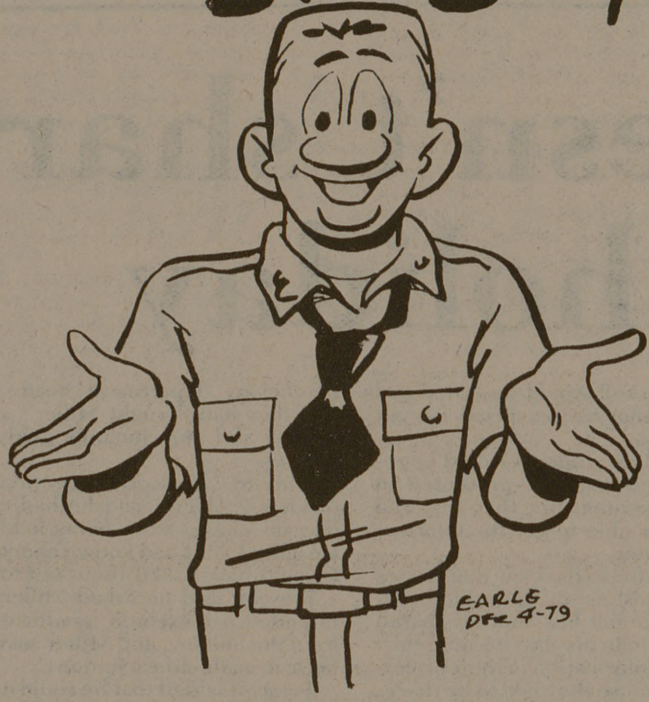


SLOUCH by Jim Earle

AGGIES 13
SIPS 7



"It feels so good!"

OPINION

Kissinger gripes, but logic wrong

Even opponents of Iranian actions have serious doubts about Henry Kissinger's assertions about how we all got where we are right now.

The former Secretary of State said vacillating American policy under President Carter had somehow lost Iran, the implication being that the United States was in a position to control events in that troubled country.

Kissinger implies Carter could have put a stopper in the bottle of traditionalist ferment throughout the Islamic world; that he could have overcome the authentic Iranian revulsion at the wrongs of the shah's regime; that he could have provided a military solution to an essentially politico-religious movement that was conspicuously nationalist in character.

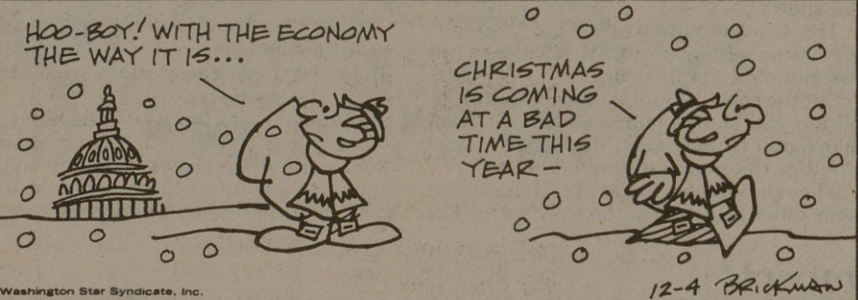
Kissinger would be more believable if he and his colleagues in government had done anything while they held power to convince the shah that he had to change his own policies. The shah's chief failing was his intolerance of sharing power among all levels of society — and Kissinger seems never to have made any attempt to change that policy.

It is sad to hear the former Secretary of State suggest a different kind of leadership for the past two years, and maybe some show of military strength, would have made a material difference in the course of events in the turbulent world of Islam, events that have been building up for decades.

Boston Globe

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.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 4, 1979

ANALYSIS British volunteer army untested, but seems to be muddling through

By RUDOLF KLEIN
LONDON — Two decades ago, long before President Nixon ended the draft in the United States, the British government abolished military conscription and created a volunteer army. But here, as in America, attracting recruits and persuading them to stay in the service is currently a problem.

