



VIEWPOINT



THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 1979

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO INVEST IN GASOLINE FUTURES, I THOUGHT YOU MEANT A PAPER-TYPE TRANSACTION!"

Reflections

Ken Zysen

Doorguards a sign?

Reflections on Valentine's Day ...
The old man walking toward the parking lot waved a handful of red Valentine's carnations then flashed a big smile as he retired for the evening. I didn't know his name, but recognized him as a doorguard from the Texas A&M library.

You'd be surprised at how many students these men know. Seeing those flowers in his hand told me he wasn't just friendly with me.
When I was a sophomore I seemed to be always passing through the library and came to be on a real "howdy" basis with a few of the doorguards. Evidently I wasn't alone.

This spring when the new library addition opens, the old man with the flowers may be one of the doorguards at the library who will be closed out of a job he's held for many years.

Not to be maudlin, but the old doorguards are a sign of the times. They'll be losing their jobs later this spring when an electronic book checker takes over most of their former duties; one guard will be left to man the single library door.

Going back through old 1940 "Aggielands" recently I realized how much this university has changed in the last 30 years. Photo captions from those days had only to say first names like "Joe" or "Bob" for their references — everyone knew each other then.

Texas A&M's now has more than 30,000 students, not 6,500. Thirty-thousand students does not help make a school personal.

Whether this university will retain its personal closeness, its feeling of togetherness is something only time will answer.

The replacement of the library door guards is a sign of the times. Will Texas A&M follow the signs?

Baker presidential bid — all or nothing

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Howard Baker is hedge-hopping key states in a private twin-engine plane, hoping that the heavy travel will help him decide whether he should seek the GOP presidential nomination.

Airlines are filled these days as candidates — announced and unannounced — move from state to state in a never-ending procession with the emphasis on the ones which have the earliest primaries.

In one respect, however, Baker, the 53-year-old third term from Tennessee, is unique.

Of all the potential candidates, Baker has the most to lose should he decide to go after the nomination — a decision due around July 4. If Baker decides to go to the post, the question of his remaining as Senate GOP leader is certain to be raised.

It is obvious to everyone — Baker included — that it would be impossible for him to mount a serious campaign for the presidential nomination and, at the same time, be the active leader of Senate Republicans.

Lyndon B. Johnson, who was much more powerful and much better known, tried running for the Democratic presidential



nomination in 1960 from the confines of the Senate and was handily beaten by John F. Kennedy.

And that happened before the explosive growth of primaries and at a time when key politicians could still hand over state delegations en bloc.

A top aide said that if Baker does run, he will step aside as Senate leader and turn

over the day-to-day duties to his deputy, Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska.

"Step aside," the aide said. He added that Baker, explaining his intentions, does not use the phrase "step down."

That, however, may not be enough to satisfy GOP conservatives in the Senate, especially those who hunger for Baker's job and see this as an opportunity.

Human Events, the conservative weekly, said recently that if Baker tries to hold on to the post and run for the nomination at the same time, either Sen. John Tower of Texas or James McClure of Idaho will challenge him.

Exactly how this would be accomplished is unclear.

The Baker aide told a group of reporters, "As I recall, he was elected for two years." Presumably, there is nothing to keep the Republicans — if enough of them want to — from throwing Baker out and electing someone else, although history shows that leaders are rarely ousted at the start of a Congress and seemingly never in midterm.

It would be difficult for Baker to emerge from that kind of an ugly showdown — win or lose — without slow-healing bruises that would ultimately damage his presidential campaign.

Yet, stepping down as leader also has its drawbacks. Should Baker fail in a presidential quest, there is no assurance and, in fact, no likelihood that he could get elected leader once more even though he was unopposed last month.

So, if Baker decides to go, he better win. Then he can sit back and wait for his inaugural while his former colleagues elect a leader in January 1981.

Letters to the Editor

'Loves' don't compare to Band's halftime

Editor:
Anyone who suggests that the Longhorn Loves replace the Aggie Band at G. Rollie White (Mark Patterson, Battalion — Feb. 12) should be writing for the Daily Texan, not the Battalion.

