

## Give people their say

Conformity is the key word. Conform to established ideas, traditions and opinions and you'll get along fine with everyone else here at Texas A&M. If you don't like it Highway 6 runs both way. But then, so do most highways. The Brazos American Civil Liberties Union chapter bought a full-page ad in Wednesday's Battalion headlined "To Dispel A Myth." The "myth" they spoke out against was a feeling at this university — by students and faculty alike — that freedom of expression is not allowed here. The ad stated that the group is "troubled by the belief that new ideas — which inevitably challenge and criticize old ideas — are not welcome at Texas A&M." The ad cited fear by administrators, faculty and students to be critical lest something happen to them or their jobs. A member of the Union refused to elaborate on the ad, saying "I prefer to let the statement speak for itself."

Freedom of speech, freedom of expression — basic rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. However, people must choose to exercise these guaranteed freedoms — something that can still bring criticism. Remember the McCarthy communist trials during the 1950s? I read with amazement the quotes from on-lookers at the Iranian protest at Rudder Tower on Monday. "Communists," one said. And remember last semester when a student sat on the Memorial Student Center grass, against the tradition of recognizing the grass as a memorial. "Communist," some said. Amazing. But the more common response might be "Highway 6 Runs Both Ways." That phrase has been said hundreds, if not thousands, of times at A&M when someone voices an unpopular viewpoint — addressed to students and faculty alike. And "love it or leave it" can drive out some who get frustrated by the close-minded atmosphere. One disgusted freshman wrote The Battalion last year, saying he was leaving to find a 20th century college. There have been no consistent pattern of punishment taken against a student for saying what's on his mind. But peer pressure is another matter. When a student writes a letter to The Battalion, he takes a certain risk — especially if his opinion is not that of the majority. Fellow students have been known to use tactics such as phone threats to "scare" the writer into changing his ways — which is one of the reasons The Battalion receives some letters requesting the writer's name not appear in the newspaper with the letter. But the real question is whether there is freedom to voice a minority opinion. Fear of reprisal may keep students and faculty from expressing their true feelings on controversial subjects. This is coercion. What this university needs is maturity, the ability to let others have their say, and people who aren't afraid to come out of their shells and say what's on their minds.

— K.T., K.R.

## Letters to the Editor

### Disheartening bike theft

The "spirit of Aggieland" was in action over the weekend in the northside dorm area. Someone decided to steal (or "borrow") my bike on Friday night. The bike-stealers have good taste in their selection as my bike was bought in France and had a unique sentimental value behind it. These bike-stealers must also be hard workers as I had a thick chain and padlock securing my property. It's becoming increasingly hard to be proud of our "unique and wonderful" school by such actions. If these fellow Ags have any feelings for sentiment at all, I would appreciate them returning something that has a lot of meaning to me and renewing my faith in the people at this school.

—A.L. Gardner, '81

### Bible not obsolete

I urge anyone who claims that the Bible offers no guidance on modern homosexuality to read Romans 1:26,27 which states "For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameful acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error." In response to Dr. Furnish's statement that "the Bible expresses ideas for the ancient world that can no longer be expressed for society," I would refer him to Matthew 24:35 which reads "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." The Bible also offers a warning in John 12:48 which reads "He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge, the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day." "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword..." Hebrews 4:12. It is not obsolete and will never change. It is as binding on us today as it was in the first century.

—Greg Hargis, '81

### Unknown protest

I propose a massive sit-in on Kyle Field for all Texas A&M students. The reason? To protest against ignorant people who protest without knowing why!

—George Rooney

### Off the beaten trail

Tuesday night my friend and I were jogging on the jogging trail between G. Rollie White and the Corps dorms, and he fell down and sprained his ankle. When I went back to see why he fell, I found a ditch all the way across the trail. While I was waiting at the Quack Shack for him to get his X-rays, another student told me that a friend of his had slipped in one of those

ditches on the trail and sprained his ankle. The pothole-filled streets are bad enough without having a special jogging trail with ditches in it. If the University can afford to construct a trail they should at least be able to light the whole thing instead of just a few parts (which are probably lit because pedestrians also use these portions). If this is not possible, please try to keep the trail as ditch-free as possible as I will continue jogging at night due to work and school during the day. Also, who is liable for this neglect?

