

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JANUARY 15, 1979



MARLON, KARL, ROD, LEE, AND EVA MARIE NEWSLEADER © MCDONALD BUILDING



OPINION

Immediate action needed by US in Afghani-Soviet crisis

The presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan appears to be the most blatant show of military force by any superpower in recent years. More than the takeover of Poland, the Soviet attack and occupation of Afghanistan, coupled with the build-up of Russian troops on the Afghani border with Iran is a show of might for the Third World and Western Europe to see. The Soviets are telling the world they are the most powerful military force on the planet.

The Soviet attack also spells a rather abrupt end to detente. As a result, what the United States does in the next few weeks and months will be of utmost importance. President Carter needs to act as quickly and as firmly as possible.

The economic sanctions already in effect are not going to do the trick. There are enough nations in the world who are sympathetic to the Soviet cause and who have been shut out of the international trading world for years who are willing to do business with the Soviets.

On the other hand, military force directly against the Soviets is too firm. The problem can be solved without shedding American lives.

A show of force, such as the movement of American forces into the area or an announcement establishing military bases in countries such as Israel or Egypt that have already expressed interest in such installations, rather than letting Soviet imperialism go unchecked, an attempt at calling the Soviet's bluff would be a rude awakening for the Kremlin.

US longshoremen rival State Department in political clout

By DICK WEST

Citizens who had thought of dock work only in terms of loading and unloading ships may have been surprised to learn last week that longshoremen have their own foreign policy.

The diplomatic aspects of stevedoring became evident in the unilateral move by the International Longshoremen's Association to cut off all trade with Russia.

I say "unilateral" because the ILA's foreign policy is in a faster lane than the U.S. government's foreign policy.

Whereas the U.S. government's embargo also applied to the shipment of 17 tons of grain and certain high technology items, the ILA boycott covered all cargo to and from the Soviet Union.

When I first heard of the ILA action, I attempted to reach the organization's secretary of state to inquire what he intended to do about the situation in Iran. But to no avail.

At the time, I understand, he was on the ILA hot line trying to negotiate for the use of bases in the Persian Gulf area. So I had to settle for going down on the waterfront and talking with a group of workers who gave their names as Marlon, Karl, Rod, Lee J. and Eva Marie.

I don't pretend they were typical. Nothing much is unloaded on the wharf here except hard-shelled crabs from Chesapeake Bay. However, the workers I met on the piers assured me that being confined to an inland river port did not relieve them

of the responsibility of making foreign policy decisions.

"That is probably the toughest part of a waterfront job," Marlon, a husky young man in a torn T-shirt, remarked.

Karl, an older man with a nose you wouldn't believe, nodded agreement.

"I've been involved in waterfront foreign policy ever since the days of the two-China debate, but it doesn't get any easier," he said.

Lee J., whose gruff voice articulated keen perceptions of world affairs, said the waterfront's hard line response to the Afghanistan crisis in part reflected a sense of frustration over the ILA's continued inability to free the hostages in Iran.

"If I had my druthers, the union would

stop shipments of foodstuffs to Tehran, revoke diplomatic recognition of the Khomeini regime," he growled.

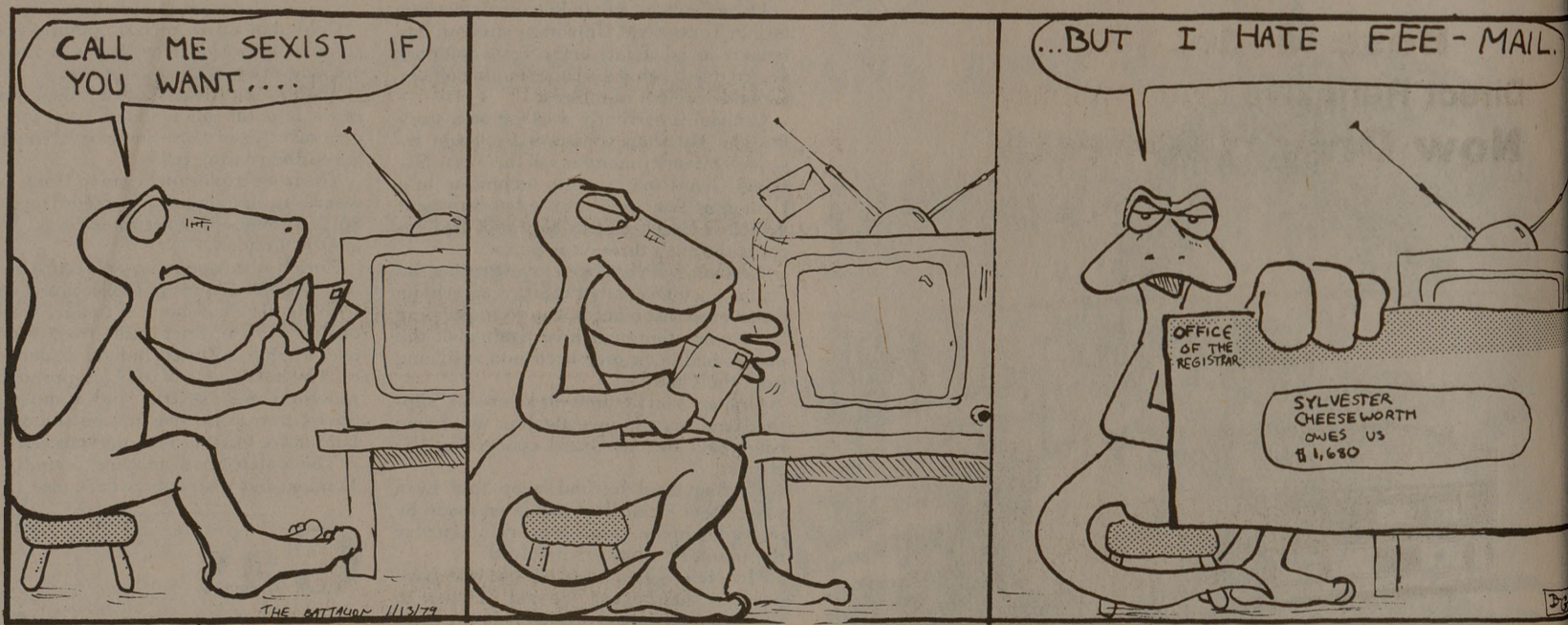
Rod, surly and belligerent, only shook his feet, cast dark looks and muttered intelligibly. But Eva Marie, a bright young woman and quite a looker, questioned whether the waterfront could go it

