

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
OCTOBER 2, 1978

Closing off you

Aggie Cinema is closing itself off. Yes, closing itself off, so that only about one-third the regular number of Texas A&M moviegoers can see midnight films at the University.

But can you blame the committee and the theatre staff for switching some of its midnight shows from Rudder Auditorium to the Theatre?

Rudder Auditorium, with its expensive furnishings, was virtually attacked at one of its movies — carpet ripped, two chairs broken, seats burned by cigarettes, theatre entrance light stolen, and beer cans and liquor bottles found after the performance, according to the cinema committee.

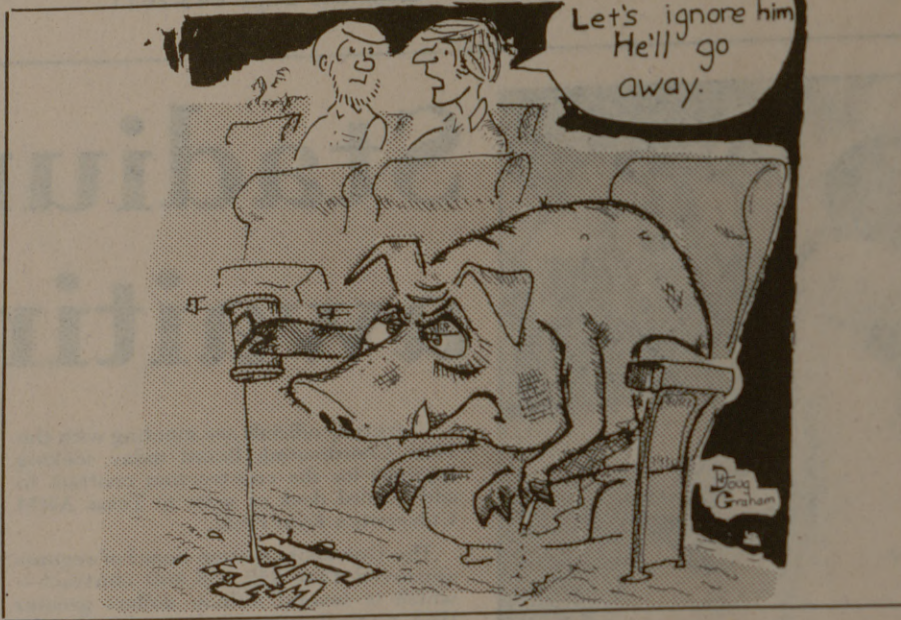
The switch to the Theatre reduces the number of tickets from 2,300 to 700. The ticket lines will get even longer than they have been; no fun for anyone.

A few students could have calmed down the few drunks in the crowd, but instead the committee feels forced to hire a cop.

Gina Casas, chairman of Aggie Cinema, now asks students to protect their student center.

Students should have enough sense to do that anyway. Maybe in the future, a little of this sense will prevent closing off other activities.

—K.T.



Los Politicos, after el vote

By ROLAND LINDSEY
UPI Capitol Reporter

AUSTIN, Texas — Republicans Bill Clements and Sen. John Tower are making strong pitches for support of Mexican-American voters in the Nov. 7 election, but a leading Mexican-American spokesman says the GOP is fighting an uphill battle.

Ruben Bonilla, director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), was particularly miffed at some of Clements' comments concerning Mexican aliens, and said he would do all in his power to prevent Clements from receiving more than 5 percent of the Mexican-American vote in South Texas.

Bonilla also said he hopes Clements will become more active in campaigning among Mexican-Americans. "The more visible he is, the more votes he loses," Bonilla contended.

The LULAC also noted the number of Mexican-Americans registered to vote has increased 21 percent since 1976, while the turnout among other minorities is declining.

A Clements news release concerning his public opinion poll will not help his standing among Mexican-Americans.

That release identified Mario Compean as an independent candidate for governor. Compean is the nominee, and a cofounder of La Baza Unida.

Robert Spellings, one time top assistant to former Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, has joined the staff of Comptroller Bob Bullock as an administrative assistant.

He joins another former Barnes associate — former Rep. Ralph Wayne of Plainview — in the comptroller's department.

Robert Heard, editor of the Texas AFL-CIO Labor News, in a column retold a familiar story on Sen. John Tower,

R-Texas, saying that Tower, wearing cowboy boots and hat, once was unrecognized by an elevator operator in his office building.

