

Give 'howdy' a try

By ROBERT J. KAMENSKY

Texas A&M has proudly carried itself through 102 years of a very colorful history. The past accomplishments of Aggies and the excellence of our university curriculum today have set A&M apart from many other institutions and have brought much praise and commendations to this school.

The respect Aggies have gained from others does not stop here. A&M has long been revered as a school built on tradition. Tradition gives life to an institution and serves as a foundation to build upon by each succeeding generation.

Readers Forum

There are three traditions dear to the heart of every Aggie: Muster, Silver Taps, and, perhaps the greatest tradition, Aggie friendliness. These traditions can only be perpetuated through the efforts of the entire student body. Aggie friendliness is a tradition that sets A&M apart from any other school. Visitors to our campus have often commented on how friendly stu-

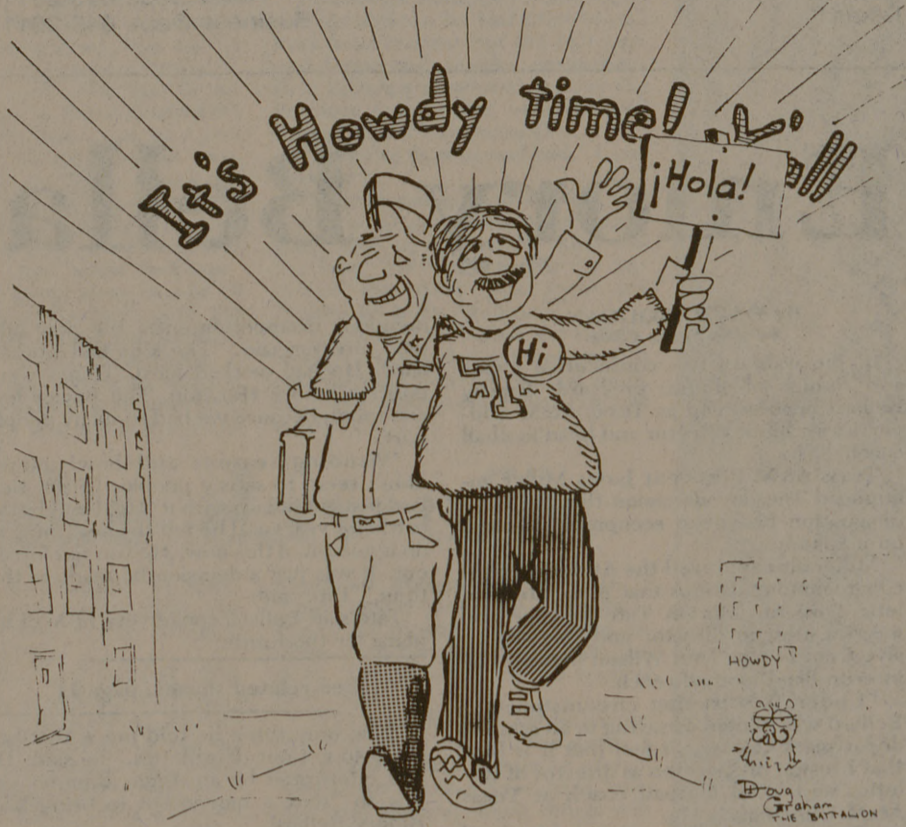
dents and faculty are to them.

Aggie friendliness is expressed in three ways — a friendly "howdy," a firm handshake, and a helping hand when needed. This is a day-to-day tradition and one which can easily be overlooked and forgotten unless each student makes a conscious effort to remember that there are 30,000 Aggies around every day, each of whom should be carrying on the tradition of Aggie friendliness.

And so I ask of every Aggie as you walk to class, hold your head up, meet others with your eyes, smile, and say "Howdy!" Get to know your classmates by introducing yourself on your way to classes and as you wait in the hallways or sit down to eat.

Extend your hand in time of need to one who is looking for help. You are one of the keepers of a tradition that is a cornerstone of Texas A&M. Take charge of what has been handed down through the past 100 years here, and continue to build on the foundation that has kept A&M unique, proud, and separate above others — tradition.

Robert J. Kamensky is 78-79 Corps Commander and a senior nuclear engineering major.



The trouble with ethics committees

By CHERYL ARVIDSON

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The House and Senate investigations of South Korean influence buying are over, but they have left serious questions about the ability of internal ethics committees to objectively monitor the conduct of their peers.

