

SLOUCH By Jim Earle



"I don't care too much for April Fool's jokes on April 1, but on April 3 I don't care for them at all."

OPINION

Supermarket freeze is telling

Time was when inflation was a subject taught only in economics courses in college.

Today, the lessons of inflation are being learned in America's kitchens, every time someone brings home a bottle of ketchup and finds the price stamped on the cap is five or ten cents higher than the one on the now-empty bottle being discarded.

On March 3, a modest movement got under way to keep the lid on some supermarket prices, at least temporarily. About a dozen major chains responded to an appeal from Esther Peterson, the president's special assistant for consumer affairs, and agreed to put a price ceiling on selected staple food items. The freezes will remain in effect for periods ranging from one to five months, depending on the chain.

In most cases, the stores have sufficient stock on hand or stockpiled to cover the expected demand. However, under the terms of the voluntary agreement, even if a retailer's costs go up on a given item, the price will not, at least for the duration of the agreed-upon freeze.

There are benefits in this program, both to the companies and to consumers.

In the long run, however, the supermarket price freeze is the most valuable for what it tells us about our fragile economy. This nation is in serious trouble, indeed, when a limited price freeze on selected grocery items can be touted by the White House as an "important contribution" to limiting inflationary pressures.

Keene (N.H.) Sentinel

the small society by Brickman



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THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
APRIL 3, 1980



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LETTERS Women allow bad treatment to occur

Editor:
In response to the letter of Strain, Melson, McDonnell and Caldwell I would first like to state that my views here do not reflect the majority of men at this university (if not in the world).

If the previously mentioned gentlemen (and I use the term loosely) would stop and think about why the women of this university act the way they do perhaps they would not be so quick to criticize.

Everyday I see women treated like, at best, second class citizens. Most of the men around here see the aspects of a woman in this order:

1. Body
2. Face
3. Hair

and it stops there.

If they take the time to find out that she has a personality and intellect so much the better.

I think you will find, gentlemen, that if you treat women as people first with rights, feelings, and minds that your social life will improve immensely. I personally have never been at a loss for female companionship at this university, using this ideal. And I would like to remind you that it is an ideal I believe in strongly.

I would like to point out however that conditions like this prevail only because women allow men to get away with such attitudes. I would no more date a woman who would allow me to get away with such abuse anymore than the women on campus will go out with gentlemen.

Men are people and they have rights. Women are people too, and they have rights also. It is a philosophy that works. I know. I am going to marry a woman that is a person in her own right at the end of the year.

Jeff Tix '80

Bad manners shown

Editor:
In response to Craig K. Strain's (and friends) letter of April 1, to The Battalion, I feel that the following comments should be made.

First of all, your statements with regard to the general nature of women at TAMU is rather absurd and shows that you gentlemen (and I use the term loosely) exhibit very little in the way of taste or manners.

Your second complaint deals with your lack of anything to do on Saturdays, which you state, in other words, stems from your

inability to meet women or be given a chance to do so.

Well, let me ask you this question: "How do you think you're going to meet anyone sitting in your dorm room or apartment all day wondering why you don't have a date or anything to do?" If you want to have a date this weekend, get out and get involved. Open your eyes to everyone around you. The next time you meet a girl, even if it's casually in the cafeteria, if you're interested ask her what her name is. You never know when you may see her again. And what have you got to lose? Absolutely nothing!

I honestly feel that if you're really interested in having something to do on Saturday nights or any night, you'd do something about it. If everyone, both men and women weren't so caught up in the "proper" ways of dating, this world would be a whole lot less complicated. Specifically, if we could all learn how to give and take each other's invitations for dates without feeling threatened, we'd all be much happier. I know that you'll must feel that this kind of lifestyle is utopian in nature, but I know that the world wasn't built in a day and I don't expect our social norms of behavior to change overnight.

In closing, Mr. Strain, I hope that if you haven't changed your feelings about women at A&M, that you've at least cleaned some of the cobwebs out of your mind.

