

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 1978

# TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

## Book collectors' contest set

Texas A&M University students have until Oct. 20, to enter the Sixth Annual Student Book Collectors' Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Texas A&M University Library. Rules and entry forms are available across from the Circulation Desk or from Mary Kuder, librarian in the Resource Development Division, both on the first floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. Prizes totaling \$875 are to be awarded. For more information, contact Deborah Brown, 845-2551 or Don Dyal, 845-1951.

## Voter registration deadline near

Deadline is Oct. 6 for registering to vote in the Nov. 7 election. Applications for registration can be made by mail or in person at the office of the county tax assessor-collector in the Brazos County Courthouse. Mail-in forms are available at local banks, the Texas Voting Systems office, located at East 29th and Washington Streets, The League of Women Voters is distributing pre-stamped application forms. Members will attend the next Bryan-College Station Newcomers Club meeting, Texas A&M Social Club and the Texas A&M Newcomers Club to answer registration questions and to hand out forms.

## STATE

### Davis trial moved to Houston

District Judge Arthur Tipps rescheduled the murder-for-hire case of T. Cullen Davis to District Judge Wallace Moore's courtroom in Houston. Tipps doubted an impartial jury could be found to try the millionaire defendant in his hometown. Prosecutors felt Davis might draw sympathetic jurors in either Fort Worth or Amarillo due to his year's sensational trial in Amarillo, where Davis was found not guilty of murdering his step-daughter.

## NATION

### Oil fraud arraignment held

A federal grand jury in Florida has indicted seven men for the alleged illegal conspiracy to manipulate the price of fuel oil sold to the Florida Power Corp. during the 1974 oil crisis. Paper transactions inflated the price to double its original cost. All seven pleaded innocent at Thursday's arraignment and were allowed to remain free on bond until their December trial.

### Haley's copyright roots untangle

U.S. District Judge Marvin Frankel dismissed the copyright infringement suit of Margaret Walker Alexander against Alex Haley, author of the best-selling work "Roots." She claimed Haley copied from "Jubilee," a book she based on her great-grandmother's life, published in 1966. Frankel said the alleged similarities were "level of factual or legal substance."

### Strikes end with new contracts

Police officers and firefighters in Biloxi, Miss., and Wichita, Kan., voted to end their respective strikes. Striking firemen will receive reinstatement according to their contract. It also guarantees a percent raise by the first of the year and an additional three percent raise in September 1979. The police accepted similar conditions, but all disciplinary action for the 162 strikers was left to the courts.

## WORLD

### Peace protesters evicted

Israeli army troops in Jerusalem Thursday began evicting religious radicals with restraint from an unauthorized settlement they established on a mountain in the occupied West Bank of Jordan to protest the Camp David peace accords. This marks the first time since Prime Minister Menachem Begin took power 16 months ago that his government has used force to evict radicals from unauthorized settlements. This underscores the government's intention to abide by the Camp David peace accords, which prohibits new settlements in the occupied territories for the duration of the peace talks.

### Mideast accord support sought

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is in the midst of a Middle East tour ordered by President Carter to try to gain the support of moderate Arab countries for the Camp David accords, but left the door open to join the peace moves later. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates also expressed strong reservations, saying the peace documents "did not offer just and final solutions" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam ruled out any future reconciliation with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. A Palestinian spokesman said guerrillas will make military strikes at American interests in the Middle East.

## WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow with a 30% chance of rain. The high will be 80 with the low in the lower 60s. Wind will be 10 to 15 mph.

## 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.  
Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.  
Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.  
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.  
Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.  
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## Too much privacy?

You may find it hard to believe, but if you were thinking of giving a job to a former federal employee named John Ehrlichman or Spiro Agnew and you wrote to the Justice Department to ask if they had ever run afoul of the law, the government would refuse to tell you because to do so would "constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy."

Everyone knows, of course, that Ehrlichman was sent to prison for a Watergate-related crime and that Agnew resigned the vice presidency to avoid criminal prosecution.

