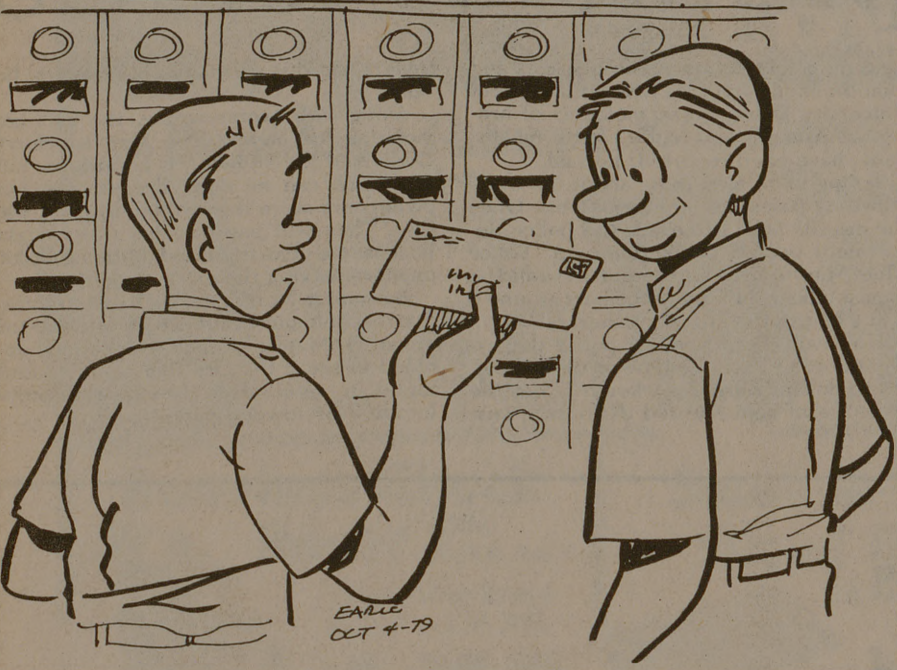


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"My letter home came back saying it was undeliverable, and no forwarding address. Probably just a post office mistake, but then maybe"

OPINION

Damn the rain

Well, it looks like the game has been called for many freshmen because of the rain.

Or maybe we should say, Deluge. In typical B-CS fashion, monsoon season blew in to delay Zachry's construction crews from building Kyle Field.

And as the water accumulated, the chances for completion founded.

So now we have it: Some freshmen must watch the first home football game on a TV screen in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Now, many of the old Ags paid hundreds for their tickets (they are supplying most of the cash for the expansion), so they deserve their seats.

It's just that one of the best things about being an Ag is standing with your compadres in the stadium "sawin' varsity's horns off" and all that other stuff.

We guess you freshmen have a right to feel bitter ... but please ... don't shake your fist at God ... deluges have a way of starting again.

Creative computing

Our favorite word in yesterday's Battalion was "betweenalton." A close second was "onlyavshnr."

But the staff can't take credit for these two inventions. Our computer did it. It decided not to read some holes punched on a tape, threw in a few of its own, and gave birth to two new words.

Dozens of other new words were born, but proofreaders and staff—who prefer Webster's words to our computer's—found them and figured out what humans intended to put there. A couple, however, slipped through and were printed on the front page.

In one case, in announcing that new Aggieland yearbooks are here, The Battalion computer coined the new term "betweenalton."

What we meant was the place to pick up '79 yearbooks is Lounge C between Walton and Schumacher residence halls.

We still can't figure out the other case. Only the computer knows. And it doesn't always tell mere humans.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 4, 1979

BRODER

By DAVID S. BRODER

MIAMI — "I think," said Alfredo Duran, "this whole thing is getting out of hand."

Duran is something of an expert on well-meaning projects gone awry. As a refugee from Fidel Castro's Cuba, he went ashore with the Bay of Pigs brigade, and spent two years in the prisons of his native land after that fiasco.

Released in 1963 with others in the brigade, he resumed his life in the United States, and a dozen years later took over his present job as the chairman of the Democratic party in Florida.

Duran is a Democrat and he is also a democrat — a man who believes that the involvement of citizens in the decision-making of a political party is the life-breath of the Republic.

With others in the "reform" wing of the party, he set up a pre-presidential year party convention in 1975, as a vehicle for attracting new party workers and familiarizing them early with the records and views of the people seeking the presidential nomination.

Happily for Duran and his fellow-activists, that 1975 convention provided the occasion for Jimmy Carter to demonstrate that he had built a statewide organization in Florida, fully capable of challenging the man who had won the Florida pri-

mary in 1972 — George Wallace. Carter's victory in the November, 1975, convention straw vote helped raise the funds and mobilize the support that gave him his decisive win over Wallace in the March, 1976, Florida primary. The parlay was completed when Carter became the first Democratic nominee to carry Florida in 12 years.

But, Duran's four-year-old brainchild has turned into a monster. "We had expected this to be just one more thing we were doing to create enthusiasm in the party process," Duran said. "And now it has become an extraordinary event, quite beyond our control."

Indeed it has. Draft-Kennedy forces, led by two of Duran's former colleagues, Mike Abrams and Sergio Bendixen, began mobilizing months ago to embarrass Carter at the scene of his 1975-76 victory, as a way of pressuring Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) to run. Now that Kennedy is leaning visible toward a candidacy, the Kennedy forces nationally have determined to make the Florida caucuses a show of his strength — lest he be the one to be embarrassed.

