

Tierra Grande, the quarterly magazine produced by the Texas Real Estate Research Center at Texas A&M University, won an award of excellence in the 1979 Gold Quill Awards program sponsored by the International Association of Business Communicators. The award presentation is set for June 5 at the IABC conference in San Francisco. Tierra Grande recently completed its first year of publication and is mailed to all licensed real estate brokers in Texas.

Business grad contest to be here

The Texas A&M University Business Graduate Student Association (BGSU) will sponsor the Southwest's first Invitational Case Competition beginning today. The competition is an effort to expand the programs now available to graduate business students to prepare them for handling problems in the business world. "The cases are factual accounts of actual business decision problems," said Richard Scruggs, president of BGSU. "As such, they are about as close as the business educator can get to the real thing." Five other universities are invited to participate. The teams will be judged on how they handle an identical problem situation.

STATE

Davis case decision set for today

A decision in the five-year divorce case of Cullen and Priscilla Davis is expected in Fort Worth today, but attorneys for both sides have indicated they will appeal if the decision goes against their client — an inevitability that likely will further delay a settlement decree. Judge Clyde Ashmore, the third jurist to preside in the much publicized case, said earlier this week he'd announce his decision on community property today. At stake is millions of dollars in cash, property and business stock. Davis' attorneys have claimed there is no more than about \$600,000 to \$700,000 in community property, while Mrs. Davis' attorneys have claimed the figure is closer to \$50 million. Davis' attorneys also have asked Ashmore to "enforce" a prenuptial agreement signed by Mrs. Davis two days before her August 1968 marriage that prohibits her from claiming any of her husband's property obtained before they were married. Mrs. Davis' attorneys have claimed the agreement was obtained through deceit.

NATION

Dorm fire forces evacuation

A fire early Thursday morning in a room at a residence hall on the George Washington University campus in Washington, D.C., injured at least 23 people and forced hundreds of sleeping students out of the building. The fire was reported shortly before 4 a.m. and was confined to the fifth floor. A police spokesman said one of the injured persons may have jumped from the fifth floor to escape the blaze, which heavily damaged at least one room and the hallway outside. A fire department spokesman said the fire was brought under control within one hour, and all of the several hundred students living in the building were safely evacuated. No deaths were reported. Most of the 23 injured were taken to the George Washington University Hospital, where they were treated for smoke inhalation and minor burns. Fire marshals are trying to determine the cause of the blaze.

Cause of plane crash discussed

Federal safety officials met Thursday to discuss "the probable technical cause" of the worst U.S. air disaster — a collision between a Pacific Southwest jetliner and a private plane over San Diego that killed 144 persons. The announcement of the technical findings by the four-member National Transportation Safety Board was due sometime later. "The board will not fix blame for the accident, but will rule on the probable technical cause and make recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration for safety improvements," board spokesman Ed Slattery said. "In this case, there appears to be a number of factors." The final staff report, concluding that both pilots apparently failed to see one another, said the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control procedures and systems contributed to the accident.

Corpse found near White House

The body of a 19-year-old Secret Service receptionist was found in a building next to the White House early Thursday and agents said she apparently died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. She was identified as Kimberley R. Acquard of suburban Alexandria, Va. "The revolver was recovered," said Secret Service spokesman Ken Lynch. "She was discovered about 1 a.m. in one of the offices used by the Secret Service in the old Executive Office Building." He declined further comment except to say the young woman was a receptionist for the Secret Service Uniform Division, which is charged with guarding the White House.

WORLD

1 dies in Egypt bomb explosion

A booby-trapped cigar box exploded at Cairo's main post office Thursday as millions of Egyptians voted in a nationwide referendum on the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Police officers said the explosion killed a woman postal worker and injured three male colleagues. It was the first known act of sabotage in Egypt since the March 26 signing of the treaty, which most Arab countries oppose.

WEATHER

Warm and humid with heavy thundershowers this afternoon. High in the mid 80's and a low in the mid 60's. Winds will be southeasterly at 10-15 mph. 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 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. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

Don't get gigged, Ags

With this issue, I end my term as Battalion editor.

Liz Newlin will take over the reins starting with Monday's edition. Now is the time for the standard end-of-the-term editorial. I want to share a little of what I've observed during my tenure here.

Texas A&M is in a state of unease — something that all Good Ags and the rest of the student body should see. And be concerned about.

During this past school year various incidents added up to a picture that distresses me.

