

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 10, 1978

The ugly tradition

It's about time for another of those Aggie traditions. It's the traditional end-of-the-semester-finals-are-over-thank-heavens-let's-get-out-of-here mad rush away from Texas A&M. Except that this is a two-part tradition and the second part is pretty ugly.

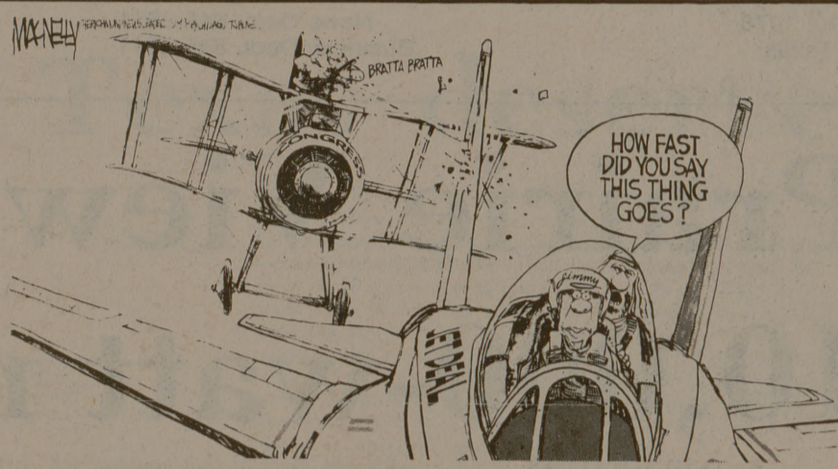
Every year, at the end of every semester, some of those Aggies making fast tracks to wherever Aggies go drive into trees and off roads and over other people. And wind up smashing and bashing and killing themselves.

That's why you can count on another Aggie tradition — Silver Taps — at the beginning of every semester.

So folks, please take it easy heading out of here this week. Drive a little slower, take a little longer, and get there. Wait until you get there to start celebrating. And do the same coming back.

Aggies are folks too good to lose. Even one.

L.R.L.



Senators dance pork barrel polka

By IRA R. ALLEN
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The dictionary defines a pork barrel as "a fund of money obtained from the federal treasury through congressional bills for rivers, harbors and public buildings; regarded as the reward for political services."

Last week the definition was shorter: "The Navigation Development Act."

THE BILL CAME into the Senate from the House on Tuesday afternoon costing \$1.2 billion. It emerged less than 48 hours later costing \$2.6 billion.

The legislative fight was not over the money, but over the form of a new system of making barge owners pay some of the costs of federal navigation projects that benefit them.

As it turned out, the Senate by only four votes defied a presidential veto threat and adopted a version of the plan weaker than the administration wants.

The wheeling-and-dealing that occurred on that provision — pitting freshman Re-

publican Pete Domenici of New Mexico, who had Carter's backing, against the wily Russell Long, chairman of the favor-bestowing Finance Committee, with obvious results — could fill a small civics textbook.

The unseen, but highly aromatic catalyst in that struggle over a taxing formula was pure pork.

Last year, Domenici succeeded in getting his tax plan attached to the \$1.2 billion Water Resources Development Act, and when the House failed to act on it, the composit bill had to be worked on again this year.

SO FOR TWO days Domenici stood happy as a clam — and just as silently as senator after senator trooped to the floor with amendments, which had not been taken up in committee, to add water projects in their home states. Although a fiscal conservative, the New Mexican figured the more each member could bet into the bill, the easier it would be to pass the entire thing once he got his pet tax

adopted.

Those porcine ornaments attached without benefit of hearings included:

- 8.5 million to fix up San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.
- A second power house at Washington state's McNary Dam, sponsored by appropriations chairman Warren Magnuson, D-Wash. It was the third of three trinkets he proposed, understating that "this one requires a little more money than the other two." Half a billion more, to be exact.
- A recreation boat launching facility in Spencer County, Ind., for Sen. Birch Bayh.

But a funny thing happened on the way to passage. Domenici was outmaneuvered by Long and other venerable committee chairmen from barge-industry states who had a personal grip on a number of otherwise disinterested senators.

