

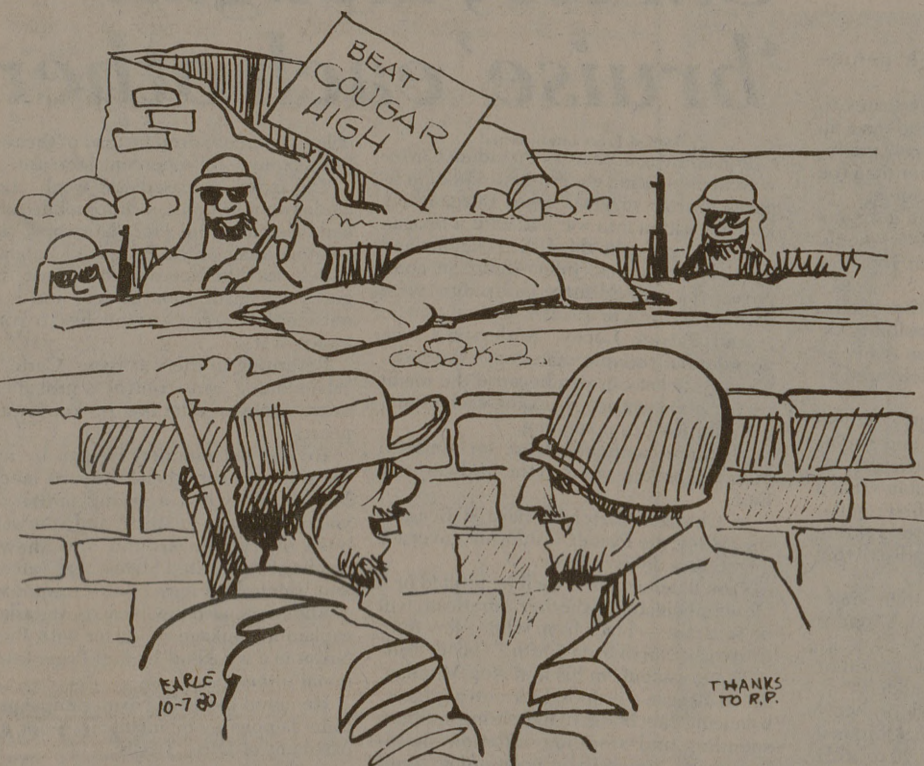
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 7, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"At least there seems to be some ground for agreement in this Iraqi-Iran mess, at least among those of us who are Aggies."

Designer clothes confuse, bring desire for label of own

Growing up in a family of four women, it was considered a financial blessing that my mother sewed. She was always wonderful about using her trusty Singer to whiz out dresses just like Suzy's, formals for the junior banquet, and mouse costumes for the Christmas skit. She dressed us all with a new Easter dress every year, majorette and cheerleader uniforms, and play clothes that would go through all three sisters with no sweat.

Though her skill was more of an art, it was hard for me to appreciate her work at the age of eight. All I could worry about was why I couldn't buy my clothes at J.C. Penney like all the other girls in the second grade. It was a real treat when I got a "ready-made" dress, and I remember wanting to leave the tag on so everyone would know that this dress was store bought. Thanks to my mother and Daddy's pocket knife, I was kept from entering the classroom with a Sears tag dangling from my sleeve. I learned that wearing tags on your clothes was uncouth.

You can certainly understand my confusion,

Offhand

By Venita McCellon

then, when I came to Texas A&M University and entered the region of designer labels.

The first labels I came to recognize were those that were noted by an animal somewhere on the garment. I first thought these must be some new adult line of Garanimals, the children's line of clothing that helps them learn to be color coordinated by matching hippopotamus pants with a hippopotamus shirt and hippopotamus socks. I was sure that if the fashion conscious wore alligator shirts, they must also wear alligator pants to keep from accidentally matching green plaids with blue polka-dots. Naturally, when I saw a girl on the street with an alligator shirt and swan jeans, I began to investigate.

I became an observer of fashion, appalled at the number of uncouth people going around with tags all over their clothes. It was a fact that had slipped by me and all of my hometown. At New Day School, the closest we came to designer labels was the little orange trademark tag Levis. Alas, I was missing my chance to have Calvin Klein plastered across my chest and clout.