As a freshman, I came during the big growth of the school — students and money were pouring in. With the influence of President Earl Rudder this university had taken off. Another strong leader, Dr. Jack K. Williams, brought the school further academic recognition.

Now it seems Texas A&M is on a plateau — not going up or down.

THE QUESTION IS: Where to now? What plans are there, what goals?

The regents show no signs of knowing. They have failed to provide leadership a number of times when the University needed it most.

Instead of setting policy and goals the regents seem to be trying to direct how this university is run in detail. For example, when President Jarvis Miller advised them at their last meeting that the burned Board of Directors house should be destroyed, one regent ordered more financial figures, and announced they would form an advisory committee to look into the problem. They discussed the problem so specifically that they began to meddle.

And where are the priorities?

There's been a long delay in finding a new chancellor for the Texas A&M system. Two months passed before a search committee was formed after Chancellor Williams resigned. And there's still no evidence of action there.

NOT ONLY THE Board of Regents, but the administration is following news releases instead of working ahead of them. Currently, HEW is investigating the system for possible racial discrimination. State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, introduced several bills into the Legislature to mandate more System funding for Prairie View University. There's been no definite public stand taken about the System's relationship with Prairie View or how the System is coordinated.

And the University, by switching from an academician president to one whose background is primarily agricultural research, has left some faculty members uneasy. Dr. Miller's spoken consistently about his concern for the world's misconception about higher education, but especially research — from his inauguration to Washington D.C., to The Houston Chronicle. As a result some faculty members think he's more responsive to the problems of agriculture and research than of the classroom.

THIS RESTLESSNESS has stretched further than the school wall.

During a crucial subcommittee hearing on the System's appropriations, legislators questioned the presentation of the budget — asking why the System couldn't show one concerted effort with one spokesman. This leadership problem grew worse when Regent H.C. Bell was thrown into presenting the System's budget request unprepared. How can regents expect to present the System's best like that? Even he conceded his own confusion. We needed a chancellor then — not an amateur.

And the degree of politicking that seems to be taking hold here worries me.

Incidents — they string together and form something to think about.

Chancellor Williams resigned after the regents slowly removed all his responsibilities. There were also reports of conflict between him and President Miller.

Head Coach Emory Ballard left, powerful alums were blamed for trying to make the school's decisions and moving him out.

Don Brister, director of the Aggie Club — the alumni organization that raises money for student athletic scholarships — left suddenly. He hasn't said why.

Then there is the current investigation of the Corps of Cadets by the Brazos Civil Liberties Union to see if there is discrimination against women in joining organizations. And there are other problems.

BUT AS ONE FORMER student told me recently, Texas A&M will survive. And I'm sure it will.

Four years as a student has shown me that Texas A&M is a good school despite its problems. It is mainly this feeling that leads me to voice my concern.

The school's "leadership" needs to start moving, leave politicking in Austin and see that this university moves up and on.

Wrong rooting reaction

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Life's turning points sometimes come upon us at odd times in unexpected places. I personally entered a new phase the other evening while watching the movie version of "Hair."

For the first time in a career of movie-going that dates all the way back to silent films, I found myself rooting for the wrong side.

I'm not talking about anything so commonplace as watching a western and suddenly realizing you hope the Indians win. That is one of the universal experiences and is generally transitory. In most cases, it is simply a manifestation of the old pulling-for-the-underdog syndrome.

I am talking here about a complete, against-the-grain sentiment reversal.

At "Hair," as my companion of the evening rather testily pointed out, I was the only person in the theater who was cheering for the straights. Audibly at least.

That reaction was entirely out of character.

What I regarded as the two finest scenes weren't even mentioned in the reviews I have read.

In one, an Army MP is being hassled by a carload of Flower Children who want to visit the base during an alert. I wish I had gotten the name of the actor who played the part of the MP. It was an Academy Award performance if ever I saw one.

Talk about restraint, coupled with steadfastness, under extreme provocation. That MP had it. Yet it was I alone who let out a yip of delight when he prevailed.

