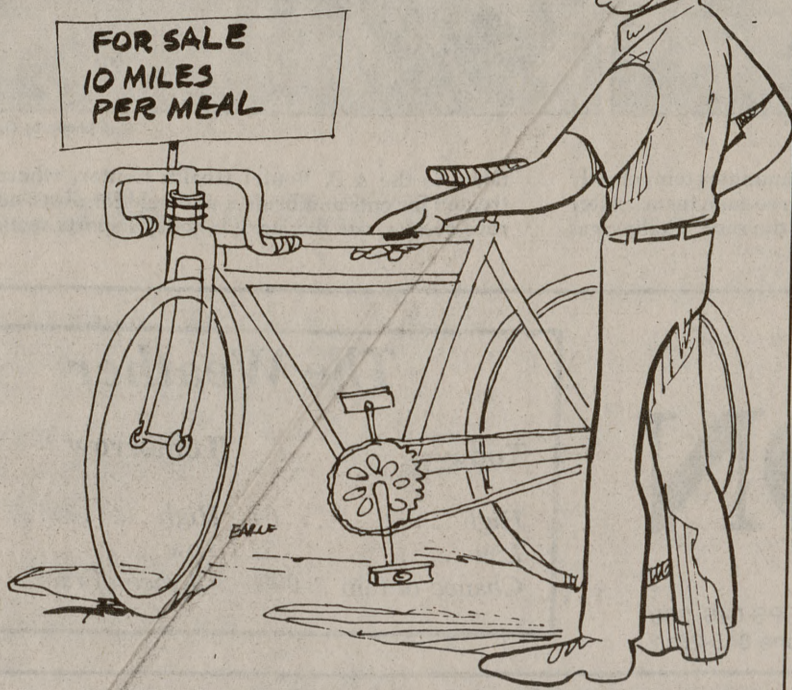


VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
MARCH 2, 1981

Slouch By Jim Earle



Talented minds also are musically adept

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

What has one bugle, nine pianos, two guitars, two violins, one flute, two French horns, one madrigal singer and, for good measure, one composer and organist?

Some new musical group called the odd-balls? Wrong.

It's the high school science wizards — the winners in the 40th Westinghouse Science Talent Search. It turns out that a big 40 percent of the science brains are also good at music — with the talents listed at the start of this story.

Some of the young scientists play two instruments or three. One, a French horn player, toured Europe last summer, concerting with a group.

The music-science-and-math combo doesn't come as a shock to educators. The most obvious proof of a link in this century came from the man who gave the world the theory of relativity — Albert Einstein spoke the universal language of music via a violin.

A space theme, incidentally, won for one young scientist who also happens to be a musician.

John Scott Penberthy, the French horn player who toured Europe, won by inventing a galactic battle game. It demonstrated something almost as impossible to understand as Einstein's theory of relativity.

That is: "interterminal interactive computer systems providing simultaneous access."

Penberthy, 15, from Midlothian, Va., says the complex computer game "might have some practical application in science and business information systems."

The "Starship" game allows two to nine players to communicate with each other in battle.

Each player has simultaneous access to 35 commands. These include information on speed, fuel consumption and laser fire. When a spaceship is hit, the player must size up the damage, including number of crew killed. When a ship no longer can move, its captain has lost.

Scott intends to go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His music shouldn't suffer. The high-tech school, further proving the link between science and music, has its own student symphony orchestra, concert band, jazz band, musical ensembles and chamber music society.

Other winning projects from gifted high school science students who also happen to be musicians included:

— Composer, guitarist Michael F. Reidy, 18, of Springfield, Va., performed

experiments to determine how plasma membrane ATPase transports molecules and particles across living cell surface boundaries. The musician-scientist, who plays football at West Springfield High, is headed for Yale and biochemistry or medicine.

— Pianist and flutist Kori Ellen Kaplowitz, 17, of Hewlett, N.Y., won with a project in microbial genetics. She also is an award-winning puppeteer. Headed for Harvard.

— Trombonist William Shelton Chitwood, 17, of Moulton, Ala., won by looking into how red light stimulates root growth in lettuce seeds. Chitwood is trombone section leader in the school marching and concert bands and pianist-organist at church. He'll go to Auburn University or the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

— Pianist Joan Ivul Chu, 17, of Lafayette, Calif., won by separating genes from one circular piece of DNA and recombined these with a circular piece of bacteria DNA. She will study math and theoretical economics at Stanford. She believes work such as hers will point the way that research roads to cloning may take in years ahead.

Among other winners Tan Dinh Ngo, 16, of John F. Kennedy High in the Bronx section of New York City, overcame his language difficulty by submitting a project in the universal language of mathematics. A Vietnam refugee and native of Saigon, he has been in America two years. He's aiming for MIT and will keep on the math trail.

