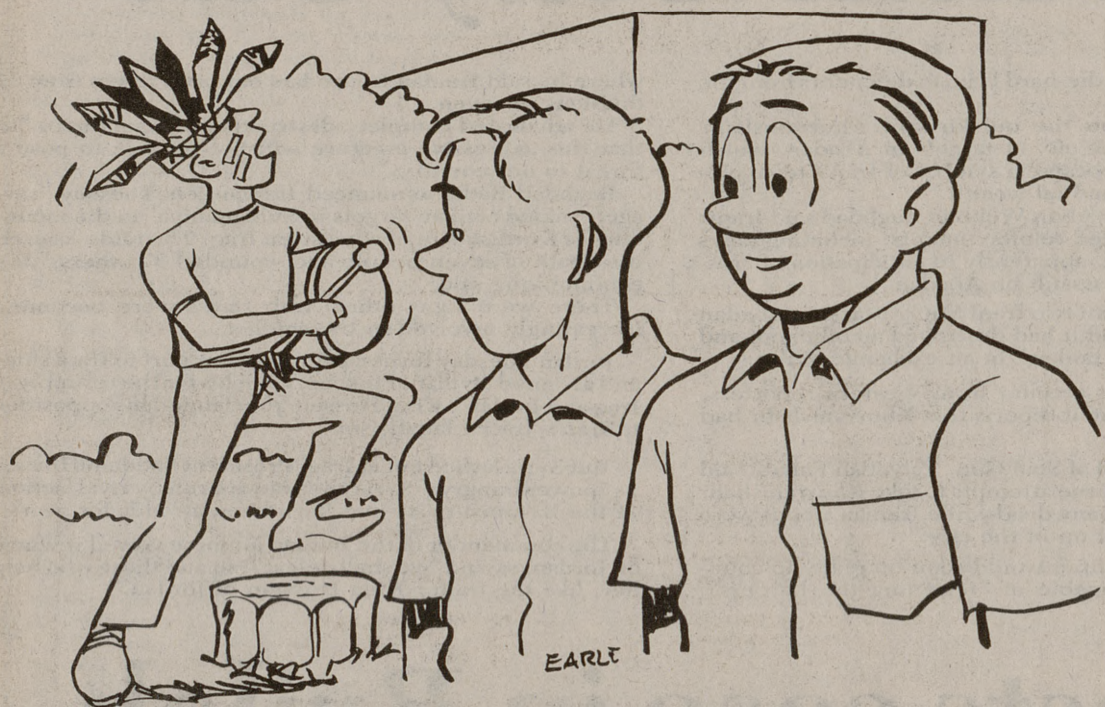


# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 8, 1980

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Even if it worked, I'd rather have the peace and quiet than the rain."

## Disruption of Silver Taps defeats ceremony's purpose

The stillness in the air was a reflection of the somberness of the occasion. Just as it should be for a Silver Taps.

The Ross Volunteer firing squad marched in to their funeral cadence, a haunting sound in the quiet surroundings.

"First order ... ready ... aim ..."  
"WHOO!! WAY TO GO JIM!!"  
"Fire!"

It doesn't take much to disturb the quietude of a solemn ceremony ... even from a mile away.

And those who attended Silver Taps last night certainly had their quiet reflection interrupted from the direction of the Penberthy intramural complex. Shouts of exuberance and desperation from the intramural football games were severely out of place with the atmosphere of a Silver Taps ceremony.

Many of us look upon Silver Taps as a private, very special ceremony — something we are rather honored to participate in. It's our privilege as Aggies to pay homage to a fellow student.

In keeping with this personalized feeling we have about the ceremony, I really couldn't care whether each and every other student thinks Silver Taps is worth his while. It would be nice if we had more than 3,000 students at a Silver

### Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

Taps, but the intimacy of the ceremony is not diminished by the number attending, be it large or small.

What's upsetting is the scheduling of University events at the same time as Silver Taps.

Having an intramural game scheduled at the same time forces some to make a choice between an obligation to a group and a memorial to a comrade.

It also distracts those of us who can hear the whistles, yells, and cheers of those involved in the athletic events.

But the Intramural Department isn't the only University-related organization which conflicts with Taps.

On at least one occasion last year, one of the student programming groups started a three-hour movie at 8 p.m. Those who wanted to see the movie and attend Taps were confronted with the dilemma of which to attend.

Petty complaint? I think not — consider the relative infrequency with which Silver Taps occurs.

