

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"As I understand your problem, you believe that we should postpone our class assignment to allow you to rest up after the free holiday that you were given last Monday?"

## OPINION

### A hard one to call

A Battalion reporter who is also an intercollegiate athlete writes an article concerning possible violation of an Athletic Department policy.

Two days later she is dismissed from her track team. Are the two events related?

We don't know. But the timing of the two events stretches credibility.

The Athletic Department says Angelique Copeland's dismissal results from a single dispute she had with her track coach. Both Copeland and Coach Bill Nix agree that before

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the incident last Friday — and before the article was printed last Wednesday — the two had not had problems.

But Copeland made one mistake by telling her coach she was performing as well as she could. Nix says he won't stand for any athlete to tell him what she will or will not do.

Nix says to back down, to reinstate Copeland, would be to violate his own principles.

Copeland wants to run for Texas A&M, but she doesn't believe she did anything wrong. She thinks Nix was reacting to pressure he felt — real or imagined — from the Athletic Department.

As we said before, we don't know if the two are connected.

But even if they're not, it seems the coach's action was arbitrary. One possible mistake should not be enough reason to kick an athlete off the team, especially if she's had no problems in the past. Those who know about intercollegiate athletics say it should take more than one such incident for dismissal from a team.

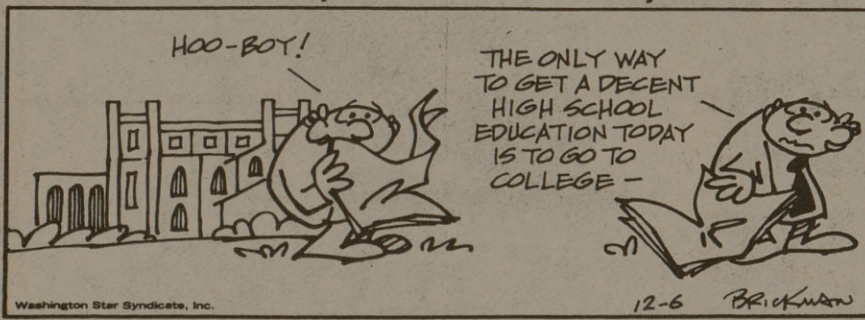
To compound things, Copeland had no recourse, no due process.

Kay Don, the next one up the line as assistant athletic director for women, said the matter, in her judgment, was out of her hands. And Nix agreed.

Perhaps the system should be re-examined.

### the small society

by Brickman



## THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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.

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 6, 1979

## BRODER

By DAVID S. BRODER  
WASHINGTON—Jimmy Carter formally announced his campaign for re-election Tuesday under circumstances as trying as any American president has faced in a half century. His plans for an announcement-week fund-raising and campaign tour are being held hostage by the same Tehran street mobs which have imprisoned the American embassy staff—a grim reminder of the extent to which his fate, like theirs, is controlled by forces outside his command.

It has been Carter's destiny to occupy the Oval Office at a time when the presidency has become a pawn to the passions and politics sweeping the Persian Gulf region. Those forces are at the root of the energy shortages, the rampant inflation and the grim prospect of military conflict which now confront this nation.

When it was suggested a few weeks ago that time may have run out on Carter's chances to hold those destructive forces in check, some people in the White House were vocal in their expressions of dismay and disagreement. One of the most admired of Carter's aides argued, with force, that, "The president has tried to address the fundamental problems facing the country." Carter has succeeded on a good many fronts, and even where unsuccessful, this aide said, "he has not failed for want of trying."

All that is true. Carter's record in office may not be the "nearly unparalleled achievement" the White House described in its recent 57-page booklet. But a most thorough, dispassionate analysis by Professor Jeff Fishel of American University, concludes that, "if one measures Carter's programmatic output against what was promised during the campaign, or against the comparable . . . records of all presidents since Kennedy at this point in their administrations, the achievements . . . are more impressive than what one might conclude from sampling any number of current popular commentaries."

Were Carter to end his presidency this week, rather than announce his bid for re-nomination, he would be credited with any number of significant contributions, ranging from the Egyptian-Israeli accord to Civil Service reform.

But his inability to tame the whirlwind in the Persian Gulf has raised fundamental fears about American's position in the world. At home, the energy-fed inflation is eroding American living standards and confidence in the future. The basic Democratic constituent — symbolized by a full-time factory worker with three dependents — has suffered more than a 4 percent decline in his real after-tax weekly earnings since Carter became president.

For these reasons, Carter's campaign

## Carter campaign must make the plea 'Nobody could have done it better'

must consist, not only of a recital of accomplishments but of a plea that no one could have done better, given the circumstances, and that no one will do better than Carter if he has another four years to serve.

But is there any reason to believe Carter would do better if granted a second term? Therein lies the central paradox of the coming campaign.

The crippling failure of Carter's first term stems from his cherished and self-proclaimed status as an "outsider."

As an outsider, he often has failed to recognize the legitimacy of the complex system of constituency representation, reflected in Congress, the bureaucracy and the interest groups. He often has failed to involve other leaders, with constituencies of their own, in the common tasks of governing, or to give them a substantial stake in the success of his policies.

Rather, he has relied on his own formidable intelligence, industry and dedication — and on a set of personal advisers which even now, although strengthened, includes some men who do not begin to measure up to his asserted standard of excellence.

