



VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
MARCH 20, 1979



TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

KAMU-TV pledged \$10,430

KAMU, Texas A&M University's public broadcasting affiliate, received \$10,430 in pledges during Festival '79, two weeks of special programming aimed at creating greater interest in and support for public television. The special programming ended Sunday night with the conclusion of a 28-hour marathon. Jean Herbert-Wiesenberg, KAMU development and promotion coordinator, said the total does not include contributions still being received which were not called in during the festival.

Archer named Bike-a-thon head

Denise Archer has been appointed the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 1979 spring Bike-a-thon chairman. The campaign is held each spring to raise funds for cystic fibrosis research. CF is a genetic disease inherited by about 1 in 1,500 children. No cure has been found, and CF sufferers have an average life expectancy of 17 years. Those interested in working in the campaign should contact Archer at 845-4698.

Solar energy studiers needed

The National Science Foundation has awarded Trinity University in San Antonio a research grant for solar energy study. Texas A&M University students wishing to participate in the program should contact Dr. F.M. Loxsom, program director, at 512-736-7421. Participants will receive a stipend of \$1,000 for 10 weeks and six hours of upper division credit in physics or engineering at Trinity University. Applicants must be currently enrolled as full-time undergraduates who have completed at least one semester as a junior and have completed at least 14 hours of physics and/or engineering. Application deadline is April 13.

STATE

Texan denied High Court review

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday ruled not to review the case of John Charles Shipley, an inmate on Texas' death row. Shipley, convicted of the April 17, 1975, murder of Ivan Lewis Hanks, complained because a state court dismissed his petition seeking to be freed after he began proceedings in federal court. The justices, without dissent, said they based their action on the state's representation that Shipley will not be executed as long as he is actively pursuing further court appeals.

NATION

Flynt obscenity trial under way

Trial of Hustler Magazine owner Larry Flynt, paralyzed when shot from ambush while on trial last year, started Monday in Atlanta on 11 counts of distributing obscenity. Flynt, crippled in nearby Lawrenceville March 6, 1978, six months after he was arrested and charged in Atlanta, could face up to 11 years in prison plus a fine if convicted in this case. In Monday's session Fulton County State Court Judge Nick Lambros denied a motion by the defense to separate Flynt's case from charges against corporate distributors of his magazines.

Space shuttle flight postponed

Gusty winds and rain postponed Monday's piggyback flight of the space shuttle Columbia to Florida. A NASA spokesman at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., said the shuttle might have been able to get in a brief test flight aboard its Boeing 747 mother ship Monday if the weather cleared, but the cross-country trip to Cape Canaveral was definitely off until at least today.

WORLD

Iranian radio-TV station seized

Rebellious Kurdish tribesmen seized a radio-TV station and a police post in Tehran, Iran, Monday in heavy fighting with Iranian security forces in west Iran. At least three persons were killed and 200 wounded after nearly 24 hours of fighting, newspaper reports said. But Radio Tehran, in an 8:30 a.m. CST broadcast, said the government units have agreed to cease fire and asked the tribesmen to halt their attacks on the local garrison. The radio said the cease-fire had been agreed upon after intervention by Moslem clergymen. Kurdish guerrillas are seeking autonomy and elements of Iranian army and police are trying to enforce Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's rule in the border.

Protesters bomb Tokyo airport

Ultra-leftist protesters planted time bombs and set fire to a police sentry box Sunday night in an attempt to disrupt air traffic at the new Tokyo International Airport. The ultra-leftist Marxist organization Chukaku issued a statement saying it was responsible. Neither the bombs nor the fire disrupted operations at the airport, 41 miles east of Tokyo.

Russian plane wreckage fenced

A new pinewood fence Monday enclosed what appeared to be the guarded wreckage of a TU-104 Aeroflot airliner that crashed in a thick birch forest about half a mile south of Moscow's Vnukovo Airport. A KGB official at the scene ordered a reporter to leave. What appeared to be large broken sections of the fuselage of the plane were covered by canvas tarps. The official Tass news agency reported Sunday that the TU-104, on a flight from Moscow to Odessa, had crashed Saturday and said there were "some casualties." This is the third officially acknowledged air disaster in the Soviet Union involving a TU-104 airliner since November 1976, when one crashed on takeoff from Moscow, killing 70 people.

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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Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I HAD TO MISS YOUR MONDAY CLASS BECAUSE I HAD TO EXPLAIN TO MY OTHER TEACHERS WHY I MISSED CLASS BEFORE TH' SPRING BREAK!"

Where are U.S. allies?

A U.S. carrier task force is being sent toward Arabian waters in a long overdue show of U.S. concern at the fighting between North and South Yemen on the borders of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Well and good. With Iran in chaos, and likely to remain so for some time to come, Saudi Arabia's oil is absolutely crucial to the economy and security of the United States and the industrialized free world.