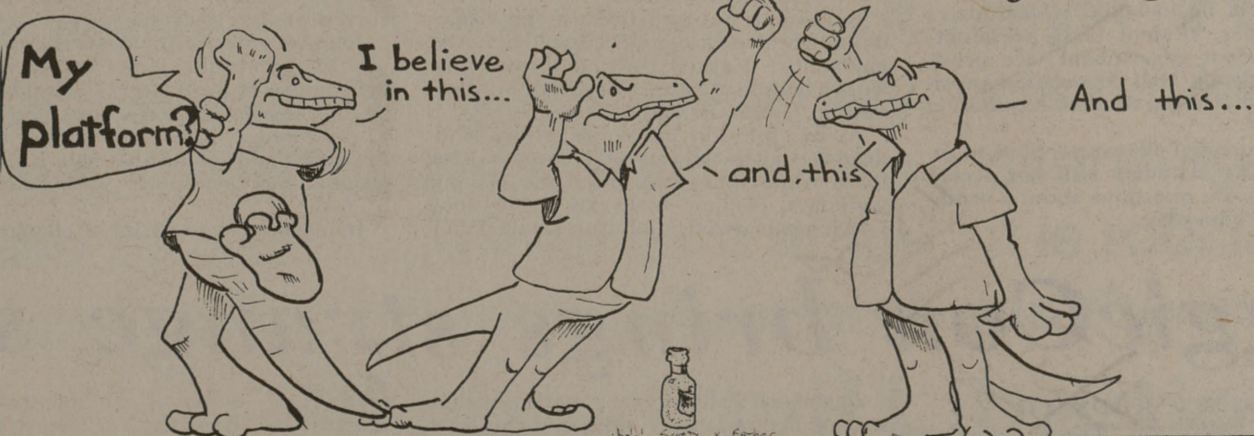
—Karl V. Springer, '80

### Other side to U.S. energy use

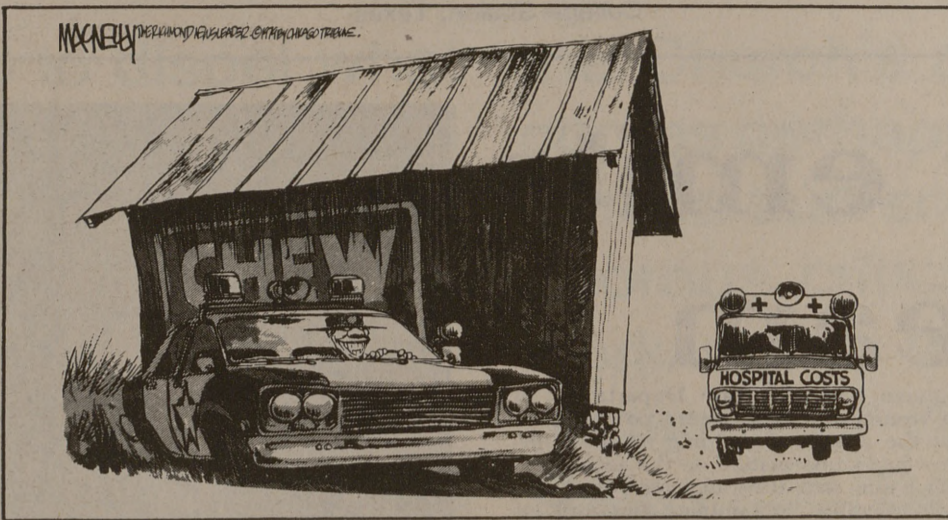
One of the heaviest indictments directed at the United States and the American people is that we have only 5 percent of the world's population, but use nearly 30 percent of the globe's energy resources and oil. The implication of this charge is that we are a society wrapped up in ourselves, hung up on materialistic comforts, and determined to get ours regardless of how much suffering it might bring the rest of the world. But the apparently appalling consumption figures deserve to be balanced by America's production figures. The United States also produces 23 percent of the world's energy, and creates a gross national product that is one-quarter of the gross global product. Now, in all fairness, the United States does not create so large a national product by using abacuses in its think tanks, hand tools in its factories, rakes and hoses in its giant agribusinesses, and horses and wagons in its market deliveries. To produce all these goods, especially food stuffs that continually make up for the Soviet Union's harvest shortfall and India's periodic droughts, America admittedly uses up a great deal of energy. Speaking of selfishness, we might ask what others do when they have a chance to help themselves or to help others. OPEC and the oil prices for example. By quadrupling oil prices and worse, the OPEC countries created far more distress and suffering among oil-less, impoverished Third World countries than America, with its foreign aid programs, ever accomplished. 'Nuff said.

