

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
MAY 8, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I've followed your suggestion and have scheduled my study time through the end of finals week. Now I need a cure for severe depression."

Fight night poorly organized

Reader's Forum

What was the end goal of the spectacle known as Fight Night? It was to raise funds to help the needy. Indeed, that is a worthy cause. But was that goal maintained as the primary reason for the staging of the fight. I think not. From the beginning the worthiness of the goal was debased by the wanton desires of the organizers of the event, and the promotion of unnecessary violence by the spectators.

The worst infractions of safety and fair play were committed by the Organizers of Fight Night. The organizers were Sigma Phi Epsilon and actually there was no organization. Actually, I do not mean to blame all of Sigma Phi Epsilon but just the members responsible for the safety of the event. One such member was Tim Smith. He was referred to me by other Sig Eps as being the top organizer and therefore the man most responsible for the boxing matches.

The lack of organization was manifested in several ways. One way was that a great majority of the fights were not fought at their scheduled time. The first night, Friday, the matches were an hour and a half late. On Saturday morning they were an hour late. This was very bad on the nerves of the fighters. I know this because I fought in the light heavyweight open division. However, I won my first two fights. Also many of the fights were uneven because

poor organization allowed fresh boxers to fight people with 3 fights already under their belt. I ask you what better way is there to get hurt? But you say the fighters had a choice. What choice is there next to a man's pride? Luckily this did not happen to me. I was stabbed in the back by having to default because I was told the wrong starting time for my third fight.

Another aspect of lack of organization was equally as dangerous. I know that at least one fight was allowed to take place even though no medical personnel were present to aid the fighters in case of injury. This was well known to the organizers. The fight took place though and there was an injury. Luckily, it was a minor injury and the fighter did not sue the organizers. It may come as a surprise to Sigma Phi Epsilon, but in a civil suit, I doubt the disclaimers they had fighters sign would hold up as a disclaimer of negligence on the part of the fraternity.

I think that last but not least the selection of the referees left a lot to be desired. Through their selection it was shown that

what was wanted was not a simple raise but a bloodbath that would satisfy the desires of the spectators. Many of the fights were prolonged too long. I am referring to one fight in particular. It was my opponent on Friday night. My opponent was a courageous person like most of the fighters who stepped into the ring with no boxing experience. I do not think he deserved the outcome of the fight. He had a little boxing experience myself is why I could tell that in the third round the fight should have been stopped. I was reluctant to hit my opponent because he had already closed his left eye and he could defend himself. This was evident on distinct times during the third round. The referee (a former seven-time heavyweight champ) kept moving the fight. I did but at a certain point it increased intensity. (I also wanted to recently found out just how badly my opponent was hurt. He is going to need reconstructive plastic surgery on his left eye in the name of helping the needy. In the future the selection of referees will be made with an eye toward the mate goal of the event. That is, be compassionate enough to help the needy. Not to put more people in the place of the needy.

Thom G.

It's your turn

Sands' death tragic, but don't support his cause

Editor:

As an American living in London and Manchester, I have seen the damage that the IRA-Irish Republican Army has done. Although I agree that Bobby Sands' death is tragic, I find it very hard to sympathize with his cause.

What is amazing to me is that the IRA still is receiving support and arms from Irish Americans here in the U.S. The IRA glorifies itself to Irish Americans and purports that they are Irish heroes fighting the suppression of Mother England. Believe me, this is a lie.

In 1976 and 1979, I was in three bomb scares in London, caused by the IRA. One of the bombs was supposed to go off in the London Underground, another at the London Hilton (at the height of the tourist season) and the last at the Immigration building outside of London. The IRA wasn't trying to blow up just the English, but any man, woman or child that happened to be there. INCLUDING AMERICANS.

I think that if Irish Americans wish to help Ireland, they should support the negotiations now proceeding between the English government and leading Irish political and community people.

The IRA, now being trained by the PLO, deserves to be treated like the terrorist group it is, advocating hope and destruction and not the peace Ireland needs now so desperately.

I say to other Irish Americans: don't listen to IRA supporters unless you wish to help speed up the total destruction of the Emerald Isle. Instead support peace negotiations and let people like Bobby Sands not appear as the heroes they wish to be, but the violent petty men that they are.

Barbi Tomlin — An Irish American

Reader not convinced

Editor:

This is in response to Mr. Rajabian and other Iranies who think they can disrupt M.S.C. Forum because they lived under the Shah. In the first place, very few Americans at A&M or anywhere else in the U.S. believe that the Iranian natural resources were "plundered by U.S. government." You have failed to convince us of this. We're tired of hearing about how you were exploited and colonized by the CIA and the U.S. in general, blah, blah, blah. Furthermore, we're tired of pouring billions of dollars in foreign aid, loans, and other funds into third world countries, then having these same countries turn around and nationalize U.S. properties, declare Communist governments, deliberately vote against us in the U.N., and, in your case Mr. Rajabian, send their students over here to our first class universities to demonstrate and complain. It seems to me that there is a big mix-up here about who are the exploiters and who are the exploited.

Mark Coughran

A&M may lose teacher

Editor:

Texas A&M is on the verge of losing an extraordinary teacher. Dr. J. E. Leonard, a lecturer in Organic Chemistry, is one of the finest teachers, and without a doubt the most devoted teacher, we have ever had the pleasure of knowing. His concern for his students and his willingness to help them is

evident from the first day in his class. His friendliness combined with an exceptional teaching ability makes Dr. Leonard an asset to his profession and to this University as well. Dr. Leonard is not without research to his name, either. In fact, he has just returned this semester from a year's leave of absence for research purposes.

