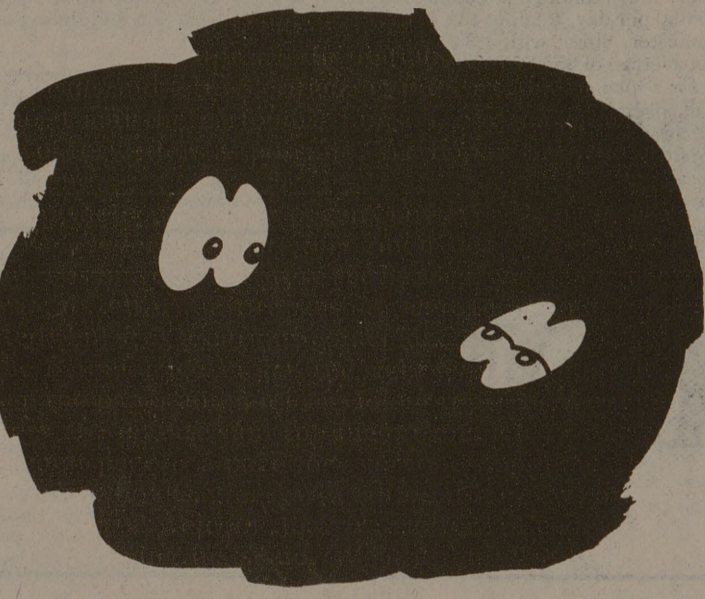


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Can you tell me the source of this policy that prohibits after-dark studying as an energy-saving precaution?"

OPINION

Bill of Rights covers cartoonists, too

This editorial is about free speech, and what happens when someone who tried to exercise that right in this paper got in trouble.

Last week, a cartoon appeared on the editorial page of The Battalion. The cartoon, by John Winchester, was parodying Greek letter organizations — fraternities and sororities. The cartoon showed some students consoling a friend who had just learned that his sister had joined a sorority. In addition, each succeeding panel of the cartoon showed a different word of a phrase that many Greeks felt was derogatory.

We expected them to laugh, because it was a joke, and that is all we meant by it.

Since the cartoon ran, The Battalion has received many phone calls and letters criticizing the cartoon, our decision to run it and the cartoonist himself. We have printed as many of the letters as possible. We hoped the whole thing would end.

Since the controversy began, however, Winchester has received several threatening phone calls and letters at home. His bicycle tires were slashed last weekend. There is no way to tell if the tire slashing and the phone calls are related, but it is a curious coincidence.

The Battalion feels it has the right to print differing opinions in the paper and not fear violent reprisal. We hope our readers are mature and intelligent enough to realize the Viewpoint page is a page for everyone's opinion.

Anyone who disagrees with editorials or news printed in The Battalion is welcome to write a letter or Reader's Forum article explaining his stand. We'll listen. The fact that we have printed so many critical letters would seem to show we are receptive to any opinions. We hope our readers will take advantage of the offer.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

LETTERS POLICY

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.

