

Yankee is 'naturalized Texan'

Being a "Yankee" at Texas A&M University has taken some measure of courage and determination on my part.

Not only do I have to defend my birthplace, but I've had to formulate some replies to questions native Texans feel it's their right to ask and have answered.

Standing up for my "Yankee" heritage is something I don't mind doing.

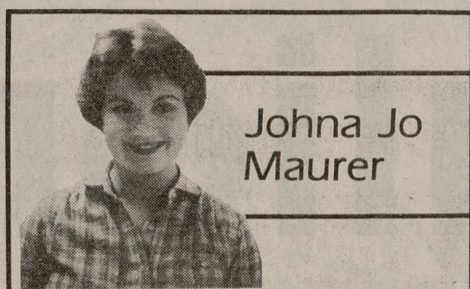
But, being asked "what brought you to Texas A&M?" makes me think there may be some Texans who aren't seeing the forest for the trees.

It should be obvious what brought me here. But for the Texans who aren't aware of what they have here at this University and in the state itself, I'll provide a little run-down of the things I've found.

When I came to Texas this past August, I was coming to a new "country" where a different language was spoken and a different cultural atmosphere pervaded.

I couldn't get enough of the Texan dialect. I found out what a "longneck" was — no, we don't have those in Ohio — and I learned what a "gooseneck" was. We may have goosenecks up North but since I wasn't brought up in Ohio farm country I was unaware of their existence.

I do get derided for my "Yankee" accent and at first I was overly sensitive when people said: "Where are you from,



Johna Jo Maurer

you can't be a Texan!" But of course we all know Texans have no accent at all, right?

I'd love to take one of my native Texan friends to Ohio just once and watch the crowd gather around and say: "Oh, please, say something else, you talk so neat!" But that's different. A Yankee accent is not looked upon with much appreciation in Texas.

Admittedly, there has been an influx of "da-- Yankees" lately, but it's because of what great things Texas has to offer — besides economic prosperity.

The culture is all new to me, too. When I arrived I was a hard-core anti-Country & Western person. But guess who can't wait to go to the Hall of Fame now?

When Christmas came around I prayed to St. Nicholas to please have someone give me a belt with my very own

name on the back. And do you know what, he blessed me with one of those most novel symbols of Texan culture!

But, Texan charm and hospitality has to be the most pervading and valuable aspect of this new culture I've had the good fortune to experience.

There may be something about the warm, comfortable (most of the time) climate that makes Texans friendly and caring. In frozen Ohio, if a stranger acknowledges me on the street, I wonder if he's crazy or if he's about to say "stick 'em up".

Here, everyone offers at least a smile or a nod, if not an Aggie "howdy". It really makes a difference and one I never seem to overlook. Don't they say: "A smile's no good to you until you give it away?"

So those are the answers I've arrived at for questions about what brought me here.

But, since most people don't have the time or the inclination to listen to me ramble on about how wonderful Texas is, I've shortened my reply.

I just say: "Well, I'm here because I finally got smart."

And even though I've only lived here six months, please see if y'all can bring yourselves to call me a "naturalized Texan" instead of a "Yankee."

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I hate water fountains."

Mechanical man stealing home base

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The United States, according to Industry Week magazine, lags far behind Japan in the use of robots. But I didn't realize how far until I came across some promotional material put out by the Mizuno Corp. of Osaka, a sporting goods company.

Having made deep inroads in the U.S. car market, thanks in large measure to their advanced development of industrial robots, the Japanese now have designs on our very own national pastime — the game of baseball.

Get a load of this space-age equipment Mizuno is introducing in this country this week:

Electronic catchers' mitts — Even in the major leagues, catchers still flash signs to the pitchers the old-fashion way — by hand. Compare that quaint system with the Japanese pushbutton mitt.

By pressing certain buttons on an electronic relay device, the catcher indicates whether he wants a fast ball, a curve, a slider, a change-up or whatever. That signal then is transmitted to the mound, where it appears on a lighted display panel on the pitcher's glove.