When Tower reminded the elevator operator he had passed Tower's floor, Heard's column said, the operator replied, "Just hold it cowboy, we've got a United States senator on board this elevator."

Ken Towery, Tower's top press aide,

in office, and was later retracted by that paper.

"Since the nature of the 'Report of the Editor' in this instance was obviously meant to be a gut job on the senator, we have no reason to expect anything amounting to a retraction from the AFL-CIO Labor News, and will not ask for one," Towery said in a printed statement distributed to the news media. "But I wanted you to know the facts of the matter."

Not all the fighting between staff of political candidates these days involves general election opponents, however.

"Bentsen's Bullets," the staff of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen Jr., D-Texas, squared off against "Krueger's Killers," their counterparts from the office of Rep. Bob Krueger, D-Texas, in a softball game.

Staff members didn't tell the score, putting more emphasis on describing the post game refreshments.

Politics

said he has dim hopes for a retraction on the labor newspaper, but distributed a statement saying the story is false, and is one that has been told on virtually every Texas senator in years.

Towery said the story was printed in the Washington Post during Tower's first term

Letters to the Editor

Editor:
In regard to a letter published in the Battalion, (Sept. 26)

It was acknowledged that "Shear Class," being a humanly operated business, made the mistake of having their picture made in an honorable place, with honorable intentions, to promote their business and express their support of the Aggies. The problem being, people stood on the grass, unaware of the Aggie tradition at the time. After having their picture made they were notified of their mistake and rendered apologies in admiration for such traditions. (Incidentally, the ad had already been published.)

It appears such businesses should be noted for their support of A&M rather than further embarrassing them by making an issue of the error — ridiculing them for not observing Aggie tradition. Maybe thought should be given to the good intentions involved, after all, humans do make mistakes.

—Carol Timm

Un-coverage

Editor:
Time and time again we hear of the professionalism of the staff at the Battalion. The fact that this praise comes from the staff itself couldn't have anything to do with it could it? At the risk of sounding trite, I'd like to submit to you an old cliché. "Me thinks you protesteth too much."

In a campaign for publicity, Fowler Hall has asked for coverage of some of its functions from the Batt. Twice we have had the opportunity (?) to be publicized — or exploited. The first of these incidents was our Jock Raid, it was Fowler's Jock Raid, not Fowler, Keathley, and Hughes. We raided the entire North Area Campus and the Corps dorms — not just the two dorms your staff randomly chose. Unwilling to complain about something so trivial to the interests of the University population, we shrugged it off.

However, the coverage of Fowler's kissing booth at the Corps of Cadets "High

Noon Bash" is a farce and a slur to the reputation of Fowler Hall and the Corps. In the first place, Steve Manley, P.R. officer, Corps staff was very kind to allow Fowler to participate in the afternoon's activities, thereby furthering our reputation as an active dorm, while raising funds for future activities and having a great time.

To express appreciation to Corps staff for including us in their bash, we jokingly offered them a free kiss. The Batt's translation: "... Fowler made \$50.25 from kisses despite 'freebies' given to Corps staffers and others." That statement was uncalled for unless prefaced by the circumstances surrounding it. Congratulations to the quote, "The cadets acted like gentlemen..." — you got something right!

The addendum, "No mashers — no wandering hands..." is a new one on me. Never would I mention the word "masher" (which, by the way, I consider extremely derogatory) in connection with the Corps of Cadets. More than one person has commented the subtitle suggests I was expecting "mashers."

Certainly not! I simply stated that I was pleased with the gentlemanlike conduct of the men despite the effects of the beer and revelry permeating the afternoon.

I apologize to the vast majority of students who might regard these misquotations as another trivial gripe. I would suggest, however, that you learn from our experiences. In the future, all interactions between Fowler and The Battalion will be more closely monitored by our staff and council to avoid further false impressions.

Our dorm council has put in too much time and effort into building dorm spirit and goodwill to have shadows cast on our reputation by unprofessional journalism. No publicity is better than bad publicity.

—Wendy Clark, '80
Fowler Hall President

with more emotion involved than simple dorm rivalry. A water fight was scheduled to be held between Northside male residents and Southside residents (Dunn and Aston). The skirmish took place between Dunn Hall and the Corps Quad. After the North emptied their first buckets of water, they refilled them with fresh swine manure and deposited the waste on unsuspecting victims from the South. It could be smelled at the MSC. Mud and fruit were also thrown to add to the North's delight. The free-for-all ended in a sort of Mexican stand-off with Lubbock Street separating the opposing sides.