Despite these qualifications, Dr. Leonard was denied tenure because apparently some of the administrators of this University think A&M should be the "MIT of the South." What these administrators do not seem to realize is that most of the students here prefer to attend a university which has outstanding teachers rather than outstanding researchers. Many of us feel that the rapid growth of A&M has been due largely to the warmth and concern that exists between students and faculty. Unfortunately, if the current trend continues this University may lose this unique quality and become another "prestigious" research facility.

In closing, we would like to thank Dr. Leonard for his devotion to teaching and for making this semester one that few of us will forget. We also regret that many students have never had the opportunity to take a course under Dr. Leonard. It is also our sincere hope that whoever made the decision to deny tenure to Dr. Leonard will reconsider so that future students of A&M might also have the opportunity to find out just how wonderful a teacher Dr. Leonard really is.

Any help in this matter would be appreciated.

Craig Couch

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 72 signatures.

Look beyond surface

Editor:

There is a tendency on the part of societies in general to not accept those ideals which are outside of the norm. This seems to be a universal attitude, however; this universalness does not justify the belief. Everyone of us needs to examine those individuals who do not conform to the social norm. Because someone does not mold into those ideals, does not mean he is wrong. The motives for this behavior need to be analyzed. The only way to understand, and

learn from, and about, another person is to view the individual from a point deeper than the surface. What an individual really is, is what he is inside. If, for example, a girl does not wear make-up, society does not view her as what she is inside. It instead is critical of her because the general attitude is that she could "enhance her beauty" if she wore make-up. So much emphasis is placed on the outside, that people are blind to what the person is on the inside. If someone is different, they should not be labelled a "freak." We should learn from them. Individualism is, or at least should be, an important part of each person. The ability and even the encouragement to be an individual is a gift to be treasured. And perhaps, if we refuse to be an individual, or to recognize the virtues of another's individuality, we are not as rich as he. Next time you look at someone, look at him for what he is inside. Do not look down upon him because he is not afraid to be himself.

Sherry P. McDaniel

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 29 signatures.

Nix presidential boat

Editor:

Recently, I read an article in the paper about the government's plan to spend tax money on yet another dumb idea. The reported plan is to buy a presidential yacht with which the president will entertain congressmen and other prestigious people. As the editorial in the paper stated, "Don't! The taxpayers already furnish the president with several places on dry land for this purpose." I appeal to all students at Texas A&M to let it be known (i.e. to the government) that we do not appreciate our money and that of our parents to be spent on a "fun boat for the boss." Sources inform me that the place to write for complaints on governmental issues is to our Congressman, Phil Gramm, 216 W. 26th Street, Bryan, Texas, 77840 and they will telegraph

it on to him in Washington. (I would be grateful if you would print this letter because I believe some action must be taken to stop this rather large expenditure.)

Beth Al

Convenient mailbox

Editor:

Having recently become aware of a problem that will affect 300 girls, I would like to offer a suggestion.

As a resident of the new Modular A on the south side of campus, I have noticed that I am now without a mailbox, and have been informed that I may have to move to the complete opposite corner of campus to get a postbox. Can this really be possible? Will I also be facing the probability of having no mailbox as some of those residents of the Hobby and Neely did at the beginning of the year?

I am sure a much better solution could be found, if people would listen to some of our ideas and act upon them now. One solution that has hit upon the minds of almost all new Modular A residents and a few coordinators is the Commons.

"Yea! There is plenty of room in the Commons, and the summer would be a good time to build them as half of the residents are gone. Why don't they put the mailboxes there!"

Ah, the eternal question, "Why?" since the Modular A dorm is being considered a member of the Commons community, how about building us some mailboxes so we can easily and efficiently receive our university, private, and oriented mail. Many of the new residents are seniors who will be needing every day to a mailbox that will hopefully contain job opportunities. As a member of the new dorm, I hope someone will consider my suggestion. All of us really like to have a convenient mailbox.

Eileen Bannon '82
Marissa Walls '84
Stacey Ruff '82

Editor's Note: This letter was signed by 105 additional signatures.

the small society

by Brickman



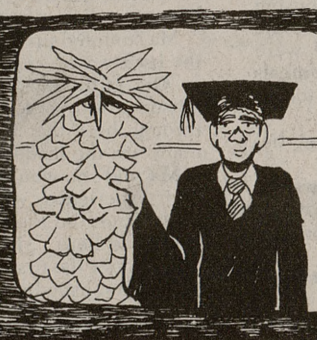
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Warped

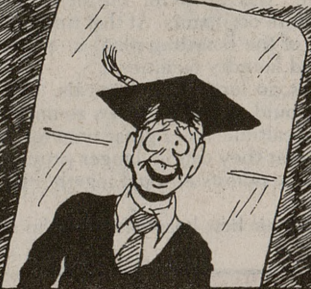
MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ALBUM OF MERRITT JENNINGS: MY FRIEND STEVE IN HIS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER DELIVERY-BOY OUTFIT.



STEVE WITH HIS GOOD FRIEND, THE PALM TREE, AFTER GRADUATION.



STEVE SUDDENLY AND HAPPILY REALIZES HE HAS GRADUATED, AND FINALLY THROUGH WITH SCHOOL.



A SHOT OF STEVE JUST AFTER HE REALIZES HE IS NO LONGER A SENIOR-ANYTHING, AND MUST NOW WORK FOR A LIVING.



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