With draftees no longer available, Britain's armed forces have had to resort to various devices to fill the ranks. Military wage scales, for example, are now pegged to comparable civilian salaries. Traditional "spit and polish" has been eased. Even short hair-cuts are no longer required.

Nevertheless, it is not easy for Britain to keep up its militiastrength, which relies on 300,000 men and 15,000 women in the army, navy and air force. Even with high unemployment, the armed forces have lost more personnel over the past year than they have been able to enlist.

As a result, Britain is under pressure to meet all its military commitments, the most serious of which are in northern Ireland, where some 13,000 troops are rotated in and out in an effort to preserve law and order.

One reason for the difficulty in maintaining the size of the armed forces is that many young recruits, initially enticed to join up by the prospect of seeing the world, become reluctant to face dislocations as they grow older, marry and have families

that either refuse to move or separate.

In some ways, too, the armed forces have been a victim of their own success. For they train barely educated youths, who, once they develop skills, tend to leave the service in order to compete for jobs in the civilian market. The defense establishment, therefore, is one of Britain's major generators of social and economic mobility.

And among other things, old attitudes die hard despite the claim of recruiting literature that discipline in the new volunteer army has been relaxed. Occasional examples of non-commissioned officers bullying rookies suggest that authoritarian attitudes in the army forces still prevail. It is noteworthy in this respect that many discharged sergeants end up working in prisons.

But in contrast to the United States, where talk of reviving the draft recurs, there is virtually no discussion here of a return to conscription as a way of stiffening the armed forces.

For one thing, the costs of going back to compulsory service are prohibitive, since training conscripts has become so expensive. The investment in training a pilot, for instance, runs to nearly \$1.5 million. Even preparing an ordinary infantryman for combat involves an expenditure of some \$18,000.

There is an appealing argument, used in the United States as well, that the draft

contributed to the democratization of society by blending men and women of different backgrounds in a kind of military melting pot. A corollary to this argument is that national service also gives young people a great sense of social cohesion and responsibility.

It would be healthy to alter the mix of the volunteer army, which draws its manpower from the poorer and less educated strata of the population. But there is no evidence that conscription helped to blur Britain's class distinctions — except perhaps in the propaganda film produced during World War II.

As in the United States, recommendations are advanced here from time to time for some kind of national service that would compel everyone to devote at least a period to the social good, either at home or abroad. One model is the French system of "Cooperation," under which draftees can teach or perform other duties overseas on an alternative to military training.

But such proposals have made little impact here, even though they might alleviate Britain's high rate of unemployment, which is hitting young people especially questioned, even though it is plainly inequitable.

Periodic television films of the funerals of British soldiers murdered in Northern Ireland, which usually take place in bleak

working-class towns and villages, is testimony to the fact that the death is unequally shared.

British casualties in the Irish, however, have been relatively small as a consequence, a passionate social justice in defining the interests still seems remote.

