

Controversy isn't on the agenda

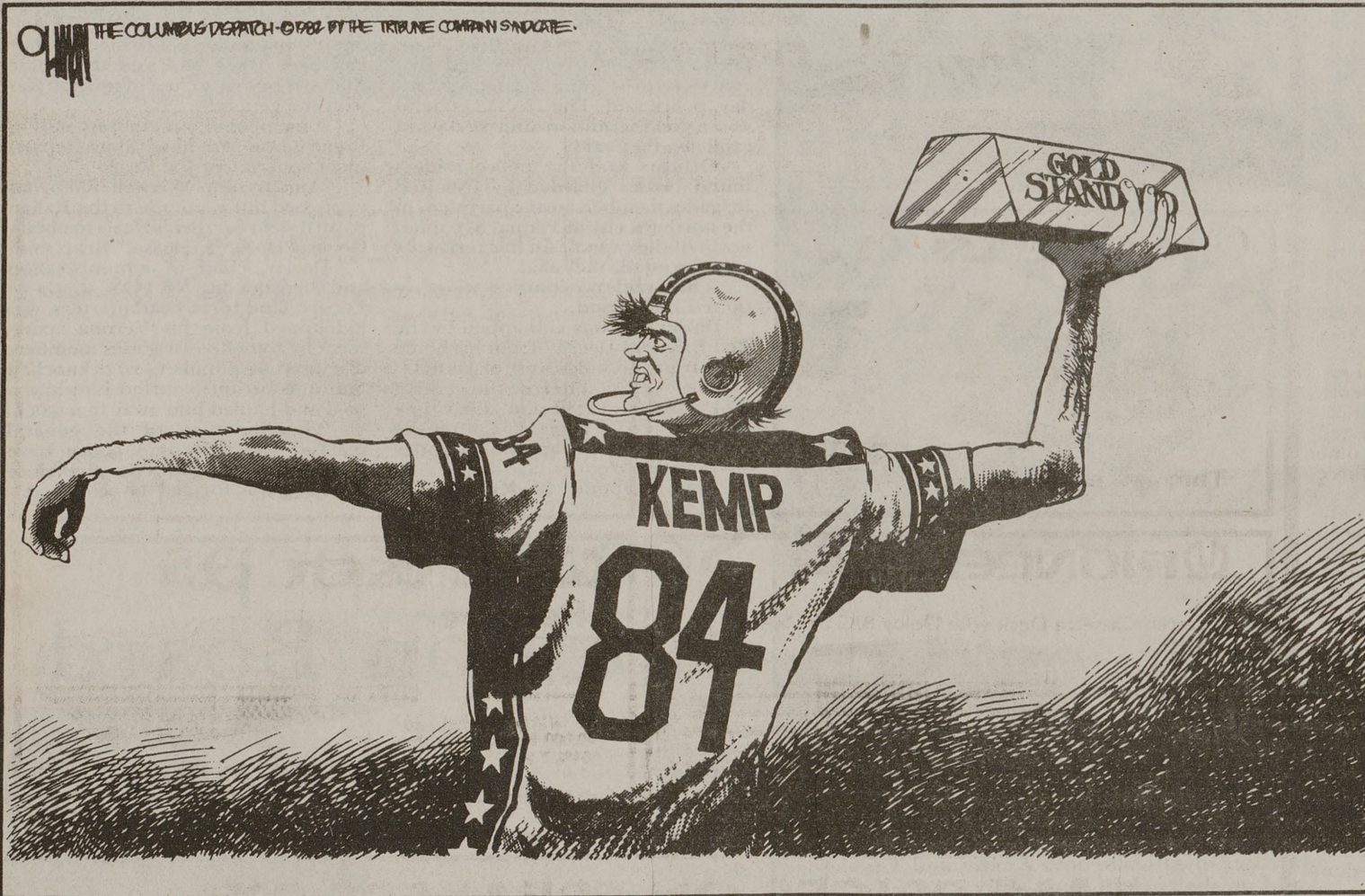
Controversy — you bet. That was Student Government's motto last semester. Controversy — who cares? That could be their motto this semester if last night's meeting is any indication. Wednesday night the Student Senate voted down a resolution that denounced the "despicable, unethical procedure endorsed by the Board of Regents for the search, selection and procurement" of Texas A&M's athletic director. The issue isn't whether denouncing the leaders of the Texas A&M System is a proper function of Student Government, and the issue isn't whether they have the right to do that on behalf of the entire student body — the issue is that they voted down the resolution after less than 30 minutes of substantial debate. Last semester's debate about the availability of sugar-free soft drinks in Kyle Field lasted at least an hour. During last night's debate, I would



nancy floeck

have been surprised if more than half of the senators were paying serious attention to what their colleagues had to say. Most seemed restless; I suspect they had made up their minds and lost interest in the first few minutes after the resolution was read. I found the entire situation incredible. Here was a resolution that took a decisive stand on a campus issue that has caught the attention of the entire state and most of the nation. How could interest lag when less than half a dozen opinions had been given? The possibilities and poten-

tial for debate and compromise were endless. Even with just a few people speaking, the variety of viewpoints was fascinating — some senators said they felt their moral code and the University's integrity had been stripped. Others said, "That's life ... football is big business ... who's going to remember or care in a few years ... for that matter, who's going to remember after next season's first win?" How can anyone not want to refute such strong opinions? I've seen the Senate debate about whether to debate. I've seen them debate, axe an issue, revive it and debate again. I know they can do better than last night's performance. I don't know what people elsewhere were saying about the Regents/Wilson/Sherrill fiasco Wednesday night, but the channels of communication and the marketplace of ideas sure weren't open for business at the Senate meeting.



