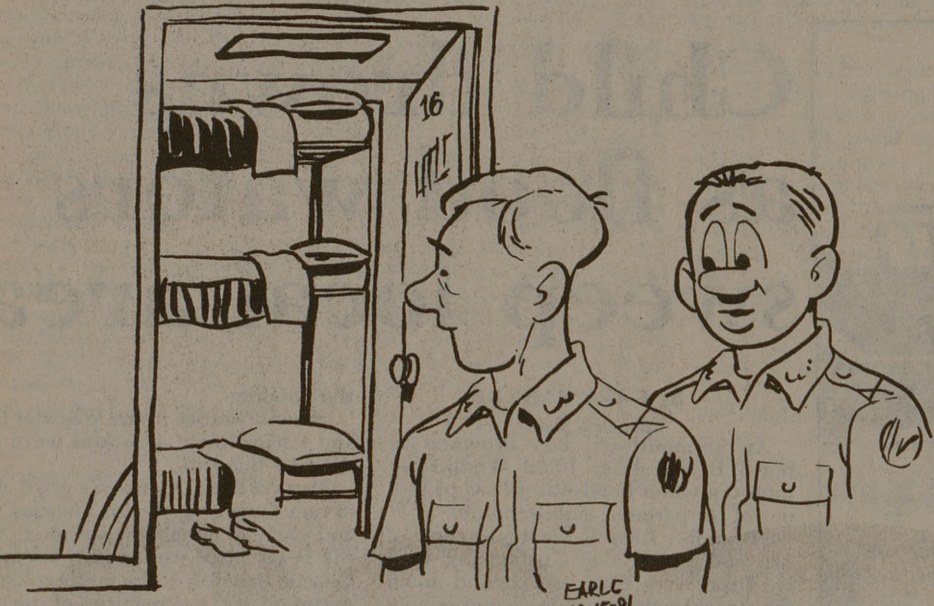


Slouch By Jim Earle



"Looks like they've figured out a way to handle the dormitory room shortage."

Redpot incidents draw criticism

Editor:

I would like to draw some attention to an incident that occurred in my dorm earlier. In the spirit of bonfire, a group of people assembled and overtook the dorm's Redpot so that they could shave his head. As I watched them shave everything but a patch shaped like a block "T" (the one found on the A&M logo), I felt sorry for the guy. However, I found out later that he offered little resistance and saw it all as "good bull" and a part of the bonfire experience. The event that is most concerning happened after this.

The shaving was done in a floor lounge and all the freshmen, both participants and observers, were caged in this lounge by the upperclassmen. They were not allowed to leave until the Redpot had busted their rears with his ax handle. I've been told that this ceremony was usually done when the freshmen went out to cut and as a result were advanced on the bonfire acceptance scale because of it. All done in the spirit of tradition and good bull, of course. The bottom line is that physical damage was done!

Reader's Forum

One person, afterward, complained that his butt was bleeding, which I didn't believe until he displayed his "good bull" to those of us who were just hearing about it. He was not lying and it was a sight that I wish I had been spared. He was hit about four or five times and for the amount of bruising, bleeding, and swelling that I saw, they must have been solid shots! One other victim complained of welts. Fortunately, the Head Resident had stopped the ceremony before all had been hit.

What kind of University is this where a person pays good money to get decent

housing and a good education must suffer the pressure of doing what they think must be done to be accepted. That apparently being physically fit. Some argue that the freshmen should just refuse, but these people don't understand the amount of pressure involved. The same pressure delivered by many parties on campuses around the nation. The pressure has caused many people to consume large amounts of alcohol that in some cases led to death. The pressure is real, case, a hard blow in the wrong place has resulted in spinal injury.

A system that allows people to be the consequences of such pressure is madness. I wish that those individuals see this behavior as acceptable and spirit of tradition would drag them out of the dark corner of ignorance. Neanderthal reasoning to clearly understand the inhumanity involved. This

Class of '84

Reagan must follow original programs

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON--The testing time is at hand for Ronald Reagan, not just in one area on one issue, but on all of the major pieces of his program at once.

On the economic front, there are clear signs of congressional reluctance to carry through the second round of budget cuts. There are strong hints from prominent GOP legislators that they might like to postpone some of the scheduled tax reductions in order to relieve budget pressures.

In the national defense arena, there is sharp criticism of his decisions on the MX-missile basing plan, on the start-up of B-1 bomber production, and on the overall commitment of funds. The criticism is coming from many fronts, including fellow conservatives, Democratic defense specialists and even some senior uniformed officers.

On the diplomatic front, there is stubborn resistance in Congress to his plan for the sale of sophisticated AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia; a growing risk of direct U.S. military involvement in the Mideast, in the wake of Sadat's assassination; demands for the United States to take a tougher line toward Israel; and, at the same time, heightened Israeli sensitivity to American efforts to cultivate support in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Complicating all this is the steadily worsening and ever-more-public infighting among the President's national security aides.

In this kind of situation, a President can expect to be lobbied vigorously by those who urge him to be "pragmatic" and those who urge him to "stick to your guns."

There is a lot to be said, in almost all these matters, for taking a second look at the positions the President is defending. It is not at all hard to make a case that the tax cuts are excessive, that the MX in hardened silos is a hugely expensive and very short-term expedient, that the B-1 is more of a bummer than a bomber against Soviet air defenses.