Further investigation, though, soon revealed that any benefits I reaped from wearing designer labels would be well-earned. Since I couldn't bring myself to pay a week's wages to have Calvin Klein plastered across my chest, I decided to make my own. And it isn't just the money. I still can't remember the simple rule I learned in second grade: just isn't nice to flaunt your brand of name. But, since I now sew most of my own clothes, I think I should be able to make my own labels made. But, my labels are unique, and though it may not get me the prestige, it will read "Only Mine—Else's."



It's your turn

Different view about life as a 'triplet'

Editor:

I am afraid I have to disagree with the overly optimistic view that was presented in the Battalion concerning three-to-a-room life in Neeley-Hobby dorms. I am a "triplet" who is not very happy with the "temporary" situation. The reason I am displeased is not because I am having trouble with my roommates, although I do know other girls who are having this problem. On the contrary, the three of us get along fine. I would like to voice some complaints, however, that I feel were not adequately covered in your article.

Not enough room is probably one of our biggest problems. We are located on the short side of Neeley Hall. For those of you who are unaware of it, the rooms on one side of Neeley (the side facing Hotard) are considerably shorter than the other side. Our room is approximately three feet shorter than the room across the hall, which intensifies our lack of space. Some of the cramped situations could have been avoided if the Housing Office had assigned girls low on the list to move out to the longer rooms. This was obviously not a consideration, though, since there are at least as many, if not more, "temporary" girls still living in the smaller rooms.

The fact that the rooms are specifically designed for two people, not three, is also creating problems. There are only two desks in the

room, two sets of drawers, etc. No matter how hard one attempts to be fair, it is impossible to give each of us 2/3 of a desk. Even if we were able to get another desk, there would not be a place to put it.

Another thing which bothers me is that we have not, as yet, gotten any real indication as to when this "temporary" living situation will be terminated. The Housing Office did tell us to expect that the temporaries would be with us the rest of the semester. But who is to say what will happen next semester? And what guarantee do we have that this over-crowding will not happen again? Admittedly everyone, even the Housing Office, is allowed a few mistakes, even mistakes of such great magnitude such as this. But it seems that we are the ones having to pay for the Housing Office's mistake. This is one person who is far from pleased with the triplet situation.

Karen Huth '82

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 14 other signatures.

Doesn't mind a reminder

Editor:

This is in response to the second letter of the day's Batt.

It disturbs me to see that someone openly foster apathy in regards to Aggie tradition. At times, I have forgotten traditions have done things like walk on the MS and wear my hat in Kyle stadium. People me and tell me I am doing the wrong thing not look on that as "playing Joe good Ag" that as someone who cares enough about A&M to remind me so that I come to Aggie tradition, not loathe it. If being rebothers you, perhaps you should abide tradition and appreciate it for the thing that Aggies unique instead of condemning "Good Ags" for caring about their school.

Glenn Gardner

Carter, Anderson face debate problems

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Publicly, John Anderson is the candidate who is most unhappy about the apparent collapse of prospects for further "debates" in the presidential campaign. Anderson had counted on the joint appearances with Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan to sustain his long-shot bid for the White House. Without them, he has few cards to play.

But in traveling through the key states of Pennsylvania and Illinois last week and talking with some officials in both the Reagan and Carter campaigns, it became evident that there is a considerable degree of nervousness in those camps as well about the consequences of the "no-debate" decision.

Officially, the Carter campaign would have you believe that it is delighted to have the debate monkey off its back.

Carter accepted last week's bid from the League of Women Voters to save the "debates" by having a Carter-Reagan one-on-one followed by a three-way match including Anderson. Reagan said no to that, ostensibly because it would be unfair to Anderson and would require Reagan to prepare for three of the joint appearances while Carter did only two.

After taking a good deal of verbal and editorial abuse for boycotting the first of the League panels, Carter was happy to let Reagan be the fall guy.

But in the states where Carter is battling Reagan on even terms, there were some Democrats who suggested that Carter is still in trouble on the "debate" issue.

They made two arguments. Carter's paid media program is more modest than Reagan's, in part because Reagan has the advantage of the "independent" expenditures by conservative groups and in part because the Reagan campaign has managed to lay off onto state Republican parties more of the costs of phone banks, direct-mail and headquarter operations than Carter has shifted from his budget to the Democratic state committees.

