

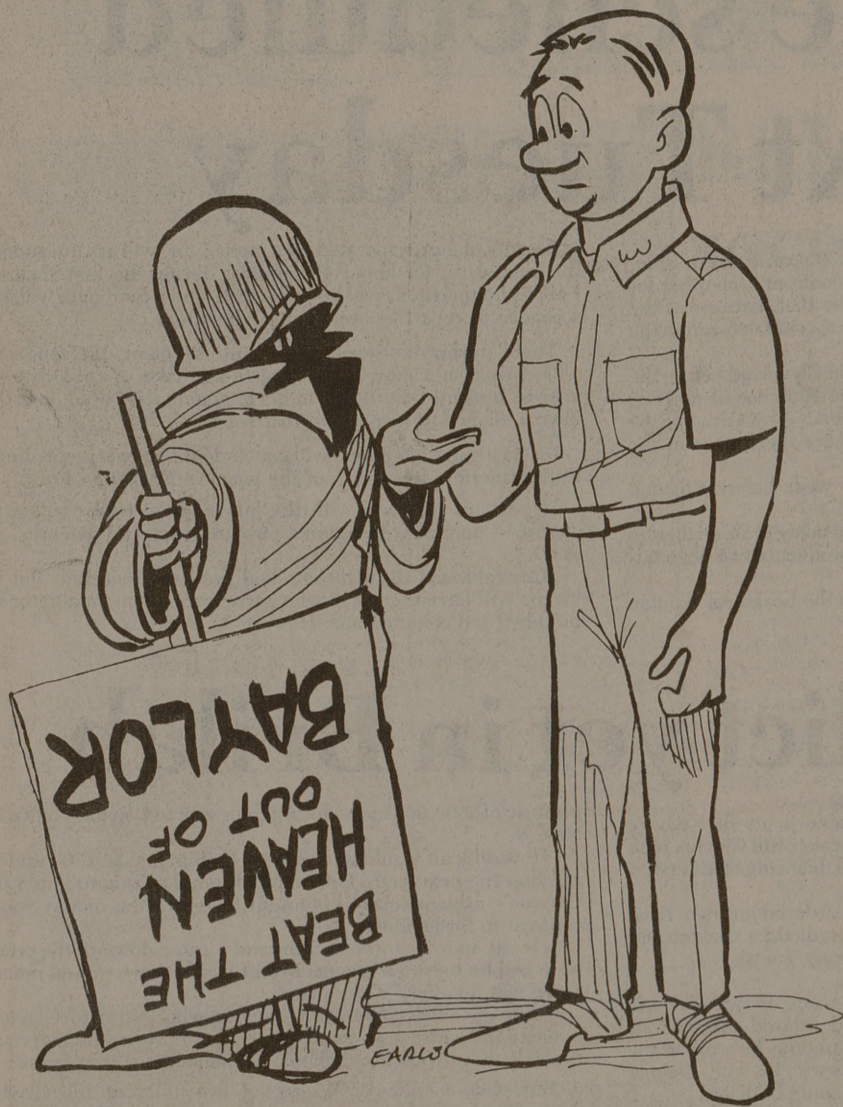
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 22, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Maybe somebody up there likes Baylor better than us."

'Mad as hell' former student suggests changing fight song

"I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to put up with it anymore!"

I came home from the Baylor game mad as hell — not at our men on the field but at the Aggies in the stands.

We old Ags sat huddled together nursing our aching arthritic pains and cold wet uncirculating feet until we couldn't stand it any longer and we left. Why? Because there wasn't any spirit to warm us up.

You see, old Ags aren't warmed up by "The Green Beret" marching-type tunes. We aren't stirred by "Goodbye to Texas University." After thirty years of sawing Varsity's horns off you realize how dumb it is to be singing "Goodbye to Texas University" when what you really want to do is shove those Baylor Bears into that wet sloshy turf.

