

A&M dumping responsibility for community waste disposal

It isn't easy getting separate governmental agencies to work together.

This is partially the case with the proposed feasibility and site studies for a waste recovery facility in Brazos County.

But, by refusing to commit the University for a site study that would cost it \$3,000, University officials have failed to take a responsible role in this area.

If nothing else, this is good faith money to show an honest desire to see something as important and useful as a waste recovery facility in Brazos County.

The recovery facility, College Station City Manager North Bardell said, would require 150 to 200 tons of garbage a day to be economically feasible.

But without the University, this would be impossible. Thus, by declining support, University officials have jeopardized the project for others concerned and forced them to continue disposing of waste in landfills.

quire daily monitoring for health and safety hazards.

And for a qualified engineer to take the soil and clay samples at the site daily and for lab technicians to get the results costs the city about \$20,000 a year.

In contrast, the proposed waste recovery facility would allow the three governmental entities a means of reducing what goes into existing landfills by 85 percent, and it could produce steam — steam which the University could use to heat and cool buildings on the west campus.

The steam could also be sold to industrial markets, which means the system would be able to supply the agencies with an asset instead of a deficit.

The Bryan and College Station city councils, on Nov. 23, approved participation in the \$9,000 site study, with the understanding that the University also would participate.

But, as it stands now, the University is not participating. As is typical with bureaucracies, everything is channeled from the bottom upward.

lower level doesn't want to burden the "big guys" at the top with an idea or project plan, it just stops.

Such is the case with the site study and the University.

However, University Vice President for Business Affairs Howard Vestal said if the cities come up with a site suitable to the University, he then reserves the right for the University to participate in the feasibility study.

But, finding a suitable site seems unlikely, since Bardell says the site study will probably die without the support of the University.

There is no point in Bryan and College Station paying for either of the studies if the University isn't willing to participate.

College Station Mayor Gary Halter said waste recovery facilities have failed in other parts of the country because enough garbage couldn't be generated to supply the facility and/or there were no industrial markets for the steam.

But, Bryan-College Station probably will never know because the University won't act responsibly in respect to the communities' needs. Texas A&M has everything to gain and only \$3,000 to lose by participating in the site study.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"This is it, George, only one more week to go! This is when you open up, pull out all the stops, burn the midnight oil, let 'er rip, and ... George? ... George?"

The deficit's red glare budgets bursting in

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — By coincidence, the Reagan administration's first arms limitation talks with the Soviets began in Geneva at a time the president was locked in a budget battle with Congress back home.

One point of dispute in the latter negotiations concerns a proposed ceiling on the number of continuing resolutions with which Congress could bombard the White House during a given fiscal year.

It is the basic White House position that Congress is committed to the large "budget-busting" types of resolutions that carry heavy payloads and can blast huge holes in federal frugality.

To neutralize these resolutions, the White House proposes to deploy a comparable number of RR veto warheads that are relatively override-proof.

Meanwhile, Congress, for its part, insists the shutdown threat to non-essential government programs also must be removed before there can be true parity.

As you can see, the flash points are extremely complicated, but I shall try to simplify them with this clarifying catechism:

Q. Why are the legislative pieces involved in the talks called "continuing resolutions?"

A. Because they continue to test whether the president is more resolved than Congress.

Q. When will the next test occur? A. The next test is scheduled for Dec. 15. That is when the continuing resolution passed Nov. 22 to replace the one passed Nov. 20, which replaced the one passed Sept. 30, expires.

Q. How did we get into any of this?

A. If the fiscal year ends before appropriation bills are approved Sept. 30, then a continuing resolution is passed to make stopgap available.

Q. Why weren't the regular appropriation bills passed in time?

A. Next question.

Q. Wasn't Congress aware that the fiscal year would end Sept. 30?

A. Actually, there were problems long ago as last January that the year would end Sept. 30. However, it tends to put such predictions in a long range weather forecast.