THE NEXT DAY, there was Domenici addressing the Senate, complaining about the "pork barrel" aspects of the bill he

helped engineer and asking Carter to veto it.

The New York Sen. Daniel Moynihan, junior member of the Finance Committee and dependent on Long for the kind of welfare program that would look good in New York City, used the navigation act as a reason to sing the praises of the New York State Barge Canal System made famous in song as the Erie Canal. He said it is the only totally state-supported barge canal in the country.

So "as a matter of equity," he asked, the federal government should be allowed to finance it. Moynihan eventually was asked and agreed to withdraw that request until hearings are held.

Later he told a reporter, with all the subtlety that endeared him to the Third World when he was U.N. ambassador, his request was made to let colleagues know, "I'll vote for your water projects but my vote is increasingly going to be conditioned on some reciprocity."

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Fire in Leggett Hall; no injuries

A fire in Leggett Hall Tuesday night caused an estimated \$100 in damages. There were no injuries. The fire was apparently caused by a flare that was thrown into some newspapers in the courtyard of the dorm. The fire was extinguished in 10 minutes. A University spokesman said a reprimand will be issued if the person or persons responsible is found.

STATE Nuclear waste disposal planned

A Navy electronics engineer has proposed disposing of nuclear wastes by sending the lethal material to the center of the planet. Robert A. Krutenat, who works at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Keyport, Wash., said Monday in Houston that this project could be done by placing the wastes in deep holes near the intersection of crustal plates. He said his plan calls for the boring of subsea holes at least 6,500 feet deep into floating tectonic plates. Once the wastes have been placed in the holes in the tectonic plates, the holes would be filled with 300 feet of cement. Conventional nuclear waste will remain radioactive for 250,000 years. Krutenat's plan calls for an estimated investment of \$500 million. He has asked the Society of Exploration Geophysicists to evaluate his proposal.

Man faces murder charges

A man charged with two Florida murders and another in Texas has also admitted raping at least 20 women in Houston. Jimmy Lee Smith, 24, was charged Monday with the murder of Eugenia Shovenec, 16, of Pasadena, Texas. He was charged earlier with the slayings of Bonny Ward and her daughter Donna Strickland, 12, both of Cottdale, Fla. Jackson County Sheriff's Lt. Ron Stevenson said Smith waived his constitutional rights Monday and allowed the videotaping of his three murder confessions. Stevenson said Smith also admitted "he raped at least 20 women in Houston that he could recall." Smith has been charged with three counts of first degree murder, burglary, grand theft, forgery, reckless driving and attempting to elude a policeman. He was arrested May 2 after a night-long search for a man who allegedly attempted to cash a check prepared by a check writing machine stolen from a construction company.

Assault charges dismissed

Prosecutors have dismissed aggravated assault charges against former Bellaire police officer Larry Ward because the alleged victim cannot be found. Ned Morris, an assistant district attorney, said Porfirio Mendoza, 23, returned to Mexico after his recovery and neither U.S. nor Mexican government authorities can locate him. "I feel like the grand jury overreacted when they indicted Ward," said his attorney Bob Bennett. "From the feeling in the community they felt they had to do something with this policeman. He probably shouldn't have been indicted in the first place." Ward resigned from the Bellaire department after the incident. Mendoza was shot Nov. 5 after Ward stopped his car for driving too slowly on the freeway. There was a knife in the car and accounts differ on what actually happened.

NATION

Jet crashes in Escambia Bay

A jetliner carrying 61 persons ditched into foggy Escambia Bay near Pensacola, Fla., while making a landing approach Monday night but an off-course tugboat captain and his crewman saved 58 of those aboard the plane. Three persons apparently drowned when the National Airlines 727 smacked into the bay. Authorities reported 39 persons were treated at area hospitals, and 15 others were admitted for additional treatment. Capt. Glenn McDonald, owner of the tugboat Little Mac, said he had wandered off course in heavy fog while pulling a barge across Escambia Bay. McDonald said the plane swooshed low over his tug — "I thought it was going to hit me" — and "made a perfect landing in the water about 300 yards away." McDonald said some survivors received severe back injuries but he saw little evidence of broken bones or cuts. Jet fuel from the plane covered the water, barge and clothing of the survivors.