By absenting himself from what will apparently be the only "debate" of the year, Carter forfeited an opportunity to make his basic case for re-election to the biggest free audience of the campaign.

The second argument concerns the future of the Anderson candidacy. With the independent challenger now declining, it is foreseeable, these Democrats say, that in three weeks

or so Carter or his emissaries might be in a position to remind Anderson of his earlier pledge not to be a "spoiler," if his only effect was to increase Reagan's chances of victory.

But, as one astute Democrat remarked to me, "How in hell does Carter ask Anderson to step aside, if it's Carter, not Reagan, who has refused to meet Anderson in debate? I think we've got another (Ted) Kennedy situation, where Carter's refusal to debate makes the challenger reluctant as hell to quit the race just to accommodate Jimmy."

As for Reagan, leading Republicans in both Illinois and Pennsylvania — including both early Reagan supporters and some who are very close to running mate George Bush — expressed real misgivings about Reagan's decision to shut off further "debates."

"I would never be reluctant to send Ron Reagan into a debate," said his Illinois campaign chairman, Don Totten. "He (Reagan) doesn't need to be protected," said a senior Republican official in Pennsylvania.

While these Republicans have great respect for the polling data of Richard Wirthlin, which made the Reagan senior advisory board believe the challenger was far enough ahead of Carter not to need another "debate," their own assessment of the situation in their states is less sanguine.

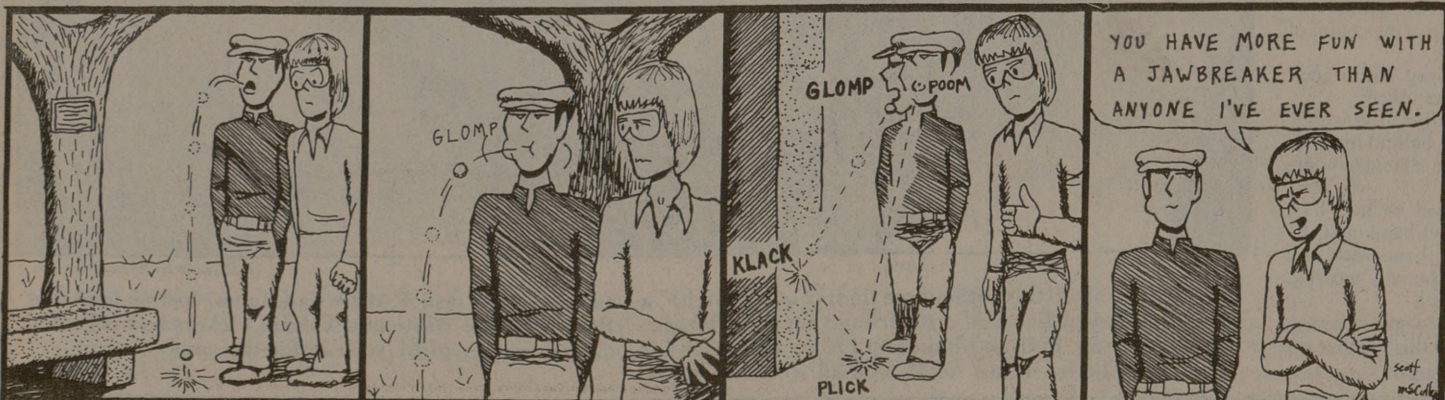
"I don't think we have this thing nailed down near as solid as it ought to be, when you're facing an incumbent," one top Pennsylvanian said he told Bush on his swing through Pennsylvania. According to him, Bush indicated that he shared the sense that Reagan could not afford to "sit on his lead" and adopt a minimal-risk strategy of avoiding any face-to-face meeting with Carter.

An argument used by top Republicans in both states is that the shaky world situation makes a Reagan-Carter debate more imperative from Reagan's viewpoint — not less.

"It there's a date for a debate, and the Middle East or something else blows up, then the onus is on Carter if he cancels," I was told. "But if there's no agreement, and there's an international crisis, then he (Carter) becomes Mr. President and Mr. Commander-in-Chief on the news, and our guy (Reagan) is just another bystander, watching it all happen."

For all these reasons, the "missing debates" could undercut more than Anderson's campaign strategy.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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