

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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APRIL 6, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle

Reorganization need has arisen



"Now bear in mind this is just a rumor, and I don't want you to repeat it; but I hear the present football coach at Alabama is being considered for the presidency of A&M."

Luncheon honors greats of baseball

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — It was billed as a White House luncheon for the members of baseball's Hall of Fame, but it quickly became evident that it was really a celebration of that most magnificent of baseball institutions, the Chicago Cubs. Otherwise, what were several of us members of the Emil Verban Society doing there last week when the president of the United States played host to 32 of the game's immortals?

The Verban Society, as attentive readers may recall, is the band of displaced Cub fans in the nation's capital, organized under the name of the legendary Emil, whose lifetime major-league total of one home run did not qualify him for membership in the Hall of Fame but epitomized the unique and endearing quality of the Cubs.

There are those who say sniffingly that the Emil Verban Society is a band of fanatics. That is unfair. It is true that the society newsletter, the work of our leader, Bruce C. Ladd, Jr., took an offbeat approach to the election results when it headlined, "Former Cub Announcer Wins Presidency."

But that just suggests that we have our priorities straight. Ronald Reagan reached into the ranks of the Verban Society when he picked Jim Brady (winner of the society's Harry Chiti Look-Alike Contest) for press secretary, and Brady infiltrated several of us other Verbanites into the luncheon.

Because of that, I am able to report that when the president was asked about his current team loyalty, he did not duck the issue. He said that he had acquired a rooting interest in the Dodgers during the many years he lived in Los Angeles, but in his heart, the loyalties forged during the four seasons that he "recreated" Cub games from shorthand telegraphic descriptions for the radio listeners in Des Moines had never faded.

Anyone who doubted that would have seen Reagan's embrace of Billy Herman, the great Cub second-baseman of those years. Almost 50 years later, Reagan recalled the lineup and batting order of that team as if it were yesterday. When Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, a trivia fan, said the Cub roster of those years was unusual in having two men whose name ended in "ee" — an outfielder named Demaree and a pitcher named Parmelee — it was

Reagan who supplied the missing first names, Frank and Roy.

(Before you write, let me tell you that I, too, realized afterward that all of us in that discussion forgot that Big Bill Lee was also pitching for the Cubs with great skill in those years.)

In the awed gaze of this spectator, the Hall of Famers were very much like any other alumni group. The friendly shop talk mixed with the murmurs of surprise and regret at the inroads time was making on some of these magnificent athletes' bodies. Two men came in wheelchairs and several others were either a feeble shadow of their former selves or caricatures gone to fat. But the younger pitchers like Sandy Koufax and Bob Gibson looked like they could go out and work that afternoon.

For a guy who spent three seasons of his youth trying to get Phil Cavaretta to sign his scorecard, the presence and propinquity of the greatest players of the last 50 years was almost more than could be absorbed. I had gone to the luncheon under a strict injunction from Washington Post sports editor George Solomon. "Don't act like a jerk," he said, "and ask for autographs. If you do, I swear I'm going to ask Tip O'Neill for one."

Well, Tip, get your pen ready. I kept my cool all through lunch, but when I trooped into the East Room to watch the Hall of Famers pose for a group picture, I confessed to my fellow-Verbanite George F. Will what an act of willpower it had been not to beg for signatures.

"Don't be silly," he said. "Tom Korologos (the former White House lobbyist) has got two baseballs signed by all these guys. Everybody's collecting autographs."

I figured that in this administration, a dispensation from George Will countermands even an order from George Solomon. For the next 10 minutes, I went running around the room like a nine-year-old kid, collecting autographs on the back of my menu card.

It was not until I was walking away from the White House, still in a daze, that I collected my wits enough to inspect what I had. And I saw something striking.

Every one of the greats but one had simply signed his name. The exception was the signature that reads: Ernie Banks. Chicago Cubs.

Somehow, I was not surprised.

The chairman of the Board of Regents has taken the first step toward another reorganization of the Texas A&M University System.

