

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Imagine that! Mount Aggie erupting!"

Cheers to people who learn

It's time once again for a round of cheers and jeers, tokens recognizing friends, flunkies and items of interest at the University.

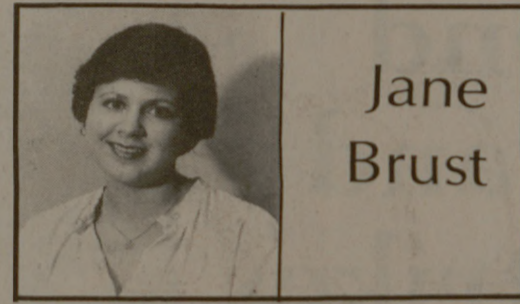
To refresh your memory since the last time I handed out these gems, each cheer comprises a flood of smiles, applause, shouts of joy and happy feelings. Each jeer, on the other hand, comprises sighs of dismay, assorted snarls and mild blasphemy.

First and foremost, three BIG cheers for the wonderful winter weather! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, folks! It's much easier to stomach television toy commercials and blinking tree lights when it's 40 degrees instead of 70. It's also easier to study when you can curl up with an afghan and a mug of hot chocolate.

Three cheers to the Aggie seniors who were graduated Friday and Saturday. They are a real inspiration... at a time when the rest of us need just that.

Three cheers to the man who says, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" when you call time and temp. He certainly brightened up an all-nighter for me last week. If you need some cheer yourself, call him at 822-6712.

Speaking of all-nighters, three cheers to



Jane Brust

everyone who has made it to hump day of finals week. TGIW!! Three jeers to those who already have left town.

Three cheers to all students who have been studying for their finals — even if they don't think they're doing too well on them.

Three jeers to those who say they haven't studied for finals and ace them anyway. Those people have a tendency to blow curves for the rest of us.

Actually, if you're fretting over what you haven't learned this semester about World War II, Newton's laws of gravity and Shakespeare, consider all that you have learned.

Here are just a few of the things we've all

learned (or should have learned) in the few months.

— It's not a good idea to wave sabers, cheerleaders or anyone else, especially at football games.

— Gays are people, too, and so are Greeks. Even if you don't recognize them as student groups, they are citizens with right to protest.

— The Aggie Band is not infallible. It's a lot closer to perfection than most other student groups.

— Even a tea-sip can be president of Texas A&M University. (Merry Christmas, Dr. Vandiver!)

— The Board of Regents will put the University Press building (or any other building) anywhere it pleases.

Three cheers to anyone who has learned anything this semester. Three jeers to anyone who hasn't.

Three cheers to the University itself, the people, the places, the events, which are conducive to learning and growing.

Let's hope we all continue to learn and grow in the new year and in the years ahead.

New prison is crown for Navasota citizens

By TERRI COULSON

Navasota has a novel way to grow. Keeping people in will bring money in.

Keeping people in means a prison, which the Texas Department of Corrections will fill with 4,000 inmates of every shape, size, color and degeneracy.

This new prison, being built on 5,968 acres of Grimes County choice bottomland, will be the nineteenth jewel in the TDC crown. And for the 6,000-person town, the facility will be a crowning economic achievement.

But some residents see the glint of a knife where others see gems sparkling. The cutting edge is that 140 inmates have

Some citizens were so up in arms over the issue of to build, or not to build, that they took the issue to court late last year. But after a lengthy battle, they gave up their fight.

Many of Navasota's citizens correctly overlook the minuscule breakout danger. Instead they focus on the prison's \$3 million payroll and 225 jobs it will create immediately. The facility certainly will increase the town's cash flow.

Even though the foundation is still curing, the prison already has increased sales in this area. A recent newsletter from the state comptroller, comparing gross sales in Grimes County for the first three quarters of 1981 to the same period of 1980, shows a startling increase of 54 percent which some business owners attribute to the prison.

Above all, one other reason shines through. TDC needs another penitentiary. The decision to build the facility coincides with a \$35 million emergency appropriation passed by the Legislature to alleviate inmate overcrowding.

It's a little late in the plot to change the story line. In Navasota's story, we've already read the end of the book. All potential problems considered, a prison will be as economic asset to the community of Navasota.

It is a bittersweet ending to a year-long novel.

Terri Coulson is a December 1981 graduate of Texas A&M University.