And the Carter backers have responded in kind. The result is that both sides are mobilizing dozens of imported organizers and will spend at least \$500,000 between them in an attempt to dominate the Oct. 13 county caucuses, where about half the del-

Voting in Florida called insanity; resembles 'political Bay of Pigs'

egates to the Nov. 16-18 state convention will be elected. (The other half, consisting of elected and party officials and their appointees, are expected to be overwhelmingly for Carter, following the lead of Gov. Bob Graham (D). Duran and most of the others in the Democratic hierarchy.)

On both the Carter and Kennedy sides, the Oct. 13 caucuses are being treated as the first battleground of 1980 — even though they have nothing to do with choosing delegates to the national convention next August.

It is insanity, as Alfredo Duran understands perhaps better than anyone else. Lest it be thought that Duran is denouncing his own creation because he fears a Carter defeat, let the record show that his prediction (which he may or may not regret) is that Carter will "win by a small margin among the delegates chosen in the three big counties down here — Dade, Broward and Palm Beach — and will take at least 55 percent of the delegates in the rest of the state."

The insanity is that the caucuses are grossly distorted mechanisms for measuring candidate support across Florida. There will be only one voting place in each county. That means there will be an enormous premium for the side with the best logistics. Nancy Abrams, a Carter organizer here, claims triumphantly that, "I

have tied up every bus in Dade County (the President). If the Kennedy people move their voters by bus, they're going to have to rent them from the Panhandle."

The voting system — prescribed at a time when no one expected 10,000 people to be mobilized in Dade County alone — now predicted — would intimidate but a fanatic.

The Dade ballot will list more than 100 names — of Carter and Kennedy, but third-force "freedom of choice" group, and independents. The names of delegates will be listed alphabetically, not grouped as candidate slates. It will have to mark at least 141 names, not more than 188 names, in Dade County or the ballot will be thrown out. In Broward and Palm Beach counties, with 110 delegates, respectively, the process is almost as harrowing.

No one is sure how long it will take individual to get into the hall and how long it will take to count the ballots afterward.

It has all the earmarks of a political Bay of Pigs. And Alfredo Duran, who surprised real Bay of Pigs, cannot be blamed for putting his head as he sees what is happening.

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Russia probably glad summer Olympics are at home

The way things have been going for the Russians on the defection front lately, the Kremlin is probably counting itself doubly blessed that the 1980 summer Olympic games are to be held in the motherland rather than in some alien but enticing country where one, two or more of its athletic citizens might decide to follow the

recent examples of various dancers and ice skaters and permanently miss the plane home.

It's bad enough from a propaganda standpoint to abruptly cancel the visit of the Moscow State Symphony to the United States, as the Russians did the other day, but of an ill-disguised fear that maybe the

second clarinetist, the third violinist or perhaps even the entire brass section would use the opportunity presented by the trip to slip onto the fulltime payroll of the Boston Pops. How much more humiliating it would be if anxieties over possible defections led to an entire Olympic team being told that there's no place

like home, and that's where you will be. With the games in Moscow, the count of the Soviet team at the end of competition ought mercifully to agree with the head count taken at the beginning.

A small thing, to be sure, but your victories where you can find them. Los Angeles Times

LETTERS

Editor: Aggies: Construction projects — more steel, more concrete, more crowding, fewer parking spaces — seemingly is a trend at A&M. Besides all that, construction areas are always fenced off so we're forced to walk around the site, taking up more of our precious time. We gripe about the fences, the mud, and the detours, but rarely pay much attention to the progress of the building itself.

At least five or six major buildings have been constructed since my freshman year. Machinery and crews spent countless hours on each one, but I wasn't all that concerned. We all know that Kyle Field is a different story. It has been the center of attention.

I've been watching anxiously anticipating this football season when, as a senior, I could see the fightin' Aggie team winning on the Astroturf. Well Ags, the U of H game is quickly approaching, and no, the stadium won't be completed. However, we still should be playing in Kyle Field, which means more to our football team than most of us know.

The stadium expansion has not progressed as well as expected. The contractors set their goals for completion, and have tried diligently to meet them. Hopefully, more of the stadium will be finished for our use during the upcoming home games, but in the meantime Aggies, students and former students, will have to be understanding of the situation at hand, and sacrifice accordingly.

With approximately 19,000 student seats available, we won't all be on the track, but as tickets are distributed on the seniority basis, a sizable number of Freshmen will likely have the option to either stand on the track, watch the game closed circuit, or

Student body president urges all to put up with construction hassles

leaders in congress concerning the 2,000-3,000 Soviet troops in Cuba seriously erodes my confidence in our country's leadership. It is sad to observe the seemingly bipartisan rush to capitalize on a sensational, yet obviously minor issue, in view of the numerous critical problems facing our nation today.

None of the many contenders for championship of this issue have even suggested that the Soviet troops in Cuba in any way endanger the security of this nation. Yet at the same time these same members of Congress hold this issue up as the sole reason for refusal to consider the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties. Regardless of one's opinion on passage of the SALT treaties, it cannot be denied that their careful consideration is vital to our national interests.

Senators Church, Jackson, Baker and others in Congress contend that the pres-

ence of Soviet troops in Cuba must be linked to passage of the SALT treaties; it represents a new and hostile attitude on the part of the Soviet Union. How can a relatively small number of Soviet troops, the duration of whose presence even the CIA reportedly does not know, represent significant new Soviet hostility?

It is sadly apparent that our leadership Congress has seized upon an article "red scare" issue in order to duck the responsibility to tackle the more difficult decisions on issues critical to our country's interests and security. I hope the American public will not accept the contention that 2,000 troops in Cuba are more important than the balance of world power than the last of nuclear weapons.

— Tim M. Graduate Student

THOTZ