In the House, the scandal, once rumored to engulf some 115 current members, ended quietly with the vote to reprimand three California Democrats — Reps. John McFall, Charles Wilson and Edward Roybal.

The House ethics committee unanimously urged harsher punishment — a censure — for Roybal because he had lied repeatedly under oath, but the full House overrode the recommendation and softened his penalty to a reprimand.

By overruling the ethics committee in the Roybal case, the House has left grave doubt about the support that future ethics panels will enjoy and also raised questions about how seriously it views offenses such as perjury.

In the Senate Korea probe, the ethics committee concluded that no sitting

senator engaged in misconduct serious enough to warrant a reprimand, censure or expulsion. Only two outright violations of law — both involving now-deceased senators — were found in the probe.

Disciplining one's own is an awkward and painful process.

Washington Window

"We have a difficult job. I do not relish it," observed Rep. Floyd Spence, R-S.C., an ethics member, during House debate on the Roybal case. "I do not know how many of you would like to be standing right here in this place, and I do not know what you would do if you were. If you want to do the job, put in for it."

In the Senate, as soon as the Korea report was out, Chairman Sen. Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., questioned the ability of an internal panel to judge member misconduct.

Stevenson said he is coming to the con-

clusion that a "better way of conducting exhaustive inquiries" is needed, one that "leaves no doubt about the thoroughness and the integrity of the investigation" and also relieves senators of the "terrible drain on their time and emotions."

Victor Kramer, the special lawyer hired to head the enate Korea probe, was even more blunt:

"It's apparently asking too much of human nature to discipline themselves."

How then will Congress handle future scandals and the growing number of misconduct cases?

There's a basic reluctance in Washington for one branch of government to voluntarily relinquish power to another branch. So it's unlikely that Congress would give the responsibilities of enforcing conduct codes to another agency, such as the Justice Department, although that might be the most desirable step.

Neither is the House or Senate likely to relinquish its control over the final disciplinary action taken against a member in any misconduct case. That means any possible reforms would have to come in the early stages of the probes.

One solution might be increasing the role of the special lawyers now hired to handle the evidence-gathering stage of disciplinary investigations for the ethics committees.

Those lawyers now submit their findings to the panels, then step aside as the committee members decide whether the charges are serious enough to warrant further action and if so, what charges are appropriate.

Then the same committee conducts the court-like hearings into the alleged misconduct and recommends the penalty.

With the charges already laid out, the ethics committees could sit as "judges," hearing the evidence, deciding which allegations were sustained and setting the appropriate penalty.

Of course, there is always the possibility of an over-zealous special prosecutor. But if he could be removed only by a vote of the full House or Senate or a unanimous vote of their ethics committees, the prosecutor would be given insurance against an arbitrary or capricious firing, and Congress would still have the ability to act if the prosecutor got out of line.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Off-campus students to elect reps

The Off-Campus Student Association will elect representatives in conjunction with Thursday's student government fall elections. Twenty-two representatives will be chosen from four zones, according to Melissa Pitts, OCSA vice president for information services. Representation from each zone is determined by the number of students residing in that zone. The intersection of Texas Avenue and University Drive divides the area into the four zones. Pitts said that off-campus residence will be determined by the absence of room and board charges on a student's fee slip. A ballot is posted in the Student Programs Office window, and there will be OCSA members available for questioning in the OCSA cubicle inside the SPO, Pitts added.

'Eat the hell outta Rice!' contest

A Rice Krispies eating contest will be held at noon Friday to stimulate interest in Texas A&M-Rice football game this weekend. The annual event, sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's Recreation Committee, will be presented in the Rudder Tower fountain area. Participants should register in Room 216 of the MSC anytime before the contest. The winner will receive two reserved seat tickets of the Nov. 30 "Bread" concert in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded.

STATE

Brine dumping in sea to continue

The Texas Railroad Commission voted in Austin Monday to continue the dumping of brine from oil and gas wells into the Gulf of Mexico, and to continue close monitoring of the disposal as it has the past few years. The commission will continue the agency's program of hearings and periodic review of approved points for tidal disposal of oilfield brines produced along the Texas coast, after determining that state regulations have effectively reduced the amount of brine being poured into coastal waters. Chief engineer Bob R. Harris and senior legal examiner J. Brooks Peden recommended continuation of the policy, noting adverse ecological conditions investigated in 1970 have disappeared.

