

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1980

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I've got this one instructor that you wouldn't believe. No jokes, no easy assignments, no cuts—all he wants us to do is learn, learn, learn!"



It's your turn

Students worry about present, not future

By SCOTT HARING

Quite a few earth-shaking things have happened around good old Aggieland recently. In the past nine months, the Board of Regents has undertaken a reorganization that promises to change the entire University system — At least that's what the newspapers tell us, right? But more recently, we've had other interesting things happen, too. The band was allegedly late to the first yell practice. Head Yell Leader Mark Outlaw came out against what everyone, including the much-chagrined Student Aggie Club, thought he would plug, the infamous "Ag flags." Panties appear in truck windows, and bad Ags disappear down Highway 6. An editorial yesterday showed surprise that those more recent events seemed much more important to the vast majority of Texas A&M students than the actions of the Board of Regents.

Why not? After all, the Board of Regents, as far as the average student is concerned, are a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Their actions are hard enough to understand in a present time-frame, much less to figure out the long-term effects of their decisions.

Besides, by the time those long-term effects come home, we'll all be long-term gone. This is the biggest factor in why some problems seem more pressing than others. To most, four years of college is a way station to another phase of life, to be completed as quickly and painlessly as possible and then forgotten. Anything that happens the day after graduation might as well not happen at all.

Now, after they've been out for awhile, former students tend to think more in long-range terms about the University. A sign of

increased maturity, no doubt. But with that finish line in sight, anybody close to graduation screens out any other thoughts and concentrates on those that will get him or her out in a hurry. Thoughts about the University in general run toward a mildly nostalgic, "I'll sure miss this place, but gee, I'm glad I'm leaving."

Another reason high-level moves don't excite students is the lack of impact the changes have on their day-to-day lives. No matter who the president, or the chancellor or the regents are, the classes will still be there, the profs will teach the same way, the tests will be just as hard, and Friday night party-goers will still talk about the football team.

On the other hand, there are things like the band being late for midnight yell practice and no cutting site for bonfire. These are important. They happen next week or next month. They have relevance to the daily life of the student. You can talk about it in class before the prof shows up or at a party.

So don't expect the students to be totally absorbed with the problems of the top-dog administrators of Texas A&M. When it gets right down to it, Friday's biology exam means a heck of a lot more than who sits in the president's chair.

It doesn't mean that the students haven't formed an opinion on the issue. Witness the hissing that greeted Chairman Frank W. R. Hubert at halftime last weekend. But that was just a knee-jerk reaction from a group of students who had made up their minds with just a brief glance at the facts. But you really can't blame them. They're only trying to pull some grades and survive until next semester.

Scott Haring is Battalion assistant managing editor.

Doubts raised about cancelled rescue

Editor:

In spite of the many unanswered questions concerning the aborted rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran, at least a few fascinating facts have been revealed to the public that may not be generally known by many of us.

During the time that followed that aborted mission, Americans were told that the rescue mission was ordered aborted by Jimmy Carter because of circumstances that led to all but five helicopters being put out of operation, and that a minimum of six operating helicopters would suffice in keeping the mission alive. The logical question follows: How could the mission be totally operational with six helicopters, and completely unreliable with five helicopters?

Considering this, many investigators sought a more realistic answer as to why Jimmy Carter cancelled the mission, and British intelligence sources provided a disturbing answer. British intelligence has a tap into the White House "hot line" with the Soviet Union. On the night of the mission, our British friends listened to ominous threats from the Soviets summoning Jimmy Carter to get the rescue force out of Iran. Jimmy Carter was in such wild alarm to obey these commands that five perfect helicopters, mass quantities of highly classified material, and eight dead American troopers were left behind.

This leaves me with no respect for Jimmy Carter. A nation led by one of such microscopic fortitude has calamity thinly veiled nigh in its path.

