

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Jogging is not what it's cracked up to be. I tried it once last year and look at me."

## Old Ag asks for positive thinking

Editor:

Before I'm branded as an "Old Aggie" who is looking through maroon-colored glasses, let me point out I graduated from Texas A&M in 1974, not that long ago. I have kept up with Aggie activities from A to Z and want to note a few things both good and bad coming from Aggieland.

First, the University's academic record speaks for itself. More and more, I hear about the great things Aggie-educated people are doing. But the bad part is, I don't hear about it from the mass media, only from Aggie publications and friends connected with Texas A&M. What happened to that public relations firm the University hired a few years ago? We aren't getting enough of this good stuff to the John Q. Public.

Second, the Texas A&M student body as a whole is still the best-dressed, best-looking bunch of people I've ever seen. I travel to many games and cities following Aggie sports and personal business, but nobody else can boast of a better looking group of young people than at Texas A&M. But the bad part is so few of them, including Corps members, say howdy to visitors or know where anything is on campus when asked.

Third, the Board of Regents has finally managed to let its squabbling and power politics spill over into the mass media in a way nobody wants to see. They could use a good public relations firm in the worst way,

## Reader's Forum

but it would be cheaper to keep their mouths shut and let the school administrators do their jobs.

Especially in the athletic department! They ran off Marvin Tate without telling him why, and now they're trying to wreck the football team and Coach Tom Wilson by spreading vicious, cutting stories about replacing him if his team loses any more games this year.

Mere words, even the four-letter kind, cannot express my anger and disappointment over this asinine, dangerous meddling of theirs. They can deny it all they want, but we know who they are, both those current and past regents who wish to rule Texas A&M much as Frank Erwin and John Connally ruled t.u. during the '50s and '60s.

WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER t.u. - ON-THE-BRAZOS! We want Texas A&M University, a unique University dedicated to high ideals and fair play, not backstabbing and smoke-filled rooms of political football.

I urge everyone — students, faculty, staff, taxpayers, alumni and all friends of Aggieland — to write or call Coach Tom Wilson, his staff and all the Aggie football

team, and tell them how proud you are to wear the Maroon and White and fight in the trenches for Aggies everywhere each day. Follow up with calls and letters to President Frank Vandiver and members of the University Board of Regents expressing the same commitment to Aggie excellence in athletics and support of our fine staff.

This team will not let itself be sidetracked by outsiders. It wants to win, to play team and pick cotton Jan. 1. But it can't survive alone. It needs you, every one of you, backing them by your letters, visits to coaches and players and your presence as the 12th Man at every Aggie game.

Don't jump on the bandwagon when it reaches Dallas New Year's Day. We want that kind of support. We need help NOW in making that trip to Dallas. Speak up for your Texas Aggies! Say "Aggie" to visitors and learn all you can about Texas A&M so you can help visitors understand the University, too. Project a positive image to the world and make "em proud of Aggies. Instill that positive thinking yourselves and the Aggie football team will convince those teapanners that didn't create burnt orange sunsets for us — that's just His way of having the bonfire every evening!

P.S. Since I live next door to two of our cheerleaders, I really loved the A&M-University of Houston game!

Hank Walrumb

## Handicapped need aid during campus alarms

Editor:

The shock is still anesthetizing my system, but I have recovered enough to write about a potentially disastrous situation that never should have come to pass in the first place.

As a student worker in the reference section of the library, I am well aware of the number of fire alarms that have been triggered since the advent of the fall semester. For the most part, the students exit the library in an orderly and well-controlled manner. Unfortunately, however, not all of our fellow students have this facility to ambulate to the nearest stairwell and thus exit from a possible raging conflagration. The students that I am referring to are those among us who traverse the campus in a wheelchair.

During yesterday's fire alarm at Sterling C. Evans Library, I was chagrined and filled with vexed indignation upon hearing that a wheelchair-bound young woman was abandoned on the third floor. Could anyone possibly imagine (or would anyone want to imagine) what was running through that young lady's mind as her fellow Aggies were scurrying to the nearest exits?

Not only are the elevators not in use during a fire alarm (and rightly so, because of possible electrical shortages aiding and abetting any fire already in progress as well as the pernicious effects attributed to smoke inhalation) but exiting by the stairwells is a virtual impossibility for a non-ambulatory student as they are "sardine packed" with exiting students.

Just what are the University's procedures for evacuating the physically handicapped during a fire alarm? If such procedures are in force already, are they the most efficacious in terms of manpower, canvassing the floors and helping the non-ambulatory out of the building in the most hurried yet safest manner possible? And finally, have these measures been practiced enough so that they have become so ingrained in an employees/student's constitution that their implementation during a fire alarm or fire drill is second hand in nature?

