.

Since December Teague has "assisted" and "supported" the Edwards campaign. He has issued favorable press releases, attended campaign fund-raisers of Edwards', and attacked Gramm for Gramm's attempt to associate himself with the Congressman.

THE ENDORSEMENT may be too late to get Edwards in the runoff. Gramm is the obvious leader in the race, but the all-important second place is still up for grabs. The current outlook is for a runoff in June with Gramm against the second-place wild card.

With less than a week left in the campaign, Edwards has to use every second of his campaign to remind the voters that he has the support and the endorsement of the present Congressman. The voters who equate Edwards with Teague's record may make the difference between a win or a loss this weekend.

Edwards, with his grassroots support, may be able to pull off such a difficult last-minute task. Because of his work on Teague's last campaign, he has contacts throughout the district that he has been using during the campaign. But many of these former Teague backers have been undecided. Some should decide for Edwards because of the Friday announcement.

TEAGUE WAS WISE to wait this long before "officially" endorsing his former aide. First, it minimizes the attacks on Teague and Edwards from the other candidates. Second, the endorsement, in the last days of the campaign, is generating a large amount of free publicity for Edwards. Third, the other candidates can't retaliate against the retiring Congressman because of his position in the minds of the district's voters.

The endorsement did the most damage to Gramm, because many of the former Teague supporters would have gone to Gramm without the endorsement.

Gramm seems to be worried. Friday he said, "The negative thing about this is that rather than talking about the issues and qualifications, I'm having to answer charges from someone who is not a candidate."

Gramm said early in the campaign he wanted to stay on the road with the issues, where he feels safe. Now he's had to get onto shoulder of the road and into the gravel and mud.

Letters to the editor

All pilots aren't idiots

Editor: This is in response to V.S. Wolfson's April 25 letter (concerning air traffic around Texas A&M).

No there is not a convention, a new training school or students who are intent on flying circles over campus. If you were to look on a map you would find that Easterwood field is less than three miles from campus.

The field is served by three runways of which there are no less than two different approaches which require a pilot to fly directly over campus at altitudes between 660 and 1100 feet above sea level. The airport's elevation is 320 feet above sea level.

As long as the airport is open to the public, we will continue to see heavy usage by both private and military aircraft. Yes there are some pilots who break rules, but that does not justify calling all pilots idiots. You have your facts messed up; the only recent talk about closing something on Easterwood is the control tower.

Hopefully you will learn to appreciate flying some day in the future.

—Donald McDonald
Former president,
Texas A&M Flying Club

Lease problems

Editor: We feel it is our duty to bring to the attention of the University community a problem involving the leasing of apartments in this area.

Some apartment managers at this time are requiring their tenants to give definite commitments for the fall 1978 and spring 1979 semesters (either to sign a new lease or to indicate the apartment will be vacated). If neither is done, the manager assumes the right to lease the apartment to

others. This means that even a person with a lease which expires in August must make a definite commitment now for the following year.

To compound the problem, the lease states that 30 days notice is required before vacating apartments, and this has caused some misunderstanding. In reality, the manager may pre-lease an apartment in which you live for the term after your lease ends as long as you are told at least 30 days in advance that your lease ends on the date specified.

As far as we know, this policy is followed only by the apartments owned by Columbia Properties (Sausalito, Sundance, Scandia, etc.). The management felt they were doing the tenants a favor by allowing them to pre-lease their own apartments well in advance.

We understand that Columbia wanted to be assured that all their apartments would be rented for next year — that's clever planning. But we feel that it is unreasonable to place such demands on students, and downright unfair to those tenants who aren't students. We ask that the managers clearly state their policy with regard to pre-leasing at the time that a lease is signed, or better yet, put the policy into the lease in writing.

Let's face it, students need apartments in which to live, but there are enough apartments now available in this area that students can afford to be choosy for a change. Such policies cause poor relations with students who already pay high rents, and they may choose to move if they feel that they are being exploited.

—Mike Aucoin,
Julie Peterson,
Ann Woods,
Laurie Larson,
Cindy Price,
Carol Carmichael

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Cofer funeral services held

Funeral services for David Brooks Cofer, 92, of 110 Pershing College Station, were held today at the Hillier Funeral Chapel with the burial in the Bryan City Cemetery. Cofer retired in May 1957 after 47 years with the Texas A&M University English department. He served as the University's first archivist and wrote five publications on the early history of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Cofer was a member of the American Association of University Professors, the First Baptist Church of College Station and a charter member of the College Station Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sarah Nancy Cofer of College Station, one son, David Brooks Cofer Jr. of Bryan; two daughters, Mrs. Cedric R. Landon Jr. of Houston and Mrs. Frank S. Haines of New Orleans, La., and eight grandchildren.

STATE

Nuclear waste plant opposed

Gov. Dolph Briscoe said Monday he will not permit construction of any nuclear waste disposal facility in Texas that could endanger the health and well-being of residents. He said preliminary geological studies are under way in Texas and a number of other states to locate possible sites for disposal of nuclear wastes. "My position is and always has been that I must start out as being opposed to locating any such facility in Texas," the governor said. "My office has been monitoring the progress of these preliminary studies and will continue to do so." He said his office has been instrumental in making experts available to local and regional governmental entities to review the studies.