Moreover, each glove has its own radio frequency said to prevent other teams

from stealing the signs.

What about jamming? Couldn't an enemy dugout disrupt catcher-to-pitcher transmission the way Soviet radio jamming occasionally interferes with VOA America broadcasts?

I don't know, but I certainly would put it past some baseball manager, Billy Martin, for example.

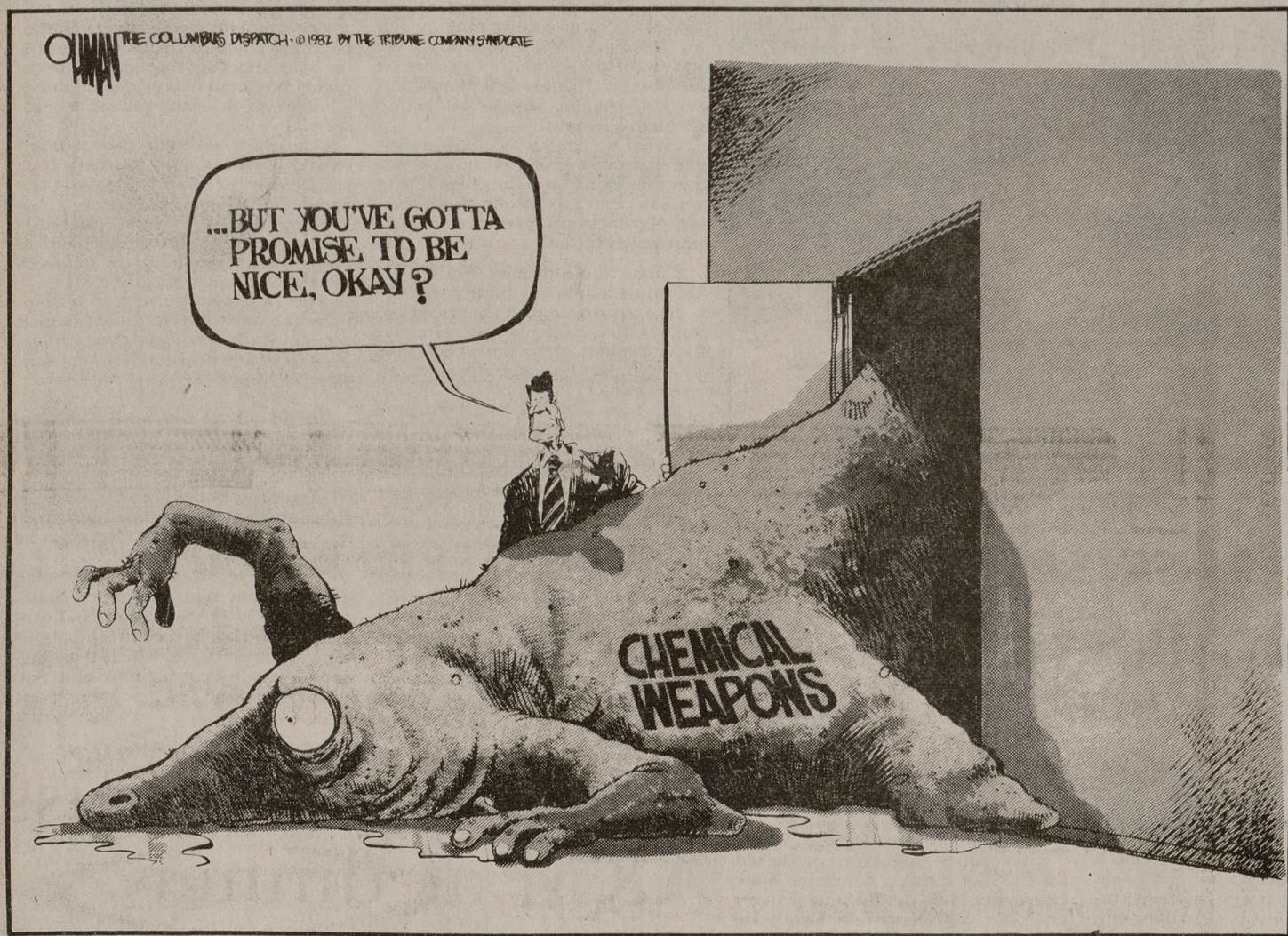
Hit and run — And what of the manager conveys by hand to the third base coaches, who then relay to the runners and batters?

