

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 11, 1978

Pothole diplomacy

By DICK WEST

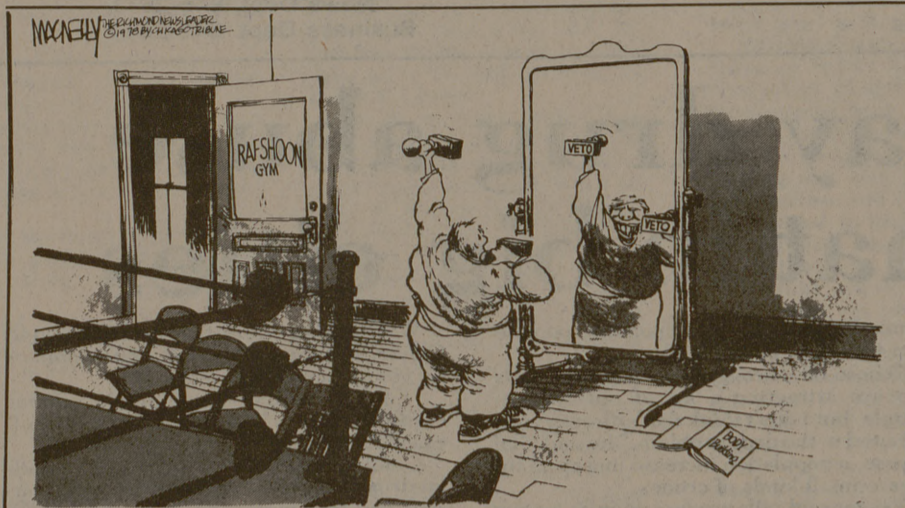
WASHINGTON — According to the magazine Engineering News-Record, a British auto firm has made plaster casts of several large potholes in New York City and taken them back to England. The magazine said duplicate potholes would be reproduced from the models along the company's eight-mile test track near Coventry. Although the item didn't say what purpose the potholes would serve, the explanation is obvious. It is the prevailing view in international street repair circles that British potholes are generally inferior to those found in the United States.

Humor

That may be just a matter of taste, however. The fact that American potholes on the whole have greater depth, larger circumference and more precipitous sides and jagged edges doesn't necessarily mean they are qualitatively superior. Many connoisseurs prefer the subtleties of the English pothole, which is said to harmonize rather better with the roadway surface and thus more likely to take the motorist unawares. In his book "Patching Pavement," Gadsword Upfux, an authority on street repair, points out that British potholes reflect the tradition of the carriage wheel, which is narrower and more rigid than the automobile tire.

Esthetics aside, there have been complaints that imported British cars, which were designed to withstand the stately potholes of England, are too easily wracked by the crude cavities that pockmark American streets. If BL, Ltd., the leading British auto maker, is now able to advertise that its cars have been tested for survivability on authentic American potholes, it undoubtedly will have a big new selling point. Then Germany, Japan and other auto manufacturing countries will have no choice but to indent their test tracks in a similar manner. You may be certain that government officials concerned over America's foreign trade deficits are watching this situation with interest.

Strong foreign demand for American potholes could be the solution to our chronic balance-of-payments problem. We cannot afford to give other nations carte blanche to create plaster casts of our street craters. What I have in mind is establishment of a prefabricated pothole industry that would mass-produce portable pavement pits and sell them overseas. The United States definitely has the potential of becoming the world's largest exporter. We could be to potholes what Saudi Arabia is to oil. Unfortunately, our good fortune will widen the pothole gap between the United States and underdeveloped nations that have only primitive cart ruts in their streets. But we can offset any Third World animosities by sending them some of our potholes under the foreign aid program.



Letters to the Editor

Hey, Ags, you've done good

Editor: In view of all the adverse publicity that has resulted from a few incidents on campus of late, i.e. Sbsisa food fight, auditorium vandalism, etc., I want to publicly compliment the Aggies for their conduct at Sbsisa on Oct. 6 and at midnight yell practice on the same date. The most rewarding aspect of working with Aggies is the fact that when you outline a problem and ask for student cooperation in resolving it, our students seldom let you down. My personal "thanks" to the finest student body in the world at the greatest institution — Texas A&M University.

— Ron Blatchley
Dept. of Student Affairs

Give your input

Editor: Student Government will very soon be faced with an important decision: what priorities should be set for its actions, as expressed by the manner in which Student Government allocates its funds through its budget. With Student Government funds being extremely tight this year, this is a very important issue. We would urge students to review the proposed budget in the Student Government office (216 MSC) and contact their representatives to express their priorities on this matter.

— Dorothy DuBois, '80
Philip Johnson, '80
Steve Hageman, '79

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by six other signatures. The Student Government will vote on this budget Wednesday (Oct. 11) at its meeting in 204 Harrington, which starts at 7:30 p.m.

Lost and found?

Editor: Recently, I lost my watch in a lounge in the Quad area. My watch was a graduation present and I'm quite upset about losing it. I really believe that the "Good Ag" that found it would be happy to return it if they could find me. It is this situation that brings the conclu-

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I'M IN FAVOR OF A HANDSHAKE AFTER TOUCHDOWNS UNTIL OUR TEAM HAS SOME COMPETITION!"

sion that there is a need for a general lost and found on campus. There are a few small lost and founds in various buildings around campus, but no major one.