Weak pipes cause Hyatt flooding

Dallas fire officials said structural weakening in iron piping probably caused a water line rupture in the new Hyatt Regency Hotel. The break Sunday flooded four floors and created spectacular waterfalls in the open elevator shafts that rise from the lobby below. Damage estimates were unavailable but hotel spokeswoman Nancy Leitstein said between 50 and 75 rooms, some of them occupied, had been flooded. Occupants of affected rooms were moved to different quarters. There were no injuries. Leitstein said an eight-inch pipe that feeds the sprinkler system for the \$75 million hotel ruptured about 10:30 a.m. in a service stairwell. Most of the damage was confined to floors 16 through 19, but a second floor restaurant also was damaged by water cascading down an elevator shaft. Fire Capt. John Boaz attributed the break to structural weakening under the weight of nine stories of iron piping above the 19th floor.

NATION

Radioactive shipments blocked

Thirty demonstrators, including former Pentagon analyst Daniel Ellsberg, spent their second night camped on the railroad tracks leading to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant to block incoming shipments of plutonium. An estimated 5,000 protesters gathered during the weekend but most had left Sunday night. Judy Wilkerson, a leader of the small group calling itself the Rocky Flats Truth Force, said they will remain on the tracks indefinitely to block future shipments of radioactive material to the 11,000-acre plant, located 16 miles northwest of Denver. "The point is to try to block the plutonium," she said Sunday night. "We're not trying to interfere with the workers at the plant at all. We want them to be retrained for new jobs." Ed Young, security director at the plant, said Sunday he would allow the demonstrators to remain on the tracks, but did not know what would happen when a train eventually needed access to the plant. Young did not say when the shipment was due.

Oil firm sold for \$300 million

An agreement in principle has been reached for a \$300 million acquisition of a Texas-based subsidiary of the Union Pacific Corp., it was announced Monday. Under the agreement announced by the Union Pacific Corp. and Shenandoah Oil Corp., the Champlin Petroleum Co., a UP subsidiary, would acquire Shenandoah Oil for an estimated \$130 million in cash and assume an existing debt of \$170 million. The estimated \$130 million in cash would be distributed to Shenandoah shareholders in exchange for their common stock valued at \$40 per share.

WORLD

U.N. soldiers killed in Lebanon

Three U.N. peace-keeping soldiers and two Palestinian guerrillas were killed Monday in a land-mine explosion and a crash near positions just vacated by Israel in southern Lebanon, U.N. officials said. French U.N. troops some three miles inland from the southwestern port of Tyre fought a gun and grenade battle with a group of guerrillas seeking to cross U.N. lines, a U.N. spokesman said. Later, three Senegalese U.N. soldiers were killed and a fourth wounded when their jeep detonated a land mine near Bayada, some seven miles south of Tyre, the spokesman said. The explosion was the second since U.N. troops took up positions between Palestinian guerrillas and an Israeli invasion force in March, and the fifth fatal U.N. casualty.

WEATHER

Cloudy skies today with thunderstorms, some possibly severe. Continued cloudy and cooler on Wednesday. High today mid-70s, low tonight upper 50s. High tomorrow upper 60s. Winds from the east-northeast at 10-15 mph. 60 percent chance of rain today, 70 percent tonight and 40 percent tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or 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.

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Krueger, Christie duel

By ANDREA VALLS
Battalion Staff

Texas voters witnessed a political fencing match on television Monday night. The prize is a seat in the United States Senate.

And in this match between Joe Christie and Bob Krueger, Democratic candidates for Senate, Krueger emerged the winner.

The battle lasted only an hour. Each man was well-equipped, but with two different sets of political armor. While Krueger stuck to the issues and shielded himself with his past record in Congress, Christie lunged at his opponent's mistakes.

gressman." Even though Christie took a firm stand on several issues, many of his comments were shaded with safeguards such as "unlike my opponent..."

Throughout the debate, Christie maintained his devotion to his constituency and stressed more vocational education to combat unemployment. Yet, when discussing the Panama Canal Treaty, Christie said regardless of what a public poll showed he would vote for the Panama Canal Treaty because it was in the interest of the country, even if it was not what the majority of his constituency desired.

And in this duel, that contradiction was his mistake.

The interesting part of the debate was the final appearance of the two candidates. Krueger was nearing the end of his rope, frustrated by Christie's constant jabs at his record. Krueger's only noticeable battle scars were bulging eyes and a forced smile. Christie just slumped his shoulders more and more as the debate progressed.

But this one hour fencing fiasco was beneficial in one respect. It forced both candidates to take a stand on some crucial issues.

Solo appearances and political campaign brochures give the voter only a tunnel view of the candidate. The candidate decides what the citizen will know and can fit the size of the tunnel's diameter to his specifications.

But when candidates put themselves in a public arena to fight out the issues, a victor always emerges.

Commentary

Christie maintained he was the logical democratic choice in the primary because his personal integrity had never been challenged. He constantly referred to Krueger's 72 percent attendance record in Congress and said Krueger misused public funds by campaigning for Senate while on Congressional payroll.

Krueger calmly told Christie he had not "done his homework" because Krueger's only Washington reimbursement was for a district trip within his official duties.

From the spectator's view, Krueger won simply by guarding himself from Christie's blows with his past record in Congress and his title as "Most Effective Freshman Con-

Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"IF THERE'S ANYTHING I DISLIKE, IT'S A GRADUATING SENIOR!"