I was thinking about that when I watched the game over again on KAMU-TV last night. I noticed that it wasn't until the last quarter that the band began to really play and that wasn't to lift the spirits of the Aggies, it was to drown out the sound of the taunting Baylor fans' "Poor Aggies." Still, it looked like it worked. The players on the field were making a game of it — 7 to 7 is a lot better than the other three quarters.

I hadn't been there to see it. I had gone home discouraged and mad.

Mad, because I had wanted to sing and yell a real fight song for A&M. I wanted to sing "The Twelfth Man" like we used to do. I wanted to

Reader's Forum

sing the marches that were fast, inspiring, cheerful, like the old Army Air Corps song, the Caisson Songs, the Marine's Hymn, Anchors Aweigh, all the fighting songs. But now we only hear marching songs with no words for me to sing. It makes me mad. Mad, because I know that besides all those songs we have a real fight song but it is only sung as a Eulogy.

I WANT TO SING "THE TWELFTH MAN" AS A FIGHT SONG!!!!

I also want to sing a new version of "The Aggie War Hymn." Everytime we pay tribute to the University of Texas by singing "Goodbye" to them it makes me sick. Why should we give them the privilege of being singled out as our only foe? We are saying that they are the best, that's why we want to beat them.

I say, ignore them. Treat them like any other team in the Southwest Conference. So, I wrote some new words to "The Aggie War Hymn." Words that are meant for Aggies to sing no matter who the opponent is.

AGGIE WAY HYMN, VERSE III

All Hail to dear ole Texas AMU.

Rally around our team's Maroon and Good luck to dear old Texas Aggies. They are the ones who show the real

So, let's hear it loud for Texas AMU. Let's yell and yell and yell like hell! (Yell like hell!) So, let's fight for dear old Texas Aggies. We're going to beat you all to — Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem! Chig-gar-roo-gar-rem! Rough! Tough! Real Stuff! Texas A&M. Fight! Fight on Texas Aggies, Fight! Fight on Aggies true. Fight! Fight on Aggies. Fight! — for TAMU!

Texas Aggies will fight on. Texas Aggies will fight on. We will fight on, and on. Fight! — TAMU — TAMU

If you like my version, cut it out and take the game Saturday. Sing it with gusto! I can write a better version, I issue the challenge to do so.

I also challenge you to write a better song than "The Twelfth Man." In the meantime, let's sing it as a fight song!

Put the spirit back in Aggieland!!! Ina Rhea Copus is a 1975 graduate of A&M University.

Changing election date makes a lot of sense

By DAVID S. BRODER

HARTFORD — When the calendar of American elections was established, it probably made sense to pick a President in November. It no longer does.

In a rural society, the rationale was that the early November date came after the harvests had been gathered and before the snows and chills of winter made travel difficult. Harvest dates and weather patterns have not changed, but unforeseen factors have made this an inopportune season for politics.

America has too many other things on its mind in October to pay attention to the rambling remarks of the presidential candidates. To be specific, it has four too many things on its mind: baseball, football, basketball and hockey.

The Founding Fathers did not know that this would be World Series time, or the seventh week of the National Football League schedule, or the time when everyone's favorite high school and college football teams would be getting into serious games with conference rivals. Still less did they foresee that the builders of all the great indoor arenas would schedule three nights of hockey and basketball a week — and even some Sunday basketball-hockey double-headers — in order to recoup their investments.

But we who are the beneficiaries of all this progress understand that it does not come without a price. Presidential politics is one sport that has been crowded off the fall calendar.

It is my suspicion — and I leave it to any graduate student seeking a dissertation topic to provide the appropriate statistics — that the decline in voting turnout in the last 20 years is inversely proportional to the increase in gate receipts for the four fall sports. For every campaign button that is not worn, an extra pennant is being waved. The cheers echo just as loud as they ever did — but they go to men in pads and jerseys, not in three-piece suits. America is not turned off by politics; it is just exhausted by the four-sport orgy.

Let us do nothing to disturb anything as fundamental to the Constitution as the dates of the baseball playoffs or the Michigan-Michigan State game. Let us, instead move the election.

