

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 12, 1978

## TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

### Placement Center expands hours

Texas A&M University's Placement Center has expanded its hours from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday to provide better service to graduating students seeking career employment. First day reservations for employment interviews also have been changed to 6:30-8 p.m. two weeks prior to the recruiters' visit. Recruiting for the 1978-79 academic year will begin Sept. 11.

### Former astronaut Carr to speak

Former astronaut Gerald P. Carr will speak Wednesday on engineering experiences in the space program. Guest of the American Society of Metals student chapter, Carr will be presented at 7 p.m. in Room 102 Zachry Engineering Center. Carr will show slides of the Skylab III mission, of which he was prime crew commander. With his two crewmen, the retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel holds the world record for the longest space mission of 84 days.

## STATE

### Teague remains stable at home

Olin E. Teague remained in stable condition Monday following a mild stroke 11 days ago that has kept him at his Bethesda, Md. home and forced postponement of a reception and science symposium in his honor at Texas A&M. A spokesman said Teague was at home and the effects of the stroke are similar to the first one he had several years ago. "It affected his speech. The doctor advised him to remain at home," the spokesman said. He also must avoid social events for a month or more. Teague's spokesman said he has made brief visits to his office on the way to his doctor but otherwise has conducted necessary business by telephone.

### Safety of crown prince feared

Recent violence in Iran over his father's regime has caused officials to fear for the safety of Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, 17, who is undergoing flight training at Reese Air Force Base near Lubbock. Security has been tight around the prince since his arrival in late July. A short time after his arrival, about 700 Iranian students marched several miles through the city on a route that took them past the prince's weekend off-base residence. State Department officials and members of the protective service division of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations provide protection along with the Lubbock Police Department who keep the house under 24-hour surveillance.

## NATION

### Contract accepted by teachers

Teachers jubilantly accepted a 7 percent pay raise offered by the New Orleans Parish school board Monday to end a 13-day strike that crippled instruction for most of the district's 90,000 students. The package also included an increase in hospitalization coverage, a \$800 annual raise for teachers' aides, and a no-reprisal clause for the strikers. About 3,000 teachers and aides ratified the contract and an hour later striking school bus drivers tentatively accepted the same package. Teachers returned to school Monday at noon. Classes were to resume this morning.

### Search begins for missing pilot

Louisiana state police and military helicopters joined a half dozen Civil Air Patrol planes Monday in the search for a single-engine airplane missing on a flight from South Carolina to Texas. The pilot, tentatively identified as Dr. Robert Jackson of Manning, S.C., was last seen during a refueling stop at Hattiesburg, Miss. In his last radio report Sunday afternoon, he said he was experiencing heavy turbulence and was eight miles southeast of Alexandria. Helicopters from the state police and Fort Polk Army base at Leesville, La., began an air search at daybreak Monday.

## WORLD

### Ganges floods in eastern India

The rampaging Ganges River racing eastward from the Hindu holy city of Benares, India, today flooded thousands of acres of farmland in the two eastern states of Bihar and West Bengal, officials said. In Arrah, floodwaters have submerged the low-lying areas of the town and are threatening the town's main market areas. Army troops moved into the two northern districts of Malda and Murshidabad to rescue flood victims. The two districts are facing a second wave of floods in three weeks.

## WEATHER

Cloudy with thundershowers today becoming partly cloudy tonight and diminishing showers. High in the mid-80s and low in the mid-70s. Southerly wind at 10 to 15 mph. High probability of rain for daytime today and lowering to 30% tonight and Wednesday.

## THE BATTALION

### 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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## Rest in peace?

When can a dead man rest in peace?

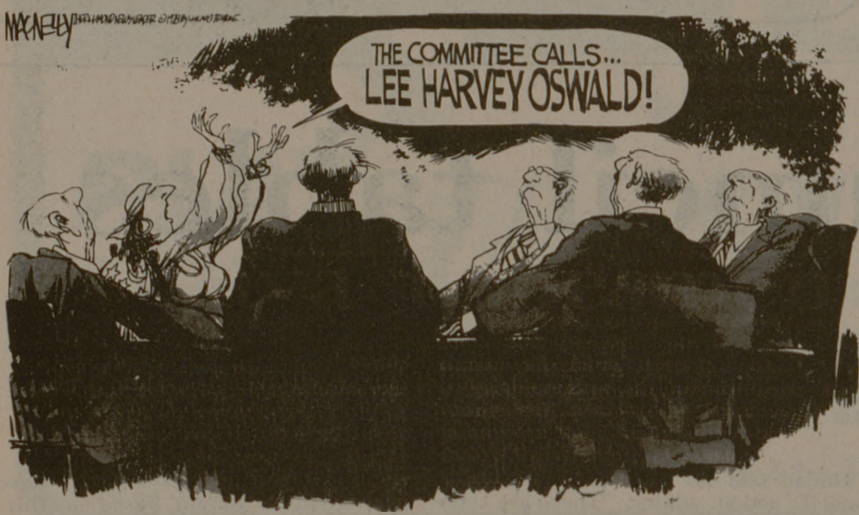
Never, apparently, at least not when his name is John F. Kennedy. The newest version of the House Assassinations Committee, in pursuit of answers to "put America's mind at ease", is raising more questions than answers.