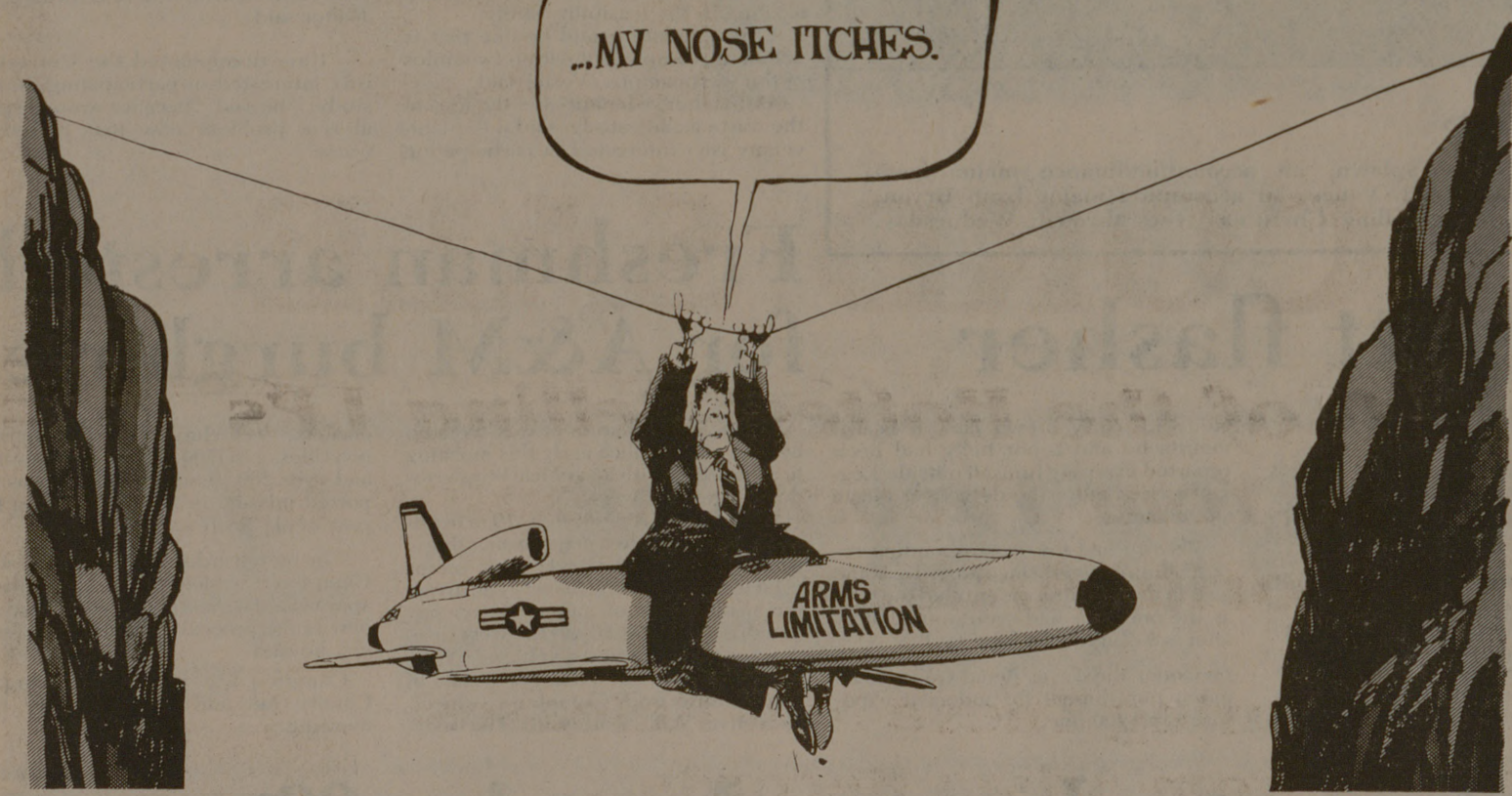
Q. Is there anything sacred about Sept. 30 date?

A. Not at all. The fiscal year ends on June 30. However, Congress has hit upon the idea of providing the months in which to get ready for the year.

