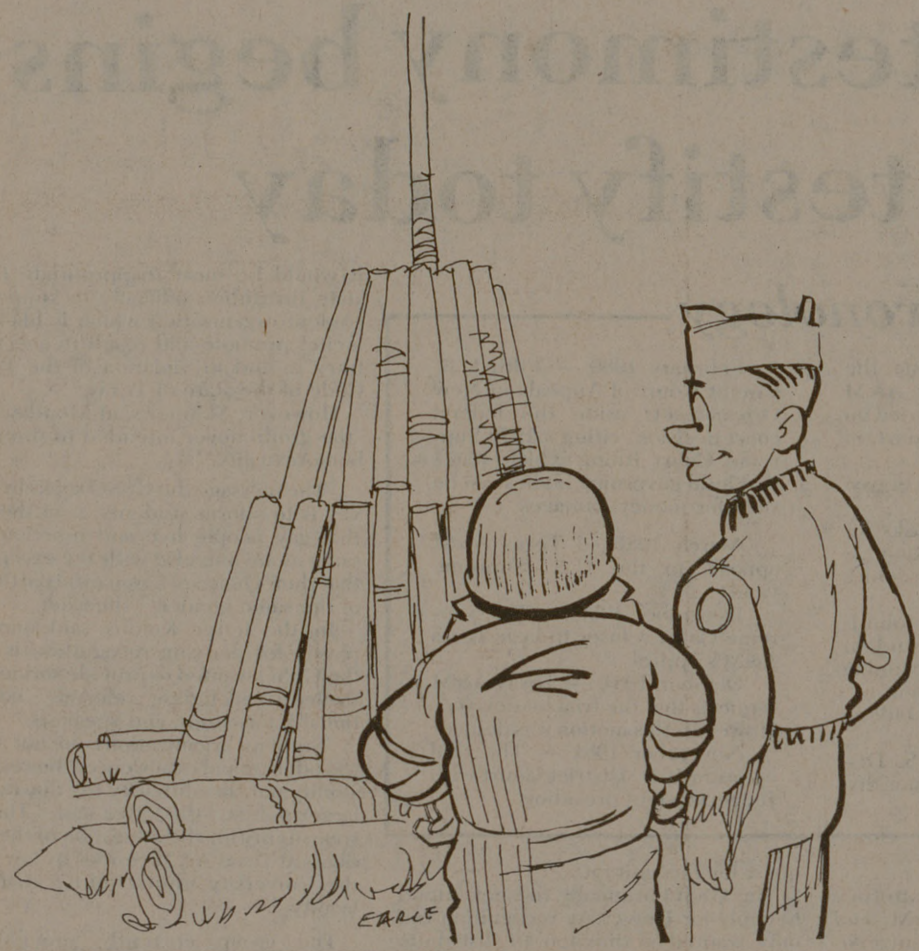


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I've got a dozen potatoes buried under it that ought to be done next week."

President's issues always predictable

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Things that seem to happen to every president:

1. After a period of good feelings, they begin to spat with Congress.
2. Jimmy Carter's "honeymoon" was so short some people never noticed it, but Ronald Reagan had seven full months of warm relations with Congress. But since Congress returned from summer vacation, the temperature has been dropping.
3. The official end of the Reagan honeymoon probably was last week, when he told his news conference, "Fiscal '82 is already five weeks old, but I have not received a single regular appropriations bill."
4. This comment was tantamount to a declaration of White House-Capitol Hill war: the Democratic-controlled House has passed all the appropriations bills; the Republican-controlled Senate has been holding them up to wait for further budget-cutting strategy from the President.
5. They are embarrassed by something one of their aides has said or done. Sometimes the offender is forgiven; sometimes cast into outer darkness.
6. Hamilton Jordan did this to Carter with his after-hours barhopping expeditions and table talk at state dinners, but he kept his job. But when Dr. Peter Bourne goofed by writing a prescription for a White House aide, out he went.
7. In this administration, Ed Meese provided comedians a mother lode of jokes when he let slip that Reagan's aides did not bother to awaken him when a U.S. fighter plane shot down a Libyan aircraft. Meese was not banished.
8. It came as a surprise to many grizzled Washington observers when David Stockman survived the publication of his confession that

the Reagan tax cut plan was a "Trojan Horse" to get a high income rate cut and that supply side economics is really the old "trickle down" theory.