"Much depends on whether the ILA can persuade its allies in other unions to economic sanctions of their own," she

"If, for example, union taxi drivers refusing to carry passengers to the embassy here, or to pick up Russian U.N. headquarters in New York, that go a long way toward bringing them to their knees.

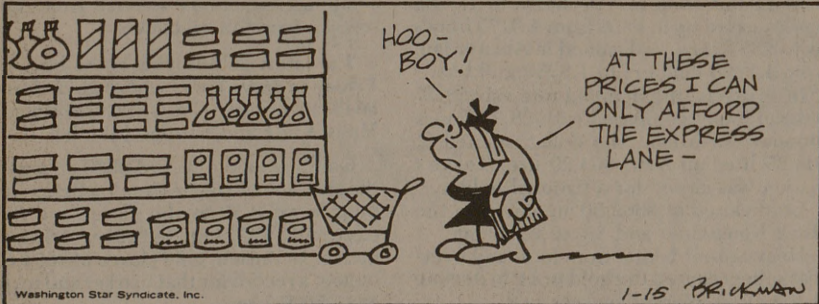
THOTZ

By Doug Graham



the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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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.

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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LETTERS Aggie spirit lives on, 'Old' Ag writes

Editor:

About a month ago I was in College Station to take in the Bonfire and watch the A&M - tu football game. I was in the stands supporting the Fightin' Texas Aggie football team, and I was thrilled with the 13-7 verdict. While there, I happened to come across a Thursday, November 29, 1979 issue of "The Battalion". During my reading of it, I spotted an article in Reader's Forum on page three, and it was written by Mr. Hank Wahrmond.

The article concerned Aggie spirit and his chastisement of Aggie supporters, primarily students and alumni. The story sounds familiar. My fish year in the Corps I heard seniors talking about "Ole Army" dying, and each year it died a little bit more

while I was obtaining my degree in Mechanical Engineering and Reserve Commission in the Army. We all remember back about "the good ole days" and how the present can't compare to them, even though time moves on and things change. I have always been proud of the spirit exhibited by Aggies and their actions at about any event I have ever been at. Several times this year I have been as impressed as in the past years with the spirit shown at A&M football games.

A lot was expected of the Texas A&M football team in a conference seen by many as the most balanced and the strongest in recent years. There were both disappointments and thrills, such as the victories over

Penn State up there and tu, this year. After the disappointing loss to Texas Tech, a couple from Tech came over to where a buddy and I were at, among A&M supporters, and they said they couldn't understand the spirit shown by A&M fans during and after the game. Following probably the most disappointing loss of the season — to Houston at Kyle Field — the spirit shown during and following the game by Aggie fans was most impressive. That same kind of Aggie spirit was exhibited when A&M hosted both Arkansas and tu. However, spirit should never be an excuse to show poor taste, lower ourselves to other's standards, or tarnish the high standards and historic heritage of Texas A&M University.

Each time a team representing Texas

A&M enters into any type of contest event, I will support them to my utmost. At the same time I will be realistic about the conditions surrounding the event. Wahrmond I applaud your attendance record of 82 out of the last 85 football games that being the case. Based on the spirit that has been exhibited so far Aggie students, alumni, and supporters the "Twelfth Man" and the renewed Aggie spirit are still very much alive and well. It is said it takes one that is familiar with certain actions to use those actions to describe others. Don't let the shortcomings of some be put on or blamed on the large majority of Aggies who exhibit and take pride in the Aggie spirit. — Paul Scott