Q. Doesn't the new fiscal year start unexpectedly?

A. Many times, yes. The next time would be to negotiate a new closing date for the fiscal year on Dec. 31. Feeling is that with all the horns, hats and people singing "Auld Lang Syne" and everything, the lawgivers could but notice that the new fiscal year is sneaking up on them.

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It's your turn

Aggie Christmas too hot for Yankee

Editor:

I love the chimes of the MSC. They send me off in sweet reverie, To Christmas, and home, and holidays I've gone away, as I sit in a daze.

In his usual way, my prof rambles on, But the sound of the chimes — and my mind is gone. He's talking of vectors and lines parallel, but my ears strain for the sound of the bell.

At last ... class over ... I walk outside, my mind all a-spin with Noel and Yuletide. But then what to wondering eyes should appear? No, not Santa, nor even one tiny reindeer.

Not icicles, sleighbells nor snow, Not Frosty the Snowman, but no.

It's hot and sunny, and birds are singing, While over the bells "White Christmas" is ringing.

That "Winter-wonderland" sounds great. But seems that winter won't come this state. The tunes tell of Jack Frost, and chestnuts roasting, But at eighty degrees it's me that's toasting.

The song tells me that I'd better not frown 'Cause Santa Claus soon will be coming to town. But I cringe at the thought — it's this I have feared, That Santa — in red woolen suit and a beard

— While flying down here on his generous quest, Might suffer heat-stroke and go to his rest.

Please don't mistake what I mean to say; Christmas itself is a wonderful day. Christ is more precious than all that's on earth, and I love celebrating the day of His birth.

I like the carols — the things that they say, Of peace, angels, family, and Christmas day.

But this summer weather has just got to go. I want frost on the window, cold winds, and snow.

Could be the Yankee blood that flows through my veins, But some things don't seem right with those Christmas refrains.

Somehow in my mind, shorts, T-shirts and thongs Don't seem proper attire with these wintry songs.

My cheeks should be rosy from air crisp and chilly, A sunburn in December just seems rather silly.

If you native Texans don't agree with my poem, Don't write to the Batt, saying "Yankee go home."

When finals are over I'll split this South Texas scene With its hot blazing sun, and grass strangely green Now I'll just "sweat it out," and wait in disgust Soon I'll take to the road — "North Dakota, or Bust."

Homesick Aggie

Memories of Christmas

Editor:

Here it is, Christmas time again. Time for those last minute tests that all your teachers are giving. And don't forget finals

— you remember — the ones you're counting on to bring your grades up. Also, have you decided what to get your roommate for Christmas? Not much you can buy for under three dollars these days.

You just don't have any reason to feel very joyous, do you? Well, forget about all your problems for a moment and think back to your very best Christmas ever. Perhaps one of the reasons we don't appreciate the holiday is because we have yet to learn the secret of capturing that special magic of Christmas past.

It's so easy to overlook the pleasures of the Yuletide season, especially at college. Remember the last time you went caroling? Only one young couple came to the door; yet did you notice the small face peeping out of the window across the street? I bet you missed the way his eyes lit up as he recognized the songs, or the way he sang along when you sang "Silent Night."

And can you recall the Christmas that your sister said there wasn't a Santa Claus? You stayed awake as long as you could just to prove her wrong; but you went to sleep with a smile on your face because you had heard the distant sound of sleighbells and the whisper of a sled as it flew across the sky.

Or what about the first time you heard the Christmas story? Do you remember the way you imagined that you were in the stable with Mary and Joseph? You could almost hear the angels singing to the newborn baby. Think back to how awed you were when they retold how the wisemen came bringing gifts from afar. You weren't sure exactly what frankincense was, but it sure sounded awfully impressive.

Maybe it isn't so hard to capture the Christmas spirit after all. It should be a time of joy, not of misgiving. So the next time you start to lose the special feeling, put on one of your old Christmas albums, prop your feet up, and remember ...

Kathleen O'Reilly '85 Briggs Hall

the small society by Brick



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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome but not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's academic year, except for holiday and emergency periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising is furnished on request.

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