

Slouch By Jim Earle



"So I decided if it helped me see better, why not?"

U.S. Senators: Are they exactly what they eat?

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Mimi Sheraton, restaurant critic for The New York Times, recently devoted several hundred words to an unflattering review of the Senate dining room's cuisine. Here are a few excerpts:

Hot roast beef sandwich — "Gray slices of curled-up meat ... floury brown gravy ... what surely must have been whipped, dehydrated potatoes."

Bean soup — "Needed several dashes of salt and pepper to bring it to life. Hints of ham hocks and braised onions it is said to contain seemed missing from our portion."

Boiled shrimp — "Tasted of iodine, indicating they were past their prime."

Broiled fish — "unidentified and unrecognizable ... reeked fishiness."

Apple pie — "Syrupy canned apple slices in a papery, slightly salty crust."

Pecan pie — "Long on sugary filling and short on pecans."

Clam chowder — "Looked as though someone had combined the tomato-based Manhattan chowder with the creamier New England variety, to the detriment of both."

Uncle Samburger — "Dreadful cole slaw ... soggy sesame seed bun ... a limp slice of caustic pickle."

There's an old saying that "you are what you eat." To the extent it is valid, Miss Sheraton's comments, which sent my taste buds diving into their fox holes, might explain why the Senate sometimes behaves as it does.

I know several senators who appear "past their prime" and look as if they might have been "kept hot on a steam table."

In fact, I often feel that way myself, particularly right after I have eaten lunch in the Senate restaurant adjacent to the dining room.

Certain other senators, who shall here be "unidentified" if not "unrecognizable," definitely are "slightly dry" and exhibit a "dried-up tasteless" forensic style.

We also have senators who are "starchy looking," senators "pallid in color and flavor," senators who are "musty," senators who are "soggy" and whose syntax is "as difficult to chew as a rubber band."

Some senators undoubtedly are "sugary" and "syrupy." Others are "limp" and "caustic." Some could be described as "papery" and some do indeed have a "salty crust."

Moreover, senatorial activities at times reek of fishiness, as when a senator who speaks out strongly against the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia winds up voting in favor of the transaction.

Too bad Miss Sheraton didn't visit the dining room on a day when there was flounder on the menu. She might have given us some clues as to what the Senate will do on the B-1 issue.

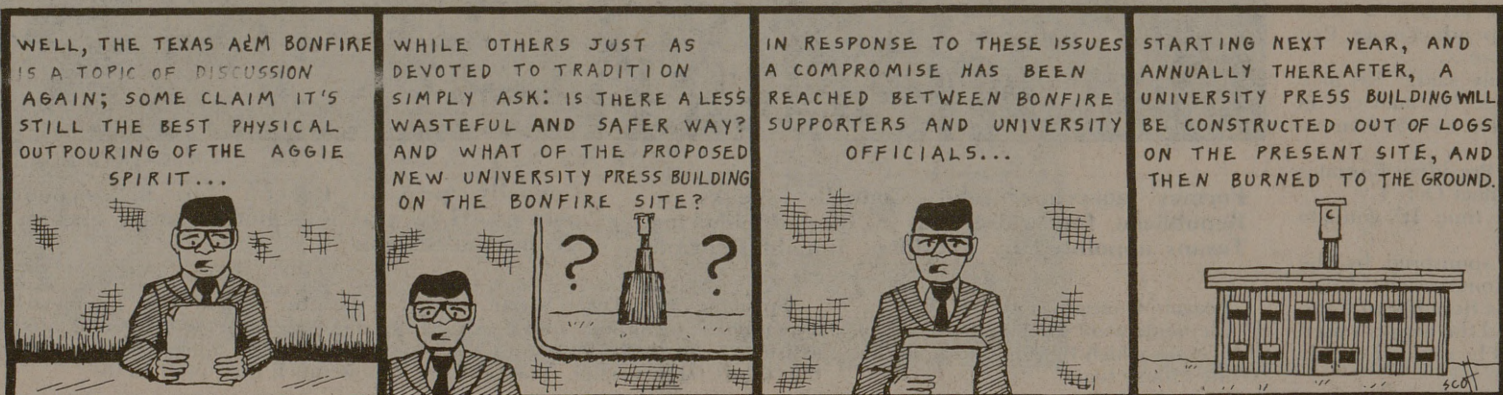
But just because a senator appears a bit "curled-up" and "dehydrated," it doesn't necessarily follow that he is "short on pecans." You can never tell from the public record what a senator might have squirreled away.

the small society

by Brickman



Warped



Shuttle rouses patriotic feeling

I cried when the shuttle lifted off Thursday, and I'm proud I felt that way.

Sometimes patriotism creeps up on me in the strangest ways — a flag I see every day suddenly causes a catch in my throat on an autumn afternoon; a song which usually sounds harshly in my ear can fill my eyes when sung by the right group on the right day.

Seeing that ship rise up, so steady, smooth and ponderous, struck me in that special way and at first I didn't understand why.

I'd heard the arguments for years: — We should spend our space-program money on the poor, the sick or the insane. — We should try to improve this planet before we conquer others.

— We should explore ourselves before we explore the universe.

Those arguments can be very persuasive, and sometimes I've come close to agreeing with them.