In recent hearings the assassinations committee has again raised the same old questions: Did Lee Harvey Oswald really act on his own? Was there a conspiracy to murder JFK? Were more than three shots (the Warren Commission explanation) fired at Kennedy?

But what about this question: Is this multi-million dollar "investigation" any more likely to provide new answers than any of the earlier assassination guessing games? And what difference would it make?

Very little. What murder was ever solved by committee, especially 15 years after the crime?

This costly ghost-hunt needs to end, once and for all. Let JFK rest in peace.  
L.R.L.



## Fraternities not 'just Greek to me'

By DOUG GRAHAM

I never had any use for fraternities. Having been a senior in the Corps, I felt frats were elitist snobs, upperclass and non-aggie by nature. I also did not know much. I even had rush and initiation mixed up. So my initial reaction, when assigned to attend a rush party was, "not the Kid." I didn't want to be zapped by a cattleprod ala U.T., no sir-ree.

But no prods were around at the rush parties. In their stead were beives of sorority girls, good music and lots of beer. Instead of the stick, I was offered what one Sigma Chi, David Fetterly, described as "Butt and beer."

Each party featured a new batch, too. One night the DZs were hostesses, the next the Alpha Zetas.

BUT AMONG OTHER things, I learned that decent folks wear greek letters on their shirts.

And as a corollary, not all sorority girls were "bitches."

That dealt my misconceptions a blow. I had thought fraternities were rich, overly selective and shallow.

And it isn't that frats aren't or don't have a little of all the those qualities, including elitism, but it's more a case of degree. Frats do have their good points.

Fraternities exist for "brotherhood," or so say the members of Sigma Chi and Sigma Phi Epsilon, the two frats whose parties I attended.

Members told me that their best friends at Texas A&M were their pledge brothers.

"It was hard to get to know someone you could really depend on," Kim Pijerina, a Sigma Chi said.

That was a sentiment echoed by George, Pat, and many others. A fraternity is a place for close friendship.

And, as Jeanne Graham, president of the sorority Zeta Tau Alpha said, for "fun," companionship and "fun."

but they emphasize the close friendships.

"I could call one in the middle of the night," Kim said, "and I know he'd do whatever he could to help me."

TO GET IN one of the Greek organizations, one must attend various rush parties. The males hold an open rush. Oddly enough, it features women and beer.

### Commentary

One would think they were interested in socializing more than fraternity.

But the older fraternity brothers said that attitude changes.

As the series of rush parties continues, rushees are given "bids" or invitations to join the various fraternities.

That's the only way to get in, which seems a bit selective.

Of course, that's nothing compared to the iron-fisted rule Panhellenic council maintains over sororities. This council, controlled by older women, has put a temporary ban on admitting new sororities at Texas A&M, set quotas on rushees and instituted a formal rush system. Before a girl can even try entering sorority rush she must have a written recommendation from a home town person, preferably a sorority alumna.

As for money, unlike many "Greek"

schools, Texas A&M fraternity dues are not excessive. Fees run about \$30 a month, excluding the higher initial fees charged.

All this makes fraternities or sororities neither good nor bad. It seems the Greeks are a phenomenon associated with Texas A&M's growth.

I hate to say it, but Texas A&M is no longer a military cow college. It has burgeoned into a multi-faceted university with over 30,000 students, most of whom live off campus. And of those who live on campus, only 2,000 are in the Corps.

THAT BRINGS US to an important point.

The Corps is a military fraternity. According to military science department figures only one-half of the upperclassmen were on contracts. That means the Corps does more than serve as a mill for cranking out officers; it fulfills a need. It provides friendship, co-operation, and a framework, just like the fraternities.

The Corps rituals are not secret. They are what have become Aggie traditions like Silver Taps, Muster, and Final Review.

