

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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ERA taken all the way! How about all-girl army?

By DICK WEST
United Press International

Everybody is talking these days about the prospect of women being drafted for military service but I know one young man who thinks he has a better idea.

He favors creating an all-girl Army. "It's the only fair thing to do" he told me the other night when the subject of renewing Selective Service registration came up.

"We once had an all-male Army and now it's time to give the all-girl Army a shot at it."

I said "The fact that you are a male who has reached draft age wouldn't have anything to do with your proposal would it?" "Perish the thought!" the young man de-

murred, obviously offended by such a suggestion. "I simply believe it is time to put old wrongs to right. Throughout most of our history men have gotten all the thrills and glory of going to war. That imbalance has lasted so long it can't be offset now by merely splitting military duties between men and women. The only proper thing to do is to let them have it all to themselves."

I said, "I certainly admire your sense of equity and your selflessness in being willing to sacrifice your own chance for a military career in order to give young females a break. Nevertheless, I can't shake off this nagging suspicion that motivating forces other than magnanimity are at work here."

A hurt look entered his eyes. "When you are a bona fide supporter of equal rights you

go all the way" he said. "I only regret I have but one draft classification to lose for the opposite sex."

I told the young man that while women probably could perform admirably as support troops I wasn't sure an all-girl Army would provide the level of combat efficiency the Pentagon was seeking.

"Generally speaking, men are physically stronger than women and therefore better able to withstand the rigors of the battlefield," I pointed out.

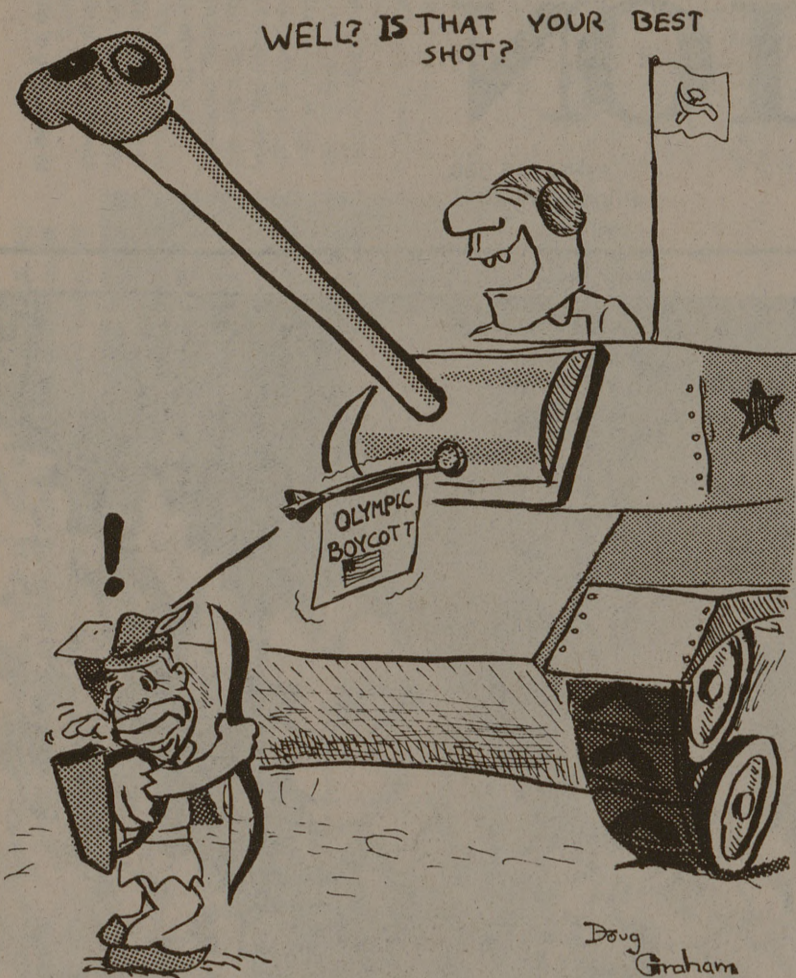
"Don't be such a male chauvinist" he admonished. "What about the Amazons? I saw some of them in a movie once and they were as fierce a bunch of warriors as you would ever want to see. Pitted against those babies most male soldiers wouldn't

stand a chance.

