

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Want a money-saving hint? Wait'll after Christmas; they're much cheaper then."

OPINION

A matter of degrees

The magic sheets go up Thursday — the lists on the windows of Heaton Hall that tell seniors they are indeed graduating.

The wait is always tough and seems long. But for some, the wait this semester was longer than usual. Several seniors who put in their request for a degree check this Fall had not received the preliminary clearance to graduate by late November.

Col. Robert H. Bain, assistant registrar, said his office had made December graduates its first priority, which is good. His earlier suggestion was that students see their advisers and possibly take more classes than might be needed.

Bain said one reason for the delay was the backlog. Admittedly, students should request degree checks during the semester before they plan to graduate, but it's sad the system couldn't handle the load.

As Bain said: "We've gone from 10,000 to 31,000 students and we still do it the same way. We do it all by hand. We use calculators to figure out the GPRs."

Computerization, even though Bain says it has posed some problems at other schools, seems the logical solution to the overload problem.

But Bain doesn't see that advance for some time. "I'll be long retired before we get computers," he told The Battalion. "I need to be assured it will work. If the system went out in the middle of the semester and we had to start over by hand, we'd be lost."

The caution about switching systems is warranted, but something must be begun soon to avoid the long waits.

A short wait for senior clearance to graduate is exciting, but prolonging it for months is cruel.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 11, 1979

WASHINGTON Kennedy campaign lacking dash, King Arthur image he used to help

By **ARNOLD SAWISLAK**
United Press International
WASHINGTON — In 1960, John Kennedy sent his youngest brother to Wisconsin to campaign. One day, Teddy found himself scheduled to participate in a sports event in one of the state's snowy northern counties.

It wasn't until it was all over that the local sponsors learned that young Kennedy had never been up, let alone down, a ski jump before. If memory serves, Teddy said he made the jump because it looked like fun.

That episode was recalled recently by an interview with Sen. Edward Kennedy, now seeking the Democratic presidential nomination for himself.

Many Kennedy campaign watchers have been struck by the appearance that Teddy really wasn't enjoying his own long-awaited

quest for the White House.

Presidential campaigns always are hard work, and win or lose, most who take part in them are exhausted by the time they end. But most candidates, and especially Kennedy candidates, enter campaigns with the expectations of a child approaching the gates of Disneyland for the first time.

Kennedy just didn't seem to be going joyfully into battle. His now celebrated interview with Roger Mudd on CBS projected a sluggish, almost apathetic personality. Reports from Kennedy's early campaign trips indicate he did spark excitement in some appearances, but in others all but put the audiences to sleep.

Recently, Richard Cohen of the Washington Post asked Kennedy if he was having fun campaigning. The senator's reply was that campaigning had been fun when

he was younger, but "the basic fun went out of it with my brothers."

It is not hard to understand how the senator might feel that way, and maybe it should not be important whether a candidate is having fun as he seeks the highest office in the nation. A campaign, after all, is supposed to be only a means, a tool to be used and then put aside for the serious instruments of government.