But where, we may ask, are the naval vessels of the rest of the oil-importing nations? Where are the U.S. allies, the Europeans and the Japanese, who have at least as much to lose as the United States in the event of a Persian Gulf oil shutdown?

We are told that in private, European leaders worry, even snicker, at the apparent inability of the superpower United States to protect its global interests. Perhaps they will cheer the dispatch of the U.S. task force toward the Middle East.

But what about sending European and Japanese vessels on a sortie into the area? Why must the United States alone send the message that a disruption of the oil flow from the Mideast would be a world calamity of the first order? As a matter of fact, flotillas from several oil-importing nations would send a plain-language signal to one and all that the whole world's economy, not just that of the United States, is at stake in the area.

The industrialized nations seem quite willing to cut any sort of deal they can to secure the oil supplies they need, but when that sort of trade diplomacy fails, they begin pining for Uncle Sam to act.

Well, Uncle Sam would like a little help from his friends.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

Costly education needs to be taxed

By JOSEPH PASINOSKY

Is tuition-free education per se profitable? If so, is tuition-free education through the college level a good investment? Can the nation afford such a luxury?

If the nation invests \$1,200 a year to educate its students through the elementary and secondary schools, it will invest \$10,800 to educate each student from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Add \$4,800 for high school and the cost is \$15,600. Allow \$12,000 for a college education, or \$100 per academic hour, and the tab is \$27,600. Another \$12,000 for a Ph.D. and the total is \$39,600. Now, the median income, in round figures, for an individual with an eighth grade education or less is \$5,000 a year, a high school diploma \$10,000, a college degree \$15,000, and a Ph.D. \$17,000. These individuals will pay 30 percent of their income in federal state, and local taxes, such as income, social security, property, sales taxes, etc. They will provide society with \$1,500,

Reader's Forum

\$3,000, \$4,500, and \$5,100 a year respectively. They will have a productive life span of 42 years and donate \$63,000, \$126,000, \$189,000, and \$214,200 in taxes during their productive life spans.

In every case, society will receive at least a 5-1 ratio on its investment. For every individual that it fails to educate through the college level it will lose at least \$1,500 a year in lost taxes. There are at least 2.5 million individuals in each age group that do not go to college. 2.5 million multiplied by \$1,500 and society loses \$3.75 billion in lost taxes for each age group. Multiplied by 42 age groups and society loses \$157.5 billion each year in lost taxes.

The most equitable method of financing public education, including higher education, would be to use the principles of social security and sales taxes. In social security, one pays into the fund for 42 years and then is rewarded by checks and Medicare. In tuition-free education, one receives one's reward in the beginning and then pays into the fund for the next 42 years. If an individual paid a four percent education tax on the last \$5,000 of his earning, he would pay \$200 a year for his college education, meaning \$8,400 for a \$12,000 education. The rest would be made up by a small sales tax on commercial transactions. At the present time, the business community pays little or nothing to support higher education even though it receives the most benefit from such a system. In addition, the sales tax would be

applied to the billions of dollars of good that are imported each year. The property base of these goods are in foreign countries, and much of the technology that they use to operate efficiently and profitably was developed as a result of our higher educational system.

If the students at the university, or any high school or college, asked me, "Joe, how could we achieve tuition-free education through the college level?" I would tell them to call an organizational meeting and elect officers, and then appoint committees: public relation committee, correspondence committee, committees to get signatures vetitions that they would send to their representatives in Washington requesting tuition-free education through the college level. I would point out to them that there are about seven million students in college, and another 20 (million) high school students. Each would have a mother and father, at least two grandparents. This would represent a potential 135 million signatures that they could get on their petitions. If the students would go from door to door in their school district, they would be able to increase the number of signatures that they could get. I would point out to them that schools are training grounds where students acquire a bit of intellectual tools, and that this effort would be a good exercise in testing and developing their leadership and organizational abilities.

Joseph Pasinosky is a former special student at West Virginia University. He lives at 231 Spruce Street Morgantown, West Virginia, 26505.

'Talk with Dr. Miller'

Wondering about dorm rules, university policies, funding at Texas A&M University? "Talk with Dr. Miller" is a forum for readers to ask University administration questions about University policies and procedures.

Questions should be addressed to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, and should specify that they are to be used for this column. Names and phone numbers will be required on all questions and Dr. Miller has the option to decline to answer a question or request others on the staff or faculty to answer it.

Questions and answers will be published on the editorial page, usually within two weeks after the question is submitted.

Letters to the Editor

Library move no hassle for researcher

Editor: For a change I would like to say something nice about the library instead of complaining.

I am using the reserve section for one course, microtext for another and the normal amount of various research for papers to be turned in before May in other courses. I am taking 15 hours.

I have run into very little trouble. The staff (collective noun) is doing their best and they should be commended.