John Marion Geppert, 18, of Omaha, Neb., won with a solar energy concentrator. He hopes it will bring more affordable heating to most homeowners. Geppert will go to Iowa State and study engineering or computer science.

The 40 winners started meetings with a panel of scientists in Washington, D.C., Thursday. During the interviews that ran through Sunday, the 40 competed for 10 major prizes.

The top is a \$12,000 scholarship. The next nine scholarships are lesser amounts, ranging down to \$5,000. The 30 who don't make the top 10 will be given a one-time award of \$500.

With today's college bills ranging up to \$10,000 and above at top private schools, even the No. 1 winner won't get a four-year ride on his scholarship.

But it's the glory — and the promise. Some past winners of the coveted national prizes for distinguished high school scientists have gone on to win Nobel prizes.

Some subsidies not necessary

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

In the long run, the student service fee allocation process is going to run into an irresistible force vs. immovable object dilemma.

On the one hand, students have come to expect the University to provide them with many "essential" services: intramurals, a health center, legal counsel, personal counseling and a shuttle bus, to name only a few.

On the other, the wish to maintain a reasonable, controllable ceiling on at least one area of college expenses might soon prompt some students to view these services as expendable.

There's an easy compromise that can be reached between these two extremes: institution of user fees for some of the services which receive student service fees.

Consider:
— The student service fee subsidizes several services which generate some of their own income, and which could be capable of generating more (student publications, intramurals, shuttle bus, health center).

— Those users who can generate no income of their own could benefit by receiving a bigger slice of the pie.

— In the interests of fairness, is it equitable for on-campus students to continue paying for shuttle bus service? Is it equitable for some to participate in several intramural sports, others in only a few, and still others in no sports at all — while the intramural department receives the same share from all students' service fees? Is it equitable to demand that students who don't use the health center pay the same as those who go five times per semester?

While specific recommendations are out of the question before they're studied, two areas deserve specific attention.

Currently, intramural teams pay a \$5-per-team fee. In softball, that amounts to somewhere around 30 cents per man. Sup-

pose that were raised to about \$1 or \$1.25 per man: How many could object to paying less than the cost of a pitcher of beer in order to play three softball games? Is there's certainly nothing unreasonable about charging \$1 per entry in individual sports.

The health center is doing its best to provide quality health care at low cost. Some sort of user fees should be instituted for all prescriptions, for x-ray, for some specialized treatment. Rather than being a burden on those who use the center, such fees could serve to relieve the burden on those who use the center infrequently.

So long as the health center keeps its costs below whatever they would be if a student went to an area doctor, it's fulfilling its duty of providing low-cost medical care.

Sure, Texas A&M has a low student service fee rate, when compared to other schools. But keeping up with the Joneses isn't a sound basis for blatant fee increases.

And it's best to examine the viable options now, before we trap ourselves into having to use the student service fee to keep up with the services' demands.

VP responds about service fees

By TRACY COX

In response to the recent allegations of incompetency the editor has awarded me and the Finance Committee, I have to comment.

First, I will respond to the reason for our closed hearing. If you'll remember, we held four hearings open to the public in which everyone could attend and hear how the student service fee users justified their requested budget. You thought that the purpose of our closed meeting was to hide our incompetence — wrong. Under state law, a committee such as ours is allowed to close our meetings to the public because we are only making recommendations — not actual allocations. Whenever a group meets to discuss budgets someone is going to end up with less money. For a reporter to be leaning over our shoulder verifying every nickel and dime we cut would have been stifling to the budget process. Our committee had to work in an atmosphere of freedom — free to express personal beliefs, free to express opinions on budget cuts, and free to know that whatever a member in our meeting said would not be quoted in the Battalion. Whenever you cut a department's budget, someone's not going to like it, and that someone doesn't need to know the student that instigated their cuts. I hold our whole committee accountable for our actions, not any one individual committee member. All of our supportive facts that came out of our closed meeting will be presented to the student senate; therefore, a

Guest

Column

closed meeting is irrelevant when the student senate will be the body that makes the actual recommendation. You mentioned the lack of student input on the committee. If you haven't forgotten, the Finance Committee is made up solely of students. Our committee's recommendation goes to the student senate; that is where direct student input is possible. If any of the committee's recommendations are felt to be unfair or unjust, then a student should contact his senator.

