

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 16, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This is the hardest part of the Aggie Blood Drive — keeping the donors in a voluntary state!"

Pro-Myers votes came from intellectual rebels

By DON PHILLIPS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The 30 congressmen who voted not to expel Rep. Michael Myers, D-Pa., from the House are an odd assortment of House leaders, liberals, minorities and men who are themselves in trouble in Abscam and other investigations.

In short, the Myers expulsion was opposed by some of the most respected and the most suspected people in the House.

The reasons for their "no's" in the 376-30 vote, clearly, are different.

Of course, almost no one voted against Myers' expulsion because they wanted to support Myers. House members who viewed the videotapes of Myers both accepting a bribe and demanding more were repulsed.

And perhaps even more damaging was Myers' slugging of a waitress in a suburban bar in January 1979. Despite society's trend toward liberation for women, Congress remains an outwardly chivalrous institution; a gentleman does not hit a woman.

To vote for Myers, members had to be spurred by other reasons than popularity.

Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Calif., and others who have been disciplined by the House in the "Koreagate" scandal and other such incidents, felt a natural kinship for someone in the same situation.

For those indicted or implicated in the Abscam investigation, the no vote is easy to understand. They almost certainly feel the hot breath of their colleagues on their own necks. If it can happen to Myers, it can happen to them.

In reality, probably no other Abscam member will be expelled.

Of the three Abscam members who voted "no," Rep. Richard Kelley, R-Fla., was defeated in a primary election. Reps. John Murphy, D-N.Y., is an influential committee chairman, and Rep. Raymond Lederer, D-Pa., is not nearly as unpopular as Myers.

Two other House members implicated in the Abscam scandal — Reps. John Jenrette, D-S.C., and Frank Thompson, D-N.J., did not vote. Thompson, however, is a popular man with his colleagues and no one believes he would ever be expelled.

Jenrette is on trial as an Abscam defendant in

Washington, and perhaps is in as much danger as any Abscam congressman.

But Jenrette and all the others indicted in the Abscam investigation have one thing going for them that Myers did not have. Their cases will not come before the House with an election only a few weeks away.

It was this volatile political situation that brought several respected House members to vote against the Myers expulsion, including Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who introduced an unsuccessful motion to delay the Myers matter until after the election.

This fear that Congress was becoming a lynch mob because of an impending election spurred others to vote against the first expulsion since 1861, including such respected members as Reps. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., and Robert Drinan, D-Mass.

Several liberals voted against expulsion including Reps. Pete Stark, D-Calif., William Ford, D-Mich., Fred Richmond, D-N.Y., and Theodore Weiss, D-N.Y.

And in addition to Mitchell and Stokes, numerous black, Hispanic and other minority members voted against the expulsion, including Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., William Clay, D-Mo., Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., Robert Garcia, D-N.Y., Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas, and Mickey Leland, D-Texas.

Two members high in the House leadership voted against expulsion — Rules Committee chairman Richard Bolling, D-Mo., and Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill.

One reason seldom given, but which must have ranked high among many members, was the basic question of who should be the judge of who should sit in the House.

For two centuries, the House has jealously guarded its image as the house of the people. Unlike the Senate, no one — not even a governor — may appoint someone to fill a House vacancy; only the people of a district may do so in an election.

The Constitution clearly says that the House may expel a member on a two-thirds vote. But a 435-member body last Thursday substituted its judgment for the 478,310 people in Myers' district, and left them without a congressman.

That must leave a funny feeling in the pits of 435 stomachs.

Senator explains minors bill

By PHIL HANNAH

This is in response to the articles concerning my bill in the student senate about the recognition of minors. This is also a response to the many questions of those thousands of students who are concerned.

The bill that I have introduced to the student senate simply states: "Whereas many students have minors outside of their major fields of study, and whereas there is no official documentation of the completion of these minors, therefore be it resolved that the Registrar's Office place the student's minor, if applicable, on the official transcript, in order to insure proper and official recognition of completed minors."

The bill was drafted as a result of my concerns and the rightful concerns of my constituents, those students in the College of Liberal Arts. The bill is intended ONLY to give recognition on transcripts of those students who have declared minors, as approved by their college. It is not my intention to create new minors. In no way does this bill state that any student may independently declare a minor. This is to be rightfully left up to the discretion of the student's college. If the college should decide, in the future, to allow for minors then, by all means, the student should be recognized for his work in achieving that minor.

