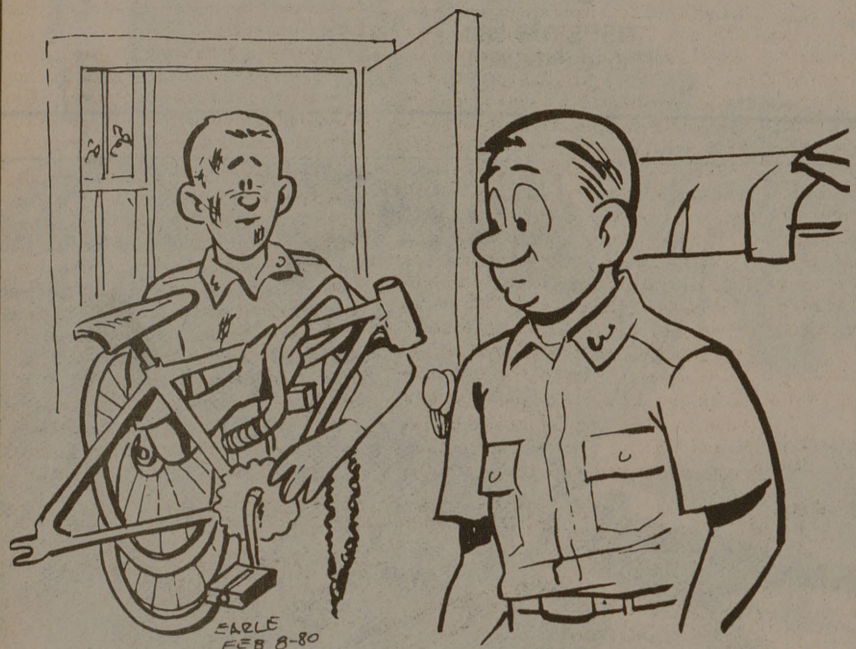


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"This is the last time I'm breaking it down and bringing it upstairs. From now on if anyone wants to steal it, he can have it."

OPINION

Soviet massacre appalling

The world must stand appalled at the cold-blooded massacre under Soviet orders that has virtually destroyed the village of Kerala in Afghanistan. An estimated 1,170 unarmed male villagers, including young teen-age boys, were pitilessly shot and, while some were still alive, bulldozed into a mass grave. The facts are stark, but they have to be confronted by an international community with any pretense to concern for ordinary human decency let alone human rights.

What is required is an independent official investigation by an organization such as the Red Cross or the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

No time should be lost. Recall the lingering controversy over the mass killing of Polish prisoners found buried in Katyn forest during World War II. Moscow no doubt will seek to avoid responsibility for the Kerala murders as it did for the Katyn massacre. The world should have a full accounting before the grim trail grows cold.

Christian Science Monitor, Boston

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 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 Tuesdays through Thursdays.

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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 1980

Administration speaking with many tongues on foreign issues

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

On the question of war and peace, the administration is beginning to speak with many voices.

In his recent State of the Union Address, President Carter said "any attempt by an outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

When Carter's special emissary, Clark Clifford, went to India to seek solidarity in condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he told reporters the president's declaration "means war" should there be an attack.

The use of the word "war" caused a semantical uproar. Clifford, while still abroad, was chided by Defense Secretary Harold Brown and by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for using "over dramatic" terms. But by any other name, the danger is the same. And while Brown was criticizing Clifford on Capitol Hill, generals briefing Pentagon reporters were saying the United States does not have enough con-

ventional forces and would have to use tactical nuclear weapons in any Persian Gulf confrontation.

Carter himself added some doubt to his strong stand when he told a group of editors Jan. 29: "I don't think it would be accurate for me to claim that this time or in the future we expect to have enough military strength and enough military presence there to defend the area unilaterally."

Meantime, Sen. Edward Kennedy, challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination, says Carter has created a "war hysteria."

The president's top advisers apparently agree that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan represents a new dimension in Soviet expansionism and a whole new ball game in terms of U.S.-Soviet relations. But some are more hawkish, including national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Vance appears to be toning down the confrontational aspects. But as the nation prepares for a possible conflict, with reg-

istration of its young people, there is no present indication of any new dialogue or statesmanship being exerted to find out if a new cold war, much less a hot war, can be averted without compromising principles.