Secondly, I will respond to your claim of the committee's "incompetence and lack of preparation." During the fall semester, our committee split up into individual subcommittees to make a special effort to get to know each user's budget and to visit with each administrator. Each person met with the administrator and openly discussed their budgets. We were prepared for our meeting, even though it was closed. As for competence, I will simply speak for myself and not my committee members. As a senior I have been involved with these budgets since I was a freshman. The two vice presidents before me met with me

personally at separate times and trained me for the budgeting process. I have been a member of the Finance Committee for three years. Personally, I know these budgets better than any other student on this campus. If you still feel that with this much experience I am incompetent, then I feel you're shortsighted.

Thirdly, I will respond to the \$7 or \$11 mix-up. Our committee knew on Saturday that the possibility of a \$7 increase could be imminent. As students ourselves, we simply wanted to look out for the whole student body, and not raise the fees as much. We came up with our own estimate and increased the fee \$1, and then disclosed this to your reporter on Sunday. All the time, we knew that our estimate had big possibilities of being inflated and possibly wrong. On Monday I found out our estimate was wrong, and on Tuesday we voted on the \$7 increase. We knew the committee's credibility would be questioned over this \$6 difference, but in the interest of the students, we felt our credibility was unimportant when we decided to disclose the \$1 increase. Now, after the fact, I can say that the credibility of our committee has been hurt, I feel it's unimportant. What is important is that our allocation to each user is credible, and we're willing to justify every number.

Tracy Cox is a senior finance major, and Student Government vice president for finance.

It's your turn

Rah, rah, rah! to Vernon and Rynn

Editor:

As the end of the season draws near, I wish to thank two individuals for the contributions that they have made. I am referring to Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright. With the help of these two fine gentlemen, Texas A&M basketball has come of age. Watching these two players perform has been a great enjoyment.

However, pure athletic ability is not all that they possess. I can think of many outstanding players who I would not want on a Texas A&M basketball team. They lack an entity which only some individuals strive for and few possess. In my opinion, though, Vernon and Rynn have this entity. They have class.

The basketball team is now receiving the respect that it has so long deserved. The team has made great strides in the last few years. Hopefully, future players will be able to push the A&M program to even greater heights. But, for right now we should

appreciate the efforts that Vernon and Rynn have made for the last four years. I hope that Vernon and Rynn enjoyed playing for Texas A&M as much as I enjoyed watching them. I want to once again thank them and wish them much luck in the future.

John J. Collins '83

The letters to the editor are too few and the space doesn't need to be used for more "Warped Humor!"

While you were "editing" the "Letters into the trash, you should have included the "Hostage Movies" column!

Randy Barron '81

Trash McCullar!

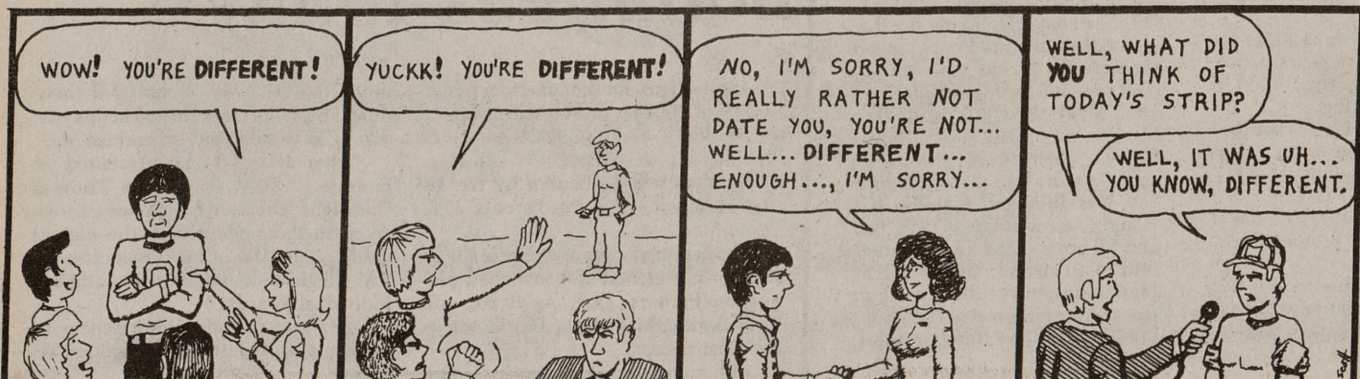
Editor:

There is one movie that Scott McCullar left out of yesterday's Battalion that a lot of Battalion readers would like to see, "Warped Meets Psycho" in the shower!

Editor's note: The death of letters to the editor isn't because we throw them into the trash; The Battalion runs about 90 percent of the letters it receives. Any discernible lack of letters can be attributed to a lack of reader initiative, not to overzealous censorship.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



THE BATTALION

MEMBER U.S.P.S. 045-360

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 350 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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