

It's a tall, tall world we live in

This will be a short column but it's going to pack quite a punch. Unfortunately, it will hit most of you at the kneecaps.

In the fight for equality, one group has been consistently overlooked. Although we've been shortchanged and blatantly discriminated against for a long time, there has been a shortage of articulate leaders willing to stand up and fight for equal height rights.

We feel especially qualified to comment on this subject because our combined heights barely surpass that of Texas A&M's shortest basketball player. When he's barefoot. And we're wearing heels.

But no longer. As members of this small minority, we are determined to speak out against the shortcomings of a tall world.

Lest you think this is simply minutia, think how you would feel if you were constantly looked down upon.

Or worse, imagine having to use a periscope to look through your peephole.

Or never knowing what color eyes your friends have.



Or having to pole-vault to check your mailbox at the post office.

Can you imagine the embarrassment of being offered a child's ticket for a movie? Granted it would save a few bucks, but when you're 21 and trying to see "The Seduction" and get offered a ticket to "Bambi," it can traumatize you. And we aren't talking about short-term neurosis, either.

Even your friends are short-sighted in this area. When they form their co-rec basketball team, you're not mentioned for forward, guard or — heaven forbid — center. Even if the team is short of players. All you get to do is lead yells.

You've got to learn not to be short-tempered when friends don't take you seriously or worse yet, when they lean down from their lofty heights and plant their elbows on your shoulder.

Or when they ask the ever-popular "How's the weather down there?"

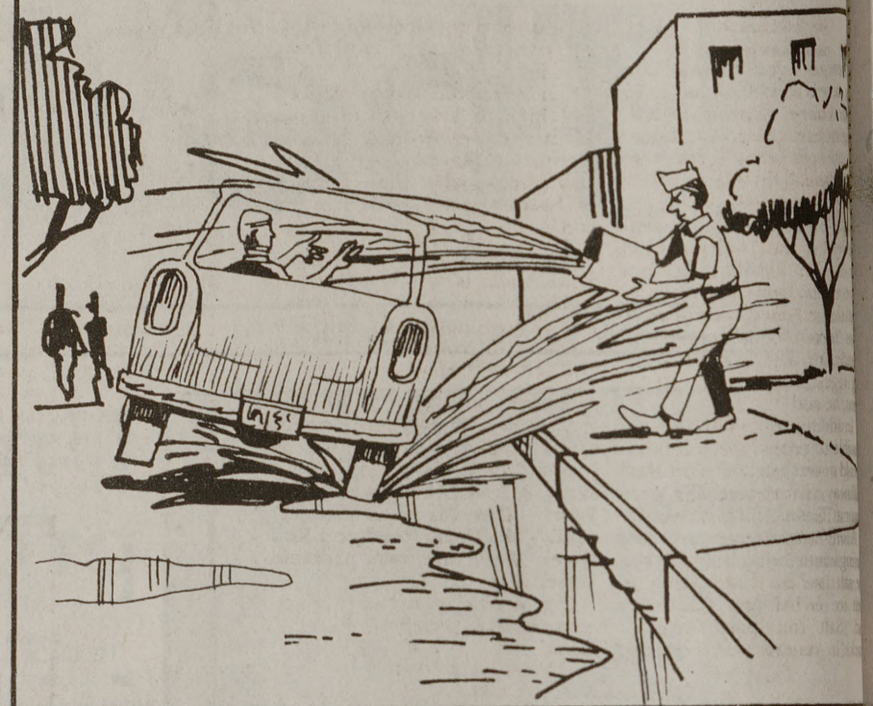
Or when they repeatedly describe you — a college senior — as "cute." Not dignified. Not business-like. Not professional. But "cute."

Being of minuscule height also shortens your social life. Imagine a crowded ballroom. The classic boy-meets-girl situation. He asks you to dance. You accept. You float onto the floor, and only then do you realize you'll be staring at his navel for the duration of the theme to "Navi."

Just because we're upset about Texas A&M's short-sighted height discrimination doesn't mean we hold a grudge. We enjoy being part of the Twelfth Man, but there's a problem: the only time we can see what's happening at a football game is when Man 1 through 11 humps it.

Face it, it's not easy being an aggie in a world full of AGGIES.

Slouch By Jim Earle



Ehrlichman compares Reagan with Nixon

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — John Ehrlichman was back in town the other day promoting his new book and looking over the Reagan administration from the sidelines.

His book, "Witness to Power," is a personal memoir and a story of his involvement in the Nixon years in the White House. The shadow of the Watergate scandal is a running theme throughout, but like the other Watergate books, it answers none of the still remaining questions: Why the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate? Who was deep throat?

As for the 18-minute gap on one of the Nixon tapes, Ehrlichman says, "That happened after I was gone."

While other Watergate figures have seen Nixon from time to time, such as ever-loyal John Mitchell and to a lesser degree H.R. Haldeman, Ehrlichman has not seen Nixon since the spring of 1973 when he was forced to resign from his high White House position.