Silver Taps was formerly held as soon as possible on a Tuesday after a student's death, and no more than four times this year, the student senate recommended Taps be changed to the first Tuesday of each month — when necessary.

So everyone knows when a Silver Taps will be held — no more than four times this year, and no more than three times next year. There's no more hit-and-miss involving scheduling University activities at the time as a Silver Taps — conflicts can be avoided by not scheduling any events at 8 p.m. on the first Tuesday each month.

Fraternity parties and off-campus dance things we can't do anything about on the night of Taps; but off-campus activities don't intrude on the solemnity of the ceremony.

University-sponsored events should conflict with University-sponsored memorial services.

Such conflicts put University offices in a situation at a time when harmony and single purpose are truly called for.

## Congressional races display campaign skill

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — There are rather good election campaigns going on out there — once you get past Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and John B. Anderson. In the contests for Senate and House seats and the relatively few governorships that are up this year, there are genuine debates between vigorous advocates of opposing views and contenders with credentials for the office they are seeking.

Because the presidency so totally — and inappropriately — dominates the political dialogue, even in a year when the major contenders are saying almost nothing, these other campaigns tend to be overshadowed. But there are some things happening at other levels of the ballot that are worthy of note.

The passage of power from the older to the younger generation — still stymied in the White House — is proceeding apace at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Time is a capricious master. While many voters seem ready to start a novice 69-year-old in the presidency, those in New York have turned wise and experienced 76-year-old Sen. Jacob Javits (R) from a favorite for re-election into a third-place contender on a minor-party line. Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D), the person likely to replace him, is 39.

At the other end of the country, Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D), 75, who has represented Washington in Congress since 1937, faces his toughest challenge in decades from Atty. Gen. Slade Gorton (R), a comparative stripling of 52.

Sen. Milton R. Young (R) of North Dakota, 82, is at last yielding his seat to his intra-party rival, Rep. Mark Andrews (R), 54, and Andrews in turn may be replaced in the House by Tax Commissioner Byron Dorgan (D), 38, a one-time anti-war activist who is part of the national network of populists and neighborhood organizers.

North Dakota is not the only state where retirements have created opportunities for younger politicians who have been eager to take on greater responsibilities. The same thing has happened with Senate seats in Connecticut, Illinois, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania — though skeptics can properly wonder whether the replacement in any of those states will match the quality of the retirees.

In the House, the probable pattern is one of stability — not change — and that is welcome. There are only 43 open seats, where the incumbents are retiring, running for other office or were defeated in primaries. The 10 percent vacancy rate is the lowest in recent years.

While several senior House Democrats like

John Brademas of Indiana, Morris K. Udall of Arizona and Bob Eckhardt of Texas face unusually stiff challenges, in general the re-election prospects for both Democrats and Republicans who were first elected in the 1970s appear excellent in this first election of the 1980s.

That stability is welcome, because the high turnover rate in the house in the elections of the 1970s — and the prospect of another wholesale reshuffling following redistricting in 1982 — have made the House quirky, nervous and unpredictable.

The political security that junior members will gain from having one more election safely under their belts should make it somewhat easier for them to accept the discipline and responsibility of facing up to the hard legislative choices many of them have been inclined to finesse in their first few sessions.

Meantime, the congressional and senatorial candidates in many districts and states are providing the kind of stimulating debate that has been so conspicuously missing in the presidential contest.

The other week, I heard Rep. Chris Dodd (D) and ex-Sen. Jim Buckley (R) present an exceptionally skillful and civil definition of their contrasting energy and economic policies in Connecticut.

Iowans have had a slam-bang series of debates between Sen. John Culver (D) and his challenger, Rep. Charles Grassley (R). In Colorado, Sen. Gary(D) has agreed to several debates with his opponent, Secretary of State Mary Estill Buchanan (R). And in Oregon, Sen. Bob Packwood (R) is doing the same thing with state Sen. Ted Kulongoski (D).

In almost all these races, the choice for voters is not between the lesser of two evils but between rivals who seem fully qualified by temperament, age and experience for the job.

The same is true in some of the House districts I have visited. Voters around New Haven, for example, have the luxury of choosing between two men who made exceptional records in the state Senate — Democrat Joe Liebean and Republican Larry DeNardis — to succeed retiring House Budget Committee Chairman Robert Giaino (D).