I've seen them both perform at basketball games and the Aggie Band is better. The band deserves to be there — all 252 of them and their dates. They are students and would be entitled to their seats anyway.

Enough of this insane idea that the Aggie Band should be replaced by the Longhorn Loves when we play t.u.

—Ben Morgan
P.O. Box 4980
Austin

Never be 'beaten'

Editor:
Several things I saw at the Aggie-t.u. game disgusted me, and brought to mind something I've been thinking about for quite awhile. One event stands out over all the others.

Several Aggies were bitterly replaying the loss as they left the coliseum. Berating the opposition, belittling the refs, and verbally crucifying our players, they 'iffed and butted' the whole game until we had won at least 77-0. As I was probably the loudest in the group, I thought I ought to write this letter.

Any time an athlete walks onto a basketball court, football field, or cock-fighting rink, it's because he/she has proven that he/she is good enough to be there, and for this, they should be respected. Instead, they have to play before a bunch of abusive jerks like us who haven't got near the talent they do.

Nor does the decision go to the better team anymore. It's always the refs, or the ball was (over)inflated, underinflated, or we weren't wearing our lucky socks. Most of the time, though, we just beat ourselves.

As painful as losing is, there is a fine distinction between it and getting beat. Any time a team gives it everything it has for the whole duration of the contest and never gives up no matter how great the odds, there is no way that that team got beat. They can only be winners, one and all, and nobody has the right to demand any more of them.

Lousy fans are everywhere. By and large, the fans in the world. No one suffers a loss like

an Aggie. I just wish that we could realize it's only a game, and that no matter what happens to our teams, none of us ever need feel ashamed by their performance.

—Doug Wright, '77

Look at evidence

Editor:
I am writing in response to Michael Confoy's letter of the Feb. 5 Battalion. He made several unsupported statements. Also, his prejudice was especially evident, when he asked the question, "Can you imagine reincarnation being taught in the classroom?" I suppose that since reincarnation seems ridiculous, it shouldn't be taught. The point is, the credible thinker doesn't let prejudice obscure his vision, but examines all of the facts, on an equal basis, and dismisses something only after he has subjected it to rigorous study.

Darwin's theory of evolution, which Confoy asserted as being "basically correct," has been rejected by many scientists. Much of evolution is based on circumstantial evidence, and it is interesting to note that a significant number of scientists who support creation, reject evolution on a scientific, and not a religious basis.

As to the reliability of Genesis, in the entire Bible for that matter, much of ancient history, accepted as truth, is not as well substantiated. Rousseau, the great French philosopher, provides one example, when he remarked that, "The facts concerning Socrates, of which no one entertains any doubt, are less attested than those concerning Jesus Christ." The Quran scrolls, dating from about 100 B.C., and containing the entire book of Isaiah and parts of nearly every other Old Testament book, compare remarkably with the Hebrew Massoretic texts of the 10th century A.D. This is just one example of textual evidence.

Of course, you can look at the world, with all its vast complexity, diversity, and delicate balances, and tell yourself that it is nothing but the result of a cosmic accumulation of accidents — pure chance. And are you satisfied? Maybe either way, I ask that you shed your prejudices and look at the facts, head on. I dare you.

—Lee A. Phillips, '80

'Pulse' of G. Rollie

Editor:
In his "Viewpoint" of Feb. 12, Mark Patterson concluded that the Aggie Band is "grossly out of place" at basketball games. He suggested that the band needs to cut down the number of musicians it brings, as other SWC bands do. That the band brings too many members is his personal opinion; I disagree.

The sound of the Aggie Band is "that big band sound." And when Mr. Patterson wails "Why can't Texas A&M follow the lead of the other conference schools?" I can only reply that I never thought Aggies needed to follow anyone's lead but our own.