3. Members of the cabinet or staff fall to fighting among themselves. The president always says there is no friction, but someone usually leaves town.
4. The Nixon administration had the classic example of this. National security advisor Henry Kissinger did not get along with Secretary of State William Rogers. Kissinger ended up as Secretary of State and national security advisor.
5. The replay of this drama stars Secretary of State Alexander Haig and national security advisor Richard Allen. Haig learned his way around the White House from Kissinger. Does anyone want to bet how this one will come out?
6. The press, after making much of the first family's commendable personal traits, eventually turns on it and begins finding evidence that living in the White House has produced pretensions, if not delusions, of grandeur.
7. It happened to John Kennedy when the reporters discovered he had stopped permitting a critical newspaper from being delivered to the White House and to Richard Nixon when he decided the White House police needed fancier uniforms. Kennedy joked about it. Nixon junked the new duds for the cops.
8. Now the Reagans are under fire for buying expensive new dishes for the White House with donated funds. The President says Nancy got a bad rap; there is no sign that the Reagans will be eating off plastic dishes.
9. What next? Next year at this time, the president's party usually loses some seats in the midterm congressional elections. This usually is followed by politicians and the press solemnly announcing they have discovered that the president has no "coattails." Watch for it.

Cynicism in letters contagious

Editor:

The Texas A&M Battalion reaches a higher percentage of people involved in Texas A&M than any other publication on or off campus. Because of this, what is printed in the Battalion greatly affects attitudes and ideas on prevalent issues that involve the University and the community around it.

It has become a trend to criticize one thing or another in the editorial section. It is important that students and staff criticize that which can and needs to be improved upon, but there must also be an emphasis put on the good aspects of Aggieland.

An everyday negative attitude printed in the Battalion has serious consequences. It makes the campus seem all bad to those who don't have much more contact with the school than the Battalion, such as visiting guests or alumni. It can and has produced a bandwagon effect of cynicism in the articles that appear in the editorial section. It makes people cynical towards the school, and it's depressing to read the same thing every day.

Examples of common topics are bonfire,

Reader's Forum

the greeks and GSSO. People speak of the bonfire as too dangerous, or they say it's a waste of time, or that it should be abolished all together. People say that greeks will ruin the Aggie way of life, or they claim it's already here, so tough if you don't like it. The GSSO has become an angry topic, with one group saying they can't be denied their rights while another group is saying they won't have those rights imposed on them.

After the facts have been presented in the first few articles, there is no longer anything substantial to say about the topic, except when the facts may need to be "revised." It is then that the editorial column in the Batt turns into space for shouting matches. The articles no longer do anything

but upset people or make them mad. The fire, GSSO and the greeks all have strong points, both pro and con, but calling people frat rats, sorority bitches, faggots, or percenterers is not going to get anything solved.

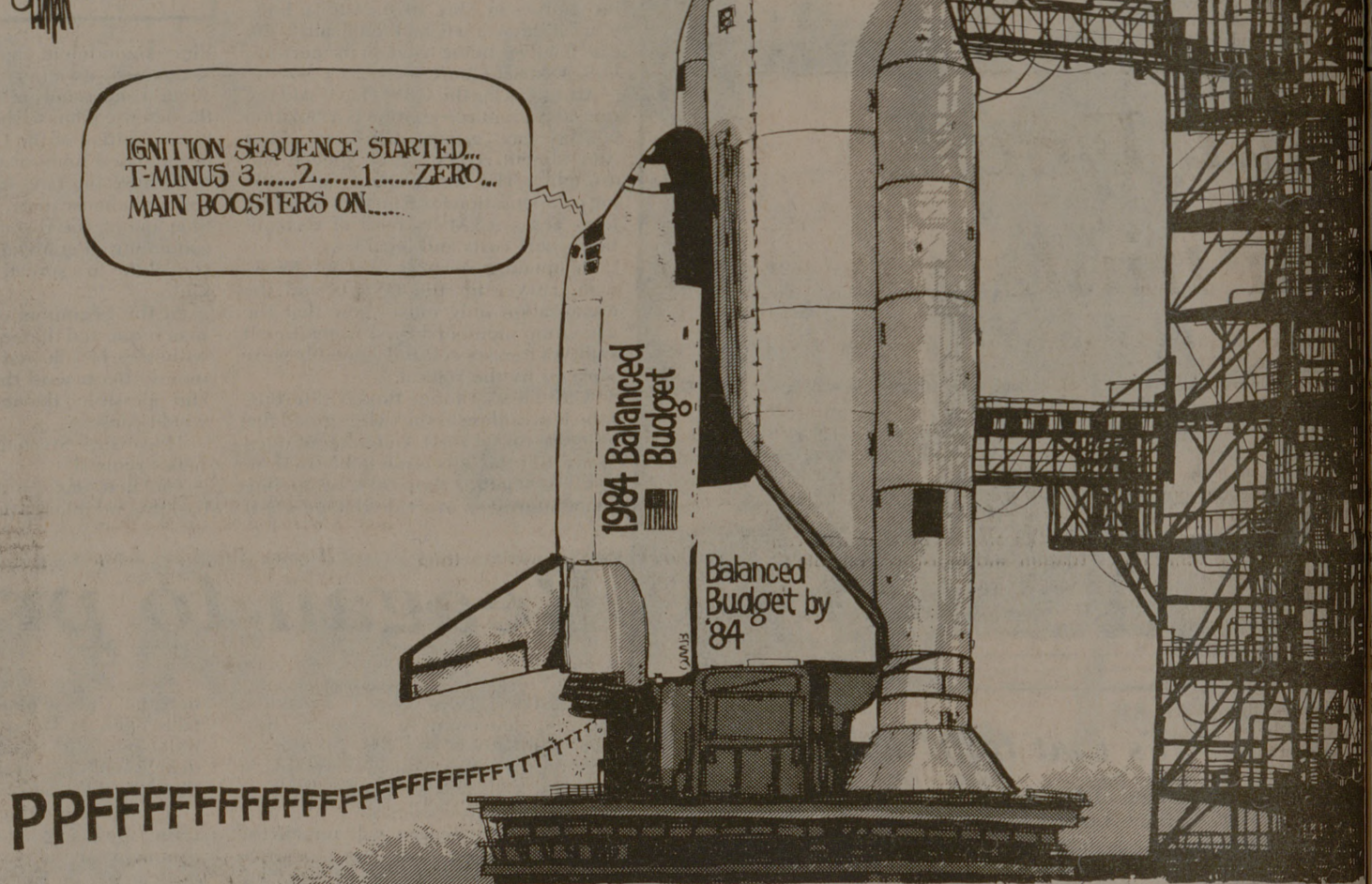
Instead, students need to try to recognize good points and see if they can't stressed more. Offer a little bit of constructive criticism to some group on campus, thank a dorm for a good party, congratulate the band on their half time performance, or encourage the team towards beating hell out of t.u.