Five killed in Virginia motel fire

At least five people were killed in a fire early Tuesday morning that swept through a motel in Fairfax County, Va. At least 12 others, including three firefighters, were reported injured. Motel guests were awakened and evacuated as the fire spread quickly through the motel, causing extensive damage, fire officials said. Officials said they think the fire started in a guest's room on the first floor, but the cause is still under investigation. The fire was brought under control about an hour after it broke out. Fire units remained at the scene looking for other victims.

WORLD

First Lady hopes Vesco returns

First Lady Rosalynn Carter said at a news conference in the Costa Rican White House Tuesday that she hopes fugitive financier Robert Vesco will return to the United States to stand trial. Mrs. Carter also denied reports of a rift between her husband and Assistant Secretary of State Terence Todman. She joined President Rodrigo Carazo and his wife in the press conference following an informal breakfast at the presidential house. At the news conference, Carazo said he did not want Vesco to return to Costa Rica. Mrs. Carter added: "We want him to return to the United States to stand trial." Vesco, who since 1973 has lived in Costa Rica and successfully fought extradition efforts, left Costa Rica days ago — presumably for a Caribbean island nation. Carazo said he had received "a mandate from the Costa Rican people" to keep the fugitive businessman out of the country.

WEATHER

Overcast skies with fog this morning. Partly cloudy and warm today, tonight and Thursday. High today low 80s, low tonight mid-70. High tomorrow low 80s. 20% chance of rain today, 30% tonight and 40% tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

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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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Letters to the editor

Apartment complexes want early fall leases

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.

possess a great deal of patriotism for the U.S. who (believe it or not) have never worn a uniform.

I agree that the invasion of Western Europe is a very real possibility. But if this does happen and I am there as a "G.I. Joe" I hope that my leaders, which you would be, have matured past the bias which you have exhibited.

Finally, let me say I have a great deal of respect for the Corps and have several good friends who are members of the Corps. It is really unfortunate that a handful of biased cadets have to tarnish the shine of this fine organization.

— Roger G. Reddin, '80

metric intensity while keeping its imagery fascinatingly functional, and Marc Gist's "David's Troubles," in which, though the poet tries to hit too many bobbing targets, a superb irony carries the poem anyway.

Experimental work, the ballast of any collection of promising writing by students, is well represented in the magazine, with Gist's work and some neat play with enjambment by Lisa Diann Shaw among the highlights.

Curtis Blair evocative illustrations for "Viddeestar" and the art work by Richard Sardinha deserve special mention in high-level graphics.

At \$1, the magazine is a bargain.

— Richard H. Costa
editor, *Quartet*

congratulating themselves on their "defender of the free" status. I lived in Utay during the fall of '76 semester, the year of the elections. One morning during breakfast, I overheard one person complaining that they had wanted to go harass the people working at the Socialist Worker's Party table in the MSC, but when they got there the C.T.'s had already thrown them out.

This doesn't say much for some of the residents of Utay, but it also shows that the only "contemptible" opinions the Corps defends, apparently, are their own.

— Philip Greider

Fair-to-middlin'

Editor:

Andy Williams' review of the 1978 A&M literary magazine "Moebius" ("Moebius is fair-to-middlin' Battalion, May 2") is itself just that, fair-to-middlin'. It conveys nothing of the high spiritedness that characterizes most of the poems and stories, and it pays no tribute to a small but hard-working staff, headed by Rhonda Kay Reger, which kept the 64-page issue practically error-free.

The reviewer used a series of one-liners to dismiss the writings he didn't care for and frequently praised one poem or story at the expense of another. Few readers needed to know that Williams preferred one of the poets, none of whose works received prizes in the recent MSC Arts Committee awards, over another whose did. Rhonda Reger's selecting editors were not the same people who judged the literary contests. Why did the reviewer have to connect the two?