Five cities get transit grants

The State Highway and Public Transportation Commission in Austin Monday approved grants for five Texas cities to improve public transportation systems. Largest of the projects are a \$3 million plan to purchase 25 new buses with lifts for wheelchair passengers in Fort Worth, and a \$3.3 million Lubbock project to purchase 39 buses and finance other improvements in mass transportation facilities. The other cities involved are Amarillo, San Angelo and Wichita Falls. The projects also involve funding from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, and must be approved by that agency.

Uranium mining to begin

Continental Oil Co. was authorized in Austin Monday by the Railroad Commission to begin uranium surface mining operations in five South Texas counties. The commission also voted to impose stricter reclamation standards on the company than examiners had recommended, in efforts to make it easier for landowners to maintain vegetation. At the suggestion of Commissioner Jon Newton, the regulatory agency voted to require the company to decrease the slope on spoil piles at the mining sites, and to give public notice of any request for exemptions from other reclamation regulations. Continental is authorized to operate 29 pit mining sites in Karnes, Gonzales, Atascosa, Live Oak and Duval counties, and since 1972 has recovered more than 7 million pounds of uranium oxide.

NATION

Ehrlichman granted divorce

John D. Ehrlichman, a former top aide to President Richard M. Nixon, has been granted a divorce from his wife of 29 years. The final decree was issued Monday by District Court Judge Thomas Donnelly in Santa Fe, N.M. Neither Ehrlichman nor his wife, Jeanne, contested the divorce. Ehrlichman, 53, returned to his home in Santa Fe earlier this year after serving an 18-month prison sentence on Watergate-related charges. "The Whole Truth," a book written by Ehrlichman focusing on a lobbyist in the White House caught up in the vortex of power, is to be published next spring. He also wrote a novel entitled, "The Company," and has recently been taping radio commentaries for the Mutual Radio Network titled, "The View from Here."

GOP convention in Superdome?

New Orleans offered the Superdome Monday as the site for what could be the biggest political gathering in American history, the 1980 Republican National Convention. The Republicans' site selection committee was impressed with the facilities of the Superdome and the housing and entertainment available in New Orleans, but expressed reservations because Louisiana has not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. The GOP has no formal rule prohibiting meetings in non-ERA states, but would be under strong political pressure to hold the meeting elsewhere. The committee also was scheduled to hear presentations from Detroit, Miami Beach, Kansas City, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Dallas. Miami Beach and Kansas City are also in states that have not ratified ERA. The committee will present its final recommendation to the Republican National Committee meeting in January.

WEATHER

Cloudy skies and thundershowers with winds 10-15 mph. 60% chance of rain and 40% tonight. A cold front will be moving in tomorrow morning. High today near 80 and low tonight near 60.

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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Letters to the Editor

Bellard's record deserves pat, not 'punt'

Editor:
We are writing this letter in regard to Coach Emory Bellard's resignation.

It seems sad that a man who has done so much for the A&M football team since the firing of Gene Stallings should be spoken of so cruelly by so many Aggies.

Since coming to A&M in 1972, Emory Bellard has won more games per year and his teams have produced more points than any other Aggie coach. Why is it that when the team wins everyone seems to love him and when they lose everyone seems to hate him?

We, as Aggies, supposedly support our football team whether we are winning or losing. Should we not have given Coach Bellard the same support?

We believe that before passing harsh judgements on Emory Bellard's coaching ability, we should stop and recall all the great things he has done not only for the A&M football team, but also for the athletic department as a whole.

We commend Coach Bellard for all the accomplishments he achieved during the six years he served as head football coach and athletic director.

— Gay Grundy, '82
Cyndee Reed, '82
Lisa Woolston, '79

Thanks, Bellard

Editor:
After hearing of Emory Bellard's resignation, we could not believe the jubilation expressed by many of our fellow students. Where the hell have you people been the past few football seasons? Emory Bellard is the greatest thing to happen to Aggie football in recent history.

Compare Coach Bellard's overall record to his three predecessors. Under three different mentors from '58 through '71, Aggie football teams compiled the glorious record of 45-92-6. In his six and one half seasons as coach, with a mark of 48-27, Bellard had already won more games than the 14-year total of the three previous coaches.

Even more impressive is the record Aggie teams have compiled in the four and one half seasons since we arrived in Aggieland, 40-11. Bellard's teams have broken the .500 mark by a comfortable margin the past four seasons, and though you can't tell it by pending attitudes, we are above the .500 mark this season.

During that preceding 14-year period, the Ags had one season above .500, and

one bowl appearance. A&M has been to a bowl game the past three years, and would have seen action in a post-season game in '74, had it not been for some SWC bungling.