Many of the best of the new candidates this year are women, and some of them — like Lynn Martin (R) in Illinois' 16th District and Lynn Cutler (D) in Iowa's 3rd District, are waging their contests with a vigor and skill you wish could be transfused into the lackluster presidential race.



### It's your turn

## 'The System' shatters Aggie expectation

Editor:

More than two years ago I decided to enter the college of tradition, Texas A&M University. I had a great deal of dreams and desires of what I thought attending A&M would be like. My expectations of A&M were high. However, when I came to A&M, some of my expectations were shattered.

Housing was one of them. The first thing I ever did to enroll at A&M was to register for housing. I and my other fellow freshman Aggies had to do this at the end of our junior year in high school. Most juniors at that time had not even started to think about college, yet we were already filling out the forms; therefore, I expected to receive an on-campus dorm. However, a year and two months later, I received a letter which stated that I was in one of the brand-new married student's apartments. I was to have three roommates, a kitchen and a bathroom, which did not sound bad at all. Until I had my first look!

I went in the door expecting at least two rooms, but I found a cold, dismal square room with a stove, sink and refrigerator built into the wall. The only furniture in the apartment was four old, smelly mattresses and six portable

room dividers. I had expected to have only one roommate in an on-campus dorm, but I was rewarded with three; therefore, concentrating on my studies was very difficult because someone was usually talking. Also, I did not expect to have to buy any kitchen supplies or second-hand furniture, which put a big hole in my bank account.

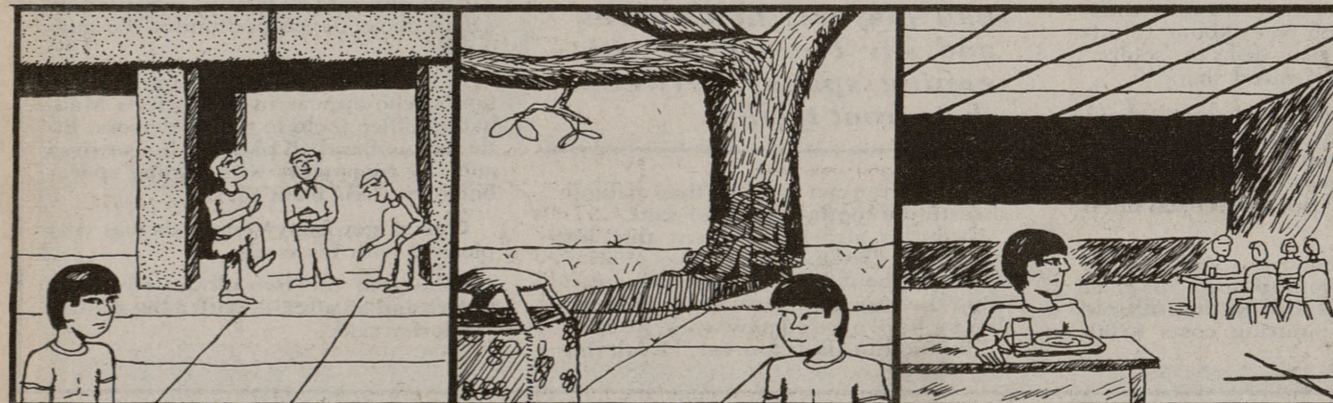
This apartment complex did not have the dorm-life that I expected either. Unlike most colleges, the dorms at A&M are the fraternities in which each dorm has its own songs, traditions and social activities. The halls have a lot of group activities which create a dorm spirit within the whole Aggie spirit.

Housing and brotherhood are not the only expectations that have been mismanaged. The system in general is not what I expected. I registered in June, months before classes started, and I anticipated that my schedule

would be correct. However, I had two classes scheduled at the same time and six classes one day. So I was sent to the Biomedical Sciences building to correct this error. I was told person, who is supposedly my advisor, to change my schedule by myself. I had to drop my classes from a computer sheet which was hard to read. I also expected my tuition correct, but it was not. I found that I needed some refunds; therefore, I went from one campus to the other and back again only to obtain an answer which was to come back three weeks to get my refund. I had expected get refunded in one specific office, such as Fiscal Department, instead of having to go to different offices for different refunds. Although Texas A&M has a great number of people, I feel they could provide better housing and reorganize the system.

Bradford N. Co

### Warped



### By Scott McCullar

THIS IS JUST A REMINDER THAT A "FOREIGN STUDENT" CAN ALSO BE DEFINED AS WHAT YOU WOULD BE CALLED, ATTENDING SCHOOL IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

### THE BATTALION

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