

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Do we have an area of disagreement here?"

OPINION

Sacrifice is worth the risk

President Carter is correct in pulling the U.S. out of the Olympics if the Soviets don't withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. The decision to use the games as political leverage is all we can do without starting a war.

War is the final solution, and the one that should be avoided at all costs. If pulling out of the Games has even the slightest chance of success, it should be tried. Even if it doesn't work — and it's likely that it won't — it's at least worth the try.

Policy boosts Corps' GPR

The Corps of Cadets initiated a new program last semester to improve the grade point ratio of its members.

The program is called the Bonfire Scholastic Policy. It's not really a new policy, but it was made more stringent last semester.

The policy was developed because Cadets' grades usually drop significantly during the fall because of the endless activities connected with football.

Under the stricter policy, freshmen were not allowed to work on the Bonfire at night.

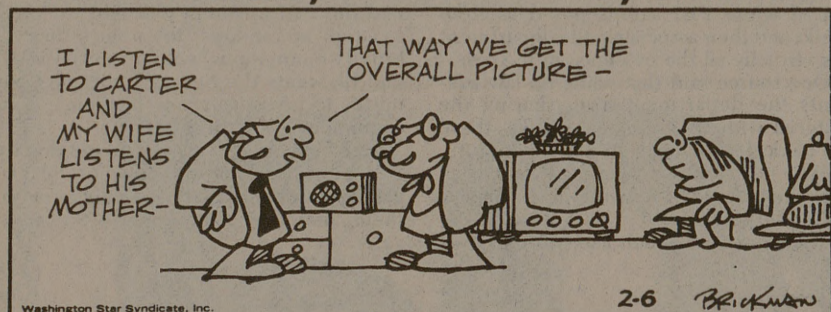
In addition, all freshmen and sophomores with a GPR below 3.2 were required to study every Monday through Thursday night during a Call to Quarters.

The policy apparently works. The Corps' semester grade point ratio was 2.21 in Fall 1978; last fall, the grades rose to 2.38. Not only that, but the Corps' grade point ratio has risen each fall semester for the last five years.

This attempt at raising scholastic achievement in the Corps is commendable; the Corps Staff and the administration should be congratulated.

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.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77842.

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 77842.