Two weeks ago, H.R. "Bum" Bright appointed a 15-member committee, consisting of numerous System officials, to determine how a study of the organizational structure should be conducted, should the need ever arise for such a study.

The need has indeed arisen, and the regents should know it.

The controversial reorganization plan implemented 15 months ago stripped the Texas A&M University president of his authority over the extension services and experiment stations and transferred that authority to the chancellor. Thus, greater control of the System was channeled into the chancellor's office.

The plan gave the president control of the University alone, much to the chagrin of many persons, including former President Jarvis Miller. Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert, who authored the plan, and Miller, who protested it, clashed in a power struggle which resulted in Miller's firing by the Board of Regents in July.

Former students and other persons close to Texas A&M have criticized not only Miller's dismissal, but also the current organizational structure.

The criticism is especially intense in

Coffee breaks

By Jane G. Brust

view of the fact that the University is currently looking for a president to succeed Miller.

"There's just no need for a strong president under the current system," one prominent former student said.

The question has been raised: Why would a desirable top-notch administrator want to come to the presidency of this University under the current organizational structure which gives the chancellor, traditionally a figurehead, more control of the System?

Another prominent former student said a number of former students have spoken with Board members concerning a review of the System's organization: "Texas A&M University officials are concerned that once you start taking things away from the University itself, other things come into question — and what next?"

Hopefully, "what's next" will be an election of power to the University president through another reorganization plan.

And maybe, if another System reorganization is to occur, those candidates under consideration for the president's post particularly the most desirable candidate will find the job a bit more appealing.

Perhaps the candidate selected for Board approval will accept the job under certain conditions calling for a System reorganization restoring some of the power and prestige to the president and to the University.

That should prove all the better for the University.

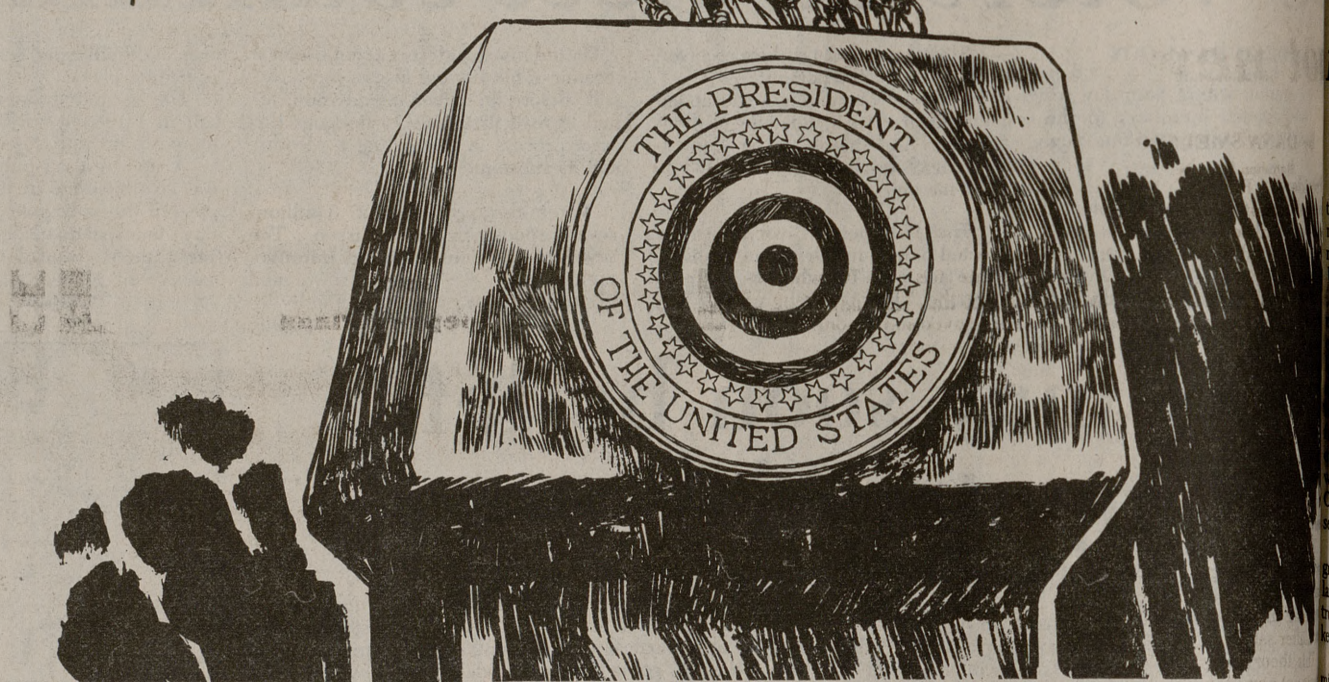
Bright has said he has felt no pressure from former students requesting a reorganization of the System and that the reformation of the study committee is his own.