The frats, many of which preceded the Corps, have secret rituals no less meaningful to their members.

They're just different, that's all.

The Greeks are here to stay. They're growing, and probably will gain official University recognition one day. One hopes they will not evolve toward the "If you aren't Greek you aren't" systems found elsewhere. Members of Texas A&M's frats and sororities said they hope such does not happen, though some frat

rats confided that they felt the sororities had already moved in that direction.

That may be because frats organize locally as independent frats and apply for national charters. But sororities are set up by parent organizations from the start. Hence their trend toward stratification.

BUT THE REAL POINT is whether or not Greeks will harm the traditional egalitarian "All Aggs are Aggies."

I think eventually they may, though they will probably consider themselves Aggies first and Greeks second, as they now say.

But as one Sigma Chi said "People come to A&M not just to be an Aggie anymore. They come to A&M because it is a good school."

It is not realistic to expect traditions to survive intact without a system for transmitting those traditions. In the vacuum off-campus it is almost natural for students to form age-groups to maintain stability in their lives. Hence it is hypocritical for the administration to deny recognition to the children of their massive University expansion program.

That does not mean I am pro-Greek. I hope the Greeks do not draw potential recruits away from the Corps or cause too much division between Greek and non-Greek factions.

It is possible the Greek system here will evolve into an open Aggie sort of insitution. But whatever occurs, when the discussion of officially recognizing these Greek groups arrives, one must look beyond the simple question of a legality, to what A&M was, what it is becoming, and what we hope it will become.

## Java tribesmen reject civilization

United Press International

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Centuries ago the Baduis of Java decided civilization's only aim was to destroy nature and sever their links with their ancestors.

So 400 years ago they isolated themselves deep in the forests of West Java near the town of Banten, clinging to ancient magical beliefs.

The Baduis still refuse all products of modernization, including farming techniques, because "metal instruments can hurt the earth."

Now the 20th century will be forced upon them. Under the Indonesian government's resettlement plan, the Baduis will be provided with power generators, electric lighting and television, all modern inventions forbidden under tribal laws.

The tribe, an estimated 700 families, is divided into two communities. Outer

Baduis are allowed to go outside their tropical enclave as long as they do not touch metal or ride vehicles. The 90 families of the Inner Baduis totally refuse to establish contact with the outside world.

Belief in magic and mysticism was popular in Java long before the influence of Hinduism and Islam. The Hindus were very tolerant of the traditional worship of West Java's ethnic Sunda people, which included the Sundanese Badui community.

When Islam was imposed on Java by 15th century conquests, the Javanese princes moved to Bali to escape the alien religion. In West Java, the Badui tribe wrapped itself in the forest's isolation.

In 1523, when the Baduis established themselves on their mountain, they began decreeing moral laws and enforcing

puritanism. Drinking, smoking, touching the products of civilization and indulging in adultery are sins.

The tribe shares everything. No one owns anything. And Baduis are not allowed to sleep in a bed or wear shoes.

Reading and writing are punishable by exile. Without any writing, the tribe's oral culture is vital. History is passed on by the chief — called the Pu'un — who tells his people the sagas of the 25 Badui kingdoms which lived freely before the tribe's retreat.

Magical powers claimed by the Pu'un include knowledge of what is happening around the world, although he never leaves the forest. He is said to be able to disintegrate his own body and fly as he pleases. He claims to know when any outsider tries to enter the sacred and restricted Badui area.

Some say parts of the jungle are full of dangerous animals and venomous plants. Others insist the magic of the Pu'un can slay any intruder.

However mighty the Pu'un appears, he must retire when his wife dies, although women are not supposed to have determinant roles in Badui society.

Although the cult of ancestors is essential among the tribe, there are no burial ceremonies. The body is left in a simple hole in the jungle, to be quickly forgotten.

All this is to change quickly. According to Agung Yuwono, director general of the home ministry, the 600 families of the Outer Baduis will enter "the modern way of living" because "it is a pity that after 32 years of independence there still are people not in touch with their government."

### Letters to the editor

## ERA won't take away any rights

Editor:

Reading Mr Farnsworth's letter (Battalion, Sept 8) compelled me to offer another perspective (Editor's note: That letter condemned the Equal Rights Amendment).

Indeed, Mr. Farnsworth, what evils? As for his first point, war is an unacceptable form of behavior for any member of our species, regardless of sex or parental role. I do not comprehend the logic in members of either sex joining in organized groups to kill conspecifics in ritualized violence. Such behavior exists in no other species. Using the threat of the draft and combat to keep women "in their place" implies an acceptance of such behavior in men. (And at present, we have no draft.)