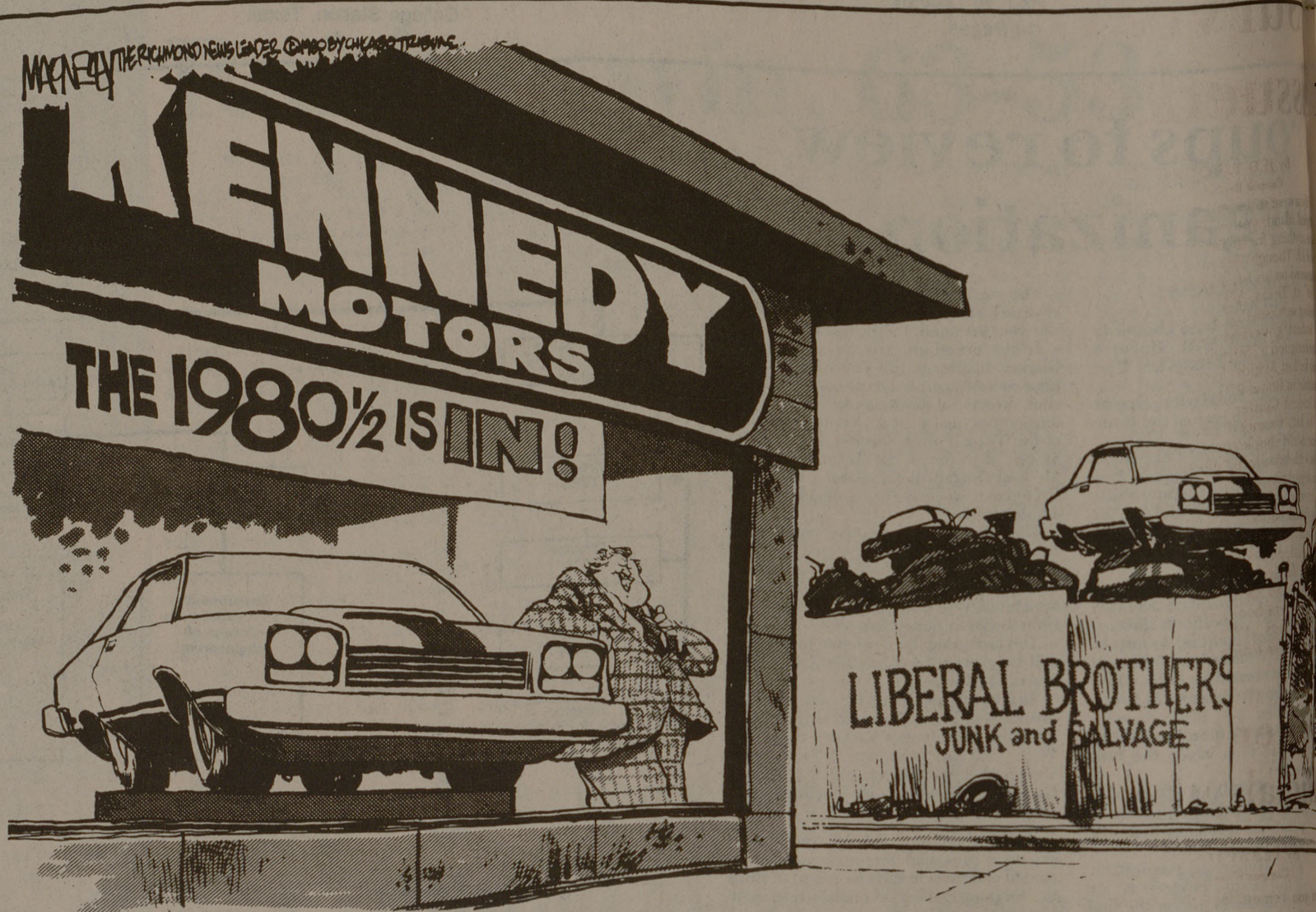
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

- MEMBER
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress
- Editor..... Roy Bragg
 - Associate Editor..... Keith Taylor
 - News Editor..... Rusty Cawley
 - Asst. News Editor..... Karen Cornelison
 - Copy Editor..... Dillard Stone
 - Sports Editor..... Tony Gallucci
 - Focus Editor..... Rhonda Watters
 - Senior City Reporter..... Louie Arthur
 - Senior Campus Reporter..... Diane Blake
 - Staff Writers..... Nancy Andersen, Tricia Brunhart, Mike Burrichter, Angelique Copeland, Laura Cortez, Meril Edwards, Carol Hancock, Kathleen McElroy, Debbie Nelson, Richard Oliver, Tim Sager, Steve Sisney, Becky Swanson, Andy Williams
 - Chief Photographer..... Lynn Blanco
 - Photographers..... Lee Roy Leshper, Paul Childress, Steve Clark, Ed Cunniss

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 6, 1980



LETTERS

Draft will serve needs of country

Editor:

In response to Robert Zahray's letter of January 30 concerning the possible reinstitution of the draft, I wish to make the following observations:

Despite the possible moral implications of "enslaving" a portion of the men in our nation who are between 18 and 26 years of age, past experience has shown that our country will be better served by men of varied social and economic backgrounds than by a small group of patriotic zealots and people who have found no other solution to unemployment.

The concept of a military draft is not contradictory to American ideology, nor does it infringe on an individual's rights. The Constitution itself gives the federal government the power to raise a standing army, and to maintain it by whatever means are necessary. Is the Constitution therefore contrary to American ideology?

Finally, though ideally only a highly motivated volunteer force would be necessary to defend the United States' interests, experience again shows us (through our own American Revolution) that such a force, acting alone, is incapable of protecting those interests.

I myself, speaking as an American citizen, shall go on record as stating that I shall support my government's actions and take pride in knowing that by doing so I will not just be serving national interests, but the nation's people.

