

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



OPINION It's not just women

Texas A&M University and its Corps of Cadets have received a large dose of bad press over the last two weeks. The recent developments have served to start a new wave of "my, how terrible those Corps Turds are" articles in outside media. And, for anybody reading those articles, those Corps Turds are indeed terrible. One focus of the publicity is correct: Women are and have been unjustly excluded from various Corps organizations. The details of how women cadets have been unduly harassed are another matter. But nobody save Ags or old Ags can appreciate the significance, or insignificance, of A&M's traditional types of harassment, including the activities of both Corps members and civilian students.

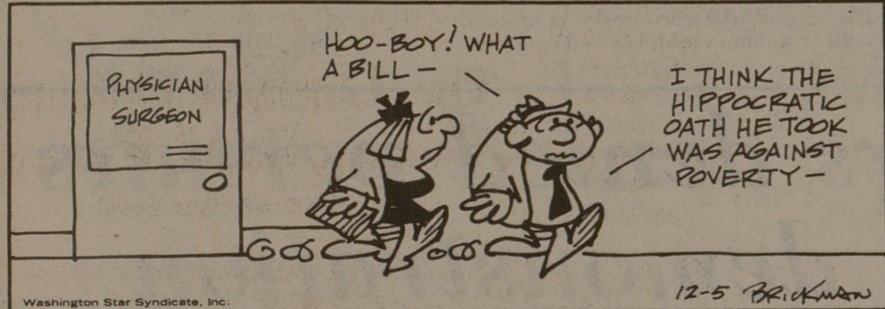
Who could argue with the unrighteousness of female Corps members being soap-bombed, or having animal carcasses thrown through their windows? But how do you explain that things like that had been going on long before women even dreamed of joining the Corps?

Isn't it equally terrible that male Corps members flood each other out regularly? That several times in a semester dormitory hallways reek with the odor of 55 gallons of pig manure? That many Aggies have spent many an afternoon spreadeagled beneath a deluge of water from a shower window? That cadets often express their affection for their superiors by leaving dead animals in locked closets, or in air conditioner vents?

Those who've been around awhile realize that, although certainly women in the Corps have received an undue amount of harassment, that harassment is no different in form than that received by unpopular male cadets.

Unfortunately for the Corps, a judge is not likely to perceive the distinction between harassment and discrimination.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 5, 1979

WASHINGTON Cy Vance working with Congress but only because of Iranian crisis

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International
WASHINGTON — Every afternoon of late, the chauffeur-driven black Cadillac wheels Secretary of State Cyrus Vance from the State Department to Capitol Hill. The mission is important: To brief Senate and House leaders and the Capitol's foreign affairs experts on the situation in Iran.

After nearly three years of almost total non-cooperation between the White House and Congress, these two branches of the government have finally adopted a temporary truce.

But it took a situation as desperate as the holding of 50 American hostages in Iran to bring it about.

Even then, the scenario developed slowly. During the first several days after the hostages were seized, the White House did not share its counsel with Congress. There was some briefing, but nothing that would be considered a give-and-take.

After some bitter complaining by congressional leaders, the decision was reached to bring them actively into the crisis situation.

As a result, Vance has made the pilgrimage to Capitol Hill daily and it has become so much part of his routine that it is now listed on his schedule of public activities.

The first stop is the "hideway" office of House Speaker Thomas O'Neill on the second floor of the Capitol. The time usually is around 4 p.m.

Gathered in O'Neill's office are House Democratic Leader Jim Wright of Texas and House Republican Leader John Rhodes of Arizona, their top deputies and the chairman and ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Vance briefs the House leaders about developments in the past 24 hours, takes questions, even accepts suggestions. From O'Neill's lair, Vance moves to the office of Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker has been absent most of the time — off campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination.

But his deputy, Ted Stevens of Alaska, has attended faithfully and presumably keeps Baker informed.



Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, and a senior Republican member Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., are also invited.

Very little visible or concrete has emerged from the meetings.

An exception was the unanimous passage in the Senate and House of a resolution calling for release of the hostages, the unity of Americans in demanding the freeing of the 50 persons and a strong suggestion that the Security Council

of the United Nations do all that is necessary to end the crisis.

The resolution was only a non-binding expression of congressional sentiment.

But, for those in Iran willing to listen, the message was clear: Congress and the president — for a change — are on the same wave length.

The meetings may also have contributed to the lack of sniping at the way that President Carter is handling the Iran crisis.