"And what about the element of surprise? Imagine how the enemy would come embittered and resentful when the trenches. I'll bet the other side would raise the white flag almost without a shot."

I said, "I can see you are serious in relinquishing your rights to a draft classification. Wouldn't a lot of male college students come embittered and resentful when being allowed to register?"

"There might well be some prejudice that sort" the young man admitted. "However anyone who feels that about being dodged by the draft will sneak off to Toronto and join the Canadian army."



OPINION

Hissing at concert is rude

At the P.D.Q. Bach concert Wednesday night, a visiting performer was again treated to a show of bad manners — Aggie Style.

As usual, some members of the crowd feel moved to hiss their way through a performance.

A running gag in the show was the appearance of a droll, cynical stage manager making occasional forays onstage. He was the "bad guy" of the show, and many Aggies felt the need to remind him of it as often as possible. Except for the first time at the beginning of the show, his stage appearances were meant to be silent. These scenes were written to be performed silently, but the audience will never know. Everytime the stage manager appeared onstage, a few members of the audience felt the urge to hiss. They did it the first time he was onstage. And the second. And the third. And the fourth. As a matter of fact, they hissed all during the show.

This hissing isn't bad at football or basketball games; no one comes to listen to those things.

But, the idea of hissing at a performance defies good taste. If the performers had intened for the scenes to be accompanied by hissing, they would have made arrangement for it themselves.

It is unfortunate that a few people with bad manners can spoil the impact of a show for everyone else.

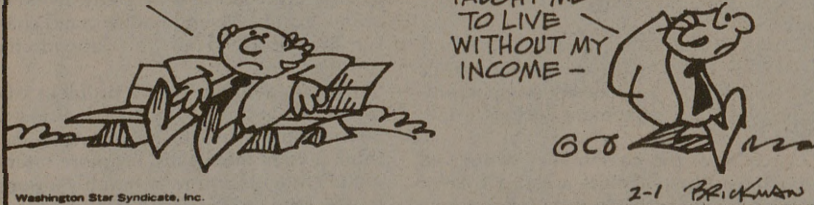
Despite the distractions, it was one of the better shows seen at Texas A&M in recent memory. It's too bad the audience couldn't enjoy it as intended.

the small society

by Brickman

HOO-BOY! HIGH INTEREST HAS TAUGHT ME TO LIVE WITHIN MY INCOME —

AND HIGH TAXES HAVE TAUGHT ME TO LIVE WITHOUT MY INCOME —



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THE BATTALION

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Anniversary of return from exile

Khomeini an ill, powerful leader

By PETER COSTA
United Press International

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini walks slowly in the small careful steps of a brittle man of 79 years.

It is ironic that this frail cleric caused the overthrow of the shah — Iran's self-proclaimed King of Kings — and brought to a stalemate the world's most powerful nuclear-armed nation.

To westerners, Khomeini is a caricature of foreignness. He has a lean face with piercing eyes that glare out from beneath a thick, almost Neanderthal brow ridge. He has a long gray beard and wears a black turban, floor-length robe and slippers without heels.

His Iranian Shiite followers call him the Imam or prophet on earth.

He returned to Iran one year ago Thursday after a 15-year exile and was greeted with adulation by millions. The despised shah had left and Khomeini — their savior — had finally come home.

Periodically, Khomeini has been forced by poor health to retreat from the public.

On Jan. 22, Tehran radio said he had canceled all meetings for the next 15 days and entered the intensive care unit of a Tehran hospital for treatment of a heart condition.

But even from his hospital bed, Khomeini urged his followers to vote in their first presidential election last Friday in which Economic Minister Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr emerged as the winner.

For months preceding his arrival, Khomeini railed against the shah and fomented discontent that ultimately erupted into total revolution.

Evidence of his power and total domination of the minds and spirits of his countrymen erupted worldwide most strikingly on Nov. 4 when a group of students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

At 10:30 a.m. on that cold fall day, 450 militants clambered over the walls of the embassy compound and pulled down a U.S. flag while chanting anti-American slogans and carrying posters of Khomeini.