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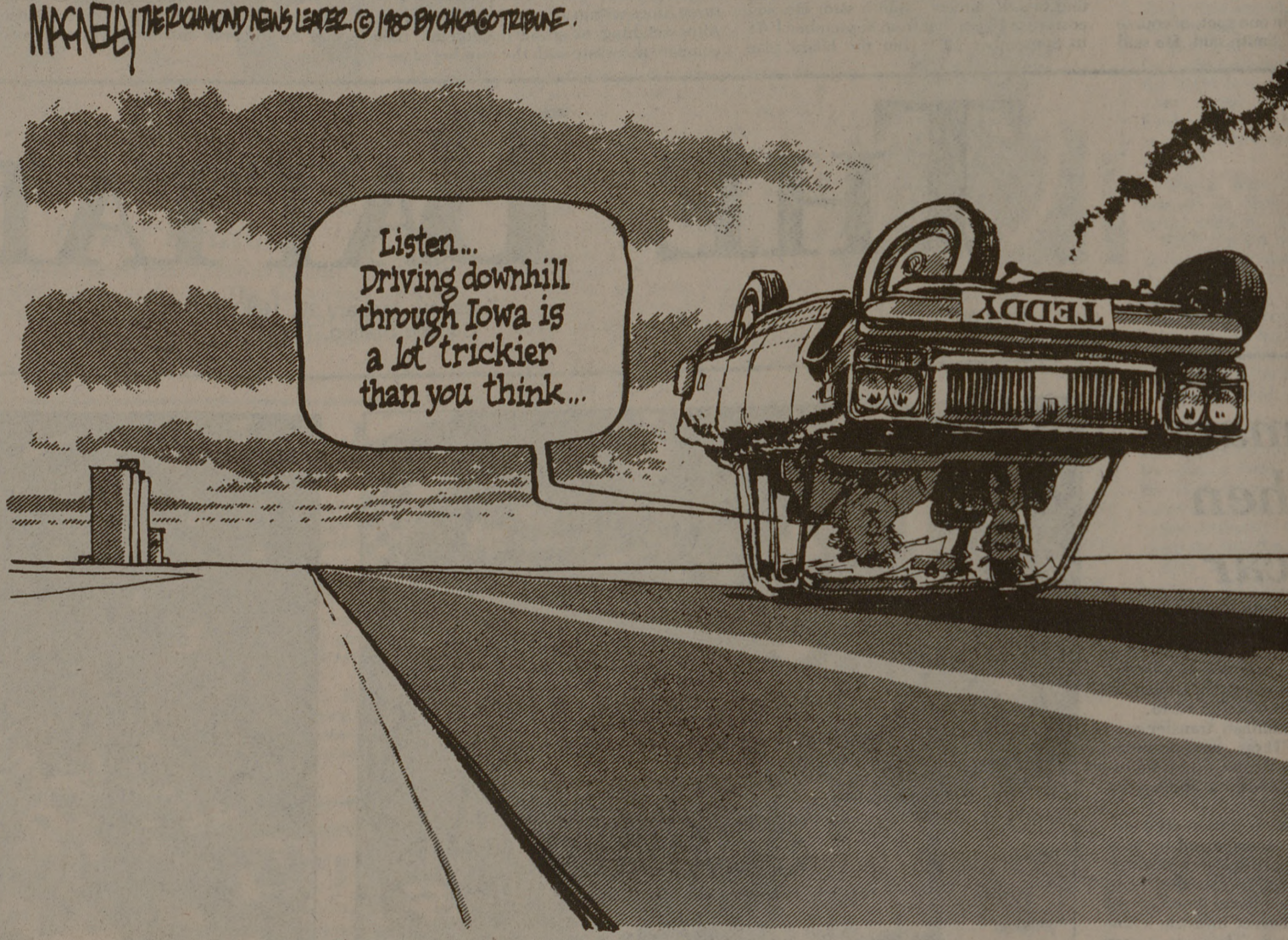
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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JANUARY 29, 1980



LETTERS

Editor:

I am writing in reference to the small article (the very small article) on the passing away of a significant figure in Aggie history and tradition.

When former A&M coach Dana X. Bible died on Saturday, January 19, The Battalion used 11 inches of newspaper space to encompass 88 years of a life and career at A&M on page 10 of a 12 page issue. A San Antonio paper printed a much larger and better story about Coach Bible, who had nothing at all to do with San Antonio.

As a double-barreled Southwest Conference title winner (five times for football and three times for basketball), Bible received very little recognition from The Battalion and A&M students. During his career, the Twelfth Man originated and continues to be the dominating spirit of this campus.

A fitting tribute was made in his honor during the halftime of the A&M-t.u. basketball game. It's a shame that we couldn't have done as well or better.

