

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 10, 1978

Be hospitable hosts

For those of you who haven't seen it, the October issue of "The Saturday Evening Post" contains a very interesting article entitled "Football With a Difference." The subject of the article is Texas A&M, its unique brand of Aggie spirit, and the groundwork for what may very well develop into a football dynasty under Coach Emory Bellard.

It is both humorously and tactfully written and would make any Aggie stand an inch or two taller after having read it. Obviously, the writer of the article left our campus with very good impressions of Texas A&M.

Unfortunately, many students from Texas Tech did not leave College Station with the same impressions this past weekend. I personally met several Tech students who were all gracious ambassadors as well as spirited supporters of their team. It's a shame that some of us can't be more hospitable hosts.

literally shocked that such an esteemed organization, not only in Texas but throughout the nation, would stoop to such measures.

I have no doubt that upperclassmen inspired such action in the interest of "good bull." Fortunately, the hat was returned when the Tech drum major was forced to retrieve it himself from the whooping BQ's.

Then to top it all off, several A&M students took it upon themselves to rid some of the Tech Saddle Tramps of their cow bells after the game was over. It just so happened that the chairman of the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Award Committee is an officer in the Saddle Tramps. His cow bell was ripped off by a freshman in uniform who was undoubtedly offered "senior privileges" for a month should his "mission" prove successful.

Earlier in the day, I had the opportunity to eat lunch with that very same gentleman and later escorted him to the Corps' march-in before the game where he commented on the impressiveness of our uniformed cadets.

Readers' forum

A few examples of my argument: During Midnight Yell Practice last Friday night, our head yell leader continued to direct accusations toward Texas Tech visitors in general, remarks which were completely void of the tact and diplomacy which we as students should expect from such a leader. Accusing only Tech students of drinking in Kyle Field is synonymous to the pot calling the kettle black.

He could have and should have expressed himself much more tactfully. Frankly, I was embarrassed. Let's be realistic — you don't build yourself up by putting the other fellow down, contrary to popular belief.

During the second half of the game, some members of the Texas Aggie Band managed to "borrow" the hat of one of the Texas Tech drum majors in plain sight of Tech students, cheerleaders, football players, and coaches alike. They were all

Don't get me wrong, I love Texas A&M with all my heart and sincerely believe that our student body is the greatest in the world. So why doesn't our behavior show it? For the vast majority of Aggies, creating favorable impressions just comes naturally. It's really frustrating when everyone works hard to build an image such as that described in "The Saturday Evening Post" and then have a few incidents such as these ruin it all. We should consider ourselves above slashing tires, having manure fights, and riding our motorcycles inside the dorm while drunk.

"Good bull" is OK until it infringes upon the rights of others.

We are now in the national spotlight Ags, and are constantly on display before visitors as well as each other. Let's all try to remember that fact from now on.

—Andy C. Duffie, '78
President, Sr. Class of '78
Corps Staff, '76-'78

Letters to the Editor

Get involved with EXTRAmurals

Editor:
How many persons at A&M are involved in extramural sports? There are a wide variety of club sports at TAMU that offer many different opportunities. These teams participate in games and tournaments throughout Texas and occasionally in other states.

The clubs offer the opportunity of meeting new people and experiencing new situations. Participation allows you the advantage of expressing yourself in open competition rather than suppressing any athletic abilities you possess. There is one more advantage to these sports, in that they take no previous experience to play. Anyone who has a will to play can play.

These sports allow travel and interaction with other areas of the country. For instance: this fall the women's rugby team will travel to games and tournaments throughout Texas and to other tournaments in Little Rock, Arkansas and in Kansas City, Kansas.

For many college students this would provide an opportunity to see a new area of the country as well as an opportunity for social as well as competitive interaction with other areas of the United States. Women's rugby is only one example of the opportunities available to all students.

Other clubs that exist are field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and several others that are available to both men and women.

Get involved with your university, become a representative to other areas of the country. You do not have to be an athlete to join, just possess a will to play.

The advantages and opportunities available through these activities are only limited by yourself. Further information can be obtained from the Student Programs Office in the Memorial Student Center.

—Patricia A. Jared, '78

Re-financing
Editor:
(In response to your article entitled "Tucker Vetoes Budget" of Oct. 5, 1978, and Letter to the Editor from William C. Altman of Oct. 4, 1978, the following):

I am concerned with the train of thought that seems to be permeating your paper concerning the Student Senate allocating less money to Aggie Muster and Parents' Day this year from last year.