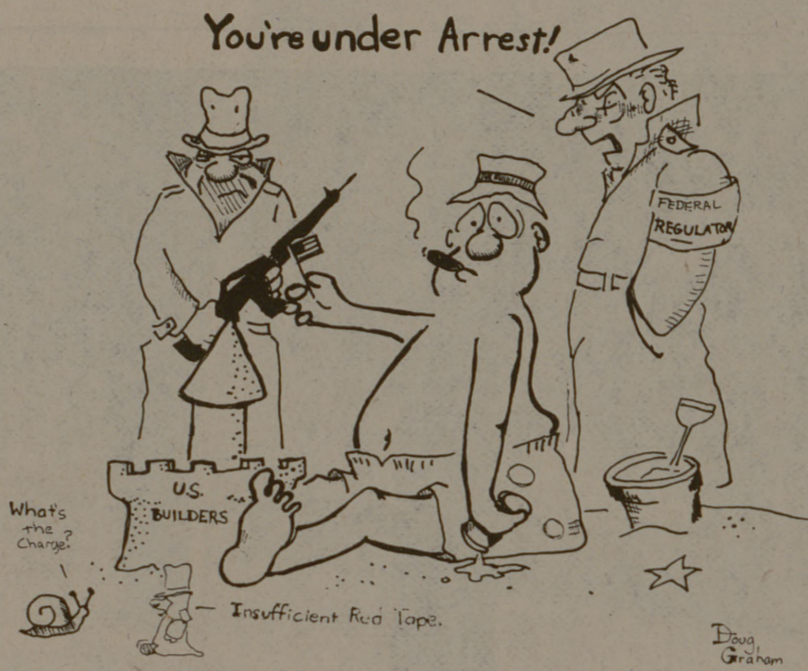
But CBS correspondent Fred Graham went to the trouble of having the Justice Department formally refuse to disclose the information about them, as well as other well-known persons, to demonstrate the absurdity of its privacy regulations in more typical situations.

Justice Department rules, for example, forbid it to disclose if any individual — say, a contractor bidding on a government job — has a past record of arrests, indictments or convictions, even if the government itself arrested, indicted and convicted him.

Such is the extreme reading the Justice Department has put on the Privacy Act of 1974, which was passed by Congress partly in reaction to Watergate, partly in reaction to the threats to individual privacy that were perceived in the 1960s. Twenty-three states also passed privacy laws.

But do we really want a system in which the voters may not know that an embezzler is running for public office? he asks. Or in which a girls' school will not be told that a convicted rapist has applied for a job as a night watchman?

The answers are pretty obvious.  
Birmingham Post-Herald



## Just a housewife - and damn mad

By DAVID S. BRODER

MERRICK, LONG ISLAND—She is a 33-year-old woman with two kids and a husband who is holding down two jobs to pay the bills. No, she tells the inquiring reporter, she does not want her name in the paper.

"Just say I'm a hardworking housewife," she says. And damned angry.

What she—and others like her—say on this late-summer Saturday tells you all you need to know about why it is not going to be much fun to be running for public office this fall. And probably not much of an election.

THIS IS THE DAY before the good news arrives from Camp David, but her expectations are minimal. Two years ago, she voted for Jimmy Carter, "because he sounded like he'd be good." But not again, she says. "This time, I'd like someone who doesn't talk so high and mighty before he gets in and does more of a job after he's elected."

The trouble is, she does not see anyone out there who looks any better.

"I don't know anyone that people really like and trust," she says. "I don't think I'll even vote this year. Everyone my age is just fed up with it. The middle-income people just want to move out of the country; it's that bad."

As she stands on the front stoop of her house in this middle-class town on the

south shore of Nassau County, the frustration she feels comes pouring out in waves—each one angrier than the one before.

Her husband is a splicer for the telephone company, but now he's taken a second job as a janitor in a nearby church, to try to keep pace with inflation.

"WE'RE HARD WORKERS," she says, "and we're not getting anywhere. I don't want anybody to give us anything. I'd just like to see things straightened out."

She is worried about pollution. "I really am afraid of what it's going to be like for the children," she says. "The air is getting worse, no matter what they say. And the water is full of chemicals, more of them all the time."

And, like almost everyone else interviewed in her neighborhood, she is angry about taxes. She and her neighbors are convinced that "the middle-income people pay for everything, while the rich people have their loopholes and the poor get it all on welfare."

She is sure that taxes could be cut a lot "by somebody who was well-organized and not out for himself. All of them promise it—but how can you trust them?" she asks.

The town of Merrick, she and her neighbors tell you, has had a tax revolt of its own. The town budget has been voted

down twice, forcing austerity measures in the schools.

