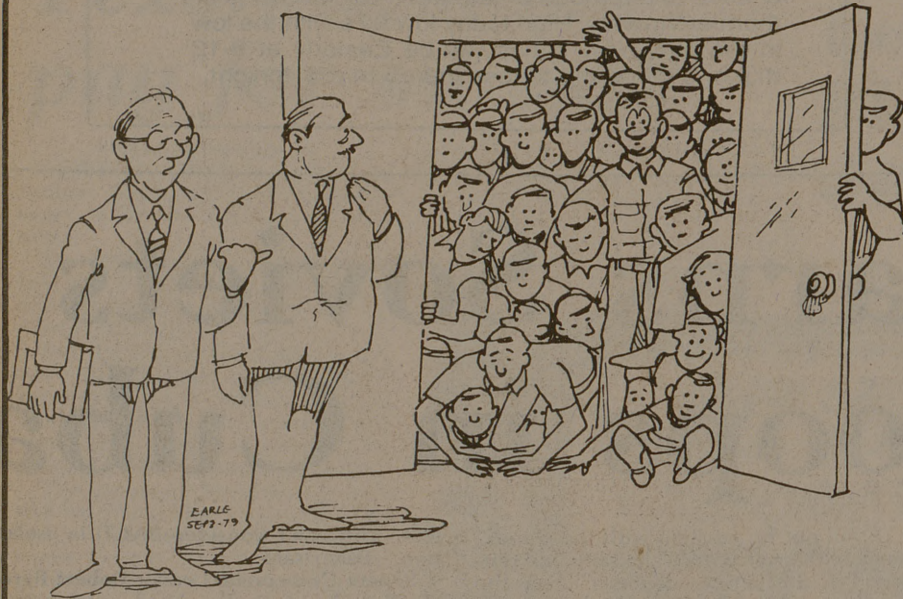


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"All it takes is one hold in one card and your class is changed from one with 42 to one with 420 students."

OPINION

Well-read slips

Errors in reporting facts appear everyday. Those errors often cause sad, embarrassing or funny results.

Wednesday we learned of two fact errors in Monday's Battalion that we had not corrected in Tuesday's paper. (We are always willing to correct such mistakes in our news columns.)

One result of Monday's slips was sad. The other — embarrassing or funny, depending on your point of view.

In the first, The Battalion announced Silver Taps on Tuesday for Texas A&M students who have died since last semester.

The actual ceremony is scheduled for next Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Silver Taps is one of A&M's most eloquent and solemn traditions, and people should take it seriously.

So even though the flag in front of the Academic Building was not at half-mast and no notices of the ceremony were posted, about 100 people gathered to observe the short ceremony.

We apologize for making people come to campus for nothing, but we applaud their sentiment.

And we hope our mistake does not deter them — and others — from attending the real Silver Taps Tuesday.

The other mistake was probably a typographical error.

Instead of announcing an organization meeting of the "Disc Association of A&M," The Battalion promoted the event for the "Disco Association of A&M."

The Disco group is for Frisbee enthusiasts.

The Disco group — which does not exist — would serve the needs of people who dance to the newest rage in the music world.

The two groups are not the same.

At least a dozen unsuspecting students — dressed for dancing — went to the Disc gathering, which was dominated by cut-off jeans and tennis shoes.

Right away the newcomers knew something was amiss.

One reports that as he and a friend walked in the room, one of the Disc fanciers said, "They look like the type," and didn't smile.

Not knowing exactly what "type" he was, the Disco fan left quickly.

Again, The Battalion regrets the error.

But from the response, perhaps there should be a Disco Association here...

THE BATTALION

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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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 6, 1978

WINDOW

Is it foolish to maintain ties with Israel and avoid all negotiations with PLO?

by JIM ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Like a hidden dispute that suddenly erupts to spoil a family reunion, the Palestinian issue has disrupted the close U.S.-Israeli relationship.

In one important respect, the Middle East has turned full circle. The basis of all the peace negotiations, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, is now accepted by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Up until now, the PLO has simplified matters for the United States and Israel by refusing to accept the resolution, which also implies acceptance of Israel's right to live in peace.