Too often in this term, Carter has been captured by the conceit that his own mystique and communion with the "people" could substitute for the daily drudgery of coalition-building in Congress and the poli-

tical realm. Even in his July 15 acknowledgment of his failures as a leader, he was still the personalistic president projected: "You (the people) can help me develop a national agenda for the future. I will listen. And I will act. We will do it together."

But in reconstituting his Cabinet last summer, he gave belated attention to the legitimacy of the constituent elements in the Democratic Party — the mayors to the minorities.

Washington lawyers. Challenged for renomination, he turned to those constituency leaders he has said, in effect, "You have it in your hands to save or destroy me." A large number of them have responded favorably even when given the alternative of supporting the last of the Kennedy.

And therein lies the paradox. They are against Carter's renomination. They were to be renominated and re-elected would come through his having the help of those elements in the Democratic coalition which he scorned in the very elements that could give him the support of a governing coalition in his second term. If Jimmy Carter is re-elected, he would be better President. Because this he could understand he had not done himself.

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## LETTERS

### Dickey's 20-yard burst Saturday was his own way of saying goodbye

Editor: Remember this quote from 1976? "I may never be a millionaire, but I think I know how one feels." Those were the words of Emory Bellard, Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Texas A&M University after signing Bryan native Curtis Dickey to a four-year football scholarship.

Curtis was a hometown boy, and he wanted very much to remain close to his mother and local friends. So he inked a four-year commitment with Texas A&M with no hesitation. And when he finally appeared at Kyle Field in a bright, maroon jersey bearing number 22 to do his thing, the point behind Bellard's comment was immediately realized. Curtis Dickey was indeed a "prize."

Those who have followed Dickey in his brilliant career at Aggieland have seen a touch of everything. He's run for short yardage, long yardage, and everything in between.

He's been plagued with injuries and he's played at full capacity. He's been spectacular in his performances, and at times, he's not performed at all. I strongly doubt, however, that Curtis Dickey has ever made a prettier run than last Saturday's 20 yard burst which pushed Texas A&M in front of the University of Texas. And while he did not fulfill all expectations during his collegiate career, he certainly displayed his ability and desire to compete in the game during that touchdown run.

Dickey did not win the Heisman Trophy, and he didn't even make the All-Southwest Conference team. But he won the hearts of Aggies everywhere when he came off the bench last week and said goodbye in his own special way.

Curtis Dickey has been a pleasure to watch. It will be interesting to observe his progress in professional football. And when he gets there, Curtis too, will realize and understand the words of his former coach, Emory Bellard.

— Pat Edmondson

### Wilson's a winner

Editor: I cannot believe what I heard in class Tuesday. Several Ags were reminiscing about last Saturday's game. Everyone still could not believe what happened. Then the shocker came. One fellow said that even though the Aggies won, he still wished Emory Bellard was our coach. What is funnier is that some other guys

agreed with him. I would like to comment on this.

Since I am graduating in two days, I have seen several football seasons as a student at A&M. Something happened this year that had never happened while I was a student at A&M. The football team won a game that most people felt the team would not win. Also, since Coach Wilson has taken over, the Aggies have been competitive in every game. This cannot be said about Coach Bellard, even if one throws out Coach Bellard's first couple of seasons.

By now several readers are saying that at least Coach Bellard took A&M to bowl games. The answer to that is obvious. If unbiased analysis is used, offensive miscues are the reasons for most of our losses. Can the same be said about losses in previous years? Recalling losses to Arkansas, Michigan, Houston in previous years; 24, 42, and 33 point losses are hard to blame on turnovers alone.

In conclusion, Coach Bellard made the Aggies a good winning team, but a few of his ideas kept the Aggies from playing the great teams on even terms. Therefore, a coaching change was made. The results have not been an undefeated season, but if one looks past the numbers, one can see a competitiveness in games with great teams that was lacking in previous years. I personally would like to thank the people who hire coaches for their courage; and Coach

Wilson, for a great graduation gift.

— Thomas Turner

### No better news?

Editor: Perhaps The Battalion could make better use of its front page by running an article on why hundreds of students miss class each semester when it is required than by using the space to criticize a handful of students and a professor who chose to have class when it is not mandatory.

If you are that hard-pressed for controversy, I might be able to supply some names of people who are even going to do some work during Christmas break after classes are over.

— Robert A. Schindler  
Graduate Student

### No excuses needed

Editor: I've got about a hundred other things I should be doing, but thanks to Mark Patterson, I have to take the time to write about what a jerk he is for writing Dec. 4's article on the game.

Some people just can't admit when they're wrong. It's understandable for someone to have picked t.u. over A&M last Friday. Personally, I thought that it would

be a tight game but that t.u. would ably come out on top.

But when our team came through great win, it seems a clairvoyant's performance on our behalf instead of grading it by making excuses for t.u. But no,ooo!

Since t.u. didn't offer any excuses for loss as Patterson related, he had to turn them up all by himself. He attributed win to their numerous mistakes and fact that their defense "decided to play day off." I don't understand why Patterson and seemingly every other sports writer can remember how 10 points of our team came after their turnovers but cannot remember that t.u.'s only score came one of our turnovers. And he didn't mention our great defense effort.

As for t.u.'s playing poorly, Patterson must have better judgment than his coach, Fred Akers. After viewing games' films, Akers himself said the team played well. He thought we played our best football game of the season. Come one of our own sports writers admit we did just that?

Instead, all he can write about is much class t.u. has, even in losing.

In closing, my advice to the Battalion is: Gag 'em, Aggies!

— Dale Crockett

## THOTZ



By Doug Graham