Marines inside the embassy fired volleys of tear gas, but after three hours could not withstand the onslaught. The swarming

Iranians broke into the embassy, captured 63 Americans and held them hostage.

In days that followed hundreds of thousands of Iranians demonstrated before the embassy gates chanting: "Margh Bar Carter, Margh Bar Shah! Death to Carter, death to the shah." The shah had been in New York since Oct. 22 for medical treatment with the blessing of President Carter.

Some of the 13 hostages who were released later would say that the chanting of those phrases hour after hour, day after day was almost as psychologically painful as being tied up and forced to face a blank wall for hours at a time.

Three days before the embassy takeover, Khomeini made an emotional radio appeal to students that they commemorate the anniversary of a violent street demonstration a year before and "expand with all their might their attacks against the United States and Israel so they may force the United States to return the deposed and cruel shah."

In a statement broadcast by Iranian state radio, the militants let the world know their

demands: the hostages would be released — if and only if — the shah were returned to Iran to face Islamic justice.

The shah had entered New York Hospital for gallbladder surgery and chemotherapy treatments for cancer. Hospital officials could not say how long the shah would remain under their care.

Khomeini repeatedly labeled the U.S. confrontation as "Islam against infidels" and continually referred to the shah as a "devil" and the United States as "satanic power."

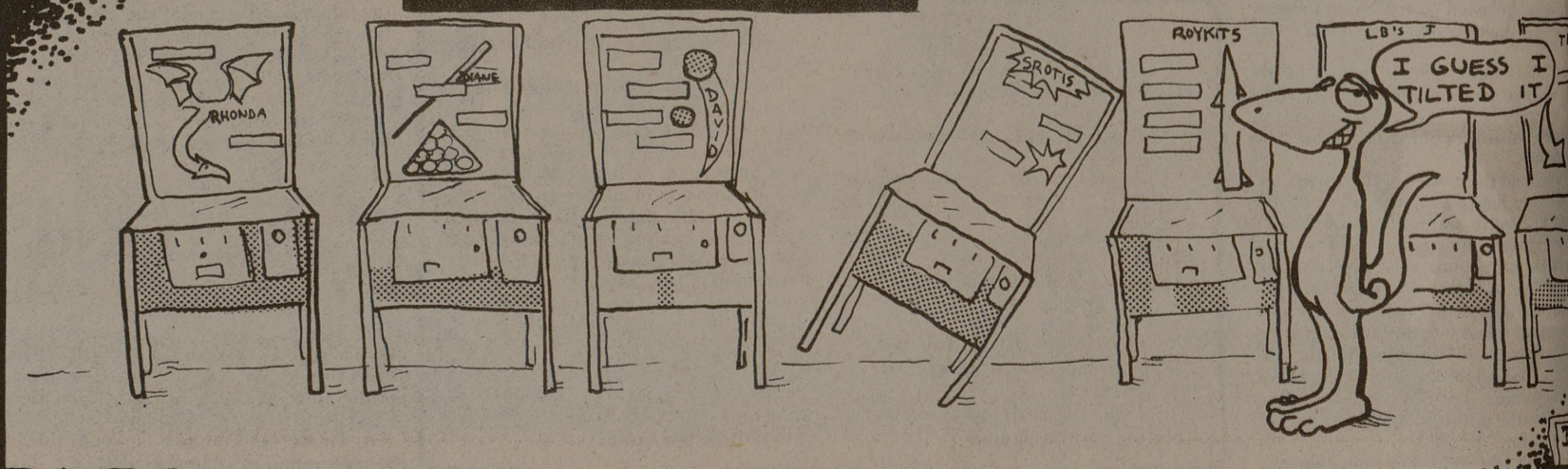
How does this square with traditional Moslem belief? Scholars differed.

Some said the Moslem religion condemns the taking of hostages. Even in the days of the crusades and Richard Lion-Hearted, others said, diplomatic envoys were considered sacrosanct.

Scholars in Islamic states said Khomeini was indeed following the Koran by fighting against a "colonial imperialist" power. Most official government statements of Islamic nations, however, condemned the hostage taking.

THOTZ

RED EYE PINBALL PALACE



By Doug Graham