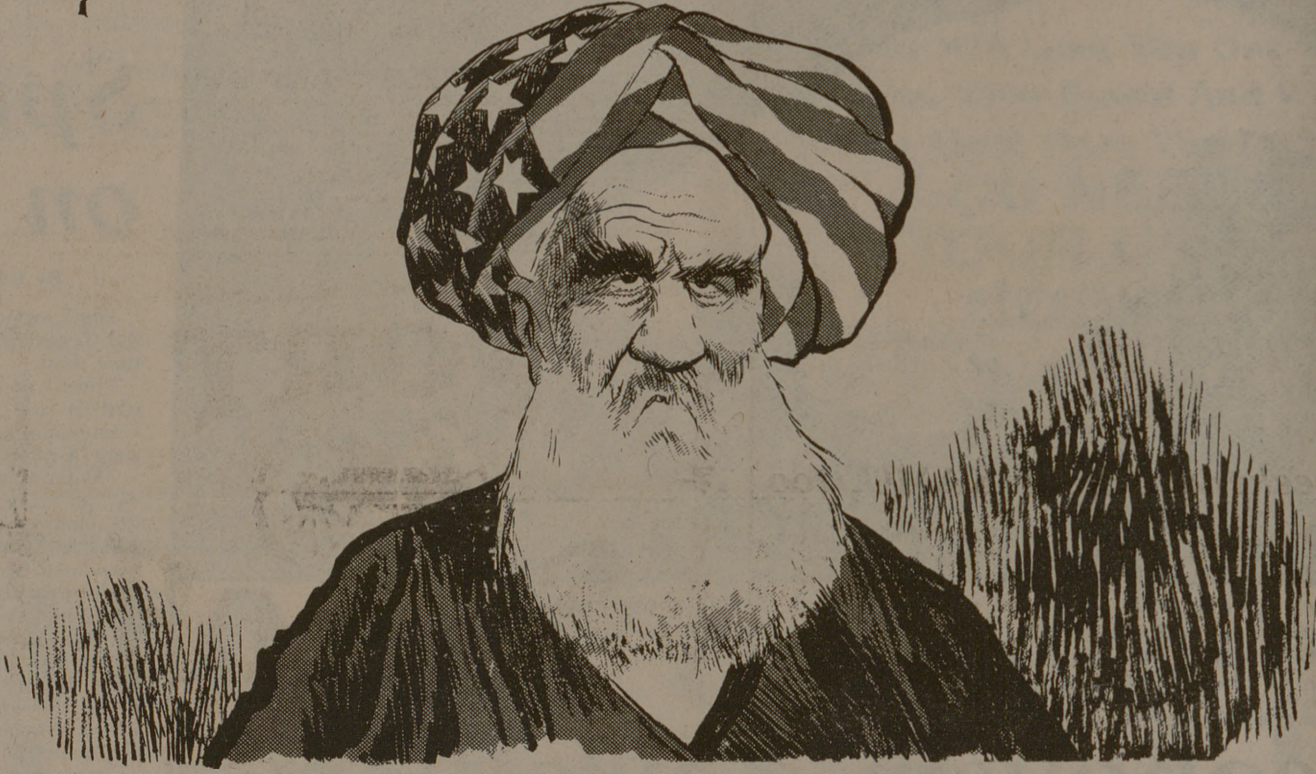
Conceivably less remote, though, is the possibility that Prime Minister Thatcher's Conservative government be confronted in the months ahead with widespread strikes and other social disputes.

It is not far-fetched to imagine being deployed in such a situation on buses and trains, move fuel stations and keep the economy going eventually would certainly raise about the role of military professions tensions might be great, however, the army composed of conscripts.

So Britain's volunteer army has been challenged by a real test. The consensus appears to be that, for worse, the country can muddle through without a draft.

Klein, a professor of social politics at the University of Bath, writes on issues in Britain.

MACNEIL PERKINS NEWS LEADER (DATA BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE)



LETTERS Readers say Curtis Dickey column doesn't tell both sides of the story

Editor: While it is true that Curtis Dickey never realized his potential as a Texas A&M football player, Mark Patterson's column (Wednesday, Nov. 28) is not only highly inaccurate, it also fails to tell both sides of the story.

Mr. Patterson says, "Dickey seems to have one good game a season," but a quick look at the Aggie football press guide shows that Dickey has had 17 100-yard-plus games in his Aggie career. The four games Mr. Patterson considers "good" doesn't even include Dickey's second-best career effort, 230 yards against TCU in 1978.

Mr. Patterson says that Dickey's "three-figure days have come against the Boston Colleges and Virginia Techs," instead of against teams like Texas, Arkansas and Houston. True, Dickey has had trouble in running against Texas defenses, but he has twice gained more than 100 yards against Arkansas. Does Mr. Patterson put Arkansas, Penn State (against whom Dickey had 184 yards) and Iowa State (1978 Hall-of-Fame Bowl against whom Dickey picked up 276 yards) in the same class as Boston College and Virginia Tech? Mr. Patterson fails to take into consideration that in Dickey's four games against Houston, Dickey has been given the ball 7, 13, 10, and 13 times although he has averaged well over four yards per carry against the Cougars.