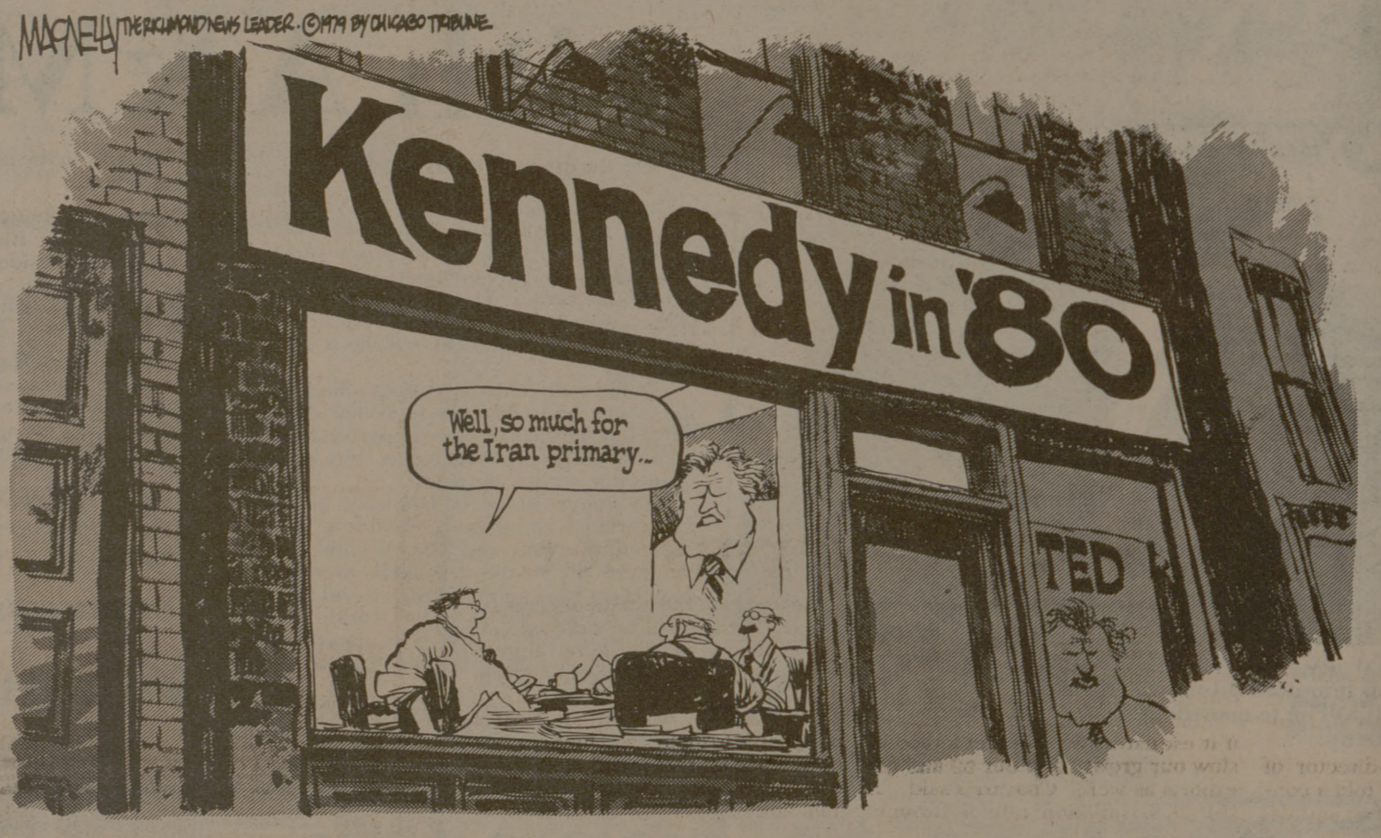
But in Kennedy's case, the tone of the campaign may be important because of the image many Americans have of his family and the period of American politics they dominated.

It was a time of activism, of vigor, of strong belief in the capacity of individuals and of the country itself to accomplish the most difficult tasks.

This was the King Arthur image — the

easy grace of the gentle warrior, the brilliant lady leading a brave, young nation to a better life for all. It was fun — laughing at the howling gales as you ride to meet the king, very much a part of the image.

For some Americans, Ted Kennedy's candidacy may seem to be a chance to capture a shining period of their country. Kennedy says he is not running for the country that results where Jimmy Carter's policies to decency and fairness have failed. What Kennedy is offering is a lightness of his brothers' approach, those folks may be deeply disappointed if they realize before the mares that Camelot is not to be believed.



If U.N. is weak, it threatens its own existence

The Carter administration continues to make the proper moves in its struggle to convince Iran to release the 50 American hostages.

Inasmuch as military force would be counterproductive at this stage, the White House is trying to show the Ayatollah Khomeini that most nations on earth condemn his holding diplomatic personnel for

ransom. The United States has asked the World Court at The Hague to order Iran to release immediately the Americans being held prisoner. It is a case this country can hardly lose.

If the U.N. Council fails to issue a clear demand that Khomeini free his victims, it will convince the American people that the U.N. is indeed a worthless organization —

and thus threaten its own existence.

A World Court ruling and a Security Council resolution would isolate Iran in the international community.

No doubt the "students" at the embassy and the mullahs manipulating them would scream defiance. But they would be affected nevertheless — for no nation or group can enjoy outlaw status.

Guilty verdicts (at spy trials) would give the ayatollah the chance to play the magnanimous side of the coin, sending the "convicted criminals" home. If, however, the ayatollah imprudently executes any Americans now in his hands, he will have a blood debt to this country. The United States will be obligated to retaliate.

The Pittsburgh Press

LETTERS

Editor:
I'm certainly no expert in animal behavior, but it's fairly obvious that our mascot, Reveille IV, is flunking out in Basic Obedience 101.

Reveille certainly possesses a personality that sets her apart from any other in the canine world, and rightly so since she is an Aggie. However, even though she is most often very affectionate towards people, she does get carried away and confuses the fighting Texas Aggie spirit with the "biting Texas Aggie spirit."