Ehrlichman said he had a sense of "deju vu" listening to President Reagan deliver his state of the union address recently with its "new federalism" centerpiece. He said he found many similarities with Nixon's original presentation of revenue sharing to the states.

Reagan's proposal calls for turning 43 federal programs, including welfare and food stamps, over to the states along with some funds to finance them. The programs would be phased out by 1991 unless the states have the inclination or wherewithal to keep them going.

Ehrlichman said "we foresaw that day would come" when the federal social programs would be dropped. "That the rug would be pulled. But we didn't say so."

As powerful as he and Haldeman were as Nixon's top ranking staffers, Ehrlichman said the "big three" in the White House today has as much, maybe more power and influence. "We didn't have anyone like (counselor) Ed Meese looking at all policy," he said.

He said that ideologically, the Reagan administration is also different from the

Nixon administration. Almost all Reagan aides are in the conservative camp while Nixon had some so-called liberals" on his staff, such as Dan Moynihan, now a Democratic senator from New York.

Ehrlichman recalls when he and Haldeman were summoned to Camp David Sunday, April 20, 1973, knowing they were to be asked for their resignations.

He said that he walked to the Lodge where he found Nixon. "He was redrimmed and he looked and drawn," Ehrlichman wrote.

"It was impossible for me to resist," he wrote. "I composed as he told me he had had a heart attack and prayed he might die during the night. "It was like cutting off my arm (Nixon) began, and he could not continue."

"He began crying uncontrollably. I put my arm on his shoulder to comfort him. He walked away, out of the door of the terrace, to pull himself together. Camp was in full spring bloom outside. I noticed. All the bulbs were up and lit."

"You'll have to resign," Nixon said. "I nodded."

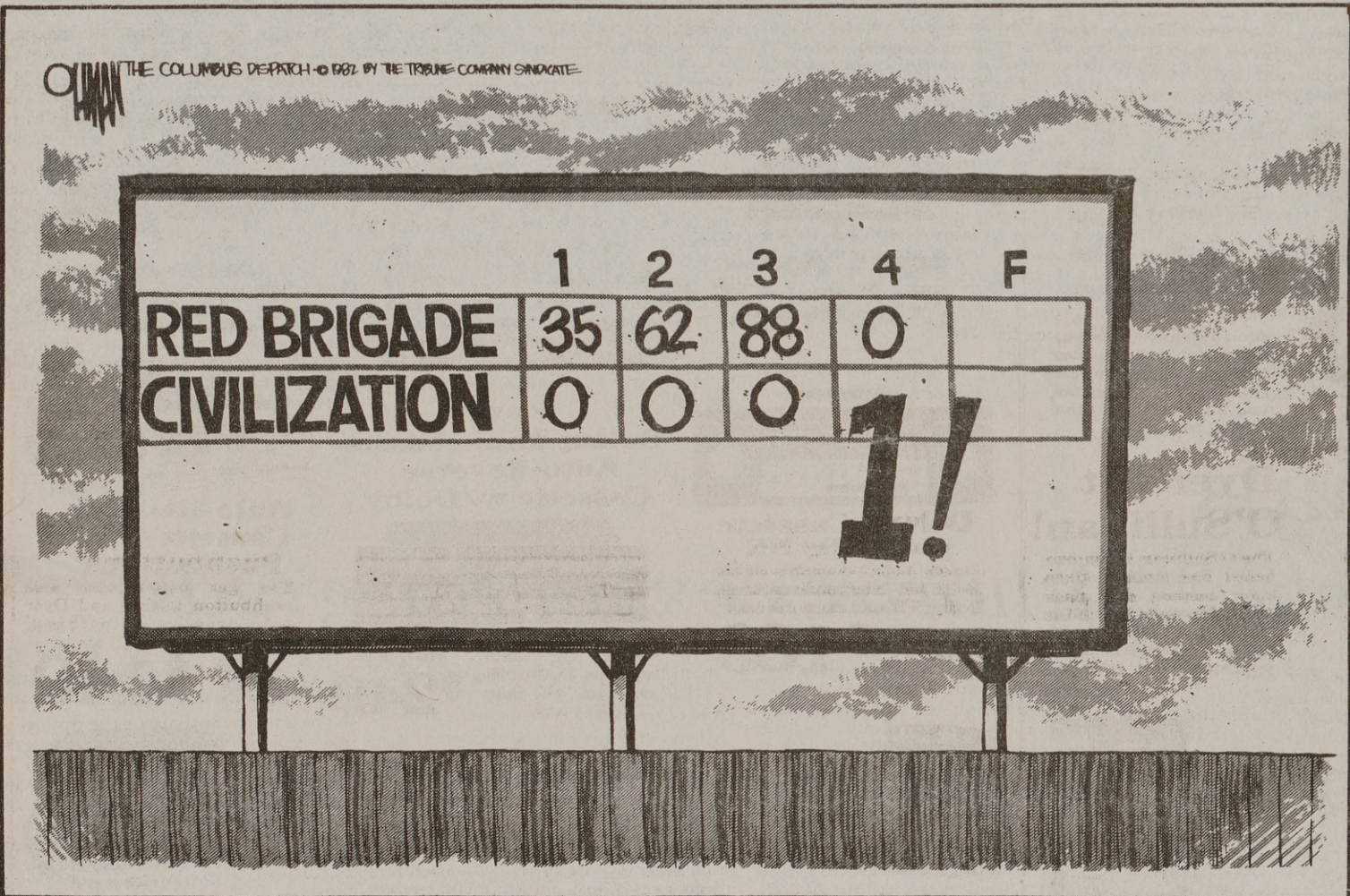
"You've been my conscience through this mess," he said. "You're right about a lot of things — you're right about (Charles) Colson and you're right about Mitchell."

