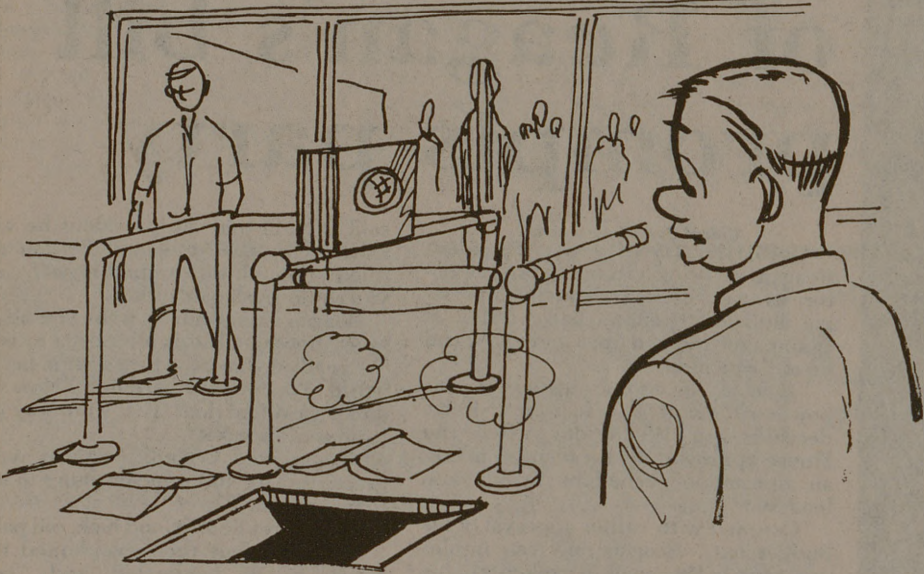


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"I've often wondered what would happen at the gate if a book wasn't properly checked out."

## Zip says farewell to Texas A&M

This letter or farewell is dedicated to the "late" graduates of the Class of '81 (Who-ops!). Now that I am at the last seven hours of my college career, I feel that I know the answer to a common question frequently asked by college students during those famous "all-nighters" before exams.

"Why am I doing this; is it all worth it?" This letter's purpose is to provide an answer to the previous question.

Unlike some of you, I began my college career at a different institution of higher learning. That's right Ags, there are other institutions outside of College Station. Although my classes were challenging, I found myself wondering why I was so miserable. I had always dreamed about going off to one of those "wild and crazy" colleges just like the ones in the 1950 college musicals on TV. Something was definitely missing!

In November of my eternally long freshman year, a friend told me about a school that was filled with "friendly" people. After I regained consciousness, I was taken to Texas A&M, home of the 12th Man. I knew from the moment that I stepped foot on

## Reader's Forum

Aggie soil that shortly I too would be joining the ranks of the 12th Man.

At University of Houston, the motto was: "Don't talk to strangers!" Believe me, every faithful Cougar observed this. At Texas A&M, no one ever taught those poor Aggies about the dangers of saying "howdy" to total strangers!

After I conquered the Aggie jargon, I faced another tough assignment: attending yell practices held after my bedtime. My first yell practice truly shocked me. I found Kyle Field filled with what seemed like the entire student body. On a good night at UH, you were lucky if one tenth of the student body made it to the actual games.

Like all good Ags, I also became an attendant of the traditional midnight practices.

When I came home for the first time since my transfer to Texas A&M, my mother couldn't believe the change in me. She also couldn't believe the eight new maroon and white t-shirts I seemed to have accumulated in those weeks.

I'm not saying that Texas A&M traditions and people make the all-night long lines worth the privilege of being an Aggie. That is for you to decide.

You see, two weeks from now, I'll be traveling down Highway 6 for the last time as a Texas A&M student. Most of you are probably thinking: "I'd give anything in her shoes." All I can say is, wait until you get there. Your heart will tell you how it is to say good-bye.

"Was it all worth it?" If you still know, I suggest that you slip into the White on the 15th for the graduation exercises. Your goosebumps will answer for me.

Merri Fischer

## Reagan and press meet too seldom

By HELEN THOMAS  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — As he did in the 1980 campaign, President Reagan is avoiding the press as much as possible.

Even the promise of news conferences have become more and more remote, with aides making clear that the President is too busy to prepare for sessions with the media.

Reagan's aides seem to think he is doing fine, lobbying Congress and communicating with various groups in the East Room and State Dining Room on his own terms. He speaks and the Cabinet officials step forward to answer the questions.

Reagan has held three news conferences as president, the last one on June 16.

He admits that he did not fare well in that go-round. He appeared ill prepared for many of the questions, particularly on the foreign policy.

A president does not have to hold news conferences, but it is of the few presidential institutions of direct public accountability. Unlike a prime minister, he is not subjected to formal questioning in a parliament.

Unless Reagan now has a series of news conferences, which aides indicate is unlikely, his first year record will be the lowest in three decades.

Former President Gerald Ford had five news conferences between Aug. 9, 1974 until 1975. Jimmy Carter held 22 press conferences his first year in office. Lyndon Johnson had 35 during his first year as president in 1964; John F. Kennedy, 19 in 1961 and Dwight D. Eisenhower, 23 in 1953.