The caliber of the contest was high, generally. Many of the pieces let the reader in on a world that opens up other worlds. From Doug Graham's effective sci-fi takeoff on Anthony Burgess' *Clockwork Orange* in the long story "Viddeestar," to David Flowers' wry look at puppet-like complacency in the poem "Uncle Same," the best of the creative writings bring one up short at the insightfulness of an idea, a couplet. Facets of day-to-day life on this campus, always viewed askant, come to life in such poems as Diana Villareal Aldrich's "Dear Roomie," Roger C. Schustereit's "Picture Show," "Flowers' "Running," Karl D. Klicker's "Ain't It So," which ends with the priceless quatrain for this time of semester: "And after it all/don't you feel/Like the great dangling modifier/in the TERM PAPER OF LIFE?"

Even the more serious poems and stories are rarely the sort of deadly solemn material that impresses without galvanizing. In this category belong Ricks Frazier's story "Reunion," which sustains a mordant mood in a tundra-like setting; Bonnie Campbell's "Fall of Autumn," in which the perspective of an old woman is kept consistent and true; Michael Wilk's long poem "Come Out the Night" which maintains

Thoughts on Finals

Editor:

This poem appeared on the kitchen table a few days ago. It seemed appropriate, so I thought I'd pass it on:

On Final Exams
Chemistry can go to hell
And take this headache with it.
Algebra can to there, too,
And integers and digits.
Give me just an hour more,
A book with which to study,
Bring a pen to write it down,
And watch my brain go muddly!
Phys Ed, English, take them all,
And, darling, when you're through,
Call again some day next week —
I might find time for you.

And to all who might need it, Good Luck on Exams!

— G. Gould, '81

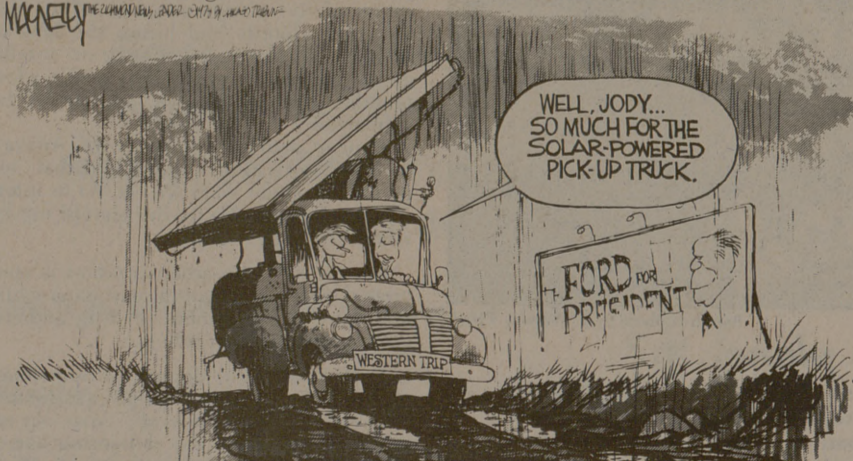
Good reading

Editor:

If the Corps has contributed nothing else to this University, the letters to the Battalion by its members at least make for entertaining reading. The two letters Friday are excellent examples.

The first letter, by the Deputy Corps Commander, has me a bit confused. He begins by saying that the Corps does not "condone, promote, or tolerate any actions such as those committed;" that is certainly commendable. After that he digresses, however, and spends the last two-thirds of the letter discussing how disrespectful Utay residents are during the raising and lowering of the flag. How does this pertain to the tear gas incident? He isn't suggesting the rest of the student body should support the Corps in these childish battles because they salute the flag and Utay residents don't, is he? Would it be acceptable for Utay residents to throw a tear gas canister in the Corps dorm if they did salute the flag?

As for the second letter, Messrs. Bani-gan, et al., had better hold off a bit on



Off the pedestal

Editor:

In reference to the letters written by Scott Patton and company, and the B-2 Fish, I would like to say that I believe you should climb down from the pedestal you have placed yourselves on, and reassess your judgements.

I am not a member of Utay Hall or the Corps of Cadets, and have nothing to say about the actions between these organizations. But I feel the latter portions of your letters certainly deserve comment.

I resent being told that the only people who love old glory, and the freedom for which it stands, wear a uniform. I happen to hold my country very close to my heart and would willingly give my life to protect it. I have never displayed or felt any disrespect for the flag, and the only uniform I have ever worn was a high school band uniform. I realize that this fact probably dismays you, but let me assure you that there are a large number of people who

Debbie Caldarola, '80
Carol Casey, '81