Mr. Patterson says that he doubts if Dickey was missed while he was on the sidelines with injuries. We not only consider this observation unfair, we question its validity. A healthy Dickey could very well have made the difference against Texas Tech (against whom Dickey gained 127 yards in 1976 and 161 yards in 1978). The Aggies failed to have a runner with over 100 yards rushing against the Red Raiders this year and (hypothetically) another 100-yard rushing day for Dickey, who because of injuries rushed but five times, could have saved A&M from its 21-20 loss.

Against Arkansas this year, the Aggies' leading rusher was Johnny Hector with 71 yards. Is Mr. Patterson serious when he claims that the Aggies (who lost 22-10) didn't need their all-time leading rusher who, twice in his career, had compiled 100 or more yards against Razorback defenses? We are just as disappointed as Mr. Patterson and all Aggies that Curtis Dickey

never became the "Heisman-Trophy type" runner we expected. Aggies can formulate their own theories as to why Dickey's potential never materialized. However, they should keep in mind that Dickey was, in a way, victimized by circumstances beyond his control: circumstances which he himself was always the last to complain about.

From the start of his collegiate career, halfback Dickey's talents took a backseat in the fullback-oriented wishbone offense. Although his speed and talent deserved better, Dickey averaged only 13 carries per game while the Aggies ran the wishbone. At the same time, the fullback was handed the ball more than 20 times per game (on the average).

Then, midway through his junior year, Dickey was forced to switch offensive formations, from wishbone to his old high-school I-formation. At last, the Aggie offense was designed around Dickey's 9.2 speed, but, because he was plagued by numerous injuries, Dickey was never able to use the power-I to his full advantage.

You question Dickey's playing ability Mr. Patterson, yet you turn around and admit that "professional scouts ... think Dickey has what a running back needs to play in the NFL." For Dickey's sake, and for Texas A&M's sake, let's hope the pros know what they are talking about more than you do.

— Jeff Jenkins, '82
— Marty Bell, '82

Editor's note: This letter, written before the Texas game, was accompanied by 20 signatures.

12th man is proud

Editor: This is in response to Hank Wharmund's tasteless article in today's (Nov. 29) Batt. I'm sorry you're ashamed of the 12th Man, Mr. Wharmund, but there are a lot of us who are still proud of it, and I don't think any of us appreciated your letter.

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you on your remarkable attendance record. Maybe that's why a lot of my classmates and I can't even get a seat to see our own school play.

Satu day. Five thousand people is admittedly a small number to attend an Aggie game (TCU), but you seem to have forgotten that it was scheduled on Thanksgiving weekend, a time even "good Ags" would like to spend at home. Fort Worth is a long drive for most of us — we don't all work for an airline.

So A&M's fans are getting quieter? Well, maybe we can't generate as much hot air as you all could back in '74, but I don't think we're off of Bear Bryant's list yet.

You go on to complain about our "damning" the team each week, win or lose. That's funny, but I thought you just damned us for "chortling with glee" after

the Penn State win. We just can't please you!

You asked when the last time we "psyched out" for a game was. It was week — although I never actually at the mouth. Never having heard of even the least "warring of Spartans" it hard to dispute your comment about we accept defeat. However, I do know many more than 10 of us stick around. Yell, although I haven't seen many do so. I wonder how many of those you see "streaming out of the stadium alumni, as opposed to students?"

You finally go on to say that the 12th should prove itself again. Here you the purpose of your article — a journalistic stunt to build up Aggie spirit. But who are you trying to tell what you say is true, it would take more than a bunch of cheap shots to resurrect "Renowned Spirit."

Finally, do you really think that more than we hate them? I'd rather give that much credit to teapigs, but argue with an authority on the subject.

— Brian Boyd

Graduation pres

Editor: To everyone on the football team staff ... THANKS FOR THE DAMN GRADUATION PRES EVER 13-7!!!!

— David Jefferson

THOTZ



By Doug Graham