Admittedly, these provocative questions may be opening up a Pandora's box of ac-

cusations and grousing as well as threatening those persons sinecured in the administrative hierarchy. The matter must be broached, however, if Texas A&M is to avoid the following harrowing scenario:

Her life was fraught with physical infirmities but her mind and spirit never wavered from her goal of receiving a college diploma. This dedication and unflagging spirit was soon to bear fruition in her bachelor's degree in Biology. All that remained in completing her final course on the degree plan was a few extraneous journal articles that had to be procured from the library and incorporated into the conclusion section of her final term paper.

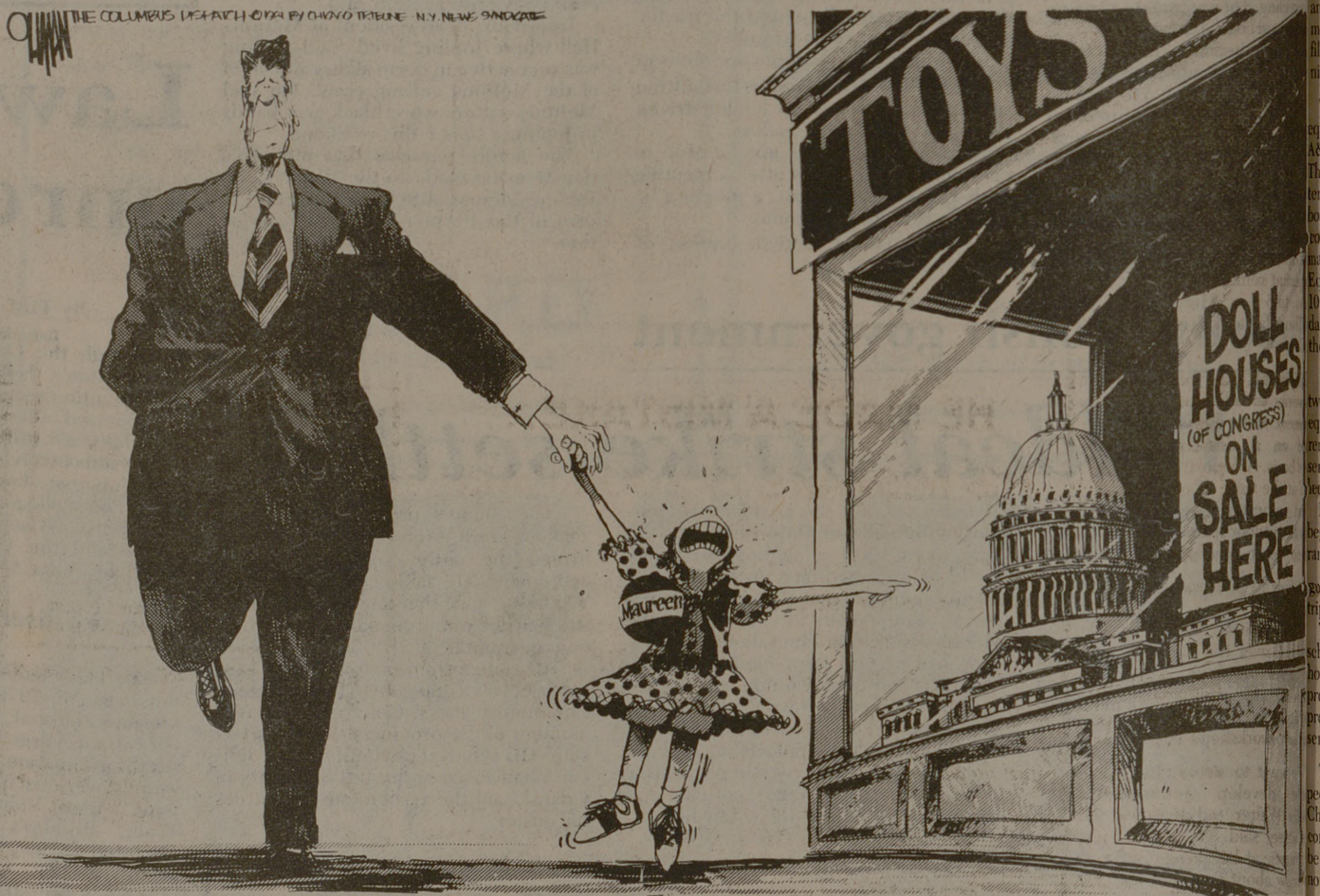
Meandering her way between the stacks, she found her required journals and headed toward the Xerox machines to duplicate them for reading in her home at her discretion and leisure. However, this young lady never did see home again. After all her self-ministrations at overcoming the physical and moral debilities foisted upon her by nature and society-at-large, she was the victim of a very preventable but now too late tragedy that bears narration.