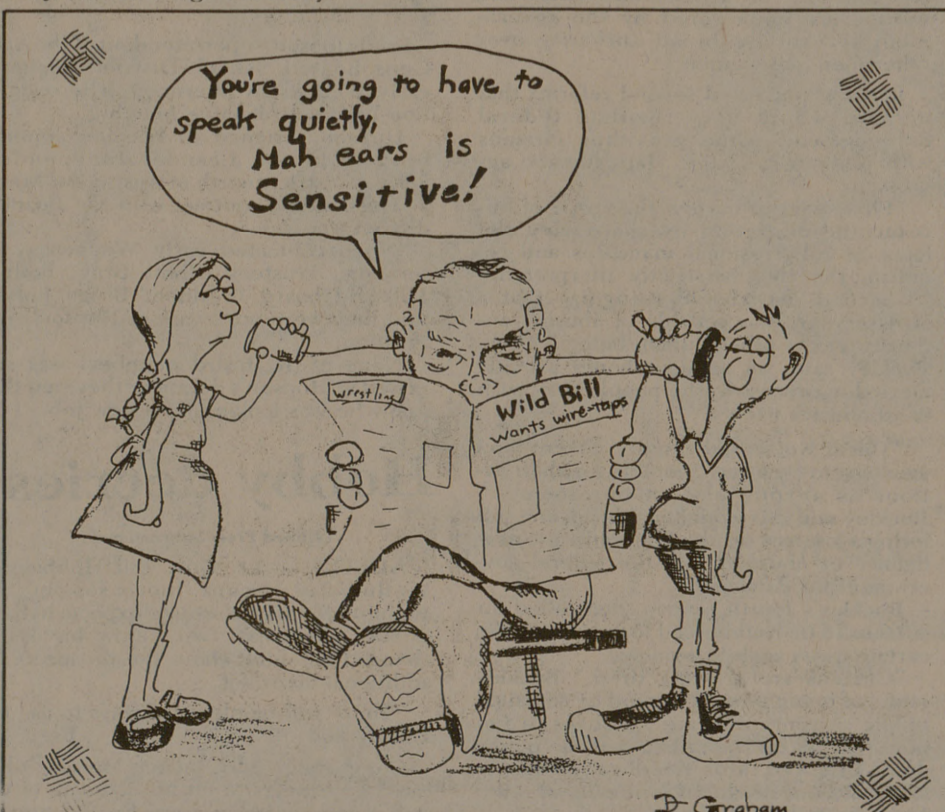
Mr. Patterson also complained that the songs the band plays at the games "all sound the same." Perhaps he'd better go buy some Q-tips. At the Texas game the band played music ranging from jazz ("Night Train") to traditional ("Noble Men") to downright raunchy ("The Stripper"). And this all sounds the same? If that isn't "good music that the fans enjoy," maybe Mr. Patterson can get Boston to play at the next game.

Coach Metcalf thinks the band needs to play during the game to help the team. A player says "All we need is their support, not their music." Should the band play more (as Coach Metcalf says) or not at all (as the player thinks)? It sounds like a case of you-know-what if they do and you-know-what again if they don't.

Another player (who didn't want his name printed) complained "the band takes up ... a lot of seats that fans could better be utilizing." Did it occur to him that Aggie Band members and their dates are fans, too?

Last, Mr. Patterson thinks that the Longhorn Loves should have performed at halftime Monday night in place of the band. Who are the Longhorn Loves, anyway? The Aggie Band is still "the pride and the pulse," in G. Rollie White as well as Kyle Field.

—Laurie Mitchell, '82



TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Spring semester payment due

The second installment board payment for the spring semester is due on or before Friday. The amount is \$162.25 for the 7-Day Board Plan and \$145.45 for the 5-Day Board Plan. Payment can be made at the Fiscal Office in the Coke Building, or the Cashier's Office in the main lobby of Rudder Center.

Apply now for Fellows Program

Applications to participate in the 1979-1980 University Undergraduate Fellows Program are being taken now through April 16, in Room 120D, Halbouty Geosciences Building. The program allows students to substitute six credits of 485H courses (three credits per semester) in their senior year for other courses in their curriculum to pursue research in their field. To be eligible, students must be second semester juniors with a 3.5 or better grade point ratio, must be seniors next year and be enrolled on campus both semesters next year. Students should submit a research proposal and endorsements from their faculty research adviser, department head and dean to Dr. Melvin Friedman, program coordinator.