The logic behind Mr. Farnsworth's second point also eludes me. Regarding statutory rape, the ERA would, in fact, make it illegal for anyone above a specified age to engage in sexual intercourse with anyone below a specified age, regardless of the sex of either partner.

Should you be of the mentality that professes to find the idea of a woman raping a man amusing, read the account beginning on page 286 in Susan Brownmiller's exhaustive study on rape, *Against Our Will*. Perhaps you will then realize that rape can occur regardless of the sex of either the rapist or the victim; they may in fact both be of the same sex.

Regarding his third point, United States citizens are already guaranteed the right to privacy; again, the ERA would only guarantee this right regardless of sex. And as for his final point, what is "evil" in basing the awarding of alimony upon the

relevant facts in a given case, free of sexual bias? This would certainly be more just than automatically always making one sex financially responsible for the other.

No, Mr. Farnsworth, this amendment will not take rights away from anyone, woman or man. It will simply guarantee equality of rights under the law, regardless of sex.

Gisela R. Dellmeier  
graduate student

### Everybody's choice

Editor:

Freedom is really such a drag. All those options, life fraught with pathways, and so many opportunities to take the wrong one. I stand with Mr. Farnsworth; it's bad enough with all these men running their own lives (and messing them up) without letting a bunch of women do it too.

Of course we can support the occasional law, after all a law is nowhere near the burden of a constitutional amendment. I mean, gee wiz, that Bill of Rights really sets us adrift, doesn't it? Women don't have to bother with that, the only right they are guaranteed is the vote, and that's such a once in a while thing.

But Mr. Farnsworth's letter is very free from facts, and once you get started on that freedom stuff... kind of like Lay's potato chips I guess. So perhaps if I remove the freedom from fact, other freedoms will part easier.

With regard to alimony (is there alimony in Texas?), the ERA would keep payments from being based on sex. The courts would have to consider things like income and need. Regarding segregation,

the problem in the past was the inequality of "separate but equal." I really don't think that would be a problem here.

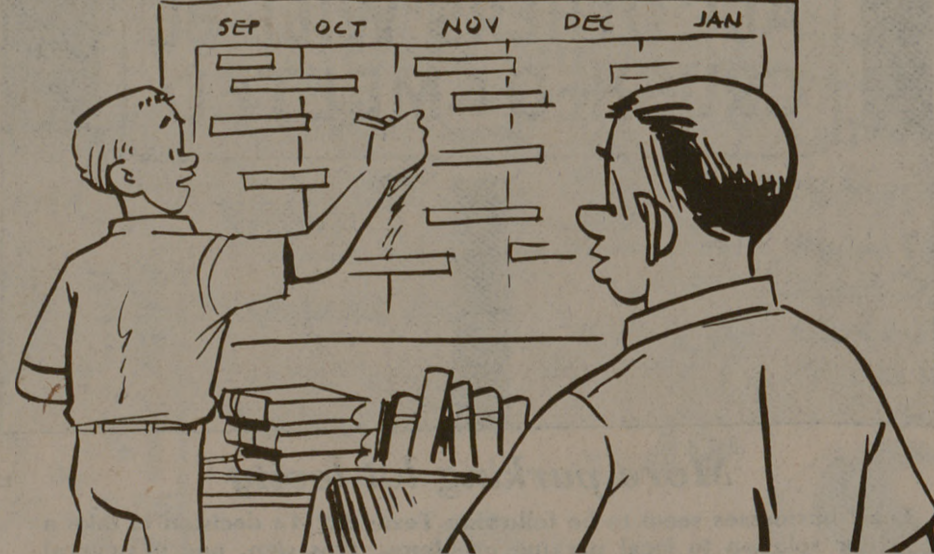
The draft might happen anyway; the British drafted women in WWII, and General Eisenhower warned Congress that the U.S. might have to do the same in future wars. This almost became reality in the Korean war because so few women enlisted. But the draft doesn't mean combat

duty.

But all these are secondary issues. It's the freedom that's really tough. There's a government publication in the library, Y4 J89/2:Eq2/6/970, which documents the issue nicely. Both sides. Then the women themselves can decide whether they want to jump off the pedestal.

— Scott Kenneth Meyer

### Slouch by Jim Earle



"AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO STUDY! I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY GETTING MY STUDY SCHEDULE WORKED UP!"