

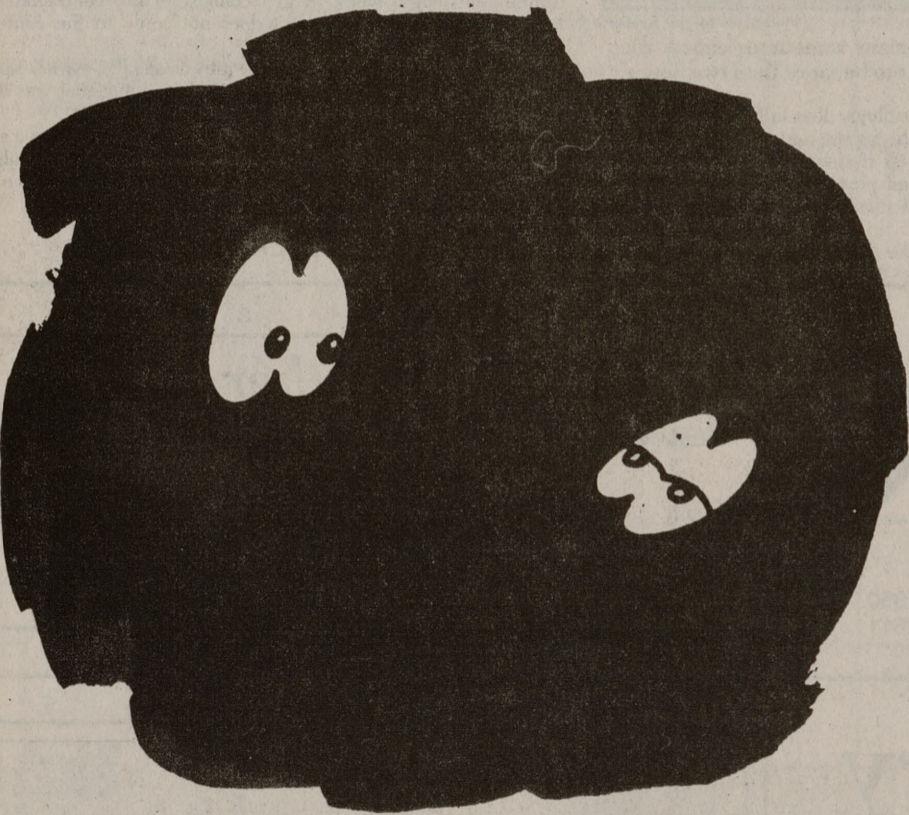
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Can you tell me the source of this policy that prohibits after-dark studying as an energy-saving precaution."

Is the first flight a big deal? Ask this stepladder coward

I have an announcement to make.
I survived the flight.
For those of you who don't understand this extraordinary announcement worthy of prime time on "That's Incredible," let me explain. I flew in an airplane for the first time this week.

Now that may not seem like such an earth-shaking event for most of you, but for me, the earth nearly cratered.

This is the kid who is scared of a stepladder. I didn't go to the dentist until I was 8 because the chair was too high off the floor. If someone had told me six months ago I would have flown in an airplane, I would have checked to see if all his bolts were tight. Me, fly?

But I did. It wasn't easy. I was quite nervous. I nearly cried.

I would have cried, except for all my friends who called me a baby and a chicken liver and said I'd never make it in an adult world.

Embarrassment has a way of controlling hysteria.

Offhand

By Venita McCellon

When two (yes, two) of my good friends asked for my new dress — just in case I didn't make it back, you understand — I knew there was something to my fear. These two inspired such confidence in me.

Another friend informed me that single-engine planes are the most dangerous because if the engine goes out, that's it. Thanks a lot. I was planning to fly in a single-engine plane.

But I closed my eyes, gritted my teeth, chewed a piece of Trident like it was whale blubber and up I went.