The important point is that the committee has indeed been formed and is expected to present a preliminary report to the regents at their July meeting.

Gov. Bill Clements' appointment of three new regents in January — and own hand-picking of Bright to succeed Clyde Wells as chairman — were thought to signal a new direction for the future of Texas A&M University System.

With this last Board meeting, the one chaired by Bright, it seems the Board is indeed taking a new direction under the new chairman's leadership.

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It's your turn

Prank is no laughing matter

Editor:

Somewhere — in a living room, or a bedroom, or hanging on a dorm wall — there is a sign that says STOP. Somewhere in Texas, there are four newly sodded graves waiting for spring when perhaps someone will plant some flowers.

In those graves are four people who were killed instantly one night last summer. The car in which they were riding collided with a tractor-trailer rig at a highway intersection. The driver of the automobile was not familiar with the intersection. He did not know he was required by law to stop. The stop sign that would have warned him was stolen just before the crash.

Two of the four who were killed were children. Four others were injured. They will be haunted by the memory of that hideous crash for the rest of their lives. It is possible that the person who took the sign will also be unable to forget. But no one knows for sure, because the police don't know who took it. (Do you?)

Seemingly innocent pranks can have unforeseen and tragic consequences. Stealing warning signs may seem like "fun and games" but it is illegal and deadly. What about the next time you or your friends enter an unfamiliar intersection? Think about it.

(This is adapted from an article written by the Christophers.)

Dale Youngs

More blues

Editor:

I'm the apartment dweller that sings the blues. I wrote a complaint letter to Metro Properties about Scandia apartments that was also printed in the Battalion a few weeks ago. Only two people asked me if I had received any reply from them. They live at Scandia, too, and apparently their ceiling leaks every time it rains. A lot of apartments are like that at Scandia. And raking the excess water off the roof after the rain doesn't solve the problem. Metro Properties seems to like the easy way out. I can't say much for the apartments they've built recently in College Station. As for the reply I got back from Metro Properties I

received only a questionnaire concerning the apartment complex. I feel as though I should read my letter but only recognized it was complaint letter and responded accordingly. We still get lukewarm water in morning, the toilet breaks down now and then and the ceiling is still falling apart. They towed away some individuals' cars at night because no visible sign was posted the area to let us know what they were to. Anyway, now they've handed notices saying we can't put anything on our porch that looks unappealing. I'm tired of trying to manage my own apartment doing all the dirty work. I don't pay only to take weekly trips down to maintenance building. I don't think should be satisfied with a business monopolizes against our interests and raises the rent more and more each year.

Sharon Sullivan

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Regents:
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.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. 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 be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer. Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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Warped

<p>UPCOMING MOVIES BASED ON THE PRESSURES TEST WEEK BRINGS...</p>	<p>WILL IT EVER COME? WILL IT EVER LEAVE??</p>	<p>HE DOESN'T DO THE DISHES, HE DOESN'T DO HIS LAUNDRY, AND YOU HATE HIS LIVING GUTS, BUT HE'S...</p>	<p>THEY ONLY CAME TO RELAX AFTER THE TEST, BUT NOW THEY'RE</p>
<p>THEY SIT WITH BROKEN SPIRITS... WHERE AM I?</p>	<p>FOR GOD'S SAKE, DO SOMETHING!</p>	<p>IN THE NEXT ROOM</p>	
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