For those of you who insist that it takes a win over t.u. in order to have a winning season, Bellard's teams win out once again with two victories over the 'sips in his six-year tenure as compared to a single win from '58-'71. However, you say the Ags are 1-2 in conference play. As we recall, the '76 Ags were 0-2 in conference play, and finished the season with a 10-2 record and the Sun Bowl Championship.

This bit of praise seems a bit late though — "Uncle Emory" is no longer our coach, but we'd like to thank Coach Bellard for giving our class four of the best Aggie football teams to ever take the field!

— David E. Rutledge, '78
Mike T. Boyd, '78

Vote 'no' Thursday

Editor:
Recently the student senate passed a new constitution which will come before the student body in referendum on Thursday, Oct. 26. Although this constitution is much clearer and more concise than the current one, there are two aspects to it that frighten us.

The first aspect is the means for succession to the presidency. Under the new constitution, should the student body president leave office for any reason, the executive vice president would become president. The problem is that the executive vice president is appointed by the president, and is not elected by the student body.

It is frightening to think that we, as students, might be represented by an individual into whose selection we had no input. The provision of a two-thirds confidence vote by the senate is of little comfort, for we know the dealings of the senate and see this as merely a formality. This is just an example of the growing bureaucracy of student government.

The second problem with the new constitution is that it has no provisions for filling senate vacancies. Although the senators are initially elected by the students, the turnover rate is high throughout the year. Knowing the politics that go on in the senate, it is appalling to think that the senate itself might determine who fills these positions. Again, this is an example of the increasing bureaucracy and de-

creasing student input into "student" government.

For these reasons, we are opposed to the new constitution, and urge everyone to vote against it in the referendum Thursday.

—Janet E. Golub, graduate student
846-9787
Philip Johnson, '80
Off Campus Senator
693-6176

Students first

Editor:
I had made plans to go to Arkansas the weekend of Nov. 18 to see the Ags play the Hogs. Now I find that I may have problems getting tickets. What's the deal?

Football being what it is at A&M all students should have the opportunity to watch the Aggies play, away or at home. Surely, the student government is doing all they can with what tickets they get. But when you have to wait two days in advance to get tickets, that's a little out of hand.

If my figures are correct the students get 377 out of 4,000 tickets allowed to A&M by Arkansas, a measly 9.4 percent. The rest of which goes to the faculty and alumni. Everyone should be able to go to the games but the students should always have priority. We're going to school here; it's our turn.

Granted, not all 30,000 students would go to Arkansas, but more possibly would if they thought they could get tickets. This would benefit both the students and the school.

Please, give us a chance to enjoy a short four or five years here.

— Richard McClaskey, '82

Not political

Editor:
Marco Espir's criticism (Battalion, Thursday, Oct. 19) that an organization like Amnesty International cannot possibly be non-political is well taken — but misplaced.

It is true that we fight for the rights of political prisoners everywhere — according to the laws of their own country. In a sense we are political (even being apathetic to politics is a political gesture). But we

are not "political" in the way the word is normally used — we are non-partisan, non-ideological and non-governmental. If we are to be "political" then it is only because we demand respect for basic human rights everywhere.

If Marco or another Batt reader has any questions, please get in touch! My number is 693-8107. And Marco — thanks!

—Elia Tasca, '79
Amnesty Int'l co-chairman

ARS crowd 'inert'

Editor:
I would like to comment on the Atlanta Rhythm Section concert in G. Rollie White this past Friday. ARS made a special effort in coming to A&M for a concert. They had cancelled several major cities because of their drummer Robert Nix. But they came to A&M and the response given by the crowd was more than embarrassing.

Members of the band even had comments about the total "inertness" of the crowd. I come from Houston and the response there would not compare with the graveyard effect here.

I highly commend ARS for a damn good show and I would not be surprised if they or for that matter any other band of prominence doesn't come back to A&M!

Town Hall better hurry and sign up the symphonic orchestra or even a ballet because that is what the audience seemed like they wanted.

— Tony Stephen, '82

P.S. If Ags don't like rock and roll music don't go to a rock and roll concert and act like Ags that haven't any spirit.

Keep in faith

Editor:
For a change of pace, I'd like to write something positive in the Editor's column.

Yesterday, I had an experience which reinforced my faith in the Good Ags of Texas A&M!

I lost a gold bracket and two TAMU men found it and took the time to look me up and return it. I really appreciated it! Nowhere else but Texas A&M University!

— Sylvia West, '82