I'm so tired of hearing complaints (even before the change occurred) that I'm beginning to believe that most who complain just like to complain. I would be willing to bet that most of the complainers disappeared for spring break to bask in the sun, ski or be lazy for nine days while the concerned personnel stayed here to do the moving. When those same people came back, they desired perfection in the library.

Well you lazy bums, why don't you stop complaining for a moment to look around and see what kind of accomplishments were made and how much more space you have to maneuver in. You may have to walk a little more, but I've always been taught that walking was a lot better for your health than sitting!

Surely people can learn to work around obstructions if they really need to get a job done.

Don't condemn progress, learn to live with it, not to slow it down.

Time is money whenever work crews are involved, be they builders movers, or bookshelf makers.

—Margaret Callahan, '79

Equal opportunity

Editor: I have read with interest and concern several of the articles in Battalion issues dealing with women's rights in relation to Corps tradition.

First, I'm an Aggie ('59) and a naval officer of some 20 years. In the last seven or eight years, we have seen major improvements and reaped personnel gains in the Navy's Equal Opportunity Program, particularly with regard to race and sex. We've come a long way, but there is still a lot of ground to be covered in defining the role of women in the Navy.

One letter "Step to the Rear" by C.D. Steward '79, was particularly offensive and short-sighted. While realizing that Texas A&M is now basically a civilian school with a minority Corps contingency, and aware that free expression does have learning benefits, the viewpoints expressed in this

letter were so contrary to present Armed Forces doctrine and policy as to be sufficient cause to write this "letter to the editor."

My major concern is that this young man or others like him are members of the Corps (which I am assuming). This point of equal female rights is no longer a matter of discussion. Government policy is that they will have equal opportunity. How to accomplish this goal is open for discussion in some areas, but there is no longer room for discussion on whether they should or should not have equal opportunity; merely on how to implement.

Based on your recent articles and "letters to the editor," I feel the Corps may not be providing prospective junior officers the necessary training in this area.

I recommend that the Corps staff, with the commandant, obtain copies of several of the military services' instructions on equal opportunity. Then, from these as a baseline, formulate written policy best suited for Texas A&M (might even make it apply to the entire faculty and student

body). This won't be easy. Many high ranking officers have resigned when forced with the reality of enforcing equal opportunity for women in the service.

I realize Texas A&M is traditionally a very conservative school, a position which I view with pride. However, on this issue I urge you to get in step with the times. Good luck!

—L.A. McClendon, III
CDR, USN
Naval Air Test Center
Patuxent River, Md.

Taps 'beautiful'

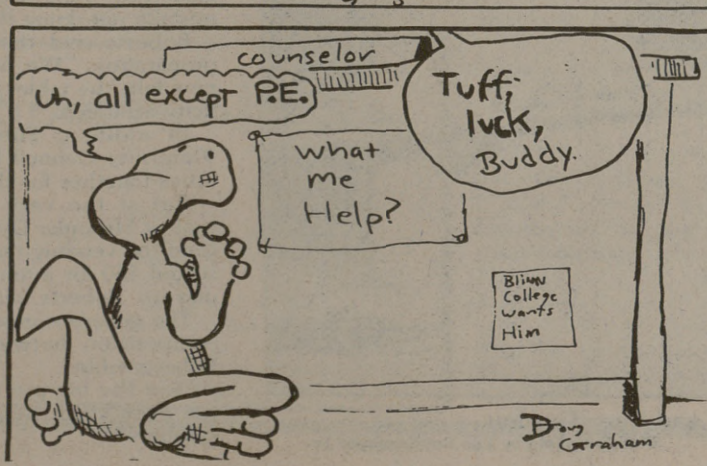
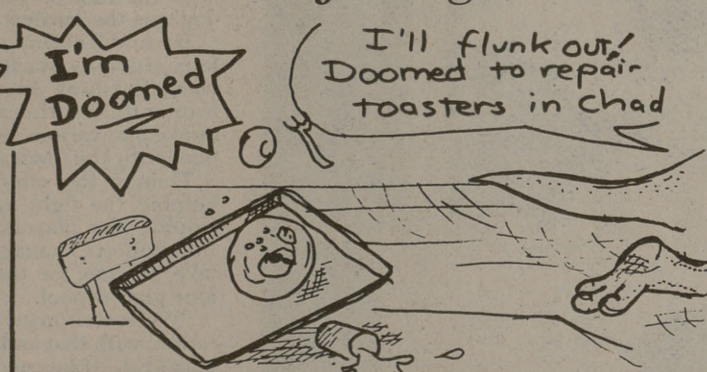
Editor: We lost a son, James S. McCaine, whom we loved more than words can express. But ours is not to reason why — but to try hard to accept.

We felt privileged to share in your "private world" when we attended Silver Taps on Thursday, March 9. It was simple and beautiful.

Thotz



By Doug Graham



Doug Graham

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