

## Two views of G. Gordon Liddy's politics

G. Gordon Liddy brought his dog and pony show to Texas A&M Monday night, and the crowd bought it. Liddy, a convicted felon who spent more than four years in prison for masterminding the Watergate break-in, received a standing ovation at the end of his presentation. Amazing.

At the height of the Watergate scandal, the public was screaming for blood from Nixon's watchdogs H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman. Liddy might have been able to raise bus fare by going on a speaking tour then. Last year he made more than \$250,000. He's got to pay all those fines and legal fees somehow.

Liddy has become something of a folk hero, as autograph seekers who mobbed the reception room following his address will attest. During his speech, the audience kept breaking into applause.

But the things he said were hard *not* to applaud. There was a "let's hear it for Mom and apple pie" quality to most of his statements. For example, he called for the revival of military supremacy in the United States. What better place than Texas A&M to voice that opinion? And how could you not applaud when he said the United States must fight to be seen once again as a powerful and respected world power? But folks, do we want to do it the way Nixon, through Liddy, did it?

Liddy cautioned the audience about living in a world of illusions where everyone is honorable and there is no



Angelique Copeland

need for the covert services of the FBI and CIA. I agree they have a legitimate use. But Nixon didn't order Liddy to break into the Soviet embassy. Nixon was wielding his power as president against a "fellow American," for the sole purpose of insuring that he keep and increase that power. And Liddy went along with it.

For too many members of the audience, Liddy and the whole Watergate fiasco seem long ago and far away. But G. Gordon Liddy was convicted for crimes against the people of the United States under our system of justice. Now we're paying and applauding him to tell us how he did it.

I have to admit I went into the G. Gordon Liddy speech armed with a little bit of curiosity and a lot of bias. I expected to see a rat-eating, wire-tapping, fire-breathing lunatic. Instead, I saw a rat-eating, wire-tapping, fire-breathing, but definitely sane man.

Liddy is a dynamic, charismatic speaker, as was obvious by the frequent applause and the standing ovation he received in Rudder Auditorium.

I even caught myself smiling at some of his wit and anecdotes. Imagine that. Smiling at a convicted conspirator!

Liddy, flames shooting from his nostrils, didn't give anyone a chance to condemn him for his Watergate involvement. Not even the person holding up the derogatory sign in the back of the auditorium. He owned up to his crime, gave the obligatory background on it, answered a few inevitable questions about it, and cracked a few jokes about it.

And while it was probably the topic of Watergate that attracted that crowd, I think they got more than they expected from that eloquent speech they applauded so enthusiastically.

I hope I'm not just kidding myself when I say that the audience was applauding his words and not his deeds.

His intelligent words certainly overshadowed those previous unscrupulous deeds.

After all, before he was a criminal he was an assistant



Jennifer Afflerbach

district attorney, an Army officer, an FBI bureau advisor, and a special assistant to the Secretary of Treasury. Not just your average second-story maning his views on why the country is in such a

Liddy's complaints about the United States in the ranks of world powers and losing the respect other countries are not unfounded. His solution not farfetched. He is a man of knowledge speaking experience.

And I hope his criminal record will not drown his voice. It was certainly heard in Rudder Auditorium Monday night.

## RV defends integrity of group

Editor:

In last Thursday's Reader's Forum, the integrity of the Ross Volunteer Company was called into question by an anonymous writer. His letter charged the seniors of the Company with conspiring to prevent the selection of two Corps juniors as Ross Volunteers solely because of their outfit affiliation.

As commander of the Ross Volunteer Company, I had two options. I could respond with a letter of rebuttal, or I could not respond at all and allow the issue to fade with the passing of time. When I sought advice from University officials not directly involved with my Company, they endorsed the latter because they felt a rebuttal would only prolong the controversy. That same Friday morning, I received a phone call from a gentleman who did not identify himself. He told me that if I were to submit a rebuttal to the Battalion, he would follow with yet another editorial whose purpose, I believe, would be to further slander the Ross Volunteers. Given this set of circumstances, it would have been easier and possibly more sensible to forgo any response.

But if we as Ross Volunteers are reluctant to stand firm upon the life principles of our beloved Ross, we most certainly would be responsible for staining his good name

and for unlearning every lesson he sought to teach us. My intent is not to defame any individual or group, but to reaffirm in the mind of every Aggie the high ideals and integrity which permeate the Ross Volunteer Company.

The allegation was concerned specifically with the RV election process. The article stated that the seniors, "simply refused to review any applicants from that outfit." This cannot be true since any senior wishing to cast a vote either for or against a junior must first review his application and then signify that he has done so by initialing the back of the application. These applications remain on file with the Company as proof that this occurred and may be made available to anyone justly contending the election. The only applications which were not reviewed were those indicating an overall GPR below the minimum 2.30 required for initial membership. All others were available for review and were, in fact, reviewed. I am sure that the two juniors referred to did have sufficient qualifications for membership. However, no more than 72 juniors may be inducted each year and in the course of our elections, we identified at