Reader's Forum

A few of my fellow students have come to the conclusion that the bill "is not clear." As the bill is written, the only students and colleges who would be affected by this are those who already have minors! This is emphasized by the phrase "if applicable." Do not let some deceive you by saying that there are no minors at Texas A&M. Let me refer you to the 1980-81 Texas A&M Catalog; on p. 198 it clearly states, under the section for the College of Liberal Arts: "Goal VI: Minor Field of Study: To ensure additional depth and breadth, all students (in Liberal Arts) must select a minor field of study from departments or divisions within or outside of the College of Liberal Arts, consisting of a minimum of 12 hours of course work, at least half of which must be in upper division (300 and 400 level) courses. A second major field of study may be substituted for the minor."

The Academic Affairs Committee, which is composed of students, reported this bill out unfavorably for two reasons: 1) there are no

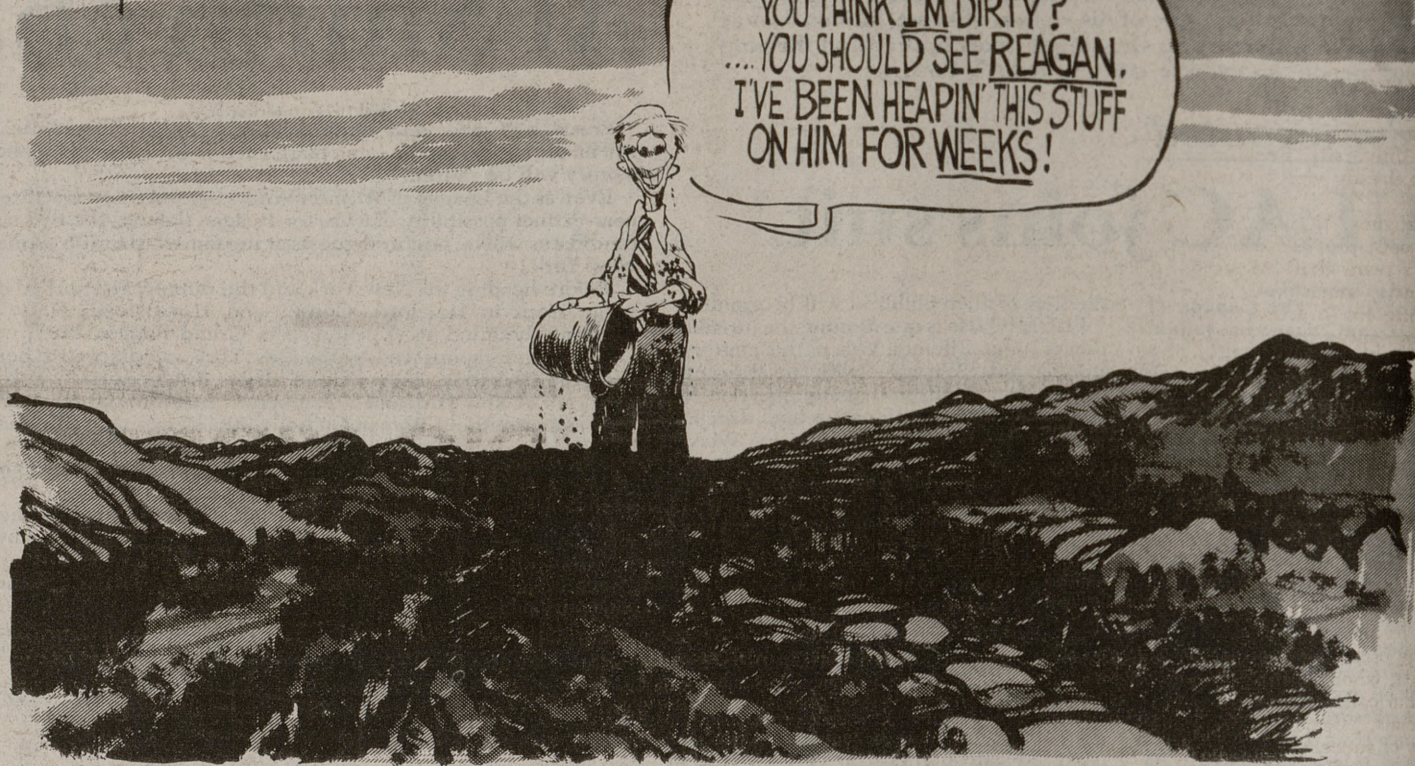
minors at Texas A&M, and 2) the Coordinating Board in Austin would probably not pass the bill.

If there are no minors at Texas A&M, the College of Liberal Arts is non-existent in the official undergraduate catalog is a student senate, your elected representative, is here to represent your views as a member of the Coordinating Board in Austin. For 12 or more hours of extra work that arts students are required to take, the official recognition in this University. Evidence is the record of those classes transcript. After looking over hundreds of transcripts, a visiting personnel manager easily miss any concentration in area than the major field of study. Is there harm in simply stating on the transcript: JOR: xxxx MINOR: yyyy, for those who now have minors?

