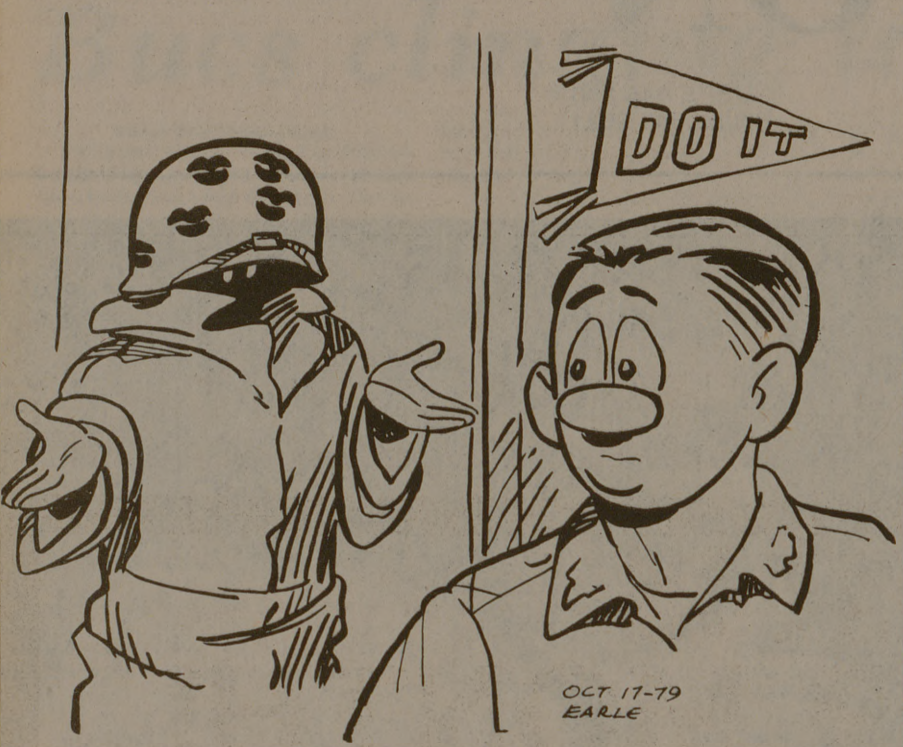


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Tonight wasn't Halloween? Too bad you weren't with us, we had pretty good luck 'tricks or treating' anyway."

OPINION

Life in the big city

Occasionally an editor hears a story he can't use. It's not news, and it's the kernel of an editorial because it presents a problem he can't solve.

Then something else happens, and the first story amplifies the new story.

The moral of both these "stories" is that Texas A&M is in a city now — a city of about 100,000 people.

And among those 100,000 are, apparently, men who murder women.

Another story — the non-news story — also demonstrates that point. Just because we like to say "Aggiehood" creates automatic bonds among us, people should not assume they're safe.

A female sophomore was in the A&M library studying the other night and, like most Aggies, smiled at a guy in the study carrell down the row.

The next time she saw him, out of the corner of her eye, he was exposing himself. Then the lights in the library went out, as they always do at 11:45 p.m.

When the lights came on, the scared sophomore looked around, and the exhibitionist was gone. She did not report the incident to police, since she figured they couldn't do anything.

But she was scared enough to ask a stranger, another woman, to walk home with her.

The escort was also an editor of *The Battalion*. She learned that night that we do live in a city.

World Series a winner

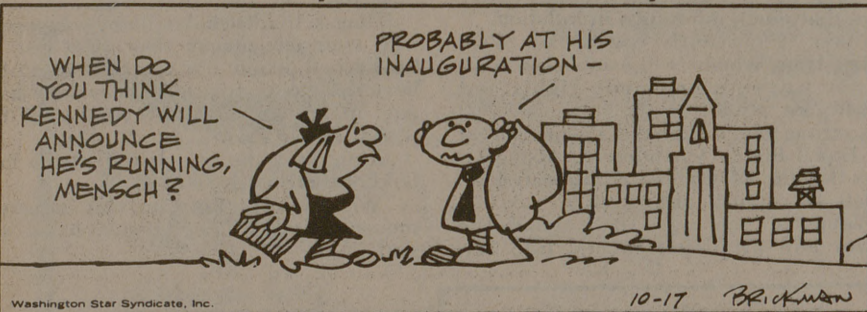
They call it the Fall Classic, and that's exactly what the 1979 World Series has been. This year's Series has been filled with more class, character, emotion, excitement, bad weather and sadness than any Series in recent memory.