It is easy to say, now, that the United States and Saudi Arabia both might have been better off had the AWACS surveillance been handled for a few years longer by American planes and American crews. It is equally plausible to argue that we need to

be more sensitive to the sentiments of our neighbors and our European allies.

And a lot of folks, at high levels in Reagan's official family, make no bones about the fact that they would like to start with a clean slate in filling the top jobs in the Pentagon, the State Department and the National Security Council.

But conceding all that, the lesson of history is quite clear: At this stage of his term, a President needs, more than anything else, to show his steadiness, his purposefulness and his perseverance in the face of pressure.

And that means, on most of these matters, Reagan is going to have to play out the hand he has dealt—not try to pick up his cards and reshuffle them.

The danger in doing anything else could be described to him by the predecessor Presidents he entertained briefly at the White House last week, before sending them to represent him and the country at the ceremonies in Cairo.

Even before he was sworn in, Jimmy Carter wobbled on a key appointment, backing off his first choice for director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In his first nine months as President, he scrapped a key piece for his own economic program. Both actions damaged his credibility with Congress enormously.

Jerry Ford did something the country never expected by pardoning Richard Nixon. And then he did a 180-degree turn on his own anti-inflation program. He never really recovered from those steps.

Nixon was more persevering and successful for a time, but the twists and turns of his Watergate evasions finally destroyed his backing, even within his own party.

What all this suggests is that Reagan may have the option of second thoughts on one or two of the major policy and personnel decisions that are being challenged today. But if he tries to cut and run on several of them, he will be worse off by far than by trying to stay the course. His gamble has to be that his initial judgments were not as wrong as the growing band of critics suggest.



It's your turn

Student upset with yell leaders

Editor:

I am the daughter of an Aggie, a graduate of A&M and a current graduate student here at A&M, so I have seen my share of Aggie games over the years. I have at times become discouraged with the teams or even the fans, but I have always been proud of the band and the yell leaders — until this year. The band seems to ever improve upon perfection, but what happened to the yell leaders? The first game I chalked up to inexperience, but after this week's game, I was really upset. Not only are they "off" at times, but they seem unorganized and not sure what to do. What was the absolute worst were the critical time outs when they just stood there! Were they too absorbed in the game to yell? Everyone around me was screaming their lungs out and wanted badly to be led in a yell — a simple "Gig 'em Aggies" would have sufficed. They also omitted the yells after both scores. I realize that problems arise with such a large,

spread-out crowd, but I think with a little work and thought they could overcome that. The enthusiastic Ags make their job much easier; the yell leaders just have to take advantage of them. Everyone around me seemed to be of the same opinion. I think we have a great season ahead and would like to more effectively help inspire the team to the Cotton Bowl!

Dana Perry '76

Thanks to Ags

Editor:

I want to thank two Aggies for their assistance. Last Friday afternoon, October 2, my wife and I were returning to Austin from the Annual Judicial Conference in Corpus Christi. Unfortunately, we had tire trouble south of Luling. As I was preparing to

change the tire, two young men stopped and insisted that they change the tire for me. It was a hot afternoon, but in less than 15 minutes the tire was changed. These young men were Aggies on their way to Poth. They were proud of being Aggies; they certainly are a credit to Texas A&M. We thank them for their help and appreciate their enthusiasm for Texas A&M.

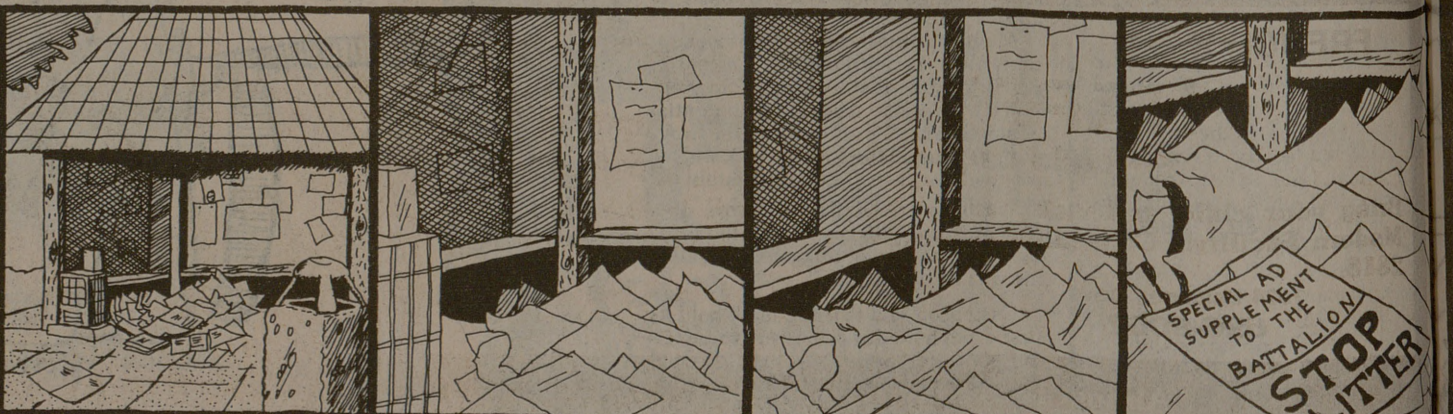
Carl E. Perry

Correction

Texas A&M student Karen Lynn Gilligan who was involved in a wreck last week was mistakenly reported as being from Galveston when in fact she is from Cypress. Marie Gilligan attends Moody College in Galveston and was not involved in the 7 collision.

By Scott McCullar

Warped



THE BATTALION

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