For that, Japanese roboters have developed a device that transmits messages from the dugout to the microwave receivers built into the catcher's head.

Moreover, these signals are converted into audio messages that can be played if necessary to prevent the team from intercepting them.

One future innovation could be placement of the third base coach robot that automatically holds up a runner unless the right-of-way to the clear.

If robotization takes some of the out of baseball by electronically eliminating bonehead plays, so be it. After all, there is always chess.



"...BUT YOU'VE GOTTA PROMISE TO BE NICE, OKAY?"

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Letter: Please don't bless me or my lunch area

Editor:
For the past two days Rudder Fountain, one of the best places on this campus to spend a lunch hour, has been blessed with Christians and a PA system. I don't want to hear this, or for that matter any point of view from a loud speaker during my lunch hour. It offends me. Also, the messages this week may offend Jews, Moslems and those other beliefs, including atheists. I suggest that Christians who can't find a church consult the yellow pages for one of the 77 churches or prayer rooms in Bryan and College Station and that they leave the microphone in its case.

Bland Crowder
204 Highland

rules and stop at red lights instead of trying to inch by those who abide by the rules? 2) If you must make your own traffic rules why do you not buy a headlight for your bicycle? I was taught to use my headlights when visibility is nil (as it was this morning) or it is dark; and finally 3) What gives you the right to frighten my passengers by storming my car? You did not take the time to speak to me rationally but scared the daylight out of my riders!

I doubt that any of the points I have made will sink in or make any sense to you because of the apparent frenzy I witnessed. However, I suggest that you stick to walking before you get yourself killed.

Mary Katherine Smith
401 Anderson #15L

t.u. (Texas University). I have been informed that a new building is being planned, but will not be finished until around 1990! As Town Hall Chairman this 1981-82 season, G. Rollie White Coliseum has been our greatest obstacle. Town Hall had the opportunity to bring Dan Fogelberg, The Cars, Bruce Springsteen, and Kenny Rogers to name a few, but as usual all were cancelled due to inadequate facilities (i.e. G. Rollie White). I just wish that A&M could see the importance of a new facility and move as quickly as possible to see this become a reality. And so maybe when I am an "old Ag" I can come back and enjoy a new events center.

Lauren Pennington '82
Chairman, MSC Town Hall

Thanks for helping hand

Editor:
Thursday morning (12:30 a.m.) we had a flat tire on Southwest Parkway. We would like to thank the people who stopped to offer us assistance. In the twenty minutes it took to get back under way, three separate, concerned Ags stopped to offer us tools, a ride, or assistance. It's this kind of attitude that makes us proud to be AGGIES, especially comforting in these times of outside assaults on Aggie ethics.

Once again, we thank you for stopping to offer assistance, showing that the AGGIE WAY still stands in good stead.

John B. Latimer '82
Kevin Hertel '83

Delayed mailing

Editor:
I would like to extend my apologies to the 332 students receiving the letter announcing the Feb. 11 Mexican American Engineering Society meeting after it was held. Due to the society's late mailing

and this community's mail service inability to deliver intown mail within days, few, if any, were received.

The meeting will be rescheduled Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in 104A. A follow-up letter has been mailed in advance to prevent the recurrence of this problem.

Benito Flores-Mendoza
Secretary, MAE

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any 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 do not fit the editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone 774-2611.

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