The situation has become immensely more complicated for the United States because the Israeli Cabinet, in effect, has made it clear that it does not accept the obligation to withdraw Israeli occupation forces from the West Bank, which is one of the main pillars of Resolution 242.

This reversal of Israeli and PLO policies is important because it indicates the PLO leadership has embarked on a deliberate strategy to become respectable and acceptable to the United States and the rest of the world. At the same time, Israel has embarked on a course of defiance to the United States.

If those courses are maintained, it means, says John Ruedy, a Georgetown

University expert on the Middle East, that the United States policy on this specific issue is, for the first time, closer to the PLO than it is to Israel.

That leads Ruedy, and some State Department officials, to the further conclusion that it is silly to maintain the U.S. commitment to Israel to avoid direct negotiations with the PLO.

Ruedy, in an interview broadcast by the Voice of America, proposes that the United States inform Israel that since the Israelis no longer seem to accept the fundamental basis for Middle East negotiations — Resolution 242 — the United States is no longer bound by its 1975 commitment to Israel to avoid direct contact with the PLO.

Such action by the State Department would certainly create a political furor in this country.

The U.S.-Israeli policy disagreement over the Israeli obligation to withdraw its military forces from the West Bank is added to another bone of contention: the U.S. displeasure with the Israeli preemptive strikes in southern Lebanon.

In an illustration of the new tense relationship, U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young — making it very clear he was speaking in the U.N. Security Council with the full support of his government — was impartially critical of both Israel and

Palestinian guerrillas for contributing to the bloodshed in southern Lebanon.

Such even-handed U.S. treatment of Israel and the PLO would have been unthinkable six months ago, according to State Department officials who are now bracing for what appears to be a long series of confrontations with the Israeli government.

The public condemnation of Israel in the United Nations by the United States was the strongest in memory, a deliberate step by the State Department to distance itself from the current Israeli policies.

The next move is Israel's. It is likely to come in first-hand contacts in Washington when Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and a series of talks with U.S. officials.

They will have much to talk about. Palestinians, the Israeli use of arms in southern Lebanon that "have" violated U.S. laws, the apparent Israeli refusal to live up to what the United States considers the spirit of resolution 242, and the uncertain future of Egyptian-Israeli peace talks.

the small society

by Brickman



Issue short-term visas for illegal aliens

San Francisco Chronicle

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa has been asking for support for his plan for dealing with what he calls the "large and uncontrolled influx of undocumented workers from Mexico."

We believe the senator may be able to make a case for Congress' accepting his approach. It looks like a hopeful way to handle a flow of illegal immigration that is admittedly quite out of hand.

Leonel J. Castillo, commissioner of the immigration and naturalization service, put the number of illegal aliens now in the country at between 6 million and 12 million. Tens of thousands of Mexicans attempt to come over the border each month to add to this number. Last year the Border Patrol logged 862,000 arrests.

This large number was willing to face the risk of arrest in order to get jobs paying

up to 13 times as much as could be earned in their own country. Hayakawa proposes to establish a temporary worker's visa program which (would) admit Mexicans as non-immigrants to work in the United States for 180 days a year.

This measure assumes such workers would not want to stay permanently in this country; that they have a short term need to supplement their incomes, and that

farmers and business are unable to pay domestic workers at the minimum wage and would end the pressure to settle here.

Since we have to try something, let's legalize what otherwise would be illegal and see if the free operation of law of supply and demand for labor will not cure the depressing, unscrupulous traffic in human beings that now goes

ANALYSIS

Could Nicaragua be a second Cuba? some similarities, but more differences

by EDUARDO CUE

United Press International

Will Nicaragua turn into a second Cuba and become the first Communist domino in Central America?

One of three of the factions making up the ruling Sandinistas is admittedly Marxist and some socialization of the economy has taken place since the revolutionaries ousted President Anastasio Somoza.

Banks have been nationalized and there has been a government takeover of the commodities export market, expropriation of the vast Somoza family holdings, harsh criticism of the United States and a warm new relationship between Managua and Havana.