The Baltimore Orioles with Earl Weaver, their spirited manager, have made unbelievable comebacks to win games. The Pittsburgh Pirates under the direction of Chuck Tanner have shown great courage, determination and togetherness after being down three games to one to even the Series and send it to tonight's seventh game.

Both teams are winners no matter what happens tonight.

— S.P.

the small society by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc. 10-17 Brickman

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

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 17, 1979

ANALYSIS

Brezhnev has transformed Russia from blustery giant to military power

By JOHN MOODY
United Press International

MOSCOW — Leonid Brezhnev Sunday begins his 16th year of power in absolute command of the Soviet Union, with no clearcut successor and striving to leave a legacy of peace and prosperity.

His health is in question, but his mental acuity is not. Nor is the fact that he alone has final say on all matters that affect Russia and its allies, a bloc comprising a quarter of the world's population.

In 1964, that the barrel-chested, beetle-browed man from the Ukraine engineered the surprising coup that ousted Nikita Khrushchev from the key job of first secretary of the Communist Party.

In the 15 years since, the Soviet Union has developed in the eyes of the world from a blustering giant with an atomic argument for recognition into a military power equal or close to the United States, and a steady, if sluggish provider of economic services to its people.

Presiding over it all has been Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the son of a steelworker from the town of Dneprodzerzhinsk, two months short of his 73rd birthday.

"He is, without question, in absolute control today," said a Moscow-based Western Kremlinologist. "There is no one to challenge him and if there was, there would be no chance of success."

"He will take his power with him to the grave. It's not in the tradition here to hand over the reins," said the Kremlin watcher.

"Brezhnev wants very much to be remembered as a man of peace. He is building a strong image of a man determined to do his best to leave behind a peaceful world. He wants to be known as the man who prevented World War III," the analyst said.

He still chain-smokes, though he admits it is a bad habit, and is widely believed to suffer from a nonfatal form of leukemia. He wears a hearing aid and favors his left leg when he walks.

But, as one observer asked, "How good is a 72-year-old man supposed to look?"

While there is no certain, or even likely heir of Brezhnev's mantle, Kremlin watchers are keeping an eye on Konstantin Chernenko, 68, an old and trusted associate who accompanied Brezhnev to Vienna for the SALT signing.

Brezhnev's own rise to power caught everyone — especially Nikita Khrushchev — by surprise.

On Oct. 12, 1964, according to one account, Khrushchev was at his residence in Georgia and had just spoken by telephone with three Soviet cosmonauts orbiting Earth.

In Moscow, the presidium of the Communist Party Central Committee debated when and how to relieve Khrushchev. The committee wanted a stable, experienced leader who would not embarrass Russia with flamboyant gestures such as Khrushchev's shoe-pounding at the United Nations.