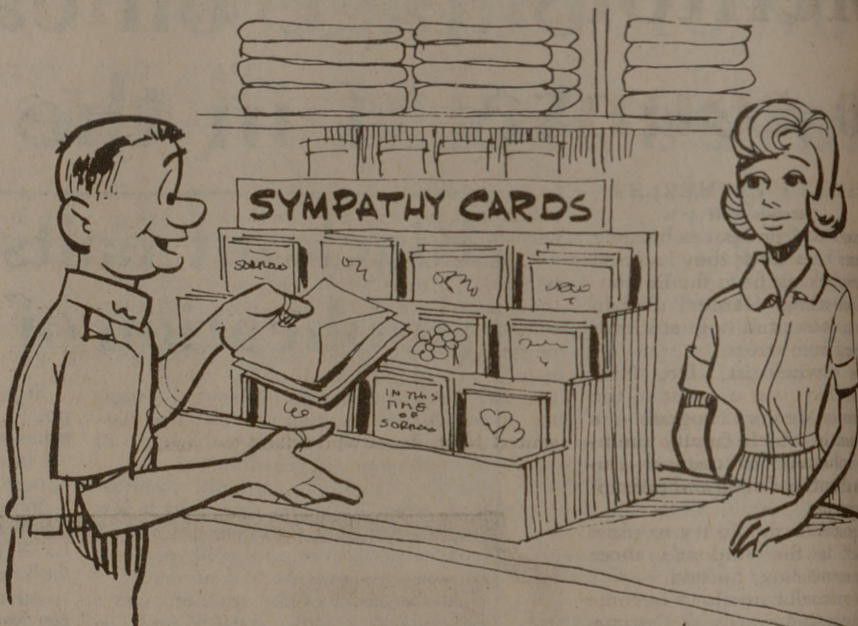
least 72 applicants who, in our estimation, were more deserving and better qualified than they.

In conclusion, I must say that the ideals and founding principles of the Ross Volunteer Company have not degenerated. Rather, they have grown in stature with the Class of '82 and will continue doing so in the Class of '83. Lawrence Sullivan Ross endures to this day in the lives of those who proudly bear allegiance to the Ross Volunteers. But you be the judge — actions speak louder than any words. Stand with us in silence tonight as we pay tribute to the lives of Robert Brennan and Kenneth White in ceremony of Silver Taps. See if you do not recognize the proud and dignified spirit of old Sul Ross himself standing in the midst of the ghostly men in white.

Robert W. Marshall  
Ross Volunteer Captain  
Commanding

Editor's note: This letter was scheduled to run in Tuesday's paper. Silver Taps was held Tuesday night.

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"It's nothing serious. I'm just expressing my sympathy to several of my friends at Tech!"

## It's your turn

## Attitudes, not Greeks hurt Aggie spirit

Editor:

In response to Reader's Forum and the editorial of October 1, 1981, I would first of all like to pose a question to Miss Pendergrass and all others opposed to officially recognizing the Greeks. Would your Aggie Spirit deteriorate if the Greeks were officially recognized? Mine wouldn't, why should it? And secondly, with or without University recognition, the Greeks are here to stay, so why not welcome them with open arms and work together towards a mutually beneficial coexistence? It is a belligerent attitude like yours that causes deterioration of the Aggie Spirit.

As for you, Mr. Name Withheld, why did you come to A&M? I came here looking for diversity, a diversity inherent with any school as large as ours. Believe it or not, this diversity can be used to everyone's advantage without bringing any detriment to anyone. We have already found our own little niche in the Corps. So, who are we to attempt to deny anyone the right to find their own little niche, be it in a fraternity or a sorority?

And unless your last name is Webster, who are you to say that the definition of a Good Ag is one who "opposes frats and sororities"? I feel that you, Mr. Name Withheld owe the Greeks an apology, for they are just as much a part of Aggieland as we are.

Otto F.W. Boneta '83

## Cleaner 'grode' stories

Editor:

I would like to thank the yell leaders for telling clean "grode" stories at a recent yell practice. I have been at Texas A&M for several years and love everything... except the vulgarity used in telling grode stories. I

would like to take my parents to yell practice before my graduation, but until now I have always been ashamed to do so. The purpose of yell practice is to strengthen the school's spirit and morale. Texas A&M is known far and wide for the pride, honesty, integrity and intelligence of its students. Are vulgar grode stories a good example of this?

Rick Wyl  
Mike Williams

## Football tickets unfair

Editor:

To the Athletic Department (Ticket Office):

Please inform me and many severely irked upperclassmen of the reason for the change to a random selection of tickets for football games. My first year at Texas A&M, sections of Kyle Field's seats were desig-

nated according to class level. This meant that your freshman and sophomore years, you had to sit in the end sections of the stadium, but it also meant that you were assured of at least decent seats your junior and senior years.

With the new random selection process, there are persons — of which I am one — who have, and will, attend Texas A&M for 4 years and never get better than 35-yard-line seats. My second year here, I once received 35-yard-line seats, but last year and so far this year, with junior and senior tickets, I haven't done any better than the 16-yard-line.

I have been told by friends that they 'think' the reason for the system change was that too many upperclassman seats were being given to underclassmen by means of the I-1 option.

Well, the option of using "X" number of senior ticketbooks and "X" number of non-senior ticketbooks to get "X+X" tickets on doctor day (Monday) still exists and seniors

still aren't getting good seats. So why not have a system change and, except for control of the length of ticket lines, we still have set days for each class's tickets?

Also, please discuss the reasons for accepting this option: Start on Monday mornings with 50-yard-line tickets and up the sections working outwards to each end-zone. Because of dates, make the I-1 option. True, this would keep men without senior dates from getting yard-line seats, but it would assure the better than 25-yard-line seats at least years here. It is still a privilege to be senior, isn't it?

Please inform me, and the many graduate students and seniors who continuously walked away from the window angered, nauseous and suicidal, of the reason for the system change.

Richard M...

## By Scott McCullar

## Warped

