

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
APRIL 28, 1980

OPINION

U.S. needed a boost instead of the botch

The rescue of the 53 American hostages in Tehran could have been the biggest boost for U.S. prestige in years. Instead, it was the biggest bust.

President Carter certainly was right in deciding such an attempt should be made. After almost six months of futile attempts to "talk" the hostages away from their captors, it was high time for a carefully planned and executed mission to attempt the rescue.

However, modern warfare is like every other area of modern society when it comes to machines: soldiers are just as dependent on technology as computer technicians. The plan was good — but some doubt remains as to whether men and machines were in the condition that such a mission required them to be in.

It's astounding that three of the eight helicopters sent on the mission had mechanical problems. One failure would be understandable; two failures was the maximum number deemed allowable for the mission's success. Whatever the cause, there can be no excuse for the failure of almost half of the vitally important helicopter task force, and the subsequent loss of eight American servicemen.

Let's hope the Iranian "rescue" isn't indicative of the overall combat capability of America's fighting men — or machines.

— Dillard Stone

Credibility hurt by CIA director's quote

Admiral Stansfield Turner stirred a hornet's nest when he said he intends to enlist journalists in secret missions abroad when he thinks it necessary.

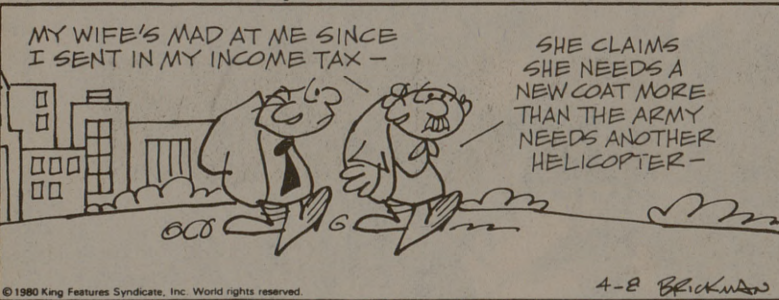
We regret that a man of the educational background of Admiral Turner should be so deficient in his understanding of the role of a free press in a free society that he fails to see the damage he has done with his remark. The admiral has done serious damage to the reputation of the American press, even if he never tries to recruit a single newsman or if no one succumbs to his blandishments.

America is having trouble enough now being respected in many places on this earth. But even the Ayatollah Khomeini has sufficient respect for the freedom of the American press to permit our reporters and television people to operate in relative freedom. Khomeini also realizes that an untrammelled press will give him a fair shake.

All the hypothetical spies in the world that Admiral Turner hopes to recruit from the journalistic profession wouldn't make up for one closed door.

Newport, R.I., Daily News

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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Staff Notebook

Changes — they are a-comin' at The Battalion

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Editor

This is it. A new era in Texas A&M journalism has begun.

I now have my turn to show the students of Texas A&M — not to mention my profs in the communications department — what I can do with their newspaper.

Most people thought I was crazy to run for editor of The Battalion.

My reasons are something akin to the McDonald's slogan: We're doing it all for you. The Battalion hasn't been as good as it could be recently. We're going to change that.

This is your newspaper — I and my staff are only entrusted with its care.

The Battalion should be much more than a thorn in the side, or a laughingstock of the

University. We are more than a mechanics lab for students interested in learning about newspaper production.

Students shouldn't have to make phone calls when they want to know something — we should have that information.

The Battalion should be the prime source of information on this campus. I think that says a lot about what I want to do with this newspaper.

Big talk? Perhaps, but it's backed up with big plans. And it's going to take big plans to meet an even bigger challenge — making The Battalion an accurate source of information for the students and a source of pride to the staff.

We've been delinquent in both roles in the past.

But we're going to need help.

That's where the student body comes in. For the rest of the semester, throughout the summer and on into next year, we would like a greater amount of interaction with the student body.

We want your opinions, your criticisms, your witticisms, your insight.

We want you to think of The Battalion as your newspaper, and we want you to use it as such.

We'll be providing news that you can use, opinions that will provoke some thought and coverage that will make you want to pick up The Battalion each day. We're determined to increase the quality and quantity of campus coverage.

And that revolves back on you, the reader. You've got to keep us informed when

something of interest happens. By staying to us, by keeping us informed about what's going on, you'll help make the paper you want it to be — informative and accurate.

We'll try to cover everything you want to see. We'll make no promises about what we're going to do in the paper if we're not told.

Although we're fallible, given a chance we'll correct our mistakes. We'll be providing news that you can use, opinions that will provoke some thought and coverage that will make you want to pick up The Battalion each day. We're supposed to be the best how to be perfect journalists by word of mouth.

That's always a challenge, sometimes scary.

Guest Column

Using malappropiate words sometimes funny

By BILL ROBERSON

Editor's note: The Battalion invites readers to check their contributions to the editorial page. Guest columns appearing on this page allow readers to relate their views of the world to Texas A&M students. Columns may be on anything the writer wishes, but they are printed at the discretion of the editor.

Just as the Sabbath was created to serve man and not vice-versa, language should serve mankind, rather than the converse. Language does indeed serve man, in that it functions as a means of communicating information, inquiries, and, yes, even humor.