Proponents of the second-Cuba theory also point out that when Castro first came to power he maintained good relations with the United States in order to get badly needed American assistance, a game the Nicaraguan junta may be repeating.

Those who see red also point out that some of Nicaragua's powerful new leaders, such as Interior Minister Tomas Borge, are of Marxist persuasion. Borge recently traveled to Cuba to celebrate his 50th birthday with his good friend Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The revolutionary junta has greeted Cuban aid with much rhetoric, while complaining that the United States took too long in getting food and medical supplies into the country.

But there are significant signs Nicaragua will not become a second Cuba, unless it is isolated by American policy. And the United States, recalling its experience in Cuba 20 years ago, seems to have realized the best way to insure a moderate regime in Nicaragua is to help rebuild the country without political tutoring.

Nicaragua's revolutionary leaders have proved they are pragmatists above all else. They accepted and even sought out the broadest possible base for their rebellion against now ousted President Anastasio Somoza, welcoming help from segments as diverse as wealthy businessmen and radicalized peasants.

If there are similarities between the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, there

also are clear differences.

Unlike Castro, who executed hundreds of opponents after he came to power, the new Sandinista leaders have killed none of some 3,000 national guard members in their custody. Many have been released where there are no criminal charges against them.

The government has promised a "mixed economy" and respect for private property — except for Somoza family holdings, estimated at about 60 percent of all arable land in Nicaragua.

Massive destruction during two years of sporadic fighting has served to moderate the leftwing tendencies of the new five-

member junta and the nine-member Sandinista Directorate.

The government appears aware that, no matter how symbolic the help from Cuba may be, only the United States has resources to help rebuild the Central American nation of 2.4 million people.

Interior Minister Borge even asked the United States to help supply and possibly train the embryonic Sandinista Army, a request seemingly so outlandish that reporters thought Borge was joking when he first told a press conference he had made that proposal to U.S. Ambassador Lawrence A. Pezzullo.

There is widespread resentment in Nicaragua of the American role in ousting and then supporting to the end the Somoza family dynasty. But this resentment is moderated with an acknowledgment that the popularity of the Sandinistas now enjoy will last only as long as the improvement in the lot of the average Nicaraguan.

The Sandinistas know this will be possible only with massive American assistance.



LETTERS

Brigham Young vs. Texas A&M: game in Houston, yell practice here

Editor: I hate to start the year off on a disconcerting note, but I feel it is my duty as a somewhat "Good Ag" to ask a question. Is the BYU game a "home" or an "away" game?

My perplexion arises as a result of finding out that we will have midnight yell practice this Friday night. If it is indeed a "home" game, why did I have to suffer the economical oppression of having to fork out \$4.25 for a student ticket, and a ridiculous sum of \$8.50 for a "guest" ticket?

The obvious answer, is simple: Dammit,

it's an away game! Hal Chortle! If it is an away game, why - in the name of heaven - are we having a midnight yell practice? Half the people (This is perhaps a gross exaggeration) going to the game will be in Houston Friday night. If you have any sense of duty, righteousness, or fair play, as sure as there is a God in heaven, you will end my confusion with your explanation.

-Mike Murphy, '81

Unsung heroes

Editor: We of Fowler Hall would like to show our

appreciation for some of the most dedicated and least thanked students of A&M: Ronnie Kapavic, student body president, and four of the yell leaders.

These people took time out, after going to All University Night, to come to the Fowler All Dorm Meeting and talk to all the girls. These men gave us the most valuable thing in the world — their time and energy.

Ronnie Kapavic gave a very inspiring talk, and those of us who are lucky enough to know him, realize what a truly great leader this campus has. The Yell Leaders, Pete Greaves, Brian Hill, Mark Outlaw

and Jeff Smiley, all delayed previous years and made a very special effort to attend. They not only kept us entertained, but also gave us all the inspiration to try to be as active as they are.

If all Aggies could be as devoted, as less and spirited as these men — the world could be pretty near perfect. Once again, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to some of our finest heroes.

— Marianne Lamin
Fowler Hall President