Until, that is, I've seen another rocket ascending into the sky and realized that we, truly, are going where no one has gone before: that we, unique in all human his-

Daniel Puckett



... have set foot on an airless world our ancestors have wondered about for thousands of years.

We have, through television and robot ships, seen the craters of Mars as closely as if they were at our fingertips. We have explored the rings of Saturn and have flown past the Jovian moons.

Even aside from the real benefits we have received from space technology, through space travel we are experiencing a momentous adventure. This is the real Age of Discovery, the time our great-grandchildren will look back upon and think grander than any before it. This is the era in which humans break the bonds which

have fettered them for so long and taken their first steps into a boundless frontier.

And more than any other single group of people, it is we Americans who are leading the way into space. American ingenuity, technology and determination are blazing a path all mankind can and ultimately will follow.

If for no other reason, we Americans feel very proud that we were the ones who showed mankind how to reach the planets and soon, I believe, the stars.

So I don't feel ashamed of my tears seeing Columbia disappear into the sky, and I don't try to hide the emotion I felt when I saw that ship glide to an easy landing. I have seen history being made, just surely as if I had been present at Columbus' landing or Charlemagne's coronation.

But I am not just a spectator. Through my votes and my taxes, I am a participant in some of the most momentous events in history. In my own small way, I helped build Columbia where it was; I helped build the pillar of fire and smoke upon which it flew.

Don't you think Columbus and his crew felt that triumphant lump in their throats

Partial punishment a problem

In August, five cadets were relieved of their command positions in the Corps of Cadets. "Why" is not the issue. What matters is that four of those cadets are still in positions of authority.

Four cadets are members of the Ross Volunteers, the elite of the Corps. One of these four RVs is presently a yell leader — all revered positions.

The Corps supply officer, the second battalion commander (who is presently a yell leader), the company commander of M-1 and the company commander of F-1 (all RVs) and the B Battery commander were relieved.

Because it was handled "in-house" through the commandant's office, we will never be able to judge whether the punishment fits the crime.

If the disciplinary action had been handled through the department of student affairs, the outcome may have been different. Their laws say when you do something bad enough to be reprimanded, you lose all offices.

It is the ultimate responsibility of the commandant to appoint and relieve personnel, said Col. James R. Woodall, Corps commandant.

Woodall refused to give the reason for replacing the cadets. He said that all disciplinary action taken in his office, stays in his office.

Randy Clements



The cadets concerned aren't willing to talk about it.

Partial punishment, which seems to be present in this example, encourages wrongdoing, if in fact anything wrong was done, because the cadets are still in highly esteemed positions.

These cadets were and are leaders, setting an example for the underclassmen in their units and for the rest of Texas A&M. Being in a position of authority carries with it a responsibility to set a proper example.

It's only fitting these "leaders" be properly punished, if they did something warranting punishment. Unfortunately, there's no way of knowing under the Corps' present disciplinary policy.

The Corps' house-cleaning technique, "sweep it all under the carpet," would be all right if it didn't affect anyone else — like the

credibility of the University and the leadership of our nation's defense.

If the job's being done effectively, you expose yourself to public scrutiny?

One reason is it breeds the Watergate approach to life — cover it up quickly, deny it ever happened. This isn't the kind of example that should be set.

The underclassmen are learning what takes to be in the Corps — perfect the cover-up. They will obviously be able to use this talent should they decide to go into military.

There seems to be an "everyone's got to get the Corps so let's pretend nothing goes wrong," kind of thinking growing.

This is to the detriment of the Corps, Texas A&M and the rest of the nation. It will depend on some of these people their defense.

This kind of attitude isn't new. I was in the Army for more than five years and I served with honorable and dishonorable men and women, both enlisted personnel and officers. I have witnessed the kind of action being displayed at Texas A&M. It doesn't benefit the overall intent to care of problems on an in-house basis.

The Corps needs to be close-knit, should be able to do its own laundering, why deny dirty laundry exists?

It's your turn

University discipline questioned

Editor:

I'm only a freshman here, but I thought I had enough sense to figure out how this school works. Obviously, I was wrong.

In the Nov. 10 Battalion on page one, there was an article about how Greg Hood was suspended by Texas A&M University for wielding his saber. On page three, a small article stated that no charges would be filed against the students who flooded the band dorm. If Texas A&M kicked someone out of school for pulling a saber, which cost the school nothing but hurt pride, surely to God they would at least slap the hands of the vandals who caused \$875 in damages to a dorm.

Does an act of violence have to make all the papers before it is qualified to be punished? Does Marvin Zindler have to broadcast it to thousands of people before the University will take action? I can see how the University can dismiss some things as just college pranks. I hardly think flooding a dorm is a college prank.

If the University is afraid to take action against these students, then the next best

thing they can do is to publish the names of the vandals. Then those band members who were affected could see that justice, or revenge, could be carried out.

Dale Douglas '85

TA's need to meet raised qualifications

Editor:

I feel there is a definite need to raise the

Dwayne Meloy

qualifications of teaching assistants (TAs) here at Texas A&M. Some of the qualifications a TA should possess are being able to speak English clearly, being able to solve problems in the courses he is instructing, and simply being able to teach. It is difficult to learn anything when a student cannot understand his TA, or when the TA cannot even work a simple problem.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photographic courses within the Department of Communications.

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

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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 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.

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