Glenda Erp '82

No cowards at A&M

Editor:

I would like to express my disappointment with Ronnie Kapavik's statements to the Houston Chronicle concerning student reactions to President Carter's proposal on draft registration. Thanks for selling us out, Mr. Kapavik. Your comment, implying that Aggies are opposed to voluntarily entering the service because we believe the government makes mistakes, not only skirts the issue of draft registration, but is totally out of line in its logic. I'm interested in knowing how many Ags you polled before you reached this momentous conclusion. I find it disturbing that the student body president can't see a change in the students such as the growth of patriotism in them. We don't have cowards here, we have patriots. Just remember the classes of 1918, 1941 and 1942. They, all of them, volunteered to fight. Stanford, Berkeley and those other schools in Jerry Brown's fantasy

land have all those who would let their friends fight alone.

On the other hand, I would like to thank Col. Woodall for his character analysis of Aggies. It obviously shows that it takes a man who deals in lives to speculate on how people feel about risking them.

Mr. Kapavik, your statement to the Chronicle on this proposal, one which could prove to be the single most important one in our futures, is a masterpiece. You've succeeded in saying absolutely nothing decisive about how the student body feels on a decisive issue. You've whitewashed the questions asked of you expertly. You have a great career ahead of you — in California!

Ron Bucchi '81

Why a Greek?

Editor:

On Jan. 21, John Winchester expressed his opinion in a cartoon in the Batt. On Jan. 23, Mary Ann Robinson expressed hers in a letter. Allow me to express mine. Agreed, the cartoon WAS in bad taste, but it raises a valid question: What are fraternities (and sororities) doing at Texas A&M? Before I get the wrong people mad at me, let me clarify something — I have absolutely nothing against greek-letter honor or service organizations. These groups serve a useful purpose in the University community. However, I do have questions about the myriad frats that seem to be invading Aggieland.

Personally, I can't understand WHY any Aggie would want to join a frat, when there are so many (less expensive!) alternatives. What do frat "brothers" have in common, anyway? Do you live together? Eat together? Go to yell practice together? Study together? Or just party together?

Do you know what your \$100+ dues go for? Most of it goes to the national chapter — to pay for the fancy literature and the salaries of the professional "brothers". If you want to drink, you'd get drunker faster if you took that money to Lakeview.

Finally, why are you here at A&M? If you're here to get the finest technical education possible, join your major's professional technical society.

If you want to meet people with similar

interests, investigate the MSC Committees.

If you're here to share in the marvelous intangibility called, "Being an Aggie," you don't need to join a frat for fellowship.

However, if you're here to get a B.S. in General Studies with a 2.0 GPR, leave Kyle Field before the game's over, go watch the Bonfire burn (but not help build it), and do nothing else but party, give yourself a big fat TWO PERCENT and go to Austin — you're taking up space here.

Corrie J. Bergeron, Jr.

Dana Bible story needed more space

Aggie, I have no reason or desire to respond to the ad myself. I see no reason, however, that any other female Aggie be discouraged from checking it out. I know what Playboy's long term intentions are with the girls they choose but Chan, playboy photographer, made it clear that the girls don't have to pose unless they want to. Besides, it is a million chance that a girl chosen will be a Playmate and end up as the main attraction of the magazine. No one is to your arm to flip past the literary value magazine to the photos. Pornography going to fade away in the future. You will accept that fact and respect the of others who will take advantage of you were really concerned about your low Aggies who are female you would us your support in opportunities we choose to take advantage of.

Garnett Wain

Carter is naive

Editor:

President Carter has finally realized naive he was regarding the Soviet Union. For years the Russian commies have world domination, and they will whatever means to secure that end.

But Carter has not desired to strengthen our military program the last three years and it will take years to build up our conventional forces.

In addition, Carter's foreign policy regards to Iran and Afghanistan has disgrace. Carter should have sent in to secure the release of the hostages, they were killed, then we should realize bombing Teheran. Furthermore, Carter should have sent supplies to Pakistan weeks ago, and now we must send troops to Pakistan to prevent further aggression.

In addition, we should not boycott Olympics because it makes us look stupid spoiled brats. Rather, we should to Moscow and beat the hell out of Russians. I am hoping for Election Day come soon so that we can elect a new president of action and not of words.