Guest editorial

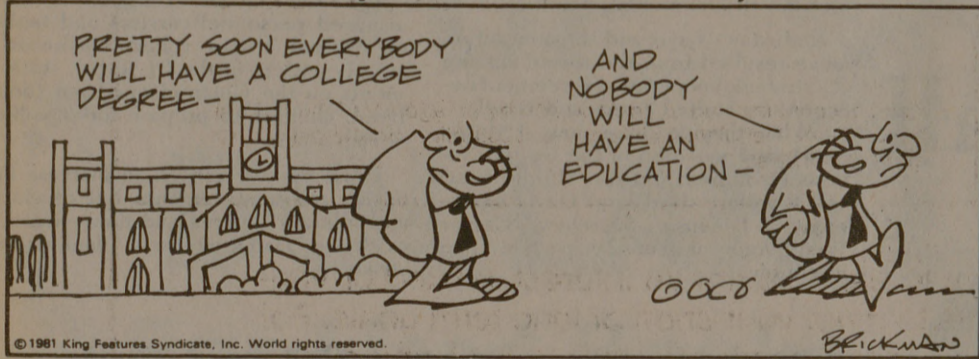
escaped from the various units of the TDC system over the last 10 years. The department has an 80-percent recapture rate — relatively high considering that the escapees usually have help waiting for them on the outside.

This year only 10 of 31,536 inmates have escaped. This represents less than one-thirtieth of 1 percent of the total inmate population. Only two of these 10 are still at large.

This has caused controversy among some of the residents in Navasota, however.

the small society

by Brickman



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THE BATTALION

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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.

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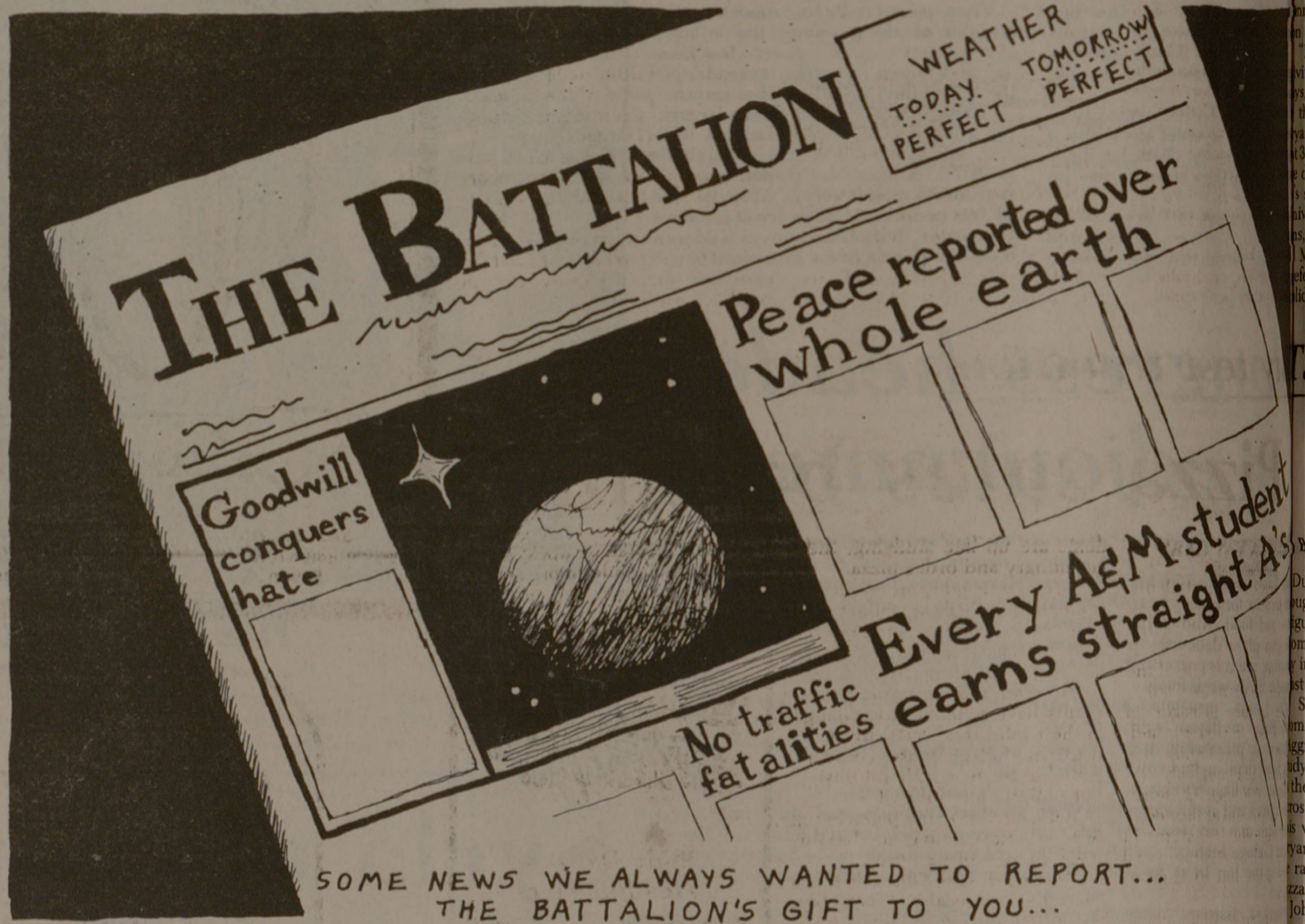
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It's your turn