Ironical twists of word usage, puns, well-timed jokes and other word applications are sources of refreshing amusement and have brightened the centuries of mankind. Unintended word usage often provides the most enjoyable conversation. A slip of the tongue brings color to any conversation, and on occasion, to the face of the speaker.

A cousin to the slip of the tongue is the malapropism. A malapropism is a humorous misapplication of a word; specifically, the use of a word sounding somewhat like the one intended but ludicrously wrong in context. (i.e. The allegory sat on the bank of the Nile.) Malapropisms are surely as old as language itself. Shakespeare often made use of the malapropism in his plays, as did R. B. Sheridan. In Sheridan's comedy, "The Rivals" (1775), one of the characters, Mrs. Malaprop, was noted for her misuse of words.

Malapropisms live on today. Yes, the noble usage is alive and well on the campus of Texas A&M.

A couple of years ago, my roommate fell victim to this. He stood in our kitchen examining a ham which had been a long-standing member of our refrigerated community.

Having sniffed the aged meat, he announced, "I'm a little eerie about eating

this ham."

In another instance, a friend of mine and I were sitting in the Memorial Student Center Cafeteria, conversing over a cup of coffee. He also became entangled in the use of the word "leery." Having weighed the alternative solutions to a problem, he leaned back in his chair and said, "I'm a bit weary about trying to take such a big risk." Later he told me that he was considering "weaning-out" some of the apathetic participants in a study of his. Of course he was actually planning to weed them out, being incapable of "weaning" anything.

This same fellow again fell prey to the notorious malapropism when he told me that he was planning to "emerge" his three separate studies. I was tempted to ask him into what he planned to emerge the poor chaps, having already threatened to wean them.

I cannot speculate as to what makes human language susceptible to malapropisms. Perhaps the brain stores its vocabular-

ary categorically according to word similarities and occasionally chooses the neighbor of the proper word (i.e. wean, merge-emerge). Perhaps the conscious chooses the malapropism rather than representing the intended message. For example, my roommate may have experienced an "eerie" when he smelled the rancid meat. My other friend felt that he was babying the apathetic students and therefore that he was "weaning" them.

In either case, the malapropism is interesting and delightful part of life. When spoken, they invariably deliver abstract message which produces a colorful imagery when considered in the text of the sentence. Malapropisms may otherwise be somewhat dreary.

Bill Roberson is a graduating major.

Letters

Evangelist's speech brings critics, plaudits

Preacher appreciated

Editor: I would like to express my thanks to the administration for allowing Ron Tewson to speak publicly at the MSC fountain these past few days on the topic "Is God Relevant to the 20th Century?" I am glad Texas A&M University is respecting and protecting our rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Many universities across the nation have not allowed similar speaking to be done in public. It is shocking that these basic liberties are being checked by governmental administrative regulations. I feel that the evidence shows that our selfish, affluent, "do whatever you want" concept of freedom has led to the loss of some of the real freedoms for which the founding fathers fought. So many people today are willing to give up these true liberties just to be left alone to pursue wealth.

But it is great to know that God and his principles, as laid down in the Bible, are relevant to the 20th century. Let's face it, without His principles we are left only with the arbitrary decisions of man. As one looks around today it is easy to see that this leads

only to differing opinions, and in general, chaos.

In a world where Christianity is attacked and discredited on every side, especially in the academic world, I appreciate the University allowing Mr. Tewson to speak and thus giving the students the opportunity to choose intellectually between Christianity or the humanistic thought of the day.

Mark Schulz, '82
Kent Welkener, '82

Trampling on rights

Editor: I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings concerning the young man who took it upon himself Wednesday afternoon to "enlighten" and sermonize to the people gathered around Rudder fountain. Why do people like this feel a compulsion to expound upon their personal religious beliefs in public? Now, I realize that this is a free country, and a university is a place where new ideas should be freely and openly discussed, and I've got nothing against free speech and all, but there's a

time and a place for everything. And I fail to see the necessity of junior evangelists sermonizing in public, when they could do so in private and thus speak only to those who want to listen, rather than speak to anyone who is within broadcasting range of their loudspeakers. That way we who do not wish to listen would not have to, and everyone would be happy. If these part-time preachers feel a calling to relay their religious messages to the multitudes in an unsolicited attempt to save us — please, don't do me any favors; if I want to listen, I'll call you.

Daniel Boone
Donald Parsons

Sbisa's food...

Editor: I am writing to express my total agreement with Ron Burchi's April 24 Letter to the Editor. My response to Sbisa's service of what they call "food" was for me to get off the board plan this semester. I have been doing very well, thank you, because of it, too!

All students who eat in Sbisa should note. If you get off the board plan, you save both time and money. Believe me, that less time you spend on the table adds up.

Another thing I want to mention concerns the rising price of the board plan. I don't think the increased revenue goes toward providing us with the best service possible; I believe it is spent on creating the number of people in Sbisa stand around drinking coffee all day acting like supervisors.

Chris B...

Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' Forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

By Doug Graber

THOTZ