"AND WHAT IS the first thing they do?" she demands. You know the answer, because you have been told at almost every door. But, in her anger, the words come tumbling out without a pause for your reply.

"They take away the buses," she says, forcing every family to find its own means of transporting its youngsters to and from school. School athletic teams have had to cancel their schedules, because the buses are not available. And families with both parents working are paying \$20 a month per child for places in improvised private carpools.

"You know that's political," she says. "They could have saved that money a lot of other ways, but the people who are in there (the school administration) want the people to suffer because we voted down their budget. That's the kind of thing politicians will do."

For her—and others in this town—Carter and Camp David and Congress are a long way away. Carter, she says, "is trying to help Egypt and Israel work out their problems. But I don't see him doing much for us."

Does the civil service reform he finally pushed through Congress promise relief from wasteful bureaucracy?

"I haven't really paid much attention to

that," she says, and her neighbors seem equally indifferent.

WOULD SHE VOTE for Jerry Ford over Carter if the choice came up again? "I doubt it. He never seemed to get much done." Ronald Reagan? "I don't know, but he's awfully old to be starting out as President." Ted Kennedy? "Maybe, but I heard him saying he didn't even want to run. Who would, the way things are?"

The dearth of new leadership, she implies, is part of a general problem—the decline in quality and workmanship and professionalism in American life.

"Look at that car," she says, pointing to the station wagon in the driveway. "We bought it new three years ago and we have replaced almost everything in it. You would not believe the repair bills. Nothing works. Appliances. Cars. Anything you buy new—forget it. Look at all the cars they're recalling now."

"They just don't make anything good any more," she says. Including the politicians?

"Them more than anything. I tell you, people like me are tired of hearing the same old speeches, and then nothing happens."

You bid her goodbye, and you think to yourself: How would you like to be the politician who comes to her door seeking a vote?

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## Letters to the editor

## Professors defend tenure system

Editor:

We support the positions of Chancellor Williams and President Miller in speaking for the continuation of the tenure system for university professors and in opposing the proposed bill of Speaker Clayton, which would substitute renewable contracts for tenure. We believe that tenure is superior to alternative systems for several important reasons. Tenure status is not granted carelessly nor is it, when achieved, an irrevocable lifetime guarantee of a job. Tenure is given only to those who have successful records of teaching and research over a number of years, and it is retained by those who continue to be capable professionals.

Tenure allows the professor to engage in long-range, and thus potentially more rewarding, projects; a contract system would encourage limited research efforts that could produce results fairly quickly. Tenure assures the continued attraction of a distinguished faculty, including those of a

senior professional rank; a contract system would make it virtually impossible to attract quality faculty to a university whose policies are so out of line with the national norm.

Above all, tenure, not a contract system, provides the more encouraging environment in which to conduct free and open research and has proven to be the most effective protection against encroachments on academic freedom, without which no professor and no university can accomplish their ultimate purpose, the discovery and teaching of truth.

C. E. Harris, Jr., President  
Texas A&M Chapter  
Texas Association of College Teachers

Paul A. Parrish, President  
Texas A&M Chapter  
American Association of University Professors

## Profs do care

Editor:

As a faculty member with a very small involvement in "typical" research, I would like to respond to Mr. Robert Schindler's letter of September 20.

While I cannot speak for other departments, I can say unequivocally that the Department of Chemistry does care profoundly about good teaching. Last year, for example, teams of senior faculty visited the classes of non-tenured faculty to prepare evaluations and suggestions for improvement. The Department Head and the Personnel and Tenure Committee give careful consideration to the quality of teaching, as evidenced by the recent promotion and tenure of one of our First Year Chemistry faculty with only a small list of "typical" research publications, but significant evidence of good teaching and instructional innovation.

Chemistry faculty devote countless hours to help sessions and professor-tutorial work. I could not name a single member of our faculty who fails to exhibit a sincere concern for students. This does not, however, interfere with a very active research program that has gained international respect.

I don't think that this commitment to both quality research and quality teaching is limited to the Department of Chemistry. I have heard, and believe, statements from Vice President (J.M.) Prescott, President (Jarvis) Miller, and Chancellor (Jack) Williams to the effect that the primary role of our faculty must be good teaching, in conjunction with significant scholarly effort. It is the requirement of that scholarly effort—the extension of our frontiers of knowledge—that sets a true university apart from a "college." But it is the emphasis on quality teaching and caring about students that sets Texas A&M apart from many other large universities.