HEW increases education fund

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has increased Texas A&M University's Basic Educational Opportunity Grant funding by almost \$500,000, said Robert Logan, student financial aid director. The increase brings the total BEOG funding at the University to \$1.47 million. The maximum amount of the grant is \$1,100, and any student having an eligibility report should bring it by the student financial aid office in the YMCA Building as soon as possible for payment.

STATE

Wrotenberg named new director

Gov. Bill Clements announced Wednesday he has appointed Paul T. Wrotenberg of Austin as director of budget and planning for the governor's office. Wrotenberg, 44, has been a director and vice-president of Informatics, a computer software firm, and previously worked with Tracor Inc. and United Systems International Inc. of Dallas. "With his extensive background in business, Paul Wrotenberg will be extremely useful in helping me achieve my objective of efficiency in state government," Clements said.

Acupuncture decision upheld

The Texas Supreme Court Wednesday upheld disciplinary action against two North Texas doctors who allowed unlicensed assistants to practice acupuncture in their offices. Dr. Oliver H. Thompson of Carrollton and Dr. Raul Baptista Mascarenhas of Dallas were placed on 10-year probation by the Board of Medical Examiners in 1975. The doctors had appealed the action, contending the board had overstepped its authority in ruling that acupuncture constituted the practice of medicine. The board on Dec. 2, 1974, issued a policy statement saying acupuncture would be included in the definition of practice of medicine, thereby making it illegal for persons not licensed as physicians to use acupuncture in Texas.

NATION

FBI confiscates stolen ore

The FBI Wednesday said two men charged with interstate transportation of 5,000 pounds of stolen uranium ore were employees of the SOHIO uranium milling operation at Seboyeta, N.M. The manager of the SOHIO mining and milling operation at Seboyeta confirmed Pete Lucero, 35, of Albuquerque and Teofilo Saverda, 25, of Bibo, N.M., were employed in the mill. An FBI spokesman said an investigation had not yet determined where the "yellowcake" ore was stolen. FBI agents confiscated the partly refined ore valued at \$200,000 in five 55-gallon drums from a rented or truck near El Paso last week.

Oklahoma speed limit studied

Rep. Jim Townsend, D-Shawnee, the principal author of a bill to increase the Oklahoma highway speed limit to 65 mph, predicts House committee approval despite a threatened loss of federal funds. The House Transportation Committee invited supporters and opponents to a public hearing on the bill Wednesday. The bill drew opposition from former Gov. David Boren, now a U.S. senator, who urged lawmakers to be cautious about passing such a bill.

Utility firm takeover questioned

Public Service Commission Chairman Louis Lambert said Tuesday he would actively oppose Gulf States Utility's takeover of Central Louisiana Energy Co. if it appeared to be against the public interest. A thorough investigation will be conducted, Lambert said. An agreement in principle for the \$258 million transaction was announced by both companies Monday. The takeover would create one of the largest power companies in Louisiana.

WEATHER

Cloudy skies, changing to partly cloudy & warm with a cold front moving in tonight. High today 80, low tomorrow morning 40 and winds moving south-southwesterly at 15-20 mph, becoming gusty tonight with winds at 30 mph. We have a 20% chance of rain.

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 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.
United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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.
Copyright © 1979 by The Battalion. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the editor.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the Board of Regents.

MEMBER
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Ken Zysen
Managing Editor Lee White
Assistant Managing Editor David Boren
Sports Editor David Boren
City Editor Scott Pennington
Campus Editor Steve Pennington
News Editors Debbie Pennington, Beth Calhoun
Staff Writers Karen Rogers, Sean Petty, Blake, Dillard Stone, Bragg, Lyle Lovett
Cartoonist Doug Graham
Photo Editor Lee Roy Lesschke
Photographer Lynn Egan
Focus section editor Gary White