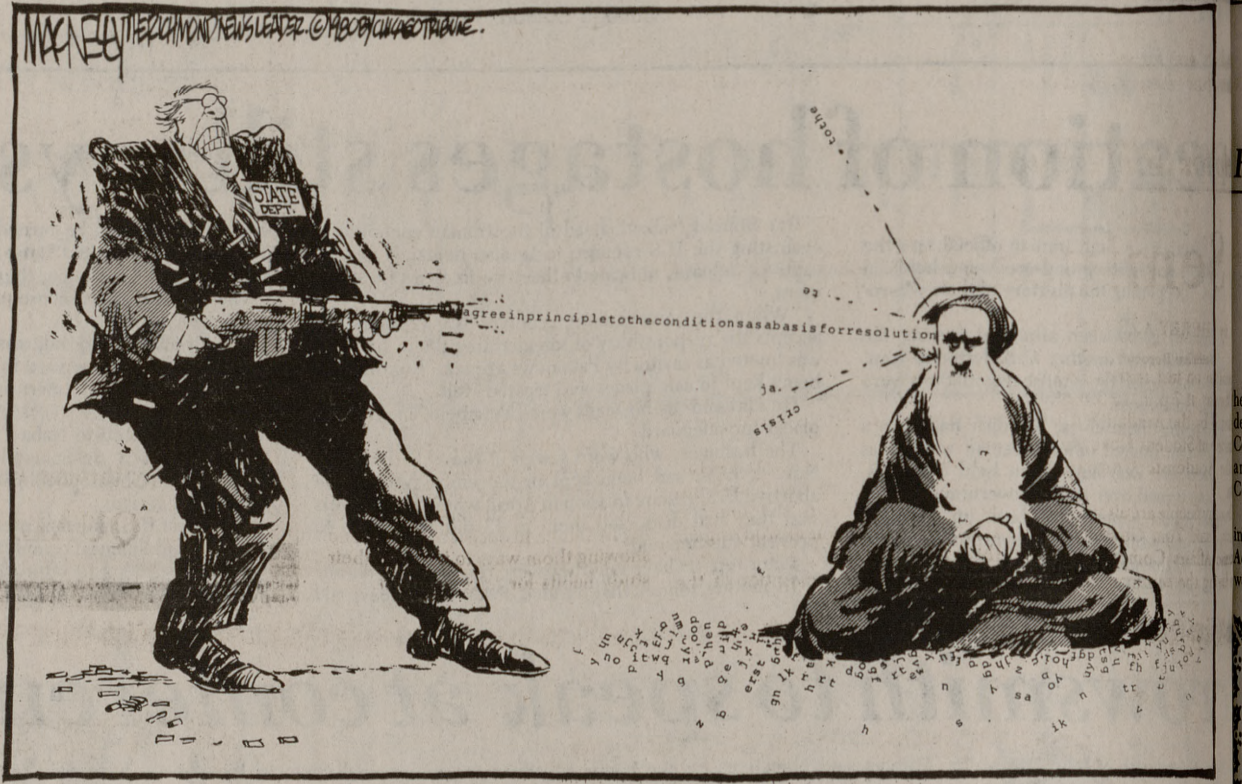
It was fun. I only lost control for a few minutes on take-off, and then I was fascinated as I watched Jane Fonda on the runway. I lost reality and all my fear. It was wonderful. I even looked out the window and saw Kyle and the Brazos River and all the houses.

When the time came for the return, I didn't have to look out the window. I'd seen before.

But the trip was dangerous for me. I sustained an injury from the ordeal. No crash or jump from 4,500 feet. I fell off the plane as I was crawling out.

Yes, I fell, after safely surviving the landing back at home at Easterwood. The heel of my shoe and have a nice, elbow.

I had always heard that flying was safer than driving. I agree. For me, it's safer than



Applications pouring in for government jobs

By DIANNE CURTIS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The leaders of President-elect Ronald Reagan's talent search insist that even John and Jane Doe have a chance to join the Reagan administration.

Every one of the 500 resumes that pour daily into the bustling transition headquarters office at 17th and M Streets is read, said E. Pendleton James, director of presidential personnel.

And some unknowns have even made it to the exclusive computer list of potential appointees to the top 300 sub-Cabinet jobs in U.S. government, from assistant secretary for food and consumer services to president of the Multi-Family Association in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The lucky contenders for the nation's most coveted government jobs consist of "more new faces than old," James said in an interview.

They include leaders in every field — transportation, medicine, health, science, engineering, labor.

Both James and Tom Dawson, James' executive assistant, are obviously proud of the efficient, brisk handling of job applications.

They are screened by a committee of personnel recruiting volunteers, who mark them "A" or "B" — "A" if the individual is applying on his own and "B" if the possible appointee is being recommended by someone else.