I see no logical reason for the irrational position to this bill. It is very disheartening to work so hard for one simple goal, only to be torn apart by petty quibbling, political jealousies. I urge you, as future graduates, support this bill by attending the student meeting, which is open to all, on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 in 204 HECC.

Phil Hannah is a senior senator in the College of Liberal Arts.

MACNELLY



It's your turn

Would columns have run if we'd won?

Editor: Call me a Bad Ag or anything you want, but I felt I had to write about the University of Houston. I read Sidetracks and Reflections in Monday's Battalion and while I agree that their fans were a bit rude I keep thinking of the game here last year and wondering if we were any better. After all, who ripped the tail off the UH mascot last year?

I'd also like to comment on what Cathy Saathoff said about the UH band. True, their uniforms are pretty colorful, but that's typical of most college bands. The Aggie Band is different in that respect — and I wouldn't want it any other way. I think the Aggie Band is the best but I also think the UH band is very good. Both bands were out on the field to entertain the fans during halftime and both did an excellent job.

I'd also like to know why Richard Oliver felt it necessary to lump the Cougar fans, the officials and the players together in one sentence. Surely he's not trying to blame UH for the officials' bad calls. That seems a little unfair.

And while I'm defending UH I may as well ask why people think it's such a poor school academically. I've heard about a lot of their programs and they all seem to be academically sound.

Before anyone writes any nasty replies to this letter and asks me why I'm here if I think UH is such a good school, I'd like to say that as good as UH might be, A&M is better. I would never pick UH over A&M but I felt it was time someone defended them. And as something to think about — would we have read the same articles in Monday's Battalion if we had won the game?
Laura Wagner '82

Taps actions disrespectful

Editor: Having recently attended Silver Taps (Oct. 7) as guests of the family of a deceased Aggie, we were disappointed to find the family unable to observe the ceremony. A line of well wishing Aggies had formed between the Ross Volunteers and the area reserved for the family (be-

tween Sul Ross' statue and the Academic Building). Were the students lined up next to statue supposed to be there? If so, this should be changed for the benefit of future families. Students are not allowed to obstruct the view of the families, why were they not asked to move?

We were also under the impression the intramural games scheduled for the Silver Taps were to be rescheduled so the lights across the tracks could be turned along with the other lights on campus. Not were these very bright lights left on, the sound of whooping and hollering continuing through what is supposed to be a very solemn ceremony. We found this to be most disrespectful to the deceased Aggies honored.

Chris Cantel
John Regalado
Jeff Miller

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USPS 045 360

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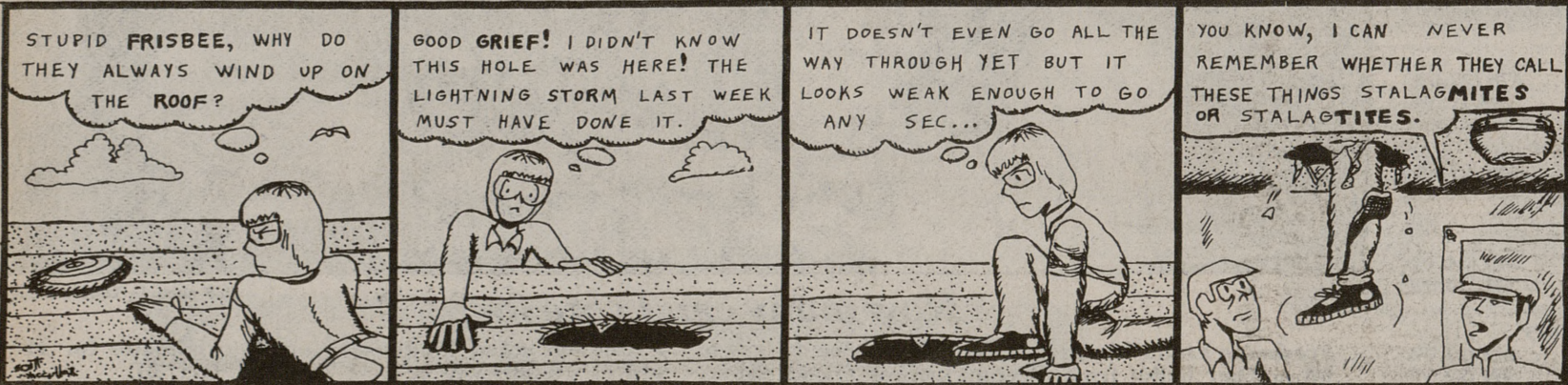
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The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Warped



By Scott McCullar