

"I thought I'd leave a little room for the reader to exercise his imagination."

OPINION

It's t.u. at the game, UT when it counts

There are small indentations on the band of the Aggie ring.

Tradition says they represent the assholes of the University of Texas.

And Saturday our football team will play their football team — but that's about the only place the two institutions are in conflict.

Off the playing fields, the two generally join forces.

In the Texas Legislature last spring they worked together to keep other universities' hands off the \$1.2 billion endowment they share, which is second only to Harvard University's in size.

The Permanent University Fund, they say, enables UT and A&M to be "universities of the first class." The argument makes sense: A lot of money split between two places makes more of a difference than a lot of money split among 33 places.

And in the halls of the State Capitol, the spirit was one of cooperation between the two schools, the flagships of the largest university systems in the state.

UT and A&M also share a graduate program or two. And faculty from the schools may use each other's library system.

But this weekend the Longhorns will be here, and we naturally want to beat them.

There's more about the ring tradition: About the time the indentations wear down, Aggies realize the "teasips" aren't such assholes after all.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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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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THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 30, 1979

WASHINGTON Emotional Iran problem hampers Kennedy's slow-starting campaign

By DEAN REYNOLDS

WASHINGTON — As Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's presidential bid enters its fourth week, the Massachusetts Democrat has yet to shake two problems that continue to dog his campaign.

The first is Iran. Three days before Kennedy officially entered the race against President Carter, Iranian students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 49 Americans hostage. The emotional issue has overshadowed Kennedy's campaign and forced him to issue daily declarations of support for the man whose job he covets.

As politics, Iran is a fat zero for Kennedy. Straying from support for Carter would open Kennedy up to charges of reckless demagoguery and willful threatening of the lives of innocent people. By standing squarely behind Carter, however, Kennedy does little to show America why he thinks Carter is not providing leadership.

The second problem is the senator's continuing inability to articulate his reasons for challenging Carter. His latest appearances

on television interview programs have shown a marked improvement in his performance, but before campaign audiences, he still fumbles for an explanation.

It is not as if Kennedy is caught off guard. Usually the questions come from high schoolers or factory workers in a set forum. Here, in part, is Kennedy's vague, rambling, civics-book response to a student in Milford, N.H., who asked him last Wednesday why he is running.

"I believe in public service, and I also believe that a public life and elected public responsibility is a noble profession and I think individuals who hold responsibilities in public life make a difference in the quality of life for the people that we represent whether it is at the local level, the state level or in the Congress or the Senate of the United States.

"Secondly, I think that individuals can make a difference and that each individual should try.

"I think the presidency can make a very major difference in the lives of the people here at home and in the lives of people

throughout the world.

"I've had the opportunity to see the presidency from a close proximity during the period of the 1960s, and believe I have some understanding of both the opportunities as well as the responsibilities of that office and what it can mean to changing the condition of people in the United States and around the world.

"I run because I am distressed that we as a people and as a society are not coming to grips with the central problems that are of constant concern to the American people: in the areas of inflation, in the areas of energy, in health care and in a variety of other areas of public policy.