The spirit of A&M is one of friendliness and helpfulness. Let's find every way we can to uphold this atmosphere even with our growing numbers on campus!

— Natalie Nelson, '82

Editor's note: The University Police say that the main desk at the Memorial Student Center serves as the general lost and found for campus.

Not 'playing army'

Editor: In response to the letter by Scott Lane, (Oct. 9): I'll try to keep this relatively short, so as not to tax your excessive maturity.

Tell me, Scott, does your disrespect for the Corps extend to the military? If so, does thinking of Ike Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter or John F. Kennedy revolt you?

Would you get mad if all your freedoms, guaranteed by the Constitution, were taken away from you? If so, what have you done to insure that they're not? Thousands of men and women are placing their lives in jeopardy to safeguard your right to send in your letter. I'm proud to say that I shall join them upon graduation.

I'd like to see you tell John Glenn, astronaut and U.S. senator, or Roger Staubach that their maturity equals a 10-year-old. I'm sure that Jarvis Miller appreciates your slights, as he was in the Corps at A&M.

As far as "playing army" goes, I'd like to show you a "tactical maneuver" or two. While I have yet, after 2 years, to ever "play army," I assure you that it's better here than in the field where you stand a chance of losing your life.

Maturity. Now that's a big word. I guess to moon a bunch of guys running takes a lot of maturity. Or to shout obscenities at them. Food fights in front of and over parents and grandparents — is that maturity?

Where the Corps chooses to run, the Corps will run. We run on the North side to say "Howdy!" to all the girls, not for ya'll. Were the females impressed by your bare bottoms or your verbal wizardry?

Finally, thank goodness for discipline in

the Corps — had 2,200 "10-year-olds" broken ranks ...

— Nils Eric Kjell, '80
Michael B. Sartor, '80
Joe Youngblood, '80

P.S. to the Editor: you'll notice that not all of the signature on the enclosed sheet are C.T.s, nor are they all male. There are girls names (civilians) from Briggs as well as Corps names, and the classes range from '79 to '82. While it would be ludicrous for me to suggest printing all the names, I feel it only fair that they be given due notice with the article.

Editor's note: this letter was accompanied by 65 signatures.

Don't compare

Editor: Descending the stairs in Harrington the other day, I overheard someone comment: "Gee, I think I'll switch to an easy major like journalism."

This letter is addressed to all of the numb-brains out there who think their major is the most difficult. True, most journalism majors aren't required to know the anatomy of a pig, or how to design a building, but they are here for an education and, like everyone else, to learn certain knowledge and skills for their future profession.

This is not intended to stick up for all of the underestimated journalism majors. It's just a reminder to please quit comparing majors and thinking you've got it sooooo bad.

I now step off my soapbox. By the way, oh wise one, aren't you glad I decided to say my bit through a letter instead of in the middle of the stairs?

— Erin Beckers, '81

'Maturity' question

Editor: This letter is in reference to the letter "Defer Corps run" which appeared in the Batt Oct. 9.

I live on the north side of campus and saw the mocking of the Corps. I agree with Mr. Lane that it was regrettable, but I do not agree with his statement that the Corps will show off if given the chance. Of course, there are some show-offs in the Corps as there are in any group of people. I do not understand how Mr. Lane can justify his statement that a Corps run is "showing off."

I watched the Corps run by on that particular day and all I saw was a bunch of hot, tired-looking guys jogging along followed by a bunch of rude, loud-mouthed, inconsiderate slob!

I also do not agree with Mr. Lane's definition of a C.T. I do, however, question the maturity of those who followed the Corps or just yelled the remarks as they ran by.

Finally, I do not believe that "Those who mocked the C.T.s have the greatest respect for Texas A&M, none for the Corps!"

How can anyone respect Texas A&M without respecting the Corps which is a part of Texas A&M? Without the Corps Texas A&M would not be here today. The Corps is the format on which this university and many of its traditions were founded.

I do hope that this incident will not keep

the Corps from running in the north side area as the whole campus belongs to both members of the Corps and civilians.

To those who do not agree with me, that is fine. You are entitled to your own opinion and yes, I know Hwy. 6 runs both ways — most highways do!

— Lisa Neal, '81

Volunteer now

Editor: Since 1964, when VISTA volunteers began serving the nation's poor, our program has been committed to mobilizing community resources and encouraging neighborhood leadership.

Almost 100,000 volunteers later — each one contributing an average of \$9,865 in antipoverty services — many Americans still volunteer for a year or two, working on a grass roots level. Right now, 4,700 VISTAs serve 2,000 communities.

But the need for additional volunteers is more urgent now than ever before. Hundreds of new VISTAs will be needed this winter alone to replace the men and women, college graduates or skilled workers, blacks and Hispanics, from 18 to 81, who are making their contribution in local economic development, health, education, housing, legal rights and other community services.

Frankly, the food and lodging allowance is low, the hours are long, work often more demanding than paid employment, but the experience and challenge are like no other.