A final word — I do support President Carter's registration for the draft.

Richard Leonard

Greeks need love

Editor:

Concerning the January 21 comic strip, "Goofoffs," we would like to express our disgust and surprise that a newspaper of your caliber would print such a stereotyped viewpoint. Although not known by all Aggies, the Greek system is the largest organization of Texas A&M students, surpassing even the Corps of Cadets in number.

As members of the Greek system we have encountered many prejudices at this university, all of them unwarranted. Sororities and fraternities are not only social oriented but service minded as shown in recent United Way Drive. Also, each sorority and fraternity supports its own individual charity.

We truly regret that some students on this campus can not respect our organization. We are bonded by a spirit of love between our brothers and sisters, yet as all Aggies we cherish the Spirit of Aggieland and all its traditions.

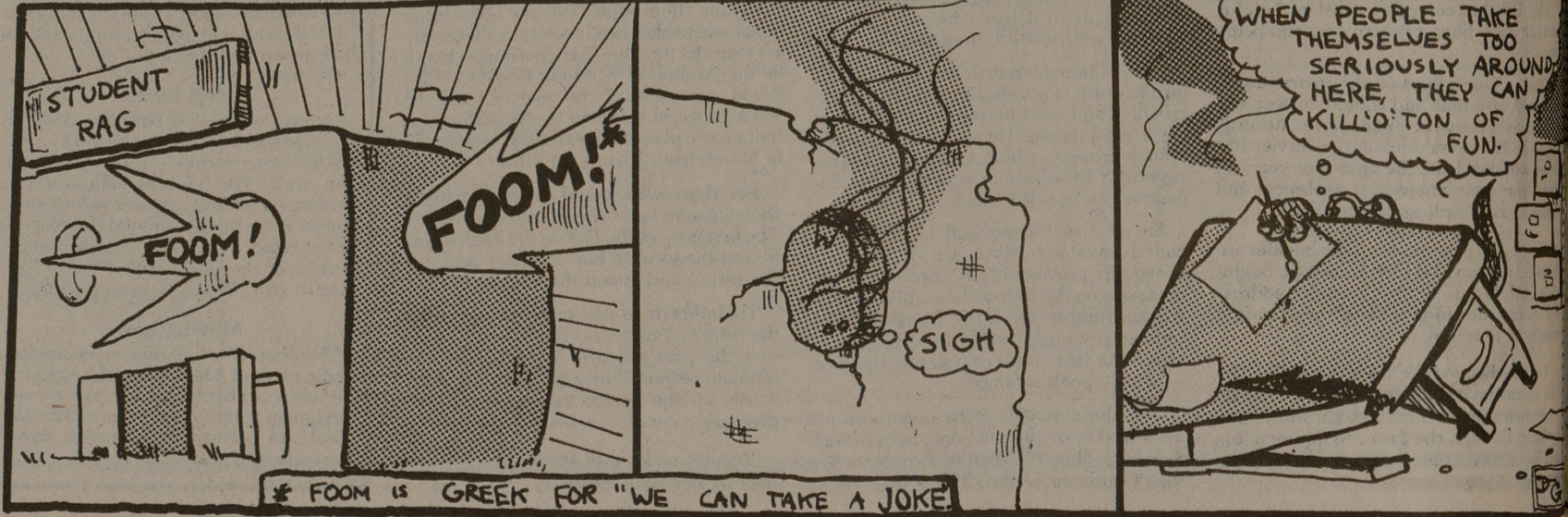
Christie Chapman

Story explained all

Editor:

I am writing this in response to Alan Ray and friends' letter opposing the Playboy Magazine's ad in the Battalion for the "solicitation of Aggie women for possible appearance in Playboy." Evidently y'all didn't read the article by Doug Graham in last Wednesday's Batt that explained Playboy's intentions at A&M. Being a female

THOTZ



By Doug Graham

* FOOM IS GREEK FOR "WE CAN TAKE A JOKE"