Vance has had one Dutch uncle talk with Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin since the envoy returned from Moscow after relations had taken a turn for the worst.

Carter himself has obviously been stunned by the Russian moves, which have all but wiped out his hopes to make the world a more peaceful place, and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Recently, he has studied how his predecessors handled grave crises. He also sees a country strongly unified behind his strategy to draw a line against further incursions by the Soviets into areas that are of "vital interest" to the Western world.

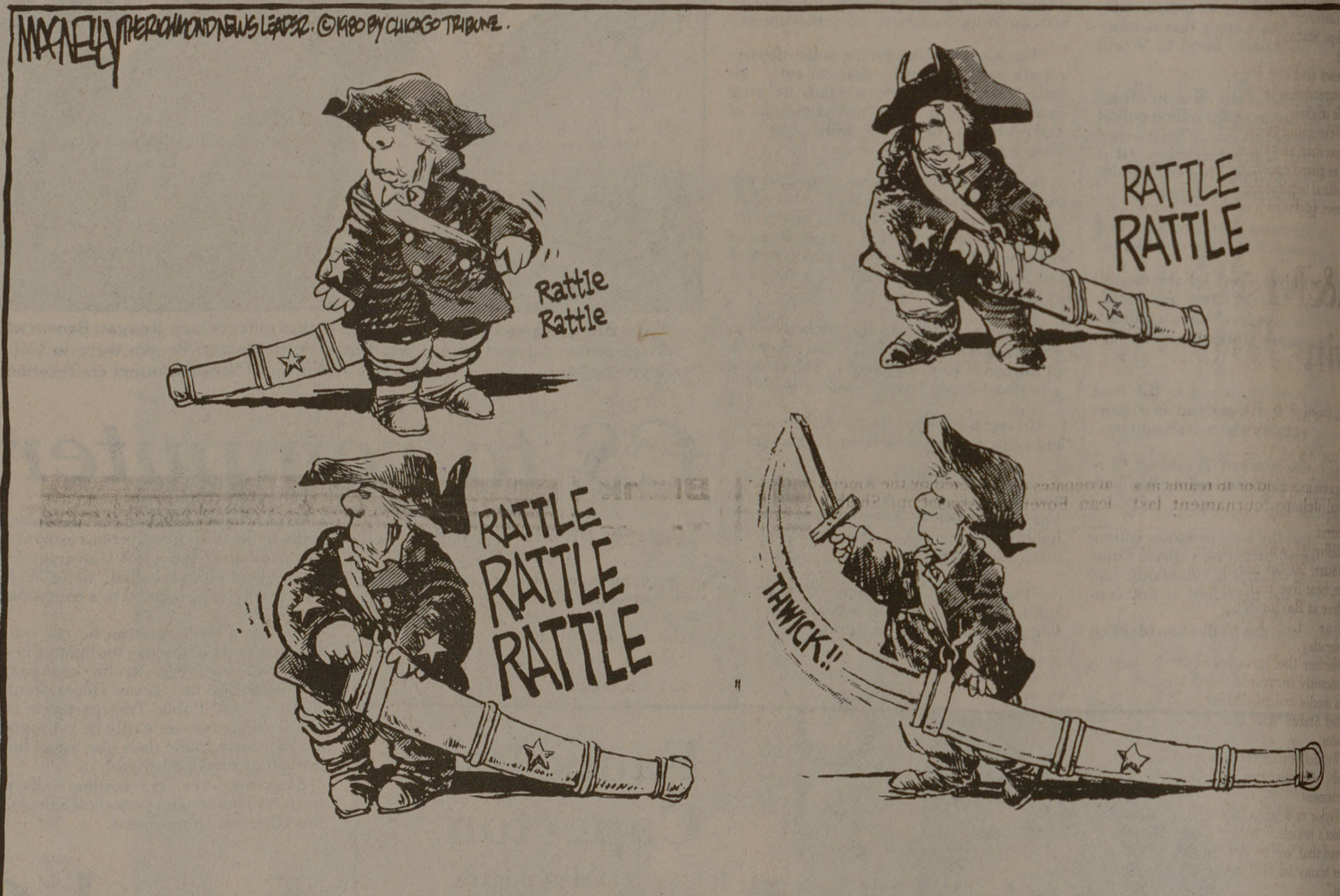
The Russians have complained that they do not understand Carter. And he undoubtedly does confound the Kremlin, which seems to prefer to deal with American hardliners, such as Richard Nixon.