There is plenty of room for encouragement or congratulations in the column; it might just make somebody's day. If there is a problem, and it is approached from a positive side in the sense of how it could be solved, as opposed to how bad or ignorant it is, much more can be accomplished.

The editorial is something available to Aggies. If used correctly, it can be a powerful tool in shaping Aggieland that the members want it.

Chris Slade
Aston Hill

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It's your turn

Early game exit shows no spirit

Editor:

Last Saturday, many of us had the chance to watch as our football team was outscored by the University of Arkansas. However bleak our memories of the ballgame are, they shouldn't be our greatest concern.

Our concern should be directed toward the thousands of Aggies who, because of their many years of experience at this school or lack of experience, don't find it necessary to stay for yell practice after the ballgame. As far as I know, it's still a tradition and always will be! Sure, we can make excuses and say we have to meet someone right away, or have to go home and study. But, I feel if we can take the time to go to a ball game, we can spare the extra minutes to stay and preserve this important Aggie tradition.

Will we, as students of this great University, uphold this fine tradition on supporting the Aggie spirit even after a disappointing ballgame. Or is Texas A&M destined to be like every other average university

where the fans hit the road at the first hint of a loss. According to those loyal Ags who stayed Saturday, Texas A&M is not destined to fade into oblivion. But, the lines streaming out of Kyle Field in the late fourth quarter indicate that there are those students who just don't care.

Bob Bandas '82
Dunn Street

Lawyer praised

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the services provided by the Student Legal Adviser, James Locke. It is not meant to flatter, only to point to an individual who responds to his job demands in a superior fashion.

Mr. Locke has rendered extremely valuable advice to me several times. He drew

up, helped negotiate, and finalized a contract for purchase of a mobile home for my wife and myself in mid 1980. In early 1981, Mr. Locke gave me advice on a business plan, and even offered to research one particular legal aspect of it at the Texas A&M library. Again in mid 1980, he responded to my question about lending fraud, and offered to look up names and phone numbers of agencies which could possibly assist me.

Mr. Locke does something that everyone should. He does his job in a complete manner, with a real interest in fulfilling the purpose for which his job was created. In addition, he does it all in a way that shows he is utilizing his abilities to the fullest extent. This combination leads to complete customer satisfaction, and that is the ultimate goal of any concern.

In conclusion, I only ask that the excellent execution of duties by Mr. James Locke, Student Legal Adviser, not go unnoticed.

Michael J. Saurage '80

By Scott McCullar

Warped



THE BATTALION

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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 Bat-

ton 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.

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.

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