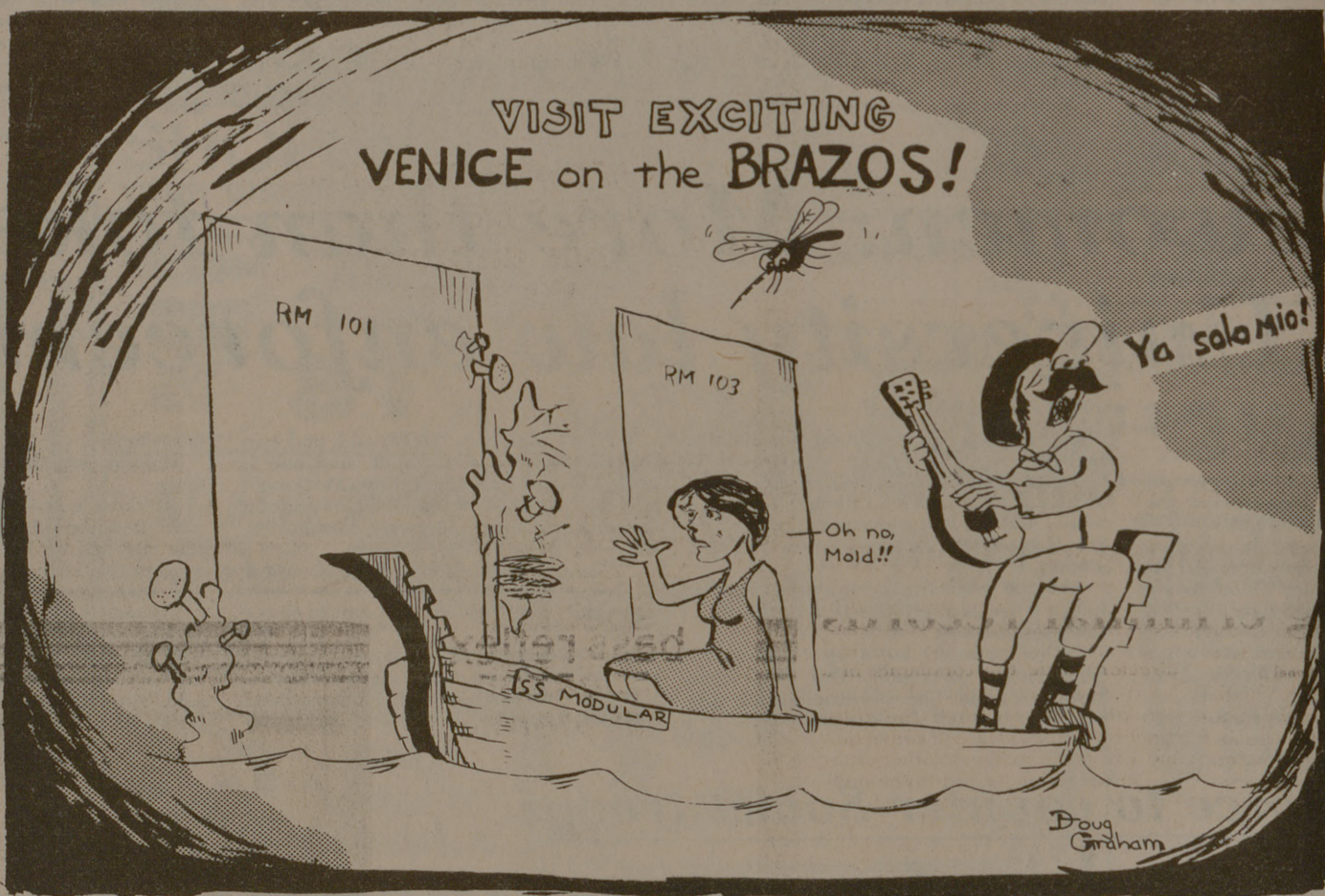
On the morning of Oct. 14, 1964, the Soviet press in the Soviet Union and the Khrushchev newspapers, magazines, books and other publications — was scrutinized by emissaries of the new leadership. The name of Nikita Khrushchev was banished from their pages.

When the three cosmonauts returned to their respective homes, they received a congratulatory telegram — but not from Khrushchev.

The voice belonged to Leonid Brezhnev.

Alexei Kosygin became premier, head of government, and Brezhnev emerged as Communist Party leader of the real power. A third son, Nikolai Podgorny, became president in 1977. Brezhnev sacked him and took title for himself, too.

"It's a good time for the Soviet Union," a Western economist said. "Brezhnev has evaluated the people to be happy and has been able to give them what they want. The criteria he uses is that a communist can't be a guard."



DICK WEST

There are enough conservation tips to last until the twenty-first century

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Originally published privately, but now available in a commercial edition, a book called "The Best of Helpful Hints" has sold more than a half-million copies.

Its success demonstrates how desperate folks are for advice on how to cope with whatever it is they are up against.

Included in the collection are upwards of 1,000 hints, and that, mind you, represents only the "best." The number of culls (second-rate, or semi-helpful hints) probably runs into the millions.

The energy field alone generates tips by the hundreds. Hardly a day passes that I don't come across a new list of conservation

hints, most recently one compiled by a firm of travel consultants.

It contained 16 energy-saving suggestions of which the most ingenious probably was no. 10. When patronizing self-service stations, that one advised, "avoid gasoline spillage at the pump."

"Now why didn't I think of that?" I asked myself when I read it.

The idea that gasoline could be saved by not filling the tank to overflowing simply had not occurred to me. Yet, when you turn it over in your mind a few times, it makes sense.

A tip like that might give some people the impression that we have reached the outer fringes of energy conservation — that there aren't many ways to save fuel that

haven't already been published. But such is by no means the case.

America still has vast reserves of fuel-saving tips, enough by some estimates to last well into the 21st Century. It's just a matter of digging them up and bringing them to public attention.

Here are a couple I recently discovered without even trying hard:

—If you drive to work, or school, or wherever you are going, park the car 400 feet from your destination and walk the rest of the way.