More than ever, this is the time to join VISTA.

Anyone interested, please write VISTA-Peace Corps, 212 North St. Paul 1620 E., Dallas, Tex. 75201.

— Richard Garbell
Service Center Director

Plug that spit

Editor: This is to the tobacco chewing TURKEY, that on Thursday afternoon (Oct. 5) failed to yield the right-of-way to the pedestrians crossing over from Zachry to the campus, and when one of the pedestrians made a simple comment as to the effect of "Don't you believe in stopping," the born fool proceeded to slam on his brakes, back up, and let the surrounding students partake in his limited vocabulary of several obscene words.

My first encounter with you and hopefully my last left me with me with the impression that you would be the type of person who would throw food in Sbsisa, be the first to point your finger at someone sitting or walking on the MSC grass, start a fight at midnight yell practice, and slash the tires of a t.u. student's car.

I am not questioning your failure to yield the right-of-way to the pedestrians but am questioning the most obnoxious, arrogant behavior I have ever seen in my three years at Texas A&M. My reply to your high schoolish, redneck performance on Thursday afternoon is "Take a dip in your cup of spit, you belong there sweetie!"

— Cheryl Sultenfuss, '79

Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

TOP OF THE NEWS STATE

Chemical explosion in Orange

A loud, rocking explosion and fire damaged the DuPont Chemical Plant Tuesday in Orange, Texas, but caused no injuries. According to a plant spokesman, the blast occurred about 9 a.m. in the poly-olefin division where ethylene polymers used in food packaging are produced. The fire was quickly extinguished by plant firemen. The spokesman said plant officials had not yet determined cause of the blast.

Third Bullock aide resigns

A third aide to Comptroller Bob Bullock, Jim McNabb, resigned Tuesday and accused top level comptroller assistants of falsifying airplane flight logs and attempting to cover up travel expense vouchers for Bullock and Deputy Comptroller Ralph Wayne. Two other aides resigned from Bullock's staff last week. The Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday that the joint letter of resignation asked Bullock to fire chief deputy Ralph Wayne to avoid possible scandal. In his letter of resignation, McNabb said there were excesses in operation of the comptroller's office, but indicated the excesses involved staff members other than Bullock. He said later he wrote that Bullock should remove Ed White, assistant comptroller, Jack Roberts and Wayne from his staff.

Prisoner ends tube-fed meals

Condemned murderer David Lee Powell, force-fed by Huntsville prison officials Monday by a tube in his stomach, ended his 13-day hunger strike Tuesday. Powell, 27, scheduled to die by injection for killing a policeman, did not say why he gave up fasting but said the tube feeding "is not pleasant." Powell's mother said her son, an honor student at the University of Texas, wanted to die of malnutrition. The Texas Department of Corrections was in the ironic position of keeping a man alive so that he can be put to death. A prison official said Powell's condition would be frequently checked and he would be force-fed again if necessary.

NATION

U.S. congressman-runner dies

Rep. Ralph Metcalfe, D-Ill., died Tuesday, apparently of a heart attack, at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. Metcalfe, a former Olympic runner and one of the nation's leading black legislators, was 68. The congressman collapsed at his home on Chicago's South Side and was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Ted Berland, a spokesman for the hospital, said Metcalfe apparently suffered a heart attack. An autopsy was ordered to determine the official cause of death, Berland said.

Times reporter put back in jail

New York Times reporter Myron Farber Tuesday was ordered back to jail for his continued refusal to comply with a subpoena for his notes in a murder case. Raymond Brown, the attorney for Dr. Mario J. Jurek, who is accused of killing three hospital patients with curare overdoses, said Farber has little or no concern for the surgeon's right to a fair trial. The attorney sought the notes, but the Times and Farber refuse to give them up on constitutional grounds. Farber says the First Amendment and the New Jersey State shield law protect the confidentiality of his sources. Farber was freed pending appeal, but the U.S. Supreme Court last Friday rescinded his release. Times attorney Floyd Abrams said the subpoena for all the notes is too broad and he hopes the Supreme Court will review the case.

WORLD

OPEC to challenge oil monopoly

The world's leading oil exporting countries have decided to challenge the industrialized nations' near-monopoly over oil refining and transportation and petrochemical production Tuesday. The seminar in Vienna is attended by 200 delegates from 35 nations, some being leading representatives from the world energy scene. Secretary General Ali Jaidah of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said some member countries are worried about social and economic implications involved in such a move. Jaidah said all OPEC member countries have voiced support of the challenge. He said OPEC countries account for 84 percent of the crude oil exports but have only 6 percent of the refining capacity.

Kenya announces new president

Daniel Arap Moi Tuesday was declared president of Kenya to succeed Jomo Kenyatta, who died six weeks ago. Moi, who served as vice president for 12 years, was elected president of the ruling Kenya African National Union last Friday. Moi will name his vice president and announce several changes in the Kenyatta Cabinet on Saturday. In a brief speech Moi pledged to serve the people "loyally, faithfully and do everything possible to insure that small and big will enjoy peace and happiness." Attorney General Charles Njonjo said the people of Kenya have demonstrated through the smooth transition since Kenyatta's death that they "want peace."

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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