Roger G. Grace

(This letter was accompanied by 23 other signatures)

Bub, there just ain't that many brave, highly motivated people in this country. Sure, the draft should only be used in time of declared war, but registration is needed so as to know who is eligible for the draft.

Mike W. Kriegel

(This letter was accompanied by 31 other signatures.)

Duties go with rights

Editor:

In response to Robert Zahray's letter on Wednesday, January 30, I feel that a few things must be said. He said that reinstitution of the draft is comparable to enslaving American people and that the volunteer military should be made to work. He also stated that the draft is not in line with the ideals of a free country. I disagree, freedom is not achieved for a small price. Many Aggies have given their lives in the past as shown by the many memorials around campus. Undoubtedly many more will be willing to make the same sacrifice in the future. Mr. Zahray seems to want all the rights and privileges of being a citizen of this nation without taking on responsibilities or making sacrifices. It is a privilege to live in this country and enjoy its many freedoms. Is it too much to ask for someone to support his country for two or three years? I believe Mr. Zahray should reexamine his values and priorities before making further comments. This is one Aggie who hopes that Robert Zahray is in the minority.

Bill Reavis

'Cockamamy' theory

Editor:

In response to Robert Zahray's letter on Jan. 30, I would like to say, how asinine can one get? I'm not sure about everyone else, but I damn sure don't want my freedom jeopardized by some cockamamy theory you may come up with. You say that "volunteers would most certainly meet the manpower needs of our military." B.S.! Why do you think we had the draft in WW-II? I could be wrong though, since the government in its infinite wisdom could have sent a few extra souls to the war just to spend a few extra bucks and knock-up native virgin women so we could spread the idea of democracy and freedom. I doubt it very seriously, though. Get your head out,

Editorial was cheap

Editor:

Hi, I'm a concerned Aggie and I'm mad as hell. I'm mad because of the less than professional article The Battalion staff wrote about Eddie Chiles in Monday's paper. Normally newspaper's opinions attempt to bring a valid point to the attention of the readers. This story did nothing but show me how good The Battalion staff is at taking cheap shots at people. I wasn't quite sure of the opinion the staff was trying to get across to me. Were they mad at Mr. Chiles for making his opinions known to Americans, for using his own money to pay for these messages, for his "catchy" opening statement, or is The Battalion staff mad at Eddie

Chiles for becoming well known?

This article referred to Mr. Chiles as "a man who touched the hearts and stomachs of all of us"; it ridiculed Eddie's opening statement in his messages, and made him appear as a man who wants attention for himself more than his ideas. It is easy to attack a person by making fun of them, and I had thought The Battalion was above this cheap tactic. The writers of this article could have been more professional by seriously addressing the contents of Mr. Chiles' opinion.

Mike Rodgers

Others need lockers

Editor:

I am mad! Are you? In the beloved halls of our Memorial Student Center there is a ring of thieves. Off-campus and other Aggies who use the coin return lockers in front of the M.S.C. Bookstore hurt everyone else. Because they steal a locker for the whole day, other Aggies must leave their belongings on the floor outside the bookstore. Yesterday, for example there were no unlocked lockers available. That would be fine with me, but then the other half of the gang seize our book bags, with our notes, and our personal belongings!

I can think of two solutions to our problem. First, you all-day lockers users, did you know for a mere \$2 (\$3.40/larger) you can rent a bigger locker downstairs for the whole semester? You don't need to remember to carry a quarter around any more. All you need to do is attach a small key on your key chain. Second, we can all resolve to reserve the row of lockers closest to the store for customers only.

Remember, you may be the victim tomorrow!

Lance Freman
Julian Garcia

Bach hissing

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the article which appeared in your "Opinion" column on Friday, Feb. 1, concerning the "rude hissing" during the MSC OPAS presentation of P.D.Q. Bach. I appreciate your observations of the performance and your audience analysis; however, after having spoken with Professor Schickele at the conclusion of the show, I discovered that there

are many areas in which you have been misinformed.

The production of the P.D.Q. Bach was not a "typical" MSC OPAS presentation. The intent of the show was for the audience (as well as the performers) to enjoy spoofing classical music — only to be performed by Professor Peter Schickele and his illustrious cohorts.