Reconstructing her last few hours, she was in the library when ...

I do not mean to lay the onus of responsibility for this incident in the library's lap. It applies to every building and structure on this campus and should be of grave concern to each and every Aggie. Let us not become so embroiled in our subject — mayors and daily trials and tribulations — as to neglect the larger world of which we are a part.

Next time there is a fire alarm or fire drill in a building on campus of which you are an occupant, quickly gather your books and belongings and prepare to head for the nearest exit. However, in lieu of any definitive regulations set forth by the University, STOP and LOOK around for the one fellow student whose fright and helplessness is as real and as tangible as yours, but whose ability to extricate themselves from such a terror-ridden situation is truncated by their lack of physical mobility. You will be thanking yourself for the rest of your life.

Marc Rogers  
Graduate Student in Educational Psychology



## It's your turn 'Warped' cartoon sickens reader

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the "Warped" cartoon of Nov. 2. I am an Emergency Medical Technician trainee, and I was working with one of the Bryan ambulance crews last weekend when an auto-pedestrian accident occurred. The victim suffered a possible collapsed lung, multiple rib fractures, open compound fractures of both legs, etc. . . . (Hardly "a clean kill", to quote the driver of the car in the cartoon). The man died a few minutes before we reached the hospital. After watching that man die, I fail to see how the idea of someone being hit by a car could possibly be considered amusing. My compliments to Bill Brana and friends - I'm pleased to see I'm not the only person sickened by Scott McCullar's idea of humor.

Stephanie Sidoti '83  
Box 6721, College Station

## Dangers of electronics

Editor:

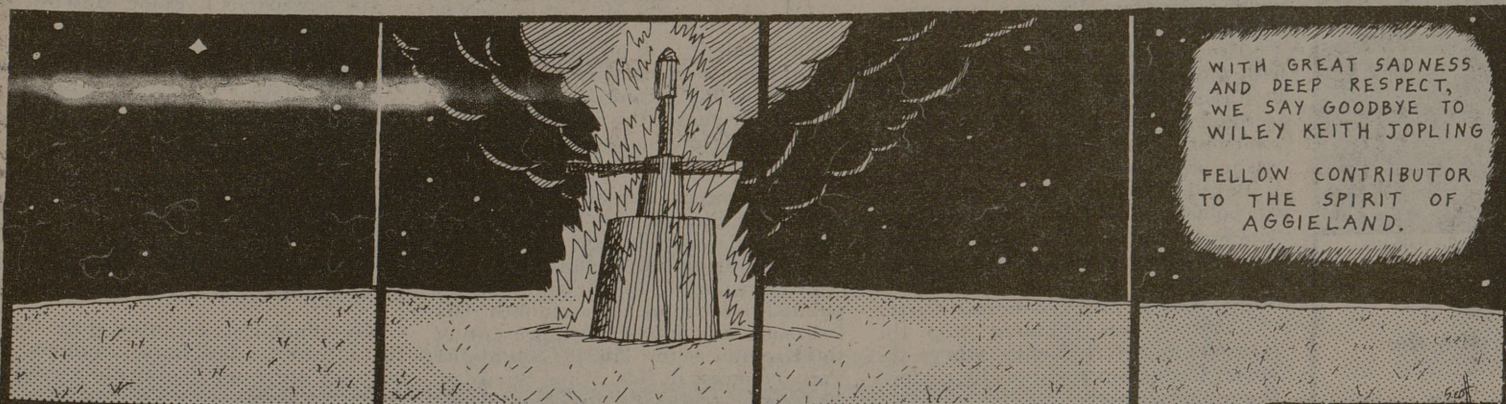
Concerning the article written by Scott McCullar:

Scott, you should be more informative on the dangers of opening the back of a television. That small decal that says "dan-

ger" is more than a decorative attachment. There are various sections of the electronics of a television where many electrons reside. If a person were to come into contact with these areas, the electrons would come and play all over their body; moreover, don't think the participating body would enjoy, much less survive, such an encounter.

Mike Koumas

## Warped



## By Scott McCullar

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talion 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 courses within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

## LETTERS POLICY

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 also be signed, show the author's name and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but 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.

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