In the article "Tucker Vetoes Budget," your reporter quoted a Muster budget cut from \$1,500 to \$1,100 and a Parents' Day budget cut from \$1,175 to \$675, yet he failed to mention any of the other budget cuts, of which there were many.

These figures may be correct, but these figures, like any figures can be very deceiving when taken out of context. Both Muster and Parents' Day spent hundreds of dollars under these figures last year. The Student Senate Finance Committee asked the people in charge of these programs exactly what they needed all of these excess funds for, and they were unable (or unwilling) to release this required information.

The Finance Committee researched their budgets intensively and found no justifiable reason to allocate excess money to Muster and Parents' Day.

It is true, however, that their budgets were cut a hundred or so dollars below what they spent last year, because the Finance Committee and the Student Senate felt that there were some areas of their budgets that could be reduced without materially altering their program.

Through the Finance Committee's extensive research of both Parents' Day and Muster it was discovered that they could reduce a very sizable sum (as much as

\$200-300) from their program brochures just by doing more of the layout work themselves and having people within the University do the printing.

The Finance Committee also felt that because Muster and Parents' Day were on the same day, they could share the same stage flowers, which usually cost between \$100-\$150 per program.

For the students' information this budget was unanimously passed by the Senate Finance Committee after thorough consideration and some six straight hours of serious deliberation, and was approved by the Student Senate by a two to one margin.

The success of Muster and Parents' Day is not determined by how much money we spend on them, but by the Aggie spirit in which they are held. In my opinion, this issue has gone beyond the realm of a rational and responsible budgetary decision to a misrepresented and emotional controversy.

— J. Wayne Morrison, '79
Student Body V.P. for Finance

Watch the words

Editor:
I enjoy reading The Battalion and feel that it is an exceptionally good student publication for the most part; however, as a freshman journalism student, it saddens me to think that other fellow journalists (especially Aggies) have as poor taste as J. Wagner Tynes shows in his review of the Jerry Reed concert (Oct. 2).

I do not consider myself overly conservative, but with as many words as there are in the English language, it seems to me that the use of four-letter words and references to the Diety in print reflect not only a very limited vocabulary but also very poor journalistic ethics.

To say that Jerry Reed performed "a pretty damn respectable" (yes, that's the way it was) version of "Stars and Stripes Forever" is a disgustingly gross smear of both the spirit of the song and the intent of the performer.

Overall, the article was more of a satire than a review — a very poorly written one at that.

To alleviate the problem of vocabularius microscopicus, it may be necessary for The Battalion to provide dictionaries to some of its writers so that they may pull their descriptions from its pages rather than from the gutter.

Perhaps this piece slipped by the editing staff unnoticed — if this is the case, then I suggest that the material submitted for publication undergo more careful scrutiny. If this is not the case then I suggest that The Battalion re-evaluate its code of ethics (and decency) with regard to its treatment of such outstanding performers as Jerry Reed.

— Becky Swanson, '82

Excuse me

Editor:
In response to feedback I received about my letter to the editor Oct. 5, I would like to apologize. My language was rude. I have a much broader vocabulary than I expressed with the words I chose.

I also failed to devote enough time to proof reading. I admit that I'm not a journalist and my letter may have seemed rather incoherent. However, parts of it made sense to some people and to those people I thank for acquiring the patience to understand it, if in fact it was that difficult to understand.

Evidently those that understood my letter presumed that I was trying to convey that I like to do crazy things in order to have a good time.

This is not unlike others that have been having a good time across campus. I do not, however, like to be apprehended when these activities (or various and sundry things) involve being punished. But that, punishment, is the price crazy people pay for being or acting crazy. Does this make sense to you so far? Some of us simply do not follow the rules as well as others.

In further explanation of my letter I would like to say that I meant no disrespect to the Corps as a whole. Obviously I do not wish to be disrespectful of an institution of which I am a part.

There is something about this Corps which does in fact appeal to me, unfortunately, Corps policy is not that which appeals to me (I realize Corps policies are designed to meet that end).

If I displayed any disrespect let it be directed at Corps policies. If you're not totally responsible for Corps policy then you should not feel any guilt or disrespect from yours truly.

This explanation is directed to those of you who do not like my prose and did not understand exactly what I said. I hope I did not lose any friends over that letter. I was not trying to gain any from it. I was merely stating my opinion and not that of the entire Corps.

Please discontinue direct insults and telephone calls to Jim Hime (845-5685) nor Corps staff rats because they (staff rats) are not responsible for my actions.