Cadet's dismissal is a cowardly act

Editor:

I was recently alarmed by the news that a Texas A&M senior cadet was dismissed from A&M for his behavior while serving as Officer-of-the-Day during a football game.

The story appears to be a classic example of administration cowardice and military cover-up.

A young man's life has been possibly ruined in an attempt to save A&M's image. In doing so, A&M has given itself an even worse image.

A&M dressed a young man in a uniform, put a weapon (saber) in his hands, and taught him to play at being a soldier. Then the university gave him some vague responsibilities as O.O.D., with no real training and set him down in the middle of a fun-filled football stadium. For three years he had been taught to revere his school and the turf of Kyle Field. He'd been trained to consider the student body of other schools as an enemy it was laudatory to "beat the hell out of."

When the student defended the turf with saber, he acted out the logical conclusion of the script he was given. Now the university that wrote the script has tried to escape the spotlight and hidden behind the curtain.

It is my belief that A&M has responsibilities as an educator. In this case, it has educated a student through acts of commission and omission and must face up to the results of its actions.

In the Navy, the captain of a ship is responsible for the actions of his ship, no matter who was the Officer of the Deck. What happened to the Military Science officer who "captained the ship?" What has the President of A&M done to accept responsibility for inadequacy of training and to institute corrective action?

A significant purpose of any institution of higher education is to teach people the difference between the symptoms of an issue and the issue itself. It's too bad the issues in

this case have been obscured by acts of the institution itself.

It further appears that certain forces used this incident to fan the flames of anti-Corps sentiment. Unfortunately, those forces also failed to point to the real issues and instead used the student as a scapegoat.

At my 20th reunion on Turkey Day, we noted that the O.O.D.'s were not allowed sabers. Another act of cowardice.

I'm not sure that old Sarge has a tear in his eye and his head bowed in shame.

Richard J. Reiser '61

Christmas spirit in Batt

Editor:

In the past few issues of the Batt there have been many Christmas stories which have helped me to remember that Christmas is more than just a break between semesters. Such stories as the one about the car dealer who sold a car to a needy family for one dollar helped me to keep my perspectives straight. It is easy to forget what Christmas is all about when so much concern is being placed on tests and grades. Those stories have helped me to keep the Christmas spirit.

Kent Pouncey
706 Broadmore

Juveniles in Zachry

Editor:

The Zachry Engineering Center is one of

the finest examples of modern architecture on our campus. However, some of my low Aggies apparently enjoy throwing their airplanes and other trash into the chutes from the second and third floors. I was shocked at all the debris covering the floor when I walked in the building. It is the thought of what visitors must think of when seeing such a display sickens me.

Come on, Ags. Good, God, we're adults here! Anyone with the intelligence to attend this great University ought to be mature enough not to participate in juvenile foolishness such as this. Let's clean up our act, please!

Woodrow Coppedge

Golf course is muddy

Editor:

I have played the A&M golf course this semester. The next time I play, I'm tempted to wear my waders. The course holds water to a ridiculous degree. It seems to dry out. I played after a two-week dry spell and the course was as muddy as ever.

This mud is very frustrating. It is a known fact that if there's any mud on the course, the ball will find it. And the ball always lands in such a way that it can't be reached from dry land.

Other than this mud problem, I am pleased with the Aggie golf course. It's laid out nicely and is a lot of fun to play.

K. Steve Erwin