—If your office is on the 9th floor, take the elevator only as far as the 7th floor.

Efficiency is the key. Consumers who tailor their daily lives to make the most of their time also will find it that much more

easy to save energy.

Here are a trio of time-saving tips that can be used to good advantage:

—When writing letters, sign your first name.

—Save time on telephone calls by saying "Goodbye." Just hang up.

—Save time on your lunch hour by paying the check.

Once you get into the swim of it, you'll find that it is just as easy to do things and with minimal energy expenditure is to cleave to your old sloppy terms, such as spilling gasoline when you stop at a self-service pump.

LETTERS

If students 'slide' through science, the slide is uphill — associate dean

Editor:

I was pleased to see your editorial about the Academic Council's consideration of a proposal to allow nine hours of free electives in all curricula. I fear, however, that the inaccuracy of one statement will send liberal arts majors clamoring into my office to discover those easy science courses that they purportedly can take.

The College of Liberal Arts requires all majors to take a minimum of nine hours of science courses. Since one course must be a lab, more typically our students have to take ten hours of science at the very least. These courses must also be the same as those that science majors are allowed to take; we count science courses taught solely for liberal arts or non-science majors or from a cultural or historical perspective only as electives.

Majors in curricula leading to a B.S. degree take up to fourteen additional hours in math and science — and the science courses must meet the same criteria as those taken for the basic college requirement.

If any "liberal arts students can slide through academic life without taking a decent, difficult science course," as your editorial claims, the fault does not lie with

any lack of rigor in our requirements. From the lamentations I hear from students struggling their way through Biology 113, Chemistry 101, RNR 205 and other science courses, the science courses they take do not lack rigor either. If they are on a slide, they're going from the bottom to the top.

By requiring students to fulfill goals in various academic areas, we hope to achieve the breadth of education and the "balanced knowledge" which your editorial advocates. Science is certainly a critical part of

that knowledge.

— Diane W. Strommer
Associate Dean

Ranked, unranked

Editor:

In reply to D. Kerr concerning the ranked and unranked: the saying goes, "Highway 6 goes both directions" and you're more than welcome to go to

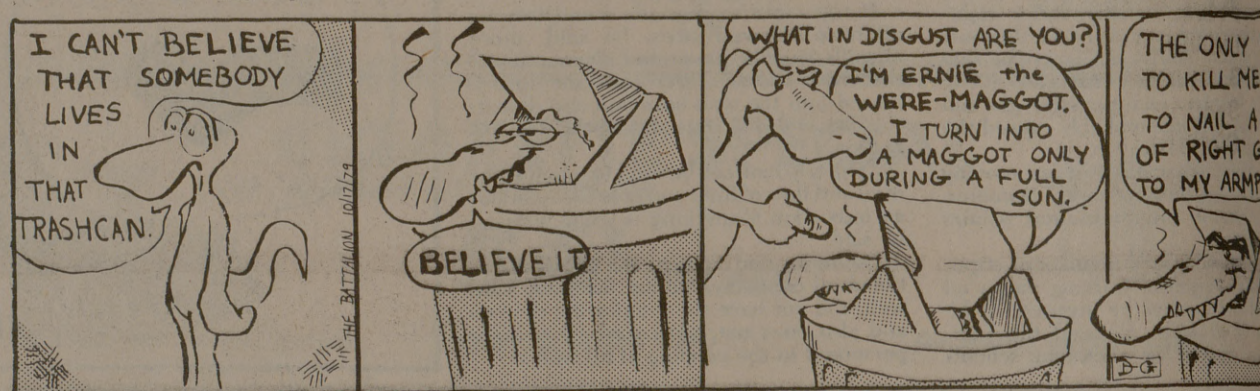
Mississippi State and support Earl

lard.

As for me and a lot more people who support Tom Wilson and the Aggies, they win or lose! I feel it is important to support your team ALL THE WAY just when they are ranked or unranked. I'm proud of the fighting Aggie team.

Editor's note: The saying goes, "Highway 6 runs both ways."

THOTZ



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOMEBODY LIVES IN THAT TRASHCAN.

BELIEVE IT

WHAT IN DISGUST ARE YOU? I'M ERNIE the WERE-MAGGOT. I TURN INTO A MAGGOT ONLY DURING A FULL SUN.

THE ONLY WAY TO KILL ME IS TO NAIL A GUN TO MY ARMPIECE.