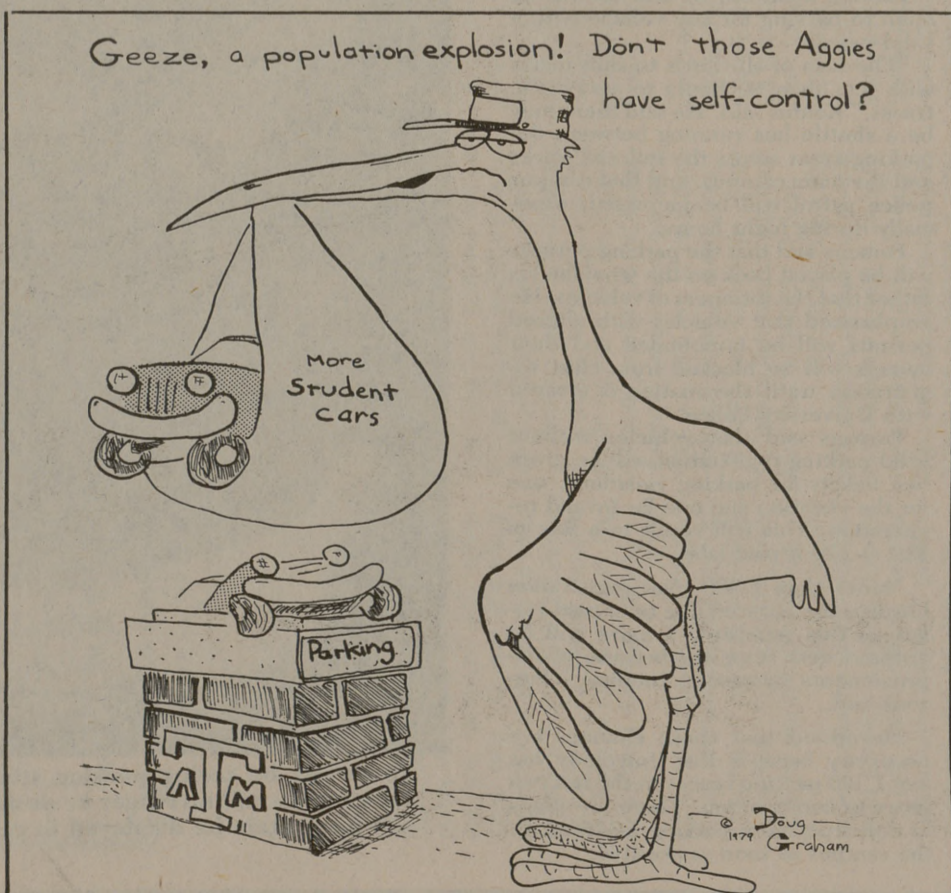
In the other great scene, the film's leading lout returns to his lower middle class home to try to wheedle enough dough out of his aging parents to pay the fines of the lesser louts who are — deservedly — in jail.

The old man turned him down.

Quite reflexively, I gave a little cry of admiration over this noble resistance. Once again, mine was the lone voice heard in the theater, although the audience was

exceedingly demonstrative at other times. For me, then, "Hair" was more than a movie. It was a genuine juncture, somewhat comparable to entering puberty or the initial onset of tennis elbow. You know life will never be quite the same again.

In a few more years, I may find myself booing John Wayne.



Plucked chicken syndrome abounds

By CURTIS DILLON

Most people have never had the chance to see a live chicken without its plumed wardrobe. The sight is somewhat amusing; however, one does not have to pluck a live chicken to see it. One has only to look about at the fashionable female aspect of the human population.

It has come of fashion for the human primate female to adorn her foot with an extremely high-heeled shoe. The sole is steeper than the pro ski slope and King Kong would get epistaxis if he could scale the heel. If the straps should break, the girl will surely slide down the incline and embed her toes in the ground.

The result is a fashionable shoe that makes a girl look elegant while standing but gives her the appearance of a plucked chicken while trying to walk. Strides are short, halting, and attempted with effort, and the head is held low as though looking for worms.

A girl can diagnose the syndrome by three or more of the following symptoms:

—Black and blue marks on the shins from falling down.

—A chronic concentrated pained expression on the face while walking as though from gas.

—A sidewalk repair man following you around fixing the chisel marks from spiked heels.

—The need to come to a stand still before looking someone in the face.

—Graphic detail of the cracks in the sidewalks.

—Insisting that falling down stairs is an excellent hobby.

—A heavy coin purse from finding lost coins.

—The desire to look up at the sky to see if it is still blue.

—Walking barefoot carrying your shoes at the end of the day.