Newport (R.I.) Daily News

### Thotz



### By Doug Graham



## Window on Middle East: Death without an epitaph

United Press International  
CAIRO, Egypt — The conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in effect tolls the knell of the Geneva Middle East peace conference, a non-starter that survives only on paper. The treaty and its parent Camp David peace framework accords have practically superseded the conference, set up two months after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war to seek a comprehensive settlement under the co-chairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union. Camp David eliminated Moscow as a partner in negotiations. Diplomats believe that even if other Arab parties seek a negotiated settlement at a later stage, it probably will be done within the Camp David framework or some variation of the Geneva conference. The Geneva conference held a two-day ceremonial opening session in December 1973 and has been dormant since.

### Experiment in Gaza?

GAZA, Israeli-occupied Egypt — Gaza Mayor Rashad As-Shawwa will go to Beirut during the next few weeks for talks with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leaders on the autonomy plan included in the Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Shawwa, in marked contrast to West Bank Arab mayors, has not totally excluded his participation in such a plan, saying he would go along "only if it will lead to the full self-determination of the Palestinian people."

The plan appears to have more of a chance of succeeding in the Gaza Strip, which once was under Egypt's control, than in the West Bank. One suggestion has been to start the plan in Gaza as an experiment.

### Sinai land link

SUEZ, Egypt — The government is speeding up construction of a tunnel under the Suez Canal which will be the first land link between mainland Egypt and Sinai. The tunnel, 150 feet below the canal bed, will be two miles long with a diameter of about 36 feet. It will consist of three

levels, the bottom one for water and power lines, the middle for traffic and the top for ventilation. It is being built with the help of the British firm Tarmac Overseas at a cost of nearly \$100 million.

Work began in January 1977 and was to have been completed by the end of 1980, but the government now wants to finish the job by this June. It says the tunnel will be of immense value in the economic rehabilitation of Sinai following Israeli withdrawal under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

### Israel and the F16s

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel will receive American F16 aircraft 18 months ahead of schedule and the early delivery will mean a massive organizational effort by the Israeli air force.

Preparations for the jets will be complicated by Israel's need to build three new airbases in the Negev desert as a result of its peace treaty with Egypt.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman received a promise from U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown that the first planes would be delivered in about a year.

Israel had planned to put some of its own systems into the aircraft, but it is now doubtful that local manufacturers will be able to meet the early delivery date.

### Army moves in

BEIRUT, Lebanon — When Saudi Arabia announced it was pulling its peace-keeping battalion out of Lebanon, most analysts feared the move signaled another round of fighting between the Christian militia and the Syrian army in Beirut.

Then the commanders of Lebanon's forgotten army spoke up and said they were capable of taking over the Saudi positions between the hostile Syrians and Christians.

The betting is still against peace for the war-scarred city. But when asked his opinion on the Saudi withdrawal, Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss said, "It's not the end of the world."

### Correction

It was incorrectly reported in Wednesday's March 29 Battalion that the United States is experiencing a shortfall of 700 barrels of crude oil a day. This should have read 700,000 barrels a day. The Battalion regrets the error.