Richard Nixon had the least number in his first year — eight. During the 1974 Watergate crisis, he held two news conferences.

Reagan's recovery from a gunshot wound in the chest is often cited by his aides as the main reason for the big gap. But recently they have promised a news conference at least once a month that has not materialized.

Reagan appears to be fairly well at ease in encounters with the press, but his advisers definitely are not. They much prefer controlled circumstances where he is briefed beforehand.

The President is not hostile to the press. He does chide reporters in what seems to be a lighthearted way at times for "distorting" the news. But most of the time, he is smiling and tolerant as photographers and reporters are summoned into the Oval Office — the thundering herd, as Kennedy used to call the pack — to take his picture with a visitor or a group.

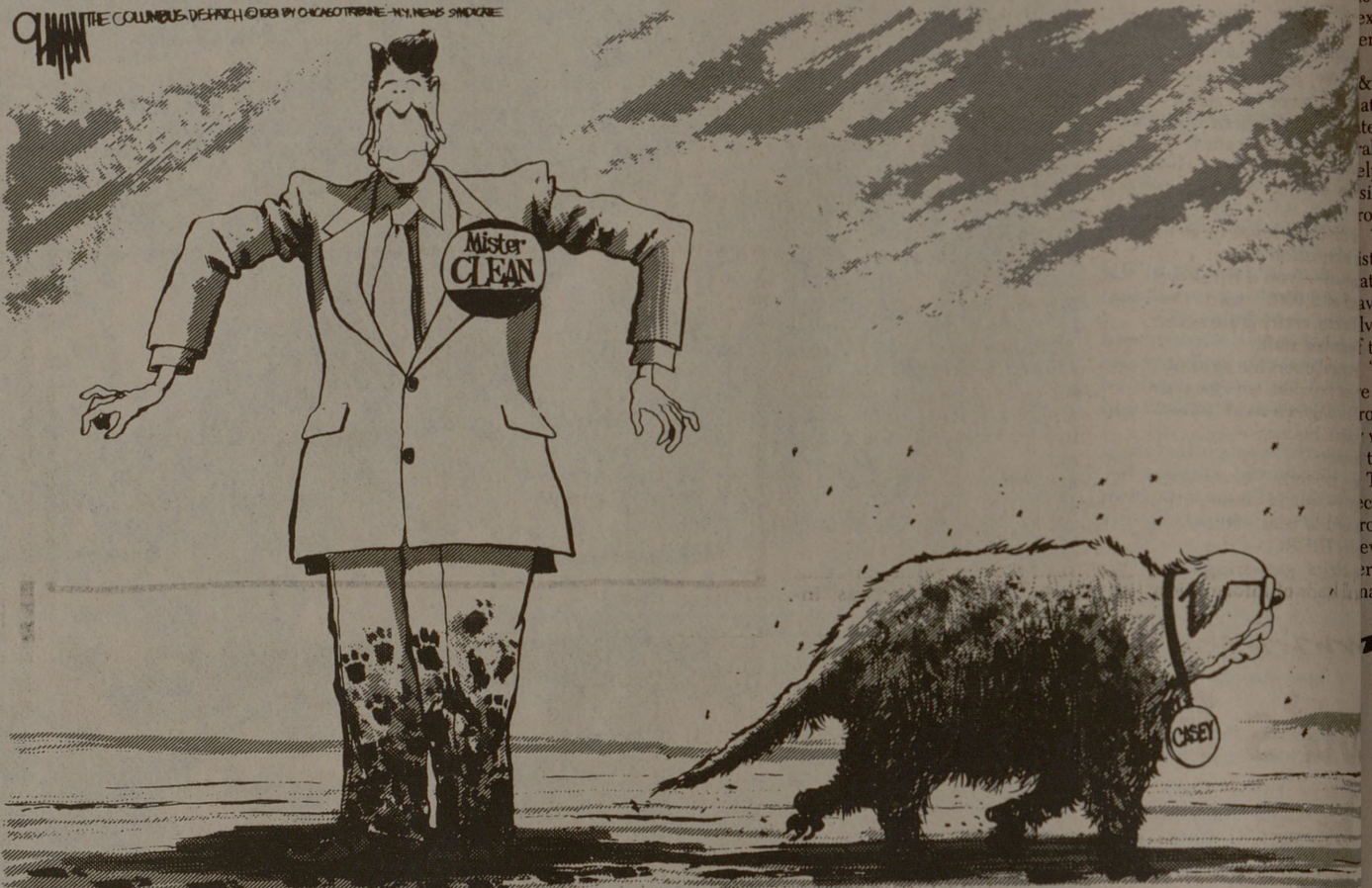
Sometimes he comments that as soon as the press is gone, they can get down to business. "Is there a Kodak in the crowd," he will quip to the photographers, most of whom carry Japanese cameras.

There is also banter with reporters who ask questions in what is always called a "photographic opportunity." On such occasions, there are protests from White House aides, who are always standing by. "This is not a news conference," White House counselor Edwin Meese will say.