Then a couple of "good Ags" tried in vain to unite the group in singing the Aggie War Hymn. The Northside residents refused to join in the song or a "Beat the Hell outta Memphis St." yell. Instead they chose to have their own yell.

Using my God-given talent of hindsight, it appears to me that the Northside entered the water fight with a total lack of respect for their fellow Ags who live only one-half mile away. From a military standpoint the North won. A majority of the South was covered in manure. We were humiliated, disgusted, some injured (one guy lost two front teeth from a flying object), but most of all it hurt us to be treated with no more dignity than that given a snake.

I, along with most of the Southside residents, simply ask the residents of the Northside to come to the realization that we are not stuck-up snobs or any "richer" than anyone else. We would like to be accepted as friends and fellow Ags.

I believe that inter-dorm competition and rivalry is good only if mutual human respect exists between them. I still smell like shit after a thirty-minute shower.

—Jamie Jordan, '80

No joke, no fun

Editor:
Tonight I was part of a most disgraceful event. I saw Aggies turn against each other

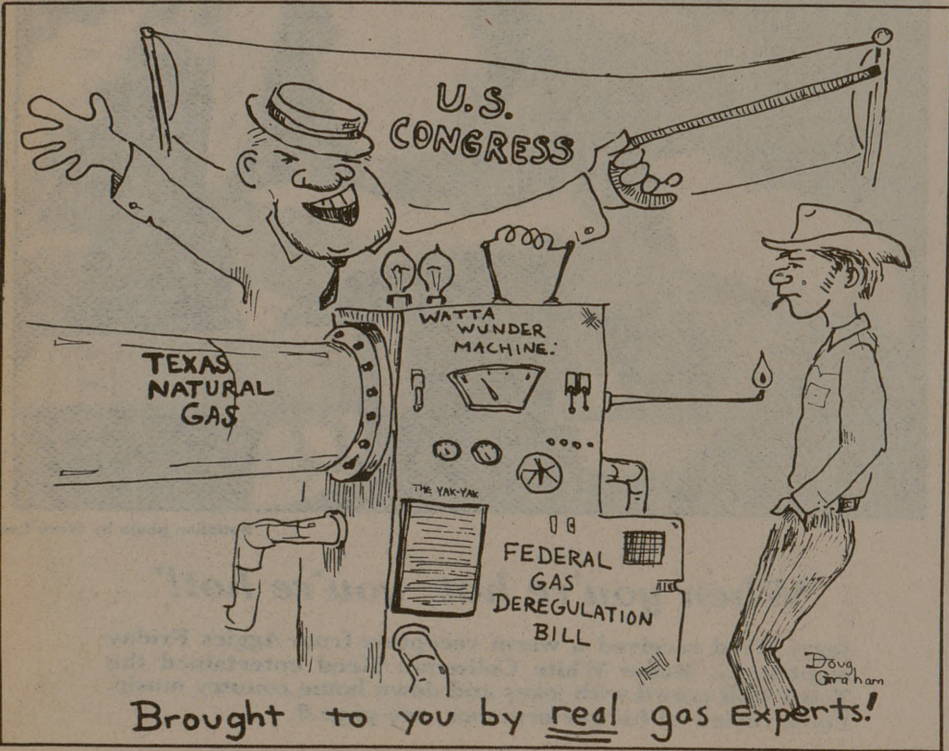
Forum reaction

Editor:
Regarding Wednesday's (Sept. 27) "Reader's Forum," I failed to understand Rosie Hassoun's expression of regret regarding a supposed lack of sympathy for the displaced Palestinian people. The issue is not a lack of understanding for those who have been "evicted" as a nation, but rather the reaction of this nation's "lunatic fringe" toward being kicked into the "garage." Anyone with any sense of nationalism and love of his home could be expected to rebel against such a situation. To claim that the senseless bloodletting perpetrated by the PLO against Israeli civilians and assorted foreign nationals is in any way understandable or justifiable, however, is bordering on the barbaric itself. If the P.L.O. were genuinely interested in "liberating" their homeland instead of "murder for grins," they would probably be giving more thought to a more peaceful method of achieving their goals.