The treatment for the afflicted female is a pair of comfortable practical shoes. The disease disappears immediately. The re-

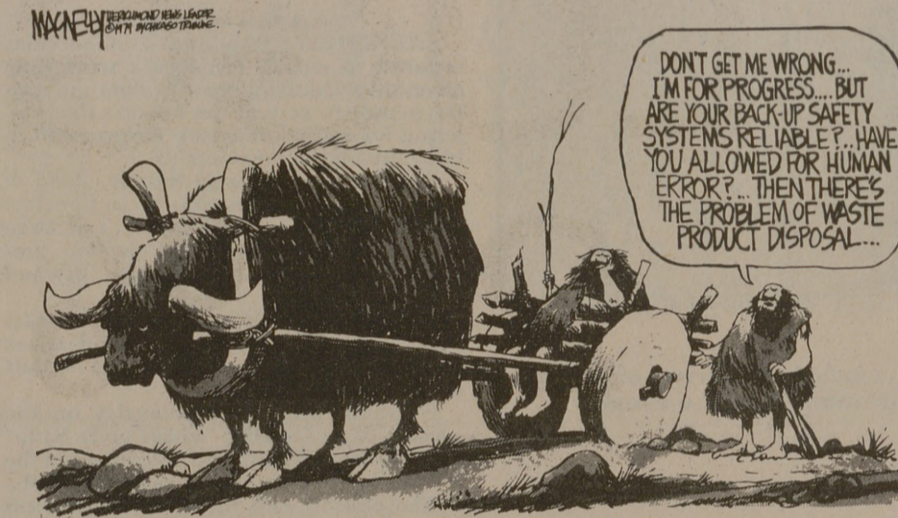
Reader's Forum

sult is a graceful girl that can walk, smile, say hello, and meet the male's adoring gaze all at the same time.

The question seems to be whether a girl likes the fashion that is in style or wears the fashion to be in style. Perhaps it is not for herself that the girl suffers the crippling handicap.

It has been imprinted in the male mind (not necessarily the higher primate) that high-heeled shoes make a girl look sexy. For the most part, the male does not want to look at the top of the head of a fashionable plucked chicken trying to navigate a street curb on stilts.

Curtis Dillon is a junior bio-medical sciences major at Texas A&M.



Carter still pro-nuke

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — Despite the hazards demonstrated by Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, President Carter remains a strong advocate of nuclear power.

"There is no way for us to abandon the nuclear supply of energy in our country in the foreseeable future," he told a news conference recently.

He believes a presidential commission will be able to establish the causes of the accident, design better techniques for nuclear power plants and to create safer operating procedures.

Carter apparently feels there is no longer any question of whether the country should forge ahead with nuclear energy. He is proposing legislation to speed up the licensing of such plants.

It is understood that privately Carter is more vociferous in his defense of nuclear power than he is publicly. He also is reported to believe the news reporting of the Three Mile Island accident was overblown.

Carter has come up through the hardline school of Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, who formerly headed the Atomic Energy Commission, and Adm. Hyman Rickover, chief developer of the nuclear submarine.

His own exposure to radiation — and survival — while serving in the nuclear submarine forces reinforced his opinion that nuclear power is here to stay.

He has faced up to more of the dangers of the nuclear age than most of his predecessors — seeking solutions to the so far insoluble problem of disposing of radioactive wastes, and directing that safety inspectors be stationed at nuclear plants.

The fact is that the United States has an impressive safety record in the nuclear age,

Commentary

enough to have lulled the people into complacency until the Three Mile Island incident. Except for a relatively few vocal anti-nuclear protesters, the public has generally accepted statements that nuclear plants are safe.

On the other hand, pronuclear forces believe no industrial endeavor is without risks, and cite as an example the thousands of coal miners killed in the past. They also point to the lessening of mine dangers as safety measures have been developed.

Still, the magnitude of dangers of a nuclear accident far outweigh others inherent in American society. The evacuation of a million people, which became possible at the height of the Three Mile Island accident, gave some insights into the dimensions of a wartime nuclear attack.

In this connection, the president believes the accident will enhance the chances of ratification of the strategic arms limitation agreement about to be concluded with the Soviets.

Recently, he told a Jefferson-Jackson Day Democratic dinner in Richmond, Va.:

"Our next goal is a SALT treaty to curb the horrible threat of nuclear destruction. Our nation was shaken within the last few days by a potential serious accident in Pennsylvania. I hope that the one result of that fright will be to remind every American how vastly more destructive (a nuclear attack could be) to a hundred million American people, almost half of our population."

Much will depend on the recommendations of the presidential inquiry panel. But one thing is clear: The question of the nation's nuclear future is out of the laboratory and now, finally, in the public arena.

Reader's 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