### 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

## Brine from oil fields radioactive

Discharge of salt water from oil fields into bays and estuaries results in local ecological damage, but these effects are regarded by the government as acceptable, an oil company scientist said in a Marine Fellows lecture at Texas A&M University Tuesday. Atlantic Richfield Co. science adviser D.W. Chamberlain said there is some radiation in salt water from drilling in radon and strontium, both part of the complex chemical makeup of brine. Chamberlain defended brine discharge into bays, saying that most of the water is reinjected into the earth.

## NATION

### 'Weary Willie' to rest at age 81

Emmett Kelly, a one-time newspaper cartoonist who became world-famous as "Weary Willie" the circus clown, died Wednesday at the age of 81. A medical rescue squad called to Kelly's Sarasota, Fla., home rushed him to Sarasota Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Kelly was a newspaper cartoonist and illustrator before he joined the circus. He created the wistful and ragged character of "Weary Willie" in 1921 while drawing illustrations in Kansas City, but it was 1937 before he used it in his circus act.

### Carter delays energy proposals

President Carter, facing "largely unpleasant" options from his top energy advisers and weighing the impact of the latest foreign oil price rise, will wait until next week before proposing new energy measures. The president originally planned to address the nation this week, but Tuesday ordered changes in some of the proposals. Some of the steps the president has in mind will require congressional action, Press Secretary Jody Powell said. Carter is expected to favor lifting controls on crude oil prices — most likely through a gradual approach, with total decontrol by September, 1981. During a White House meeting Tuesday, Carter told Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and other administration officials he was "less than completely satisfied" with some of their recommendations. The OPEC decision for a 9 percent increase plus surcharges by individual members caused major complications for Carter's plans.

### Rationing unlikely — Schlesinger

Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger, in Dallas Wednesday, predicted spot gasoline shortages this summer but said gasoline rationing probably would not be introduced despite OPEC's decision to raise crude oil prices 9 percent. Schlesinger, in a news conference following an address to the National Association of Broadcasters convention, said the government would move to implement gasoline rationing only under "developments far more severe than those of the present time." He said an occurrence such as the partial closure of the Persian Gulf could cause the implementation of gas rationing. During his address, Schlesinger called on broadcasters to help persuade the American public the current energy situation was critical, rather than focusing on dollar-a-gallon gas prices or gas rationing timetables.

## WORLD

### Arafat hardest on 'snake's head'

As Arab leaders met in Baghdad Wednesday to mete out punishment to Egypt, Israel and the United States for making a separate peace, Arab radicals took matters into their own hands and struck at Egyptian and Jewish targets around the world. Conference sources said a separate session of Arab foreign ministers agreed on political sanctions to isolate President Anwar Sadat's regime. The sharpest words Tuesday were reserved for, in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's words, "the snake's head — the United States. Taking punitive measures against Sadat are not enough. We must punish Carter, Arafat told the Arab ministers. "If you are not prepared to cut oil supplies to the United States," Arafat pleaded, "at least cut production by 30 percent and increase prices by 30 percent."

### Iran rebels continue bloodshed

Marxist guerrillas and Turkoman tribesmen took control of the southern half of a city in northeast Iran Wednesday and besieged government positions, reports reaching Tehran said. The left-wing forces were "firing 200 shots a minute" at the southern end of Gonbad-e Quabooa and in factories surrounding the city 296 miles northwest of Tehran, a resident said. Three persons were killed, raising the death toll to 23, reports reaching the capital said. Latest reports said between 40 and 75 persons have been injured.

### Sadat seeking weapons, cash

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat met Wednesday with banker David Rockefeller and then planned a meeting with Defense Secretary Harold Brown to discuss his nation's defense needs. U.S. sources said Sadat wants to buy up to \$2 billion worth of F16 fighter planes, tanks, artillery pieces and armored troop carriers. Sadat Tuesday urged Congress to approve a new U.S.-Egyptian military relationship to help counterpossible Soviet and Cuban intervention in Africa and the Middle East. The Egyptian president also has used his treasury-sight visit to the United States to press for increased economic aid — both public and private.

## WEATHER

Mostly cloudy skies with thundershowers and mild temperatures. High today 70 and a low of 50. 40% chance of rain today and 60% tonight. Winds will be S-S.E. at 15-25 mph.

## 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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