When reporters shout a question at Reagan, he will often look at an aide, and shake his head indicating that he has been barred from answering the inquiry.

Recently, Reagan, stepping off his helicopter after a horseback ride at Quantico, Va., was asked a question on the Middle East. "I shouldn't do this," he said warily, but then did respond to a few questions.

His aides, including Meese and chief of staff James Baker, do meet with reporters at breakfast sessions. Rarely does a Sunday pass without one or two members of the Reagan administration, from the Cabinet on down, hold forth on a talk show. Reagan's press staff is helpful and at times does a masterful job of public relations. But they know, as reporters do, there is no substitute for a president speaking for himself, on the record, and for today, and history.



## British forget their troubles in splendor of royal wedding

Lady Di is now officially Diana, Princess of Wales, and England can relax now that the splendor called "The Wedding" is over.

When the Prince and Princess spoke their vows, truly for all the world to see, they were not only stating their personal hopes for the future, but carried in their words the hopes and frail dreams of all the English commoners. Not in this country, and rarely in the world, has a single event stirred the hopes and interests of so many.

Such a fervor of dedication to celebration and patriotism was not matched in this country even over the celebration of our 200th year of independence. In the midst of the tragedies of hunger-strikers in Ireland and rioting in the streets of England, more than two million of the Queen's subjects gathered to watch and celebrate the noble nuptials.

It's interesting to note that the closest comparisons to that sort of intense, unifying interest in this country have been for funerals. Remember the thousands that collected to mourn the Kennedys, Martin Luther King Jr. and Elvis Presley. But even on these occasions, the entire

## Writer's cramp

by Angelique Copeland

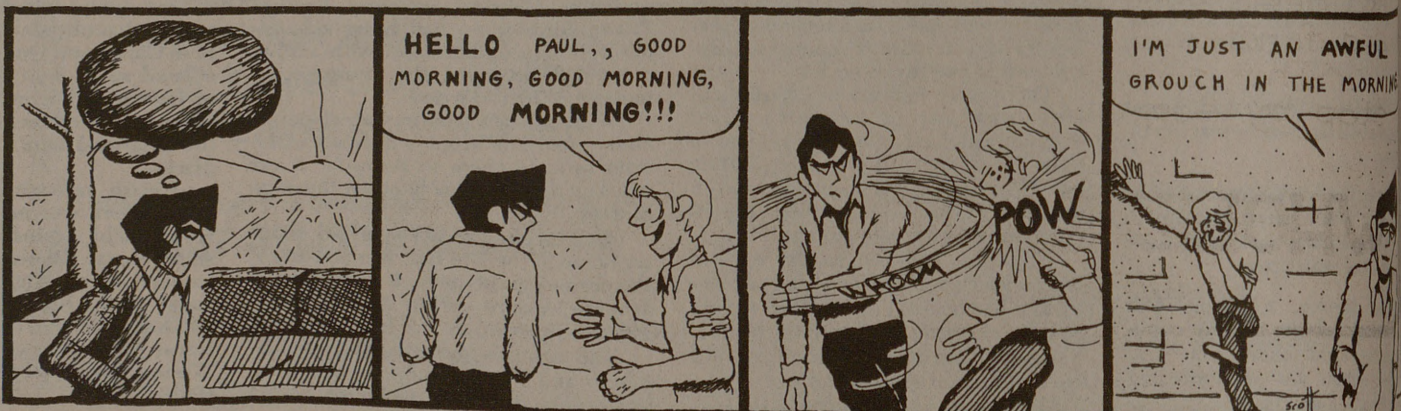
Who on this continent could so embody America's hope and promise for the future? The answer is no one. Our super heroes on the silver screen. We have in them the best of both the super-rich and the super-poor. But their antics inspire a begrudged awe. The answer is certainly the presidential family. Presidents come and go, and while their actions are criticized they are not idolized.

For England, Prince Charles and Princess Diana are living storybook figures. Though their only power lies in the strength of their subjects' belief in them, the Royal Family represents the continuity of England's history and culture.

All the pomp and circumstance of the wedding home to day-to-day lives plagued by a stagflation economy and unrest in the streets for a few hours none of that matters. The ceremonies were forgotten because the family was getting married and everyone basked in all the splendor the country could muster.

country did not participate in the event. England, whose frail economy and soaring inflation should make Americans appreciate only \$1.30 a gallon gasoline, was all the more excited and impressed at the ostentatious display of wealth. Even the poor rejoiced in the staggering cost of the ring, the glass coach, and Lady Di's gown because it was their royal family and you always want the best for family members. The less fortunate in this country would have been aghast as such a display.

## Warped



By Scott McCullar

## THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

### MEMBER

Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Congress

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 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.

The Battalion is published Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during Texas A&M's summer semesters. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Editor ..... Angelique Copeland  
City Editor ..... Jane Brust  
Photo Editor ..... Greg Gammon  
Sports Editor ..... Ritchie Priddy  
Focus Editor ..... Cathy Saathoff  
Make-up Editor ..... Greg Gammon  
Staff Writers ..... Bernie Fette, Kathy O'Connell, Denise Richter,  
Cartoonist ..... Scott McCullar

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of 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.