P.D.Q. Bach originated in New York City fifteen years ago. During the performance, the stage manager was the object of hisses from the audience. The tradition continues to this day in New York City — only, that is, until the performance. They were surprised and indeed pleased, with the reaction of the participative Aggie audience. The opening show of their nationwide tour, the Aggies made them welcome in other places except possibly the Aggie. They plan to return in the future. The Aggies make them feel as welcome as their hisses then, as they did during the tour.

As your column stated, "... (P.D.Q. Bach) was one of the better shows of Texas A&M in recent memory." The Aggie audience, however, who played a very special role in making the show as they were at home. Congratulations!

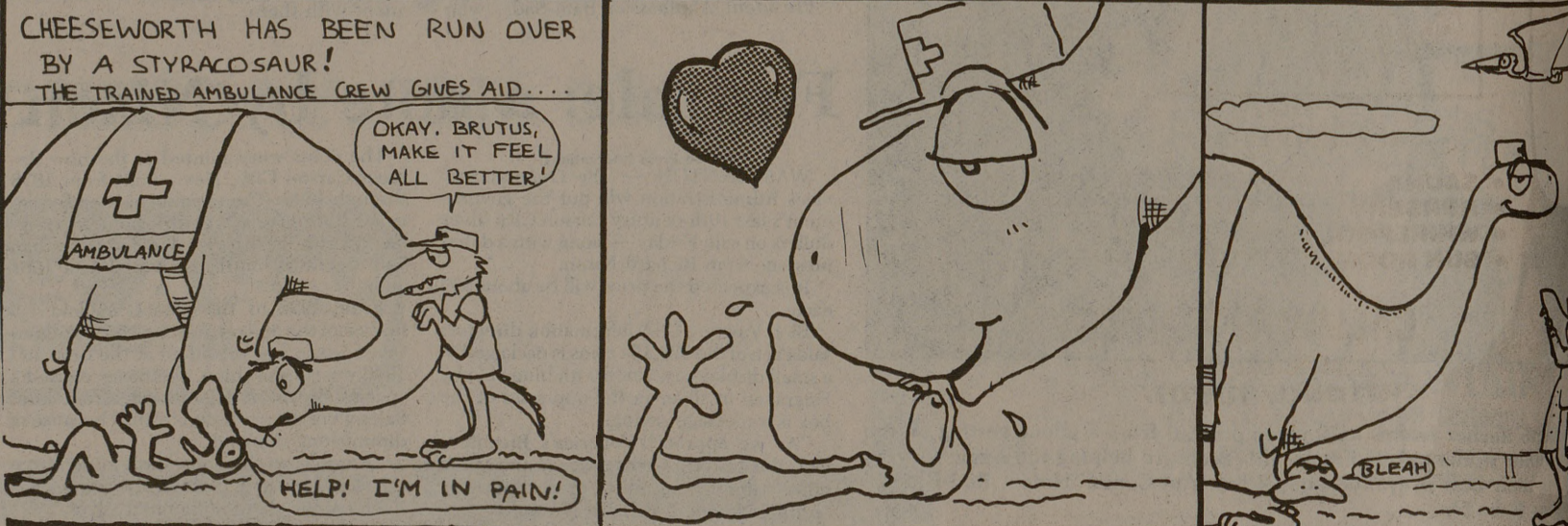
Richard B. ...
Chairman, MSC

Editor:

For your editorial of Feb. 1 concerning Aggie rudeness at an OPAS concert, to be congratulated, if not for standing foursquare behind culture itself, standing foursquare behind the culture. But, unfortunately and usually, you missed a tradition. When New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and the Aggie audience, the stage manager hissed. Hissing at the stage manager P.D.Q. Bach performance on the second, third and fourth appearances, indeed, "all during the show," the indication of the audience's support. Before leaping so readily to conclusions might do well, in future, to conduct an extensive investigation of events, circumstances and expectations. That which be other than it appears to be.

Alan ...
Katherine ...
Debra ...
Anthony ...
Jan ...

THOTZ



By Doug Graham