

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I've sure been getting more respect since I took up the violin."

OPINION

Carter wants stronger CIA

Buried on page 46 of the president's State of the Union report to the Congress is a brief but vital section titled, "Intelligence Charters."

In it, Carter told the Congress "a legislative charter of the intelligence agencies and a charter of the FBI are long overdue. Events of the past year indicate the need for a strengthened and clearly defined role for our intelligence community."

While the president may be referring to the difficulties in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan when he speaks of "events of the past year," he cannot escape responsibility for the sloppy job turned in by American intelligence in recent months.

Measures taken to correct the errors of past administrations in carrying to excess the use of intelligence gathering now are directly disrupting our ability to be prepared.

The American people want a strong CIA with abilities to report on what is transpiring in foreign lands that involve our national welfare. Congress should renew our intelligence capabilities without delay.

Martinsburg (W.Va.) Evening Journal

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 7, 1980



LETTERS

Eddie Chiles fights American apathy

Editor:
Your "Opinion" column in the February 4th Battalion is completely unjustified and an affront to Mr. Chiles. Here is a man using, as you put it, "several hundred thousand dollars," of "his own money" exhorting American citizens to use their inalienable right to vote for the government of their choice. Today, in the face of Russia's invasion into Afghanistan, the Iranian crisis and other world events, America more than ever needs strong and capable leaders. Mr. Chiles, it seems, is one of a very few whom appear to be concerned. For his efforts, you have decided his method of advertising, not to mention his right of free speech, is not effective and therefore the reason of your highly regarded opinion. How can a newspaper, its editor, or any of its writers be so sharply critical, in such a demeaning way, to America's right of free speech and voting privileges? If you take exception to the method Mr. Chiles uses in reaching the voting public, then why don't you come up with a better alternate method instead of attacking his?

Dale Hembree

CS EMTs need work

Editor:
Upon reading your front page story, "City Law Curtails A&M Ambulance Service", I was appalled at some of the statements made by councilman Gary Halter about TAMECT members "running around trying to play EMT."
Imagine that you are in a serious accident and losing a lot of blood. The ambulance arrives and on the way to the hospital you are at ease because you know that your life is in the hands of trained professionals. Suddenly, you realize something is wrong! The EMT that is with you can't seem to stop the bleeding or even get a blood-pressure reading. Next you hear mumble, "God, I'm so rusty, you're my first patient in a year." The hospital keeps radioing for vital signs, but the EMT isn't competent enough to measure them.

Sound like a nightmare? Well, this recently happened to me while riding in a City of College Station Emergency Rescue Fire Department Ambulance. Now I ask, who is "playing EMT" and who isn't? It is too bad, that the off-campus Aggies lose in answering that one. I know next time I will ride in someone's station wagon before I will let a City Ambulance pick me up; in fact, this experience shocked me so much that I recently joined TAMECT and found

its members very professional. Most of all they are students who care about other students. I encourage off-campus students to condemn the city council for its action.

David Mobley

Draft is important

Editor:
I would like to comment on an article which appeared in the Opinion column of the February 5, 1980, issue of The Battalion. Its author suggested that Americans are overreacting to the proposal which would reinstate selective service registration. The author pointed out that setting up a registration system is not equivalent to reinstating the draft, and that even if the draft is reinstated it is at least six months or a year away.

I believe that the author has failed to see several aspects of this problem which are indeed cause of immediate concern.

First, although the current proposal is only for registration, the time to oppose the draft, if one intends to, is now. If it is wrong to draft individuals into the military, it is equally wrong to force them to register for such a draft.

Secondly, when an action entails such devastating consequences for the lives of so many people, I hardly think that it is premature to begin some very serious thinking concerning the matter even a year in advance.

Most importantly, I do not believe that the author appreciated the nature of what I believe to be the most important decision that one must make upon receiving a draft notice from "Uncle Sam". The prospective soldier is always confronted with the question, "are you willing to give your life for your country?" But as George Patton once said, the purpose of war is not to give your life for your country, but to make make you enemy give his life for his. Thus should we not also ask the question, "are you willing to kill other human beings, much like yourself, in order to preserve the American way of life, or simply because someone with a bigger stick than yours told you to?"

I believe that this is the fundamental question that we must all answer in regard to this issue. Unfortunately, this question is usually avoided by viewing the enemy as something which is less than human — an attitude which is hardly consistent with the Christian values which most of us claim to espouse.

Robert C. Jones

B-CS growing fast

Editor:
This is a letter with regard to a very big problem in the College Station-Bryan area. I am a freshman in environmental design and I think what's happening in the CS-B area is disgraceful. I am a surfer/skateboarder from Houston and I realize that my point of view is very different from the "typical Aggies." I think TAMU is an excellent school and I really enjoy going to school here but, I think what's happening in the community is discouraging. The uncontrolled growth of the CS-B area is depressing. Every where you look see nothing but bulldozers and construction crews, or so it seems. The growth rate of the CS-B area is outrageous; growing up in Houston was bad enough.