—Sam R. Leverett, '77

Help, Ags

Editor:
I would like to solicit your help and that of the student body at A&M. This summer, I lost my high school senior ring around the tennis courts. The ring is from Peachtree High School in Atlanta, Georgia. It has KLH inscribed inside and the



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TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

A&M raises \$3,712 for fund

University fund-raising efforts on behalf of the College Station United Fund and the Bryan-Brazos County United Way have yielded contributions of \$3,712 as of last Monday, according to campaign chairman Chuck Cargill. University employees have the choice of designating that their gifts support either fund or both, Cargill said. If the person contributing does not specify which drive is to receive the contribution, the gift will be divided between the two drives. The campus goal for this year's drive is \$42,000, an increase of approximately 5 percent over last year's actual collection. The target completion date for the university-wide effort is Oct. 31.

IRS offers to help taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service office announced they will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays in addition to Monday to help persons with tax questions starting today. The office is located at 1300 Texas Ave. IRS Director's Representative Frank Nason said office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Nason reminded area taxpayers that tax help also is available by dialing toll-free 1-800-492-4530 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Groups plan diplomatic exams

Applications for competitive written tests for Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Information Officers must be turned in at the examination center by Oct. 20. Information and application forms may be obtained from Dr. J.M. Nance of the department of History in room 426 of the Academic Building. Nance serves as campus adviser on State Department matters. The tests will be given Dec. 1. The FSO test will include sections on administration, economic-commercial and political fields, in addition to tests on English expression and functional background. The test for information officers will also include the English expression and functional background test and will have a functional field test in information culture.

Student senate positions open

Texas A&M University's student senate has five offices open which will be filled in the fall elections. Spots to be filled include the graduate schools of Liberal Arts and Engineering, a graduate campus position, an at-large place from Moody College, and a place from Walton, McInnis, Schumacher and Hotard dormitories. Those interested should pick up applications at room 216 of the Memorial Student Center before Wednesday.

STATE

Passing car shoots at state prison

Three or more shots were fired at a guard tower of the Clemens Unit early Sunday by a passing vehicle, the Texas Department of Corrections reported. No one was injured. Spokesman Ron Taylor said at least two of the shots hit the main radio tower, manned by Officer Santos Carrion, with one going through a window and into cell block occupied by second offenders and older first offenders. Taylor identified the vehicle as an older model, light-colored van. He said it was not known whether the shots were intended as part of an escape attempt. He said security was stepped up at all Department of Corrections facilities following the incident.

NATION

Rio Grande expected to flood

Rampaging floodwaters from the Rio Grande and Rio Conchos that killed at least two persons and swept away five others in Ojinaga, Mexico, have substantially subsided in Presidio. The flood crest is expected to move down the Rio Grande toward the mouth of the Pecos River and Lake Amistad, causing major lowland flooding throughout the river valley for the remainder of the week, the National Weather Service said. Authorities warn residents along the Rio Grande to keep abreast of flood status reports and be prepared to evacuate. A spokeswoman for the International Boundary and Water Commission in Presidio said they were not anticipating any more problems from the rivers, which were swollen by several days of rain in the normally dry Sierra Grande mountains.

WORLD

Finnish hijacker frees hostages

The armed hijacker of a Finnair jetliner Sunday ended a nearly 3,000-mile journey in his hometown of Oulu, Finland, where he freed the last of 49 hostages. The hijacker, identified as building contractor Aarno Lamminparas, seized the Finnair jet with 50 people aboard Saturday on a domestic flight from Oulu to Helsinki. At Helsinki, his last stop before Oulu, Lamminparas's spoils consisted of \$206,000 in ransom payments and four bottles of whiskey. He released all hostages but three crew members in Helsinki, Lamminparas said he would give himself up today after police agreed to his demands to be met by his wife, a car and a driver at the Oulu airport.

WEATHER

We will have fair skies today with mild temperature. Winds will be southerly with the high in the mid 80's and the low in the mid to upper 60's.

Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

- ✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.
- ✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.
- ✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld on request.

Letters to the editor are printed as a service to our readers. Publication of a letter is never guaranteed. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters to remove grammatical errors and to avoid litigation.

Address letters to the editor to:
Letters to the Editor
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Reed McDonald Building
College Station, Texas 77843

THE BATTALION

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