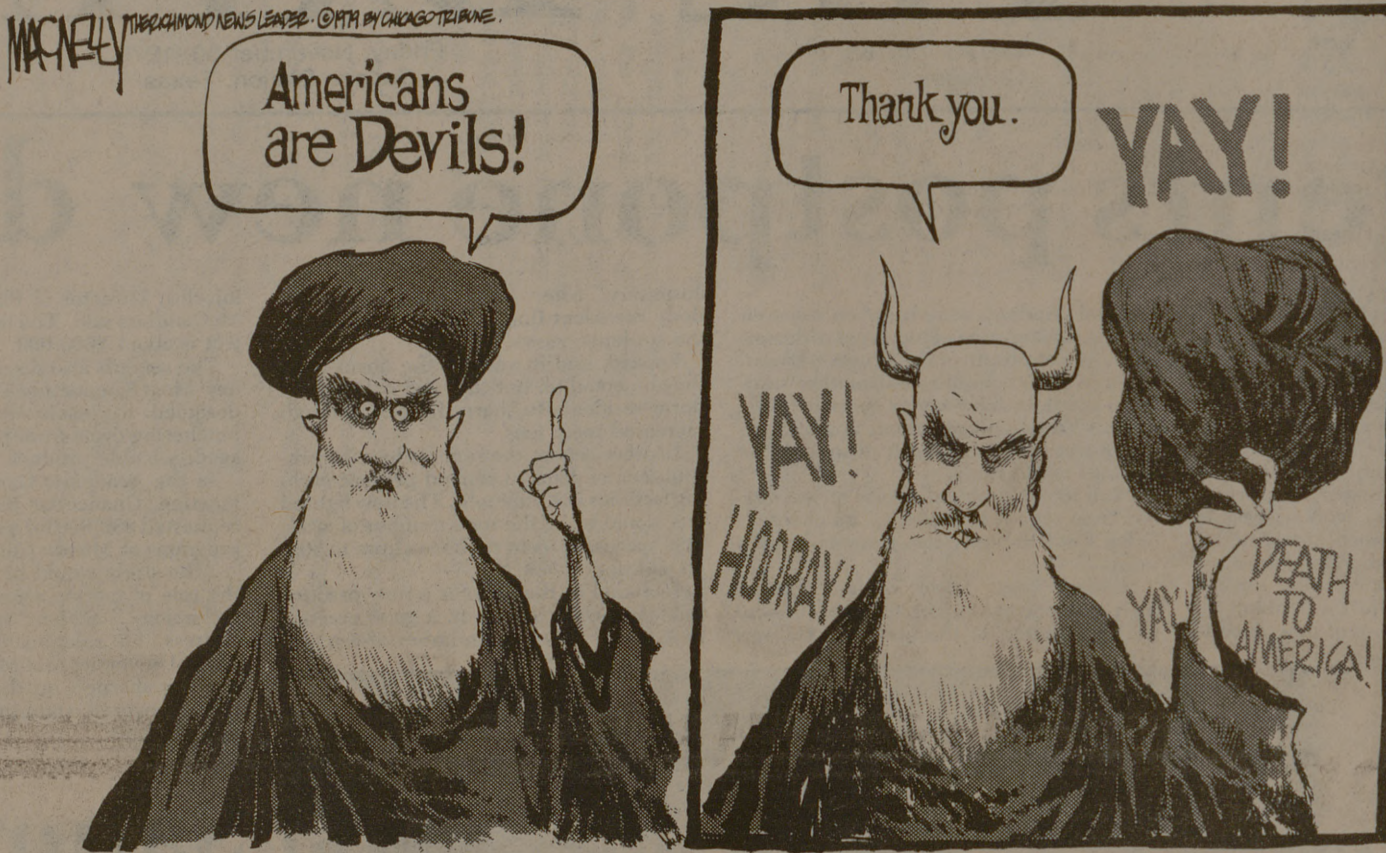
"And I personally believe, and believe very deeply, that a president of the United States has to be an active president and an effective president and be totally involved in these issues and with these problems if we're going to correct them.

"And I believe that it will only be when we have a president who is totally involved that we really begin to come to grips with these issues over the period of the 1980s.

"I do run because I feel that getting established for this sense of vision. We're not getting established for this country. We've seen in this nation the marshaling that can implement those galvanized of the resources of — young people, old people, people, workers — into the kind of effort which this country has seen of times in its proud history.

"And I want to make some in that area to galvanize that the American people face up to the responsibilities as we have in the nation and I believe that we can make a difference on these problems why I run for president of the States."

Kennedy can probably finesse and workers with such rhetoric, the campaign heats up and the himself, starts asking that same earnest, the Massachusetts Democrat have to cut the verbiage and



Moscow broadcasts in Iran violate detente

The threat to put the Americans still held hostage in Teheran on trial for spying is a grave new development in the crisis. Once trials begin in the revolutionary courts with a mob outside crying for vengeance, the process itself may impose its own irrevocable course.

We have every right to look to our friends in Britain, France, West Germany and Japan — all major oil clients of Iran —

for powerful intervention. But so far we hear only silence.

From the Soviet Union, on the other hand, which surely has vested interest in the immunity of its diplomats and embassies, there has been continuing, provocative intervention by Moscow radio.

It is just a year to the day since President Brezhnev warned President Carter against interfering in the Iranian revolution. Carter, anxious not to upset SALT II negotia-

tions, lamely responded that the United States had no such intention and "we note that the Soviet Union has said it will not interfere."

How naive can we be? Despite Russia's vote supporting the U.N. Security Council's call for release of the hostages, Moscow radio has whipped up anti-American frenzy in Iran in Persian-language broadcasts by Soviet commentators before and after the seizure of our embassy. Sending National

Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski tell Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin that the broadcasts are bad form with results. The President should publicly announce Moscow for this provocative violation — a clear violation of international law — the accepted standards of international affairs, and of the trust which the United States has put in the new treaty.

The New York Post

LETTERS RV commander says Taps cartoon extended beyond acceptable humor

Editor:

On behalf of the Ross Volunteer Company, I would like to express my sincere regret for the student body to have been subjected to such poor taste in journalism as was displayed by Doug Graham's cartoon regarding Silver Taps on page 2 of Monday's Battalion. To refer to deceased people as "inconsiderate slob" is not only in poor taste, but reflects poorly on the judgment of the journalists on our newspaper staff. We do realize that cartoons are written to portray a particular situation in a humorous way, but this particular piece of work extends beyond the scope of acceptable humor.

