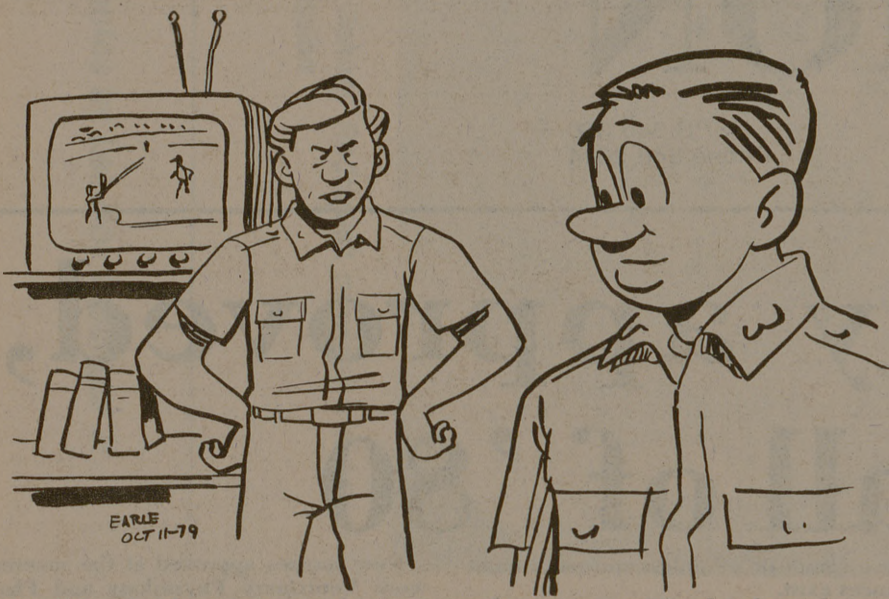


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"It may be just a game to you; but to me, it's the foundation of this country, right up there next to apple pie and hotdogs! It's what made this country great and it's un-American to not appreciate the institution that it's created! That is why I'm not letting a few homework assignments keep me from supporting the world series."

OPINION

Waste not, want not

America deserves its energy crisis. Though once a union of hardworking, self-made pioneers, it is fast becoming a nation of lazy, self-indulgent tenderfeet. The president mandates a 78-degree thermostat setting and people scream like the pampered pigs they are. Or worse, they disregard the order altogether. Closer to home, able-bodied college students find it too inconvenient to walk to classes, preferring the air conditioned comfort of gas-guzzling automobiles.

And what we don't use, we waste. We use water — a precious natural resource — like we did gasoline before the oil crisis of 1972. If only half the people in America let the water run while they brush their teeth, they waste 160 billion gallons of water every year.

Our main problem is not a shortage of resources. It's a shortage of energy — human energy. We can't inconvenience ourselves to shut off a light switch, turn down the thermostat, get off the gas. We just can't summon the get up and go to get up and go on foot.

Aggies, however, now have an added incentive to conserve. Texas A&M Watts Watcher awards are given every month to those who are especially energy conscious or who come up with particularly good conservation ideas.

This is our chance to garner fame while doing our bit to conserve America's resources, to take the lead out of our gas-wasting feet, to open the windows and turn off the air conditioner . . . to turn the water off when we brush our teeth.

Be energy conscious. Start watching watts now before there are none left.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 12, 1979

WASHINGTON *Congressmen listen; they all know the best ad is a satisfied constituent*

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Write your congressman. It actually works; at least it works most of the time.

At a time when government seems to be responding less and less to individual citizens and their problems, Congress still listens.

You may get a carefully worded non-answer which tries mightily to sound as if it is actually saying something. But at least your view will be known to someone who may soon be voting on the issue you mentioned.

Contrary to what you may believe, your letter probably will be one of only a few dozen "personal" letters your congressman receives in any month. When hundreds or thousands of letters pour into a congressman's office, it is a safe bet that they are easy-to-recognize organized campaigns by lobby groups.

Therefore, your letter probably will carry more weight than you think because it is from a truly concerned voter and not from an organization.

And if you have a problem, most congressmen will assign a "case worker" to do everything possible to get action. Most congressmen learn very early that the best advertisement in the next election is a satisfied constituent.

In some cases — if you are lucky enough to have such a congressman — case work is handled by staff members who take joy in browbeating the bureaucracy. In some cases, case workers work under a time limit for handling problems.

How do you write your congressman and what happens to your letter?

First, find out who your congressman is. That's fairly easy. Just call the local library or look in the phone book under "U.S. Government." Almost any agency listed

there would know. Usually you will get faster action on a particular problem from a House member, but letters stating an opinion should go to both the House member from your district and to both your senators.

The address usually is "The Hon. (name); House (or Senate) Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (or 20510 if the letter is going to a senator).

Your letter probably will be opened by a secretary who then will route it to the proper staff member. Therefore, it is good to get the subject of the letter as high as possible.

If your letter expresses an opinion, you will receive a reply — often a form letter — saying whether the congressman agrees or disagrees, or talking around the subject so well that you may not be able to figure what he thinks.

Whatever the answer, your opinion will

be taken into account when a congressman wants to know what "back home" think.

If your letter is about a problem, a case worker may make some phone answer you directly.

But with most problems, or when asking information about some staff member probably will send you a form post card to your letter and the proper agency in the bureaucracy will almost always get through the proper agency faster through your congressman than through writing reagency yourself.