For instance, the ramp we built for skateboarding is going to be demolished in a few days due to the construction of another complex of apartments. I realize most people could not even relate to having something that "fluid" under their feet but for me, there's nothing I'd rather do with my spare time. I realize people need a place to live however, I feel there must be a more efficient way to accommodate these people. The destruction going on has already gotten out of hand. For example, a few days ago I saw an entire grove of trees that took nature several decades to produce be flattened in about twenty minutes; that is not the way it should be. A few days prior to this there had been birds and rabbits among other forms of wildlife in these trees. The fact is that very few contractors

are even making an attempt to harmony with nature. The poor way of "trying to make a buck" is the entire community. These complex a number of years will be nothing than slums such as the "run down" Houston. Some designers have done a job in complexes but I think there be an effort made by builders and to utilize the environment in these these complexes. Because I would see College Station match its growth rate as well as its overgrowth of unbeatified conditions. After all, I take their pride in their school, what their community also?

Graham unfair

Editor:
Once again Batt cartoonist Doug Graham has taken an unwarranted and stantiated swipe at President Carter. Friday's Batt he implied that Carter only one weapon — a harmless one — to use against the aggressive Soviet — an Olympic boycott. Mr. Graham erred in that a boycott would hurt and that there are other weapons available to Carter.

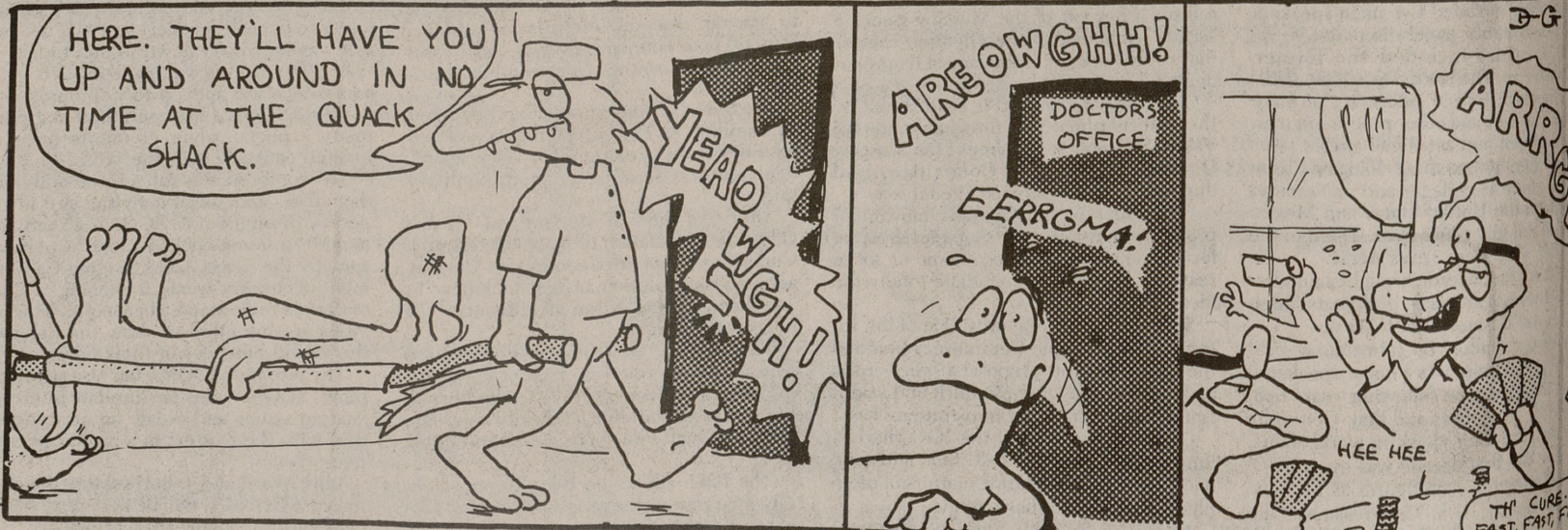
Russia has traditionally used their erment-supported athletes as a propaganda to claim Soviet superiority. Seeing the Olympics as a perfect showcase their alleged superiority, they made the highest bid ever to be the Games. They have prepared and ish rate observation, the Soviets have their perfect opportunity to world opinion of themselves. Taking American athletes would also take millions of dollars from tourists and Canada, African nations and others expected to withdraw if Soviet presence Afghanistan is not ended, and this further dash any hopes Russia has for Olympics, much less to gain world respect.

Not only would the proposed damage Russia, technology and embargoes and other economic sanctions will eventually cause Russia negotiating terms.

Personally, I do not support Carter's upcoming election, but Mr. Graham's supported attack on our Chief of State not serve any purpose. I would suggest Mr. Graham either draw political cartoons that are accurate or valid or limit his amusing cartoons about college life.

David Lyons

THOTZ



By Doug Graham