The most recent example of this was at the Vermont basketball game when she tried to claim a piece of Lynn Wright's hide. Granted, she has caused no serious harm to anyone thus far; but, it is simply a matter of time before she does if her spirited ways continue.

If she does bite someone seriously, major consequences could face the University and Reveille. I know she is the school mascot, but she surely is not beyond being disciplined. I hope the guys in E-2 will remind her of that. So, to Rev — Fight 'em, but don't bite 'em.

— Pat O'Neil, '80

games and shout till his voice grew hoarse and clap till his hands became sore and even if we lost, he never said bad things about the team. He had worked very hard to become a senior and was so proud and excited about graduating this Friday that he had started counting down weeks ahead.

Last Friday, Dec. 7, seven days before he was to graduate, his last day of school, Amer was killed driving back to A&M in his new car, a graduation present. The people who knew him loved him and knew he was something very special. A&M has lost the very best Aggie around!

Goodbye Amer. We'll miss you terribly, but we know you'll always be with us, maybe not in body, but in spirit.

— Jayanthi Kasiraj, '81
Maria-Elena Andino, '80

phenomenon has been very interesting to me. Apparently, from my discrete sounding out of local residents, I am in the great minority, but I am greatly surprised that a university community would so feverishly rally round a cause so ecologically unsound.

This year's supply of logs came from a to-be-submerged area, but could not the great amount of energy expended in cutting, hauling and stacking all those logs have been put to better use in, for example, providing free firewood for burning by senior citizens?

A small symbolic bonfire could still have been built from small branches, scrap-wood, etc.

I think serious thought should be given next year channeling the efforts into a more energy efficient program. I'm sure the Aggies could win with even a much reduced-size bonfire burning!

— Colin F. Sowards

Keep band as is

Editor:
At the outset, let me assure you, women — always have. Matter of married one and have never regretted it. I recognize that without the band there could be no more little boys. But for a woman to be in the Aggie makes about as much sense as a man in the Radio City Rockettes — or, for that matter, closer to home, to join the Aggie Ranges. I'm sure she could do it, but the boys do, just as a boy might do in Belles do. However, a pair of boys don't belong in a chorus line.

I vote for the band as it is now — to the school and a favorite with fans where. Incidentally, my wife and I don't belong in a chorus line.

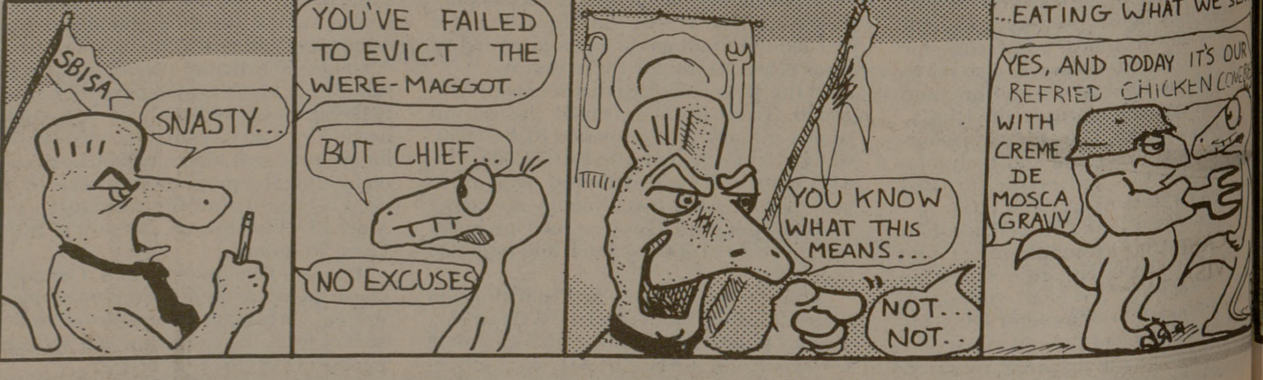
— Robt. E. Aggie

A&M lost a good Ag

Editor:
This is the hardest letter I've ever had to write in my life, but I want everyone to know about the great loss Texas A&M has had — we've lost our No. 1 Aggie, Amer Sheik. And this letter is dedicated to him.

He was truly an Aggie to the core. He was always behind his school and team no matter what. He would go early in the morning and stand in line to get tickets for the football games and he never complained about doing it. He would go to the

THOTZ



By Doug Graham