The comments regarding the R.V. Company are totally out of context with the article on the same subject and inconsistent with the comments made by myself. It is a complete travesty of justice to the R.V. Company to have such misinformation printed in the cartoon. The R.V. Company is not only proud to take part in Silver Taps, but each member of the Firing Squad holds the ceremony as a cherished tradition in which he is honored to be able to participate. Members of the Firing Squad and Bugle team feel an added responsibility to each member of the student body for serving fellow students in such a sacred tradition.

Conflicts of schedules do arise, as they

always will, but members of the Firing Squad and Bugle Team place Silver Taps participation as one of their highest priorities. We as everyone, must be mentally prepared and look on the ceremony as a time to reflect on our own lives, an important thought in our busy days.

It must be firmly stated that the R.V. Company did not initiate the Senate bill, but do endorse it solely as means to further enhance the tradition and retain, to the utmost, its meaning to all Aggies.

Ignorance is very costly; let's not let it cost us the degradation of a sacred and cherished Aggie tradition.

— Terrell Pruett, '80
Ross Volunteer Commander

Freedom falling prey

Editor:
"Corrupt the young people. Get them interested in sex, make them superficial

and destroy their ruggedness. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on sex, plays, and immoral movies. Divide the people into hostile groups, destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding the latter up to contempt and ridicule, preach true democracy but seize power as fast and as ruthlessly as possible, encourage them in extravagance, produce fear of inflation with rising prices and general discontent. Incite unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders, and force a lenient and soft attitude on the part of government towards disorders. Cause a breakdown of the overall virtues of honest, sobriety, self-respect, faith in the pledged word and ruggedness."

Aggs, that didn't come out of yesterday's Wall Street Journal, Houston Post, or New York Times, but was printed in 1919 at Dusseldorf, Germany, in the Communist Rules of Revolution!

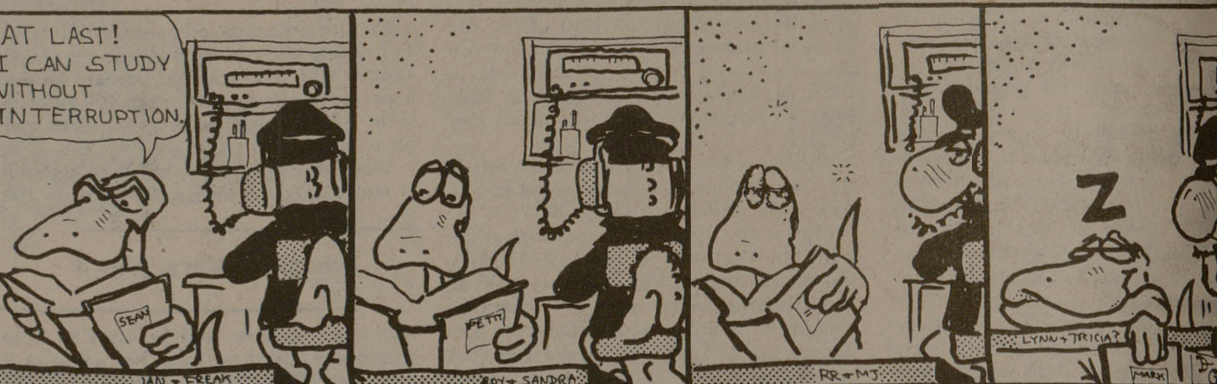
We live in a time of internationalism which has recently begun to anger. Yet, while 49 American lives at stake and 3,000 Soviet combat dwell 90 miles from our shores, both threaten our peace of mind, our falling prey to that most silent and cancerous philosophy drawn up by

I would like to quote Vince Lombardi from his last speech in which he expressed on freedom: "... we confuse it with license ... before we can have freedom we first have to embrace things which underline freedom, and are duty, respect for authority, and development of mental discipline. Americans, how we conduct ourselves each moment and the thoughts we allow to come into our minds determine the fate upon which the United States will ultimately stand, or fall. The outcome with each individual's daily decisions

— Donald N. Street

THOTZ

By Doug Graham



Clarification

Due to a typesetting error, a phrase was left out of a sentence in a letter to the editor in Thursday's Battalion. The letter was written by Pat Fierro, assistant director of Intramurals.

The sentence should have read, "Only University-recognized organizations and related University groups are permitted use and reservation of the recreational sports facilities (gymnasiums, soccer fields, etc.)." The Battalion regrets the error.