— James L. Hime, '79

Freedom for all

Editor:
To the young man (J. Wagner Tynes), who so kindly gave us his opinion about the incident of the guy that sat on the MSC grass: I would like to make an observation. In your article, Mr. Tynes, you stated that these war veterans already have a whole building.

But you, Mr. Tynes, now have a free country.

—Jeff Hamilton, '82

Correction

In Friday's article about services offered to students by the Educational Psychology Services lab The Battalion incorrectly reported the maximum fee charged to students to be \$250. The correct amount is \$25.

The Battalion regrets the error.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Playford to address geologists

Dr. Phillip E. Playford, assistant director of the Geological Survey of Western Australia, will address a meeting of the Texas A&M Student Geologic Society this afternoon. The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. in the Michel T. Halbouty Geosciences Building in Room 105. Playford is sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and will speak on "The Devonian 'Great Barrier Reef' of Canning Basin, Western Australia." For more information contact the Department of Geology at 845-2451.

A&M receives \$10,000 in grants

Allied Chemical representatives have given checks totaling \$10,000 to support various Texas A&M University programs. Roy McClung, zone agronomist with Allied's agricultural division in Omaha, and R.D. Erskine, director of petroengineering with the Houston-based Union Texas petroleum division, delivered the grants. Five thousand dollars is earmarked to support the agronomy program at Texas A&M, while \$2,000 each went to the geology and petroleum engineering programs. The remaining \$1,000 was given to the College of Business Administration.

Halliburton contributes \$20,000

The Halliburton Education Foundation of Dallas has presented \$20,000 to Texas A&M University's College of Engineering for faculty support during 1978-79. This year's contribution is the 14th annual grant to Texas A&M by the foundation. The check was presented by Walter E. Heffler, Halliburton senior vice president and chief engineer, and Edward J. Byrne, vice president of engineering design of Brown and Root Inc. Acting Dean of Engineering Dr. Richard Thomas accepted the grant.

STATE

Inmates continue sit-down strike

A Texas Department of Corrections official Monday allowed a group of Huntsville inmates to continue their peaceful sit-down strike in an exercise yard while fellow convicts relaxed on a Columbus Day holiday break. "They are just sitting, from time to time they are talking with one another," a spokesman said. The strike is in support of inmates' suits against the Texas prison system. Inmates who left the strikers earlier in the weekend remained in their cells, awaiting punishment for violation of institutional rules. Taylor said the TDC planned an investigation into the wounding of three inmates at the Angleton facility during the first phase of the prisoner strike last week.

NATION

Newspaper negotiations resume

Negotiations in the 61-day-old pressmen's strike against the New York Times and the Daily News resumed Monday with the adviser to newspaper craft unions once again blaming New York Post publisher Rupert Murdoch for the length of the walkout. "When Mr. Murdoch was present, there was more talk on TV and less at the bargaining table," said labor lawyer Theodore Kheel as the talks resumed at the offices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in New York. On Sunday, Kheel expressed hope that the negotiations were entering a critical stage and that an agreement might not be far off. "We're getting to a point of clarification where the dispute will be ripe for settlement within the next few days," Kheel said.

Automobile workers reject pact

Volkswagen of America Inc. workers Monday set up picket lines outside the firm's first American assembly plant in New Stanton, Pa., after overwhelmingly rejecting an initial wage contract proposal. Workers failed to report for the 6 a.m. production shift and blocked the entrances to the Westmoreland County plant, the company said. The employees, members of Local 2055, United Auto Workers, Sunday turned down by a 1,235-94 vote a proposed three-year agreement negotiated last week. Union sources said the proposed contract called for a \$1-an-hour pay increase retroactive to Sept. 1 and an additional 30 cents an hour next April 1, plus a cost-of-living formula calling for four upward pay adjustments annually.

WORLD

Second test-tube baby doing fine

The world's second test-tube baby and her mother are "doing very well" and will be going home soon. Gynecologist Saroj Bhattacharya, who delivered the baby by Caesarian section Oct. 3 in Calcutta, India, told reporters Sunday. "There is no evidence of deformity" in the 6-day-old infant. He said the infant was taking normal nourishment and is just like other babies. Bhattacharya said he and two colleagues who jointly delivered the baby will submit a paper explaining details of their techniques to the Indian Science Congress in January.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy with mild skies today and Wednesday with southerly winds 6-12 mph. High both days will be in the mid-80s. Low tonight mid-60s.

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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