What about the basketball coach

Editor: In light of the recent dealings involving the football coaching situation here, the insatiable thirst that the Bum Bright Puppet Show exhibits for superior sports programs has been made unmistakably evident. I think, however, if results truly mean as much to the Board as they seem to, based upon the talent that has been here recently, Shelby Metcalf's track record is less than adequate. Tuesday night's Arkansas game illustrated Metcalf's inadequacies well. Despite horrendous free-throw shooting, Texas A&M still led by five with over a minute left. With eight seconds left and a one-point Ag lead, Arkansas was allowed to go downcourt unmolested and take a high percentage shot to win, while the defense sagged. Why didn't Metcalf just agree to play "horse" for the final shot? It must be comforting for SWC coaches like Sutton and Gerald Myers to know that if the game goes to the wire they won't worry about being out-coached. Responding to a question on why the Ags couldn't maintain their lead Tuesday night, Shelby could only muster the "basketballese" equivalent of "I dunno." Well then, who does? The over 7,500 fans? The Board may believe that basketball is unworthy of attention because it doesn't net "megabucks." Well, you couldn't prove that to the fans. Metcalf once replied, in reference to Tech's Myers' ability to influence referees by relentlessly berating them, "Well Dwayne, the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets the oil." Well Coach, maybe it's time to squeak or change the wheel!

Jeff Henke '82
Fritz Claydon '82

Library clocks are timeless

Editor: Tonight I made the horrible mistake of not wearing my watch to the library. When I left my dorm room it was 7:30 p.m. but when I got to the library it was

9:00! Well, okay, maybe I did make a few detours along the way. However, when I got to the fourth floor (via the elevator, of course) I found that it was actually 5:00. Could I have traveled through some sort of time warp? Is this tomorrow and I've missed all my classes or is this today? Is it time for dinner again? Total confusion sets in as I head down the hall and the square clock hanging from the ceiling reads 8:15. Ah, this sounds more reasonable. But wait, the other side says 11:20 and the third side says 2:30 and the last side is minus an hour hand. By this time the dazed expression on my face was beginning to attract attention. Since I obviously couldn't study due to my extreme addlepatated state, I decided to pack it up and take it on home, only to find that I had been gone a total of 45 minutes. Whew! What a harrowing experience.

Dede Gaddy
Keathley

Nobody cares about cookies

Editor: I cannot express my disbelief at the editorial letter you presented in the Monday issue of the Battalion. I almost burst into tears as I read of your unfortunate experience with consumer fraud, and the obvious bursting of one of your childhood fantasies about good and bad, boy scout and girl scouts, and reality. However, I find it hard to actually sympathize with you. You are presumably an intelligent adult, as implied by your position on the Battalion staff, and here at Texas A&M. Anyone born in the last 100 years has probably heard the motto "Caveat Emptor," and understands what it means. When it comes down to the facts, anyone dumb enough to pay for something he/she doesn't have, deserves what they get. Regretably, you were bilked by a couple of Girl Scouts. Another bubble burst. I hope you do not believe everything

everyone tells you, if you do, you are in serious trouble. As for your use of limited editorial space for a personal problem, I disapprove. I could care less about how dumb you are. I wouldn't advertise a stunt like yours to anyone! If you think that 36,000 Aggies are really concerned with your personal folly, then I have some real estate in the Everglades you might like.