An improved primary election calendar

would begin in New Hampshire, not in the snows of February but four months earlier — in October, just late enough in the month to come after the last game of the Series. That would allow that large field of candidates and the even larger press corps to enjoy the autumn foliage at its height, and help fill the motels in the slow weeks before the skiing begins. There would be no harm in the fact that most of America paid no attention to the campaigning in New Hampshire because of the Series. Quite the contrary, it would help keep that primary in perspective.

The remainder of the early-round primaries would fit comfortably in the schedule before Thanksgiving. The Tuesday night network election specials would not interfere with Monday night football or the weekend games.

When the campaigning resumed in January, the action would shift to the Sun Belt states and would climax in sunny California in early February.

The political conventions would then fall logically in March and April, when baseball is just beginning and the hockey and basketball playoffs are still in their preliminary rounds. The NBA and the NHL could crown their champions while the nominees organized their campaigns.

The running of the Kentucky Derby would be the signal for the start of the general election, which would go on through June — providing an ample supply of commencement speeches by the vice-presidential candidates. Election Day, appropriately, would fall on the Tuesday following the Independence Day holiday weekend.

With the patriotic fervor of the holiday helping swell the turnout of voters, Americans could discharge their duty as citizens and then turn with a clear conscience to picnics, summer vacations — and the baseball season. The new President would be inaugurated on the day after Labor Day, which is, psychologically, the start of the new work year for all the rest of us.

Diligent political reporters could figure they were safe for at least another month, when the first candidate for the subsequent presidential election would make his first trip to New Hampshire — just to enjoy the foliage, of course.

West steps perfect for inauguration

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — What may be the most sensible action Congress has taken in the memory of the oldest, living taxpayer is beginning to manifest itself on the west steps of the Capitol.

Upon this noble terrace is rising the platform that will be used for next January's presidential inauguration.

I don't know for sure who made the decision to switch the ceremony from the East Front, the traditional site, to the West Front. But whoever it was, I would like to shake his hand.

Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., chairman of the joint House-Senate Inauguration Committee, apparently deserves much of the credit.

According to William Cochrane, the staff director, Pell "thought highly" of the idea and early this year directed the Architect of the Capitol to draw up alternative plans for a West Front inauguration.

The committee then voted last June to go ahead with the historic change.

For the benefit of anyone who may not be acquainted with the peculiarities of the Capitol, I should explain that the building has two fronts and no rear. The reason for this is rather involved.

Suffice to say that when construction of the Capitol started, the District of Columbia was expected to urbanize eastward. So the East en-

trance was called the "front."

Then, contrary to predictions, Washington began developing westward! Whereupon the back also became a front.

All straight? Very well. Let us proceed.

The West Front is a marvelous spot for an inauguration. Its elevated terraces provide a ready-made platform for the swearing-in. Down below, the foot of Capitol Hill forms a natural amphitheater with space for thousands of spectators. The entire prominence commands a spectacular view of the Mall, the Washington Monument and other scenic points.

The East Front, by contrast, overlooks what is essentially a parking lot.

When I first came to Washington, I used to ask why Congress every four years went to all the trouble and expense of covering a parking lot with elaborate platforms and stands when a West Front inauguration would be so much

more convenient.

The best answer I got was: "Well, we've always done it this way."

"Always," in this instance, dates back to Andrew Jackson's inauguration.

Since then, some ceremonies have been in the House and Senate chambers and (FDR's fourth in 1945) was held at the White House. But no president has heretofore taken the oath of office on the West Front.

As Pell has noted, the new location is "a place of great beauty," can accommodate more people and will save money. (The current appropriation is \$463,000 compared to \$825,000 aside for the 1977 ceremony.)

Why was common sense so long coming? Cochrane said the idea "just sort of grew" and noted that "it took a certain amount of nerve" to buck tradition.

Sic transit parking lot gloria.

one tiny reason to vote for Reagan:



Warped

By Scott McCullar



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