Regina M. Schulte

SG not harmless

Editor:
Until last week, I considered Student Government (SG), a rather harmless group. Until last week, that is...

I am vehemently opposed to two actions SG took last week. The first was closing meeting to the press and non-elected students. No matter how often Ronnie Kapavik and Paul Bettencourt deny it, according to the Open Records Law, the SG is a governing body by virtue of the fact that they assess and collect a fee from every student through the semester fees, which must be paid in full to attend class. Not a voluntary contribution, it affects and relates to all the students on this campus, meeting Webster's criteria for the adjective "public." The elected members of SG betrayed the trust we placed in them last year at election time, and broke the law when they allowed the closed meeting.

The second controversial action was allo-

cating \$100,000 of student service funds and/or bookstore funds for women's athletics — far from it. But supporting an athletic department out of student service funds benefits very few students and thus the expenditure, approximately 10 percent of the student service fund, is not justifiable. If the bookstore provides the funds, other student organizations receiving bookstore funds currently include such groups as Aggie Cinema, Town Hall and Hospitality Committee.

Supporting athletics is a privilege, not a responsibility. We do support athletics voluntarily — how many of us buy season tickets for football, basketball and/or baseball, or join the Student Aggie Club? The equality in funding for men's and women's athletics should not be the student's responsibility but that of those who created that inequality — the administration and supporters of the athletic programs.

Lisa Nixon '81

SG deserves a break

Editor:
The Texas A&M Student Senate has been put under pressure by The Battalion to disclose the contents of a closed session last Wednesday night. It is important that we realize just what rights our student government has, and it is just as important to take an objective look at the performance of the campus media.

In the first place, the student senate did have the right to call a closed session. Their constitution allows for such sessions with unanimous consent, which was later obtained (and verified by reliable sources). The Texas Open Meeting Law does not apply to the senate, as the senate does not qualify as a governmental body; it merely suggests policy. But even if the student senate was a proper governmental body, disclosure would not be required under the Texas Open Records Law (Section 3 (a) (3)), because "information relating to litigation of a criminal or civil nature" was being discussed.

In the second place, The Battalion's editor, Roy Bragg, in Monday's paper is reported to have requested full disclosure of all germane information from the Wednesday meeting according to the law. However, in the same paper, in regards to these same laws, Bragg says "The senate claims that they're not covered by the Open Meet-

ings Law. Based on a preliminary hearing (see also Battalion, Friday) from an official in the attorney's office, they're probably right. Legality of the action is beside the point. It seems that there is a contradiction if the senate is legally exempt from formal "legal" motion for disclosure case, it is surprising to know that the editor of The Battalion knows the law but the state attorney pro-

Another question I have about the senate's closure is whether or not the senate does have obligations to its readers. Does it mean that the consequence of closure are not important? Should everything? Well, obviously not. The senate does to its constituents must consider the danger there has put on senate operations, shaken faith in our student government.

The press is also obligated to report news in an unbiased, accurate manner. Such language as "legal ploy," "tomfoolery," and "parliamentary flam" is hardly less than sensationalism. Nor is bragging about how the senate "attacked the senate for its actions."

In terms of the accuracy of campus news, Paul Bettencourt, Chairman of the Senate Committee, has this to say about the Battalion's accuracy concerning the Open Meetings Law... This is a law that we all knew about the law, but in our opinion do not come under its jurisdiction (27) But this is not the first such incident. In The Battalion of March 26, 1979, Reese, Commanding Officer of Mounted Cavalry, stated, "I feel campus media has been unfair in its coverage of our organization. I only hope other student organizations will not be the same traps I have in my desk." The Battalion and KAMU "Evil" that has happened.

In conclusion, we must learn things from both perspectives, trust everything we hear. A press attack on senators (or for that matter) as did the editors of The Battalion in this case, tends to create less desire to give information freely. It is a source of silence. Maybe that's why closed sessions.

Mark Strain
Scott Fox
Jay H. H.
Samira A.

THOTZ



By Doug Graha