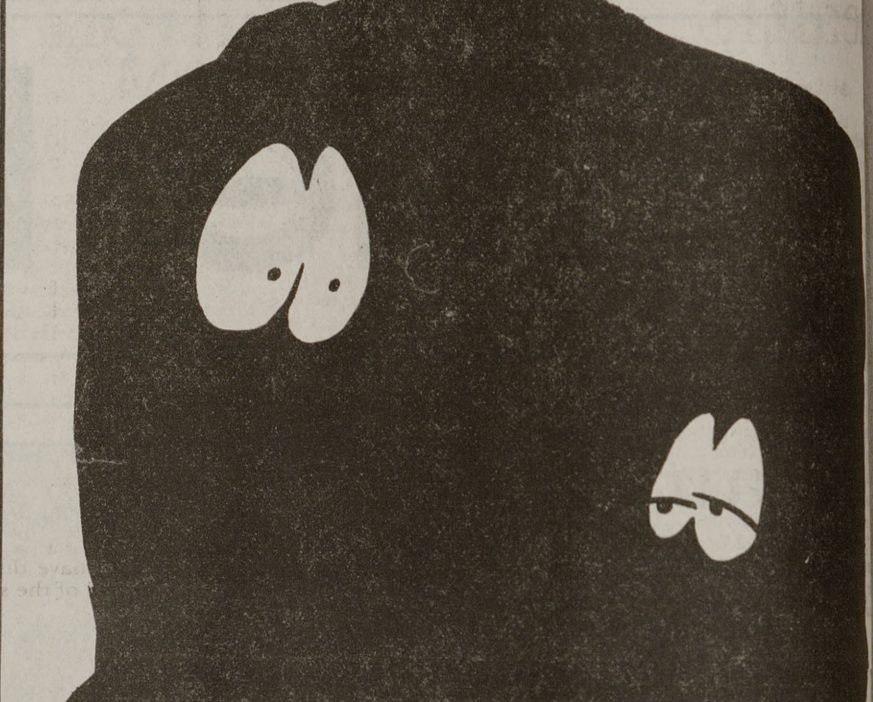
Mark V. Lynch '84
Utay Hall

Panty raider repents

Editor: I have never written to a newspaper before but after witnessing the despicable and downright disgusting act which occurred the night of the 25th here on this wonderful and previously untarnished campus, I found enough motivation to voice my opinion. Never before have I seen such vile, perverted, and contemptible young men commit such horrendous acts. The events of the night are now permanently etched in my mind, the remembrance of them sickens me to no end. I am, of course, referring to the so-called "panty-raider" committed by the hoodlums of Hart Hall on various innocent female dormitories this past Monday. Oh, these poor Ags are sick all right. Such animalistic behavior, although perhaps tolerated in some of the less sophisticated universities of this nation, is most unbecoming to the great name of Texas A&M. Should a repeat of Monday night be attempted by some other hall on this campus, it is my opinion that punishment of the most severe kind should swiftly be enacted upon it. But the next time Hart comes around, girls, have 'em ready in advance. I only got two pair this last time.

David B. Corry
Hart Hall

Slouch By Jim Ear



"I just had this TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE! I dreamed that it was New Year's Day and they were going to make me watch all the football games AGAIN!"

People need a holiday from all the holidays

by DICK WEST
United Press International
WASHINGTON — In case you felt something was missing from your life last Saturday, but were unable to pinpoint the source of the void, National Handwriting Day, which normally coincides with the Jan. 23 celebration of John Hancock's birthday, was not observed this year. Does this mean that legibility has improved to the point where there is no longer a need for a special day to promote better penmanship? Or, as seems more likely, has lack of progress been so dismal as to cause the promoters of better penmanship to abandon the campaign? Neither, it turns out. If queried about the omission of National Handwriting Day from the 1982 calendar of special events, the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association, chief sponsor of the observance, will reply that it simply decided to "give everyone a year off." I greatly admire the association's attitude and would like to commend it to others in charge of setting aside certain days for specific purposes. Nothing is more of a drag than being obliged to celebrate the same old holidays, year in, year out. February is a particularly vicious offender. Coming up next month is Valentine's Day, Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays and an assortment of other commemorations.

What a boon it would be if just once we could skip one or more of our observances, thus saving our energy for, say, National Aardvark West March. But no such luck. Promoters and other interested parties tenaciously insist on going through the rituals each time they fall due. Anyone wishing to take the year from honoring St. Valentine surely find himself swimming upstream against a paddle. Even such unromantic pressure groups as the American Chemical Society help keep up momentum. The chemical society, in line with season, is circulating two press releases on the history and chemistry of Valentine's candymaking. One of them clears up the mystery of how confectioners manage to get liquid cherry juice inside certain bonbons without leaving a hole in the chocolate coating. The secret — here's the grabber — "a chemical reaction that actually takes place after the candy is manufactured. In effect, the society confides in the outer part of the cherry liquefies its own syrup, leaving a cherry center swimming in liquid." Aha! Imagine millions of sweethearts wolfing down Valentine gifts without realizing they are benefitting from living through chemistry. Still to be heard from is the American Dental Association. But it is plain that effort to ignore a few holidays will be futile as the campaign to stamp out scrawling.

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor: Angeliq Copeland
Managing Editor: Jane G. Brust
City Editor: Denise Richter
Assistant City Editor: Diana Sultenfuss
Sports Editor: Frank L. Christlieb
Focus Editor: Cathy Saathoff
Assistant Focus Editor: Nancy Floeck
News Editors: Gary Barker, Phyllis Henderson, Mary Jo Rummel, Nancy Weatherley
Staff Writers: John Bramblett, Gaye Denley, Tim Foarde, Sandra Gary, Colette Hutchings, John Jo Maurer, Daniel Puckett, Bill Robinson, Denise S. Sechelski, Laura Williams, John Wagner
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
Graphic Artist: Richard DeLeon Jr.
Photographers: Sumanesh Agrawal, David Fisher, Peter Rocha, Colin Valentine

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 Battalion 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.

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are long. 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, with the address and phone number of the writer. Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but 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, or phone (713) 778-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches created by it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

the small society by Brickm