Many of the complaints that I have heard over the past twenty year that "teaching is not rewarded" really mean that "meeting classes" is not rewarded. It shouldn't be! We have an obligation to do more than that. As a university faculty we must extend those frontiers of knowledge in the areas of pure and applied research, and in the equally challenging area of instructional innovation. It is in this respect that, I assure you, the Texas A&M administration does indeed reward teaching.

Rod O'Connor  
professor & director of first year chemistry programs

## Answer please

Editor:

Regarding the letter by Oussama Qawasmi, '79 (Battalion, Sept. 21).

I would like to know, what was the purpose of the letter? Was it to slander everything from the "U.S. Foreign Diplomacy" to the mideast framework for peace? Or was it for the author to spout meaningless drivel on topics he obviously knew little about?

If he can answer these questions it would be greatly appreciated.

Owen D. Massey, '79

## Chivalry lives

Editor:

Hopelessly enveloped in quicksand, my auto slowly gurgled toward certain death last weekend at the Bryan American Legion Hall. But the desperate call of a damsel in distress was answered by a score of statesmen - THE FIRST REGIMENT.

These brave soldiers risked their lives extracting my engulfed carriage with super-human strength. The heroes abandoned their comrades, companions, ladies and longnecks to heed my cry. What galantry! Not only was the social gathering a total success but it was proven once again, by the Corps, that chivalry is not dead!

To some this letter may seem a bit dramatic but these gentlemen, it seems to me, truly helped an Aggie in need. In simple terms fellas, THANK YA!

Martha Lambert, '81  
Clair Hodgkin, '81

## Clarifications

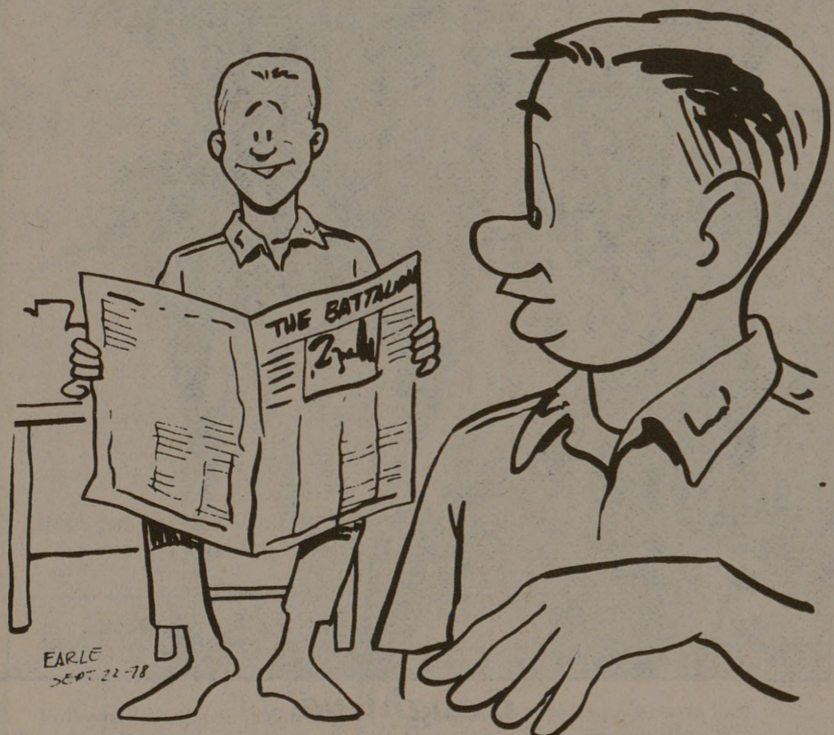
An article in Wednesday's Battalion about a blackout in the Corps area incorrectly referred to Corps Commander Bob Kamensky as Bob Kennedy.

A typographical error in a letter to the editor Thursday may have left the impression that the writer said he ranked "right up there with True Confessions." Instead, the writer was referring to Today's Student.

Monday's Battalion contained a story that said the University's library map collection contains 600,000 maps. The correct figure is 60,000.

## Slouch

by Jim Earle



"GET THIS! THERE'S A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM AN AGGIE WHO SAYS HE HAS NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!"