Later Ehrlichman, Mitchell and Haldeman, he said, tried up to the minute even as Nixon was reaching a decision to resign, to win blanket pardons for all those who were being accused in the Watergate cover-up scandal. It was to no avail.

"I don't miss Richard Nixon much," he said. "He epitomizes the good and bad interludes in my life, although surely it is evident that most of my bad times were Richard Nixon's fault."

"Each of us who was implicated in Watergate must bear his own blame," he said.

Would he like to be back in the White House again, Ehrlichman flashes a smile and shakes his head: "No, I've been there."



Letter: Rights must be considered

Editor:

Mr. Nabil Al-Khowaiter in his letter to the Battalion Editor (Feb. 2) indicated his distress at his fellow Aggies' lack of interest in world affairs. The nub of his displeasure is the veto in the U.N. Security Council by the U.S., of sanctions against Israel. Israel's crime this time was applying Israeli law to the Golan Heights, not annexation as Al-Khowaiter claims. He also states that U.S. foreign policy is controlled by Zionist lobbyists.

Permit me to suggest another reason for the present United States action and our policies in the Middle East. I sincerely believe that my country wishes to establish a just and lasting peace in that part of the world. Our government's efforts date back to the 1948 war when we attempted to mediate a settlement of the war. On numerous occasions the United States presented plans for compensation and resettlement of the Arabs. All such plans were rejected by the Arabs. For many years our government paid the bulk of the costs of the refugee camps. Time and again we have put forth Middle-East peace initiatives have been met with Arab intransigence and vilified by Arab propaganda as a tool of the Zionists.

Witness the latest Arab peace proposal

put forth by Saudi Arabia. In essence this plan requires Israel to withdraw to its 1967 border in exchange for the "possibility" of recognition. This is no peace plan at all! The Arabs want everything and give nothing. Even under these terms Syria and Libya refused to attend an Arab-sponsored conference to consider the plan. What then is the United States to do, abet your desire to destroy Israel? Until the Arab leaders come forth with a reasonable compromise, the situation in the Middle-East will remain stalemated. There is right and wrong on both sides (witness the 550,000 Jews who were kicked out of Arab countries versus 800,000, not 2.5 million, displaced from Palestine). Only by a suitable compromise will peace be established and that is what the United States is working towards.

Finally, let me turn your own logic back upon yourself. I would expect, given the Arab nations' international stature, that one should find a substantial number of people interested in worldwide developments. Yet, all the Arabs ever harp about is the Palestinian situation. What about the one million refugees in Somalia, the two million displaced from Afghanistan by the Russian invasion, the slaughter of three million

people in Cambodia by the Pol Pol regime or the one million boat people sent adrift by Vietnam! Does the situation in Poland disturb you? Is nothing to be done to the perpetrators of these crimes? Why don't the Arabs support U.S. sponsored sanctions against Russia? Perhaps when the Arabs stop being myopic in world affairs and consider the rights of other people, Aggies will take an interest in Middle Eastern affairs.

Dr. Abraham Clearfield
College Station

Honda stolen

Editor:

Last Thursday after spending a couple of hours in the A&A Building where I work and have classes, I returned to where I had parked my 1981 XR500R Honda trailbike only to find it had been stolen. With it, three years of work and savings to pay for it went down the drain.

While we would hope that the traditional image of a Texas Aggie would hold true in these times of increasing crime, there are apparently those among us who aren't willing to earn their way. Incidents showing little or no value for the safety or property of others occur all too often on our campus. Our long-standing reputation is being marred by some who ride the coattails of A&M's excellence but show little of what Aggies are made of.

Regardless, I am offering a \$100 reward to anyone who contributes to the return of my Honda trailbike. No questions asked!

If you notice a red Honda with plastic fenders and gas tank, 500R printed on the seat, and license #4EB 74, please call me at 845-5014 or 779-8993 evenings.

Thanks to anyone who can or will help me.

Dayne Pierantoni

the small society by Brickman



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1-5

BRICKMAN

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography 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, and 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 The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-2611.

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