According to some of his domestic political opponents, the president has been perceived as a leader who falters in his decisions, leaving the impression that he does not know what he is about.

In the case of the American hostages in Iran, Carter has displayed the utmost patience and stubbornness. The hostages appear to have accepted the approach, the main goal of which is to get the hostages alive.

Obviously, the president is being tested by new President Abolhassan Bani Sadr. Khomeini's backing for a face-saving promise for all concerned, perhaps the auspices of the United Nations.

With two crises to juggle in an election campaign well under way, Carter has his work cut out of him. He needs a systematic and steady course. It is time has probably come to articulate again where the country stands and where it is going in terms of war and



LETTERS

Yell leaders' actions improper

Editor:
The behavior of several of the yell leaders at the basketball games this season has been improper and out of character for such a respectable position. These men were elected with the confidence that they would perform their duties in an exemplary manner; however, their conduct has fallen short and should be corrected. I suggest they continue to remain in the role of generating enthusiasm from the crowd and leave the display of basketball shooting to the athletes. I much prefer being entertained by skilled athletes and Fightin' Texas Aggie Band than a yell leader and a group of neighborhood kids who now feel it's their privilege to misuse the facilities. We show respect by keeping people off Kyle Field; let's keep off the floor of C. Rolle.

Ken Poenisch

CS attitude shocking

Editor:
I am still in shock after reading about the

City of College Station's regarding Texas A&M University's Ambulance Service. Our elected public officials could not have demonstrated a more irresponsible lack of insight and leadership. After sifting through the rhetoric, the basic conflict seems to be one the lost revenue — not service. Perhaps by following Bryan's lead and working with the University instead of against it, service could be improved for everyone. As a citizen of College Station I feel appalled at the behavior of our Mayor and City Councilmen. As an off-campus Aggie, I feel cheated out of a fine service provided by my school. As a charter member of the TAMU Emergency Care Team, I am deeply insulted and offended. I know many of the present members personally and can attest to their exhaustive training and extensive experience. Many of them have gone on to be accepted into Medical School. As for having "hot rodders running around" and "trying to play EMT"; the absurdity of these claims warrants no further mention. But in spite of this, they want

us to back them up! If I remember correctly, back when Mr. Sherrill wanted out of the ambulance business the City wanted nothing to do with it. Now that they are in that business they don't want anyone muscling on their territory. I challenge every student and citizen to call or write our Mayor and City Councilmen to let them know where we, their constituents, stand on this issue. In the meantime, if I'm injured at home I'll call the University Ambulance for a "non-emergency (transfer) run."

Kyle C. Akers '82 MS II
Orin H. Lindberg MSII
Bill Brady MSII
Claire Miller MSI

Love it or understand

Editor:
This letter is in response to Mr. Jimmy Orr's letter in The Battalion of January 31. I'm sure that there are many Aggies out there who have grown up with the slogan, "America, love it or leave it." There is im-

PLICIT within this slogan a necessary choice between these two alternatives: namely loving our nation or leaving it. And if you love it, you won't leave it, and if you leave it, you don't love it. Therefore you must hate it. So if you love it, you won't even consider leaving it. Leaving it is proof that you hate it. The only ones fighting for it will be the ones who hate it, and I don't want people who hate it to fight for it. Is it vague, Mr. Orr? Make no mistake, there are no choices. But, if you are the model person you would have us believe you are, you have no choice whatsoever. Obey the draft to provide a clandestine avenue of escape from your rightful duty on our shores. So away with you, and if you're necessary to reply, please don't be slow.

David Stewart
Peter Gilman
Steve Burt

THOTZ