Agencies and departments of these letters from congressmen, priority, and you will almost always get a quick answer. If you aren't satisfied with the answer, write again.

Somewhere along the way someone to listen.



DICK WEST *Oh, those tacky mispronunciations of senators' names — how to cope*

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — With luck, a body can get through an entire lifetime without ever having occasion to call a senator by name.

You never know, though, when you might bump into, say, Sen. Barry Goldwater on a streetcorner, and the two of you would strike up a conversation, and you would wind up inviting him to your place for dinner.

If that happened, you might find yourself introducing the senator to your grandma, and you would want to be sure you pronounced his name properly, wouldn't you?

Of course you would. It would be embarrassing to all concerned if you put the

accent on the wrong syllable, used a soft vowel where a hard vowel was preferred, or something of that sort.

For your information, and to spare you any possible chagrin, the name should be divided into two syllables: "Gold" and "water," with the accent on the former.

That, at least, is the way it appears in a newly published "Congressional Pronunciation Guide," compiled as a public service by Rep. Douglas Bereuter, R-Neb., whose name we shall deal with in a moment.

First, let it be noted that people in some areas, when trying to pronounce Goldwater correctly, might have trouble compressing "water" into one syllable, as the guide dictates.

My own inclination, I confess, would be

to split it — either as "wa-ter" or "wat-er." But that would turn Goldwater into a three-syllable name, and the guide definitely gives it only two, as in Baker, Bentsen, Bradley, Bumpers, Burdick and so on.

Since we are told the pronunciations in the guide "were provided by the members of Congress or by their employees," we have to assume the two-syllable form is the senator's own choice.

You shall have to deal with it as best you can. Try saying "water" real fast, sort of slurring the end. That will help you hold it down to a single syllable.

For some names, the guide gives a phonetic pronunciation; for others, a rhyming word.

For example, Sen. Robert Dole is listed

as rhyming with "roll." That's a fit of people who might tend to pronounce it with "bowl," "soul," "goal," "pol."

I learned from the guide that mispronouncing a number of senatorial names. For one, I always heard Sen. Paul Laxalt as "laxalt." The guide says "lax-alt."

I don't know what motivated me to published the guide, but I may have been a sly way of calling attention to the correct pronunciation of my own name.

He gives it as "Bee-writer," the first syllable. How he got it of "reuter," I cannot say. I made it rhyme with "Roto-rooter."

LETTERS *Student: Zachry should have been honest about construction deadlines*

Editor:

H. B. Zachry, old hand that he is, seems to have forgotten how much we Aggies admire honesty.

At the end of last spring everyone knew that Kyle Field would not be completed by the BYU game. By the end of the summer I was wondering whether it would be ready for the t.u. game. Why? Mr. Zachry, with long-range meteorological forecasts predicting a colder, wetter climate available to him, blithely set a deadline he

couldn't possible meet. Wally Groff also with dollar signs in his eyes sold tickets to non-existent seats even after it was clear that construction delays would probably increase.

Both made a bad mistake for all the wrong reasons and the Class of '83 and the alumni are paying for it. Squeeze, Aggies and pray Duncan Field Midnight Yells don't become a tradition and the '80 boot-

line becomes "safe."

— Max Triola, '81

Chance to be honest

Editor:
I have heard of the "good old Aggie spirit" and now I am hoping that some Ag will display it.

Tuesday afternoon I left my calculator at the data processing center next to an APL terminal. When I got back, I couldn't find it. The calculator was not as expensive as some, but I don't have the money to replace it. The person who picked it up will be considered enough to return it.

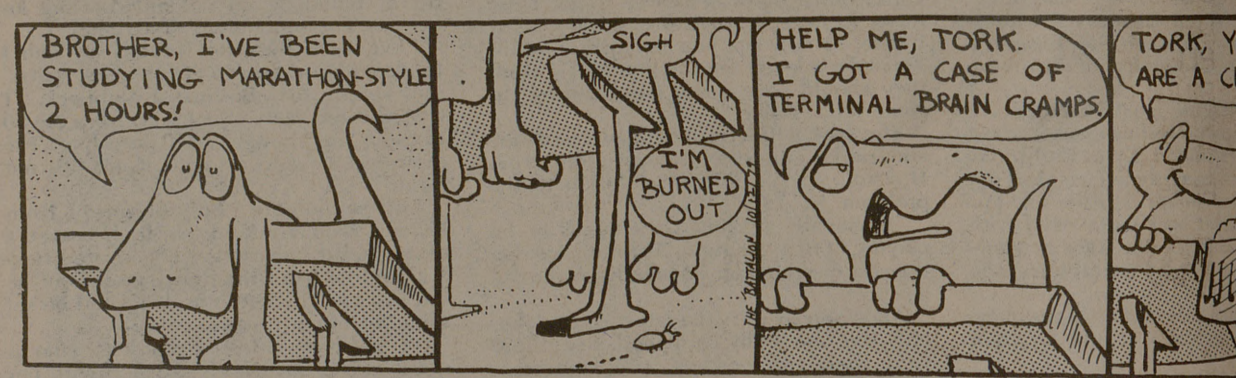
— Linda K...

Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

- ✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.
- ✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.
- ✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification.

THOTZ



by Doug Graham