The names of the possible nominees are fed into the computer for later scrutiny by teams of transition officials. Those resumes rejected for the top 300 spots are saved as potential applicants for lower echelon jobs.

"No one is out yet," Dawson said.

But he noted that while John and Jane Doe have as good a chance as other applicants, certain government-job hopefuls get priority treatment.

"There are lots of priorities," Dawson said.

"Congress is one of them." Other "priority" resumes, which receive "close attention," Dawson said, include those affiliated with the campaign and those with "names we recognize."

James said it will be "the exception" if a person who sent an unsolicited resume is recommended for one of the top 300 spots.

A better chance for those people will be in the other lower level jobs that will be picked in March or April, he said.

Most of the recommendations for high-level government positions will be chosen from people specifically recruited during the James-directed government talent search.

The office also has a team headed by Keith Bulen that makes sure political favors of the past and Reagan loyalty do not go unnoticed by the decision-makers.

Dawson said that of the 8,000 resumes received so far by the transition staff, few applicants asked for a specific job. That is in spite of a sold-out government bestseller familiarly known as "The Plum Book" and specifically titled, "Policy and Supporting Positions," which lists agency, title and salary for about 4,000 top-level government jobs that come up for grabs with each new administration.

"It's surprising that so many don't identify a specific position," Dawson said.

James said officials in his office are eager for Cabinet heads to be named so that their recommendations can be submitted. "We're ready as of tomorrow," James said.

But despite all the work of the talent hunters, the final decisions are still up to the president-elect and his Cabinet.

"Once the Cabinet members have been named, I'm sure they're going to be deluged with calls from people who remember meeting them at cocktail parties," Dawson said.

It's your turn Football pranks invite tragic results

Editor:
Congratulations to the Aggies for their victory over the Longhorns last Saturday. I have seen many games between these two teams and they are always clean and hard-fought.

Those in position of authority at A&M University, however, must address themselves to a potentially dangerous situation. I watched in 1977 as a group of Aggies stationed themselves at the south end of Kyle Field to prevent Longhorns from taking the Texas flag onto the field for their half-time show. I have seen exuberant Aggies on several occasions attack Texas students tending Ole Smokey, the Texas cannon, including that of last Saturday. I take it that the several Aggie seniors who ran down the track to the disturbance did so in order to halt it. They were stopped by police.

But suppose that some Texas students had not understood their motive and had emptied from the stands. That would have brought on more students from both schools with tragic consequences. I recall hearing of a similar confrontation involving Baylor and A&M students many years ago with tragic results. Is it worth any such risk for A&M students to attempt to fire the Texas cannon?

First of all, I believe it is the responsibility of the administration of Texas A&M University to prevent such a demonstration. Then I believe Aggie seniors must help prevent it. And I feel sure the editor of The Battalion can have a large measure of control, simple by pointing out the foolishness of such demonstrations.

In many years of watching Longhorn football, I have never seen students of any other school attempt to fire Ole Smokey.

Bill Durnal

ISA promotes unity

Editor:
The international student body of Texas A&M, through the International Student Association, expressed its appreciation to the Texas A&M student senate for its consideration of a proposal presented at the senate meeting of 3 December 1980.

Texas A&M's international student body, with almost 2,000 members representing 86 countries, considers unity and understanding the key to solving the problems faced by today's world.

Being a student at this great University provides each of us an opportunity to sample other cultures, with their different perspectives and values. This can only enrich the scope of the learning experience for all Aggies. We also hope to open professional doors on an international level for a future based on the Aggie brotherhood.

Even though a senate seat for an international student representative was not approved, we hope to involve international students in the different committees and organizations within

the University as a demonstration of our commitment to unity among the Aggie families. Samuel Olivieri, President, International Student Association

Freshmen, fight frantic

Editor:
Are you a freshman frantic about finals week? Are you any student still searching for study habits? If you are, then mark your calendar for Dec. 8, on your calendar as the "Seminar Testing." Time: 7-9 p.m. Place: 301 P. The Student Government Academic Committee and the Academic Council Center are sponsoring this event to help you develop efficient study techniques, decrease test anxiety, and improve attitudes toward testing.

This seminar comes at a good time, an advantage of it before finals week arrives. A.C.C. staff is eager to share their insights with you to help you breeze through your tests. This is just another of the many great things the Academic Affairs Committee of your Student Government is doing to keep A&M Aggies at the top!

Pat W.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Each letter must be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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