James Sawtelle

Aggie rudeness

Editor:

I would like to discuss two things: first, the rudeness of "Aggies" at all concerts that have ever been brought to A&M; and, second, the lack of respect for "Aggie" traditions by all freshman and most "non-reggs."

Concerning the concerts; anyone who was at the Larry Gatlin concert will remember the rudeness with which some people verbally assaulted Mr. Gatlin at a specifically strategic and touching point. When Mr. Gatlin, who was giving much more than any other artist had ever given, attempted to give a very emotional and personal touch to his performance, a few very rude people accosted him with that typical Aggie crudeness. (I must add that Mr. Gatlin handled them well.) But this was not a unique incident, this occurs at all presentations by Town Hall. I think Town Hall

should be more concerned with the rudeness of audiences, than whether or not there are frisbees in the Coliseum. I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Gatlin never came back to A&M, because a few people chose to embarrass the rest of the audience. I know I'm ashamed. Are they?

Concerning midnight Yell Practice, and the traditions that go along with it. First, take your hats off when going into Kyle Field — it's a memorial, and should be treated with that respect. Second, it's a senior privilege to walk on the "wood", and an Aggie always gets off the wood when the band is playing, especially when playing "The War Hymn" or "Spirit". Third, an Aggie always shows respect for other Aggies, even at Yell Practice. Fourth, there are to be no alcoholic beverages in Kyle field at any time — that's not only school policy, but part of the respect and tradition that goes along with the memorial itself. Lastly, if you are going to bother attending Yell Practice at all, then why not stay until the very end. Sure it's late, but you'll get home only minutes later by waiting it out, and you won't be rude in annoying your fellow Ags, who are earnestly trying to give their firm support in the 12th man tradition.

If Aggies continue to insult guests, fellow Aggies, and visitors to our school, then — as every school in America today is — A&M will become just another High School. Give a Damn!

Albert C. Cross '81

Mosley the villian

Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of my fellow students for personifying the cause of all our problems here at Texas A&M. He appears every Saturday wearing No. 11 and a black hat. His name: Mike Mosley.

Yeah, that's got to be it. Mike Mosley. Isn't he the same guy who kicked over the lantern in Mrs. O'Leary's barn? Someone said he was the captain of the Titanic, but I heard that he was really the radar operator at Pearl Harbor. And who really opened Pandora's box? Yep, Mike did it.

We've got to do something about this guy

before he gives Reveille rabies or runs into the rear of someone's Pinto. He'll almighty knee injury.

It is said that to every cloud there is a lining. It's true because all of this adversity shed light on one of the most perplexing questions of all time. Who shot J. R. P. I'll leave you one guess.

Don Jones

Stick with the dummies

Editor:

This is in reference to Jack Cherry's Monday's Battalion. So Mr. Cherry, you vote for a man who has "at least some sense of intelligence," like Jimmy Carter, who can blame you? How could anyone deny the wisdom of a man who invites tailed, blue jean-clad, Willie Nelson to White House to "paraphrase" our national anthem? A man who sends a dodging boxer, whose formal education the way through the twelfth grade, as a representative of the United States? A man who uses the phrase, "code-word" to describe rights, a principle upon which our nation was founded, and for which brave men have died? Your logic is certainly crystal clear. Mr. Cherry; however, I think I'll stick with dummies like Reagan and Clements.

Dale K. Harbo

Return free refills

Editor:

On behalf of the students who enjoy drinking coffee in the Memorial Student Center until the price became prohibitive, I ask a question: How much does it cost to make a cup of coffee? 25 cents? I don't think so.

I doubt that it costs more than a nickel, so why are college students charged a quarter cup and same for each refill? Twenty-five cents a cup may be reasonable if it included a writer.

Brien Hickman

Editor's note: The coffee refill charge in the MSC Cafeteria was instituted to discourage students from using the cafeteria as a lounge area.

This letter was accompanied by 125 signatures.

Page 2 is your page, too

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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