Members of Congress — from leaders to

the lowliest freshmen — have a lot to hit back when they feel left out.

The investment of time by Vance in the midst of the most severe crisis the administration — could pay dividends for Carter.

Whatever he elects to do in Iran will go better if Carter has the support of Congress. Those daily trips from the area known as Foggy Bottom across town to the Capitol may pay off in that support.

After 20 years, 'traitor' calls Castro opportunist

Huber Matos was a major in Fidel Castro's guerrilla army, a hero of the Cuban revolution and briefly governor of Camaguey Province until Castro denounced him as a "traitor" in 1959.

During 20 long years of abominable imprisonment, Matos vowed that "if I ever got out alive I would tell my story."

Matos did get out alive last month, thanks to Amnesty International and others who fought for his release. Now he is telling

his story — not so much of his barbaric treatment in prison, where he was kept incommunicado and often naked in a concrete box, but of how the Cuban revolution was betrayed by Fidel Castro.

What earned Matos the wrath of his former friend and intimate was his daring to question the direction the revolution began taking following the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

"I believe," says Matos, "Fidel saw two

possibilities for the future." One was a democratic revolution, "in which he would not be the man to govern Cuba for the rest of his life."

The other was communism, which was promoted by Che Guevara and Castro's brother Raul.

"All the changes, all the reforms could have been made democratically," says Matos, "but he (Castro) would have had to have taken the chance that somebody else could have taken over the country, and this

clashed with the personal interests of Fidel Castro.

Far from being the dedicated Communist revolutionary who fooled his associates, the Cuban people and the mighty United States, Castro is a man by Matos as an unprincipled opportunist who would betray anything and remain "El Hombre."

Scrrips-Howard Newsphoto

LETTERS

Editor:
What do you think the effect would be of telling the members of a European tour that one of the days of their seven-day tour was to be a holiday and that they were free to stay in their rooms for the entire day? More than likely, it would be a response of anger and a demand for a refund for services paid for but not received. A reasonable request.

By analogy, what would you expect the response of students to be upon learning that a day of classes (periods of instruction considered valuable enough to be exchanged for money) was to be canceled? Anger and a demand for a refund for services paid for and not received, right? Wrong. What's the difference? Maybe it's that tourists really go to Europe to get what they paid for?

— R. Jones

Another view on the holiday: Classes paid for, should be held

some people connected with the band felt that organization was an end in itself, and that scholarship was to march behind the band. Another newspaper article equated the band to a live dinosaur and brought the Endangered Species Act into the picture.

TAMU (my collar brass read C rather than U, but things do change), on the undergraduate level is to provide an academic education for the students and to insure it was absorbed by those awarded the bachelor's degree. A part of university life is the students opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. These activities include all student activities and student organizations officially connected to the university.

Honest encouragement is due all students to participate in areas where their interests lie. To those who give the partel-

lar reflex of females in varsity football, I remind you of the swiftness of change vis-a-vis head coaches.

Coaches can be progressive and comfortable, it can be forced and resented, but it will be. In one case change can be a complement to A&M. In the other it will be a detriment. Ask any dinosaur.

— Dr. Edwin E. Wilkinson Jr.
A.E. 1965

The Spirit moves

Editor:
Man, what a weekend! Bonfire Friday night, parties, seats on the 50-yard line for the game and more parties — but mainly

the strong desire to beat the hell out of Best laid plans, Ags, but it just doesn't open that way. Thank God for the coverage of Bonfire by KAMU-TV, their presentations of "That Cartering" and "We've Never Been Laid" — at least I felt a part of the activities.

On Saturday afternoon when all were in Kyle Field standing as the Man, my only consolation was in that position and location are nothing, because there wasn't a Twelfth Man spirit among you that ated from this Ag who had been in his back in the hospital for four days.

The stains on my pillow case were hard to explain but after my many the nurses began to understand about Aggie Spirit.

— Jim Metcalf, '75

A&M the dinosaur

Editor:
I am pleased that my undergraduate alma mater continues to grow in size and prestige; however, some areas of A&M seem to be among the most progressive of the nineteenth century.

A metropolitan newspaper article indicated that the ACLU and an A&M coed are seeking to open the band, The Ross Volunteers, the Fish Drill Team and the Parsons Mounted Cavalry to women. Of these four organizations, one I was a member of and one I am not familiar with.

In addition, the article indicated that

