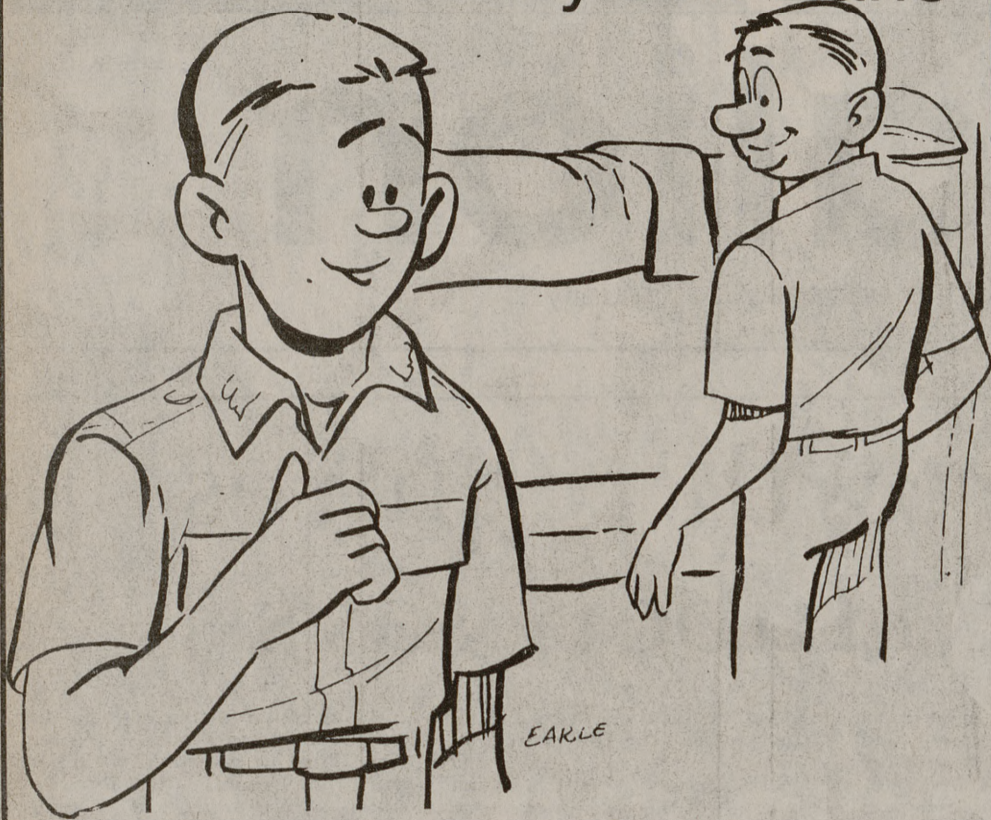


Slouch By Jim Earle



"I've decided to make myself available to do some undercover investigation work. Now if I could only get someone to give me a large sum of money in an unmarked envelope, I'd have a starting point, and a very good time."

People should behave

While many students have focused their attention on the actions of Texas A&M administrators, perhaps some should focus on their own behavior.

Mosher, Krueger and Underwood halls recently gave an All Guys Free Party at The Lakeview Club. The party cost the halls a total of about \$1,500 — no small price. Whenever dorms hold parties, renting a place, buying beer, etc. can really run into bucks.

Lots of men came. (What man is going to turn down a free party with free beer?) Lots of women came, too. (What woman is going to miss a party where there are lots of men?) Turnout was great. Too great. Somebody — lots of somebodies — spilled beer on the dance floor.

And somebody stole beer signs off the wall. And somebody walked off with beer pitchers. And somebody broke about five pool cues. And somebody .... Needless to say, the owner of the club was not too pleased. Who would be pleased to have someone spill beer all over his carpet?



In fact, he was not too pleased to the tune of \$11,000. It's not yet certain who will pay for the \$11,000 worth of damages.

Residence halls just don't have that kind of money. At the beginning of each semester, hall residents pay up to \$25 in optional activity fees to attend activities programmed by their hall councils. In a hall of 250 students, that's only \$6,250 to pay for a year's worth of parties and activities — half of what the Lakeview party ultimately might cost. No residence hall can afford to pay \$12,500 so a bunch of students can drink free beer, get drunk and destroy Lakeview or any other place.

And whatever happened to the Aggie Code of Honor which says "An Aggie doesn't lie, cheat or steal, and will not tolerate those who do?"

There seems to be a lot of stealing and tolerating going on here. Incidents such as the one at Lakeview include cheating, stealing, and tolerating of the same which only hurts the student body.

Perhaps the Lakeview managers would be happy never to see the Aggie again. But then, what is Beer Night at Lakeview without the Aggie? And what are Aggies without the traditional Thursday nights at Lakeview?

The women of Mosher, Krueger and Underwood halls should not be held responsible for the club's damage. Nor should the University be held responsible for the actions of the relative few who caused the damage.

But the actions of those people reflect on the whole student body. The student body is the party who must suffer the consequences.

University students owe it to themselves to behave responsibly, to be representative of the fine, outstanding, able group to which they belong.

Senators view Reagan budget

By STEVE GERSTEL

WASHINGTON — The dimensions of President Reagan's problem in convincing Congress to swallow his deficit-swollen budget is well illustrated by a pair of news releases that quietly surfaced in the Senate Press Gallery last week.

One came from the office of Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa; the other from the duplicating machine of Sen. Dan Quayle, R-Ind.

Neither Grassley nor Quayle should be mistaken for a Capitol Hill power — they are not.

But what they said about the 1983 budget — after letting the figures sink in — must be extremely disquieting to the White House.

Grassley, embracing an idea first broached by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., endorsed the concept of freeze on both spending and further cuts in taxes. Only he wants to hold fast for two years.

Quayle, falling all over himself to proclaim continued loyalty to Reagan, said nevertheless that he would send the chief executive "specific recommendations" on how to prune the deficit — now seemingly certain to top \$100 billion in the next fiscal year.

Grassley and Quayle, politically, are almost identical twins.

They are young (as senators go), Midwestern, Republican, conservative, former House members and sit on the Budget Committee.

They are also a pair of rookies whose opinions do not yet count for much. Why then should their pronouncements, made in the stealth of a recess, disturb the White House?

Because if Reagan has lost the Grassleys and the Quayles of the Senate in the 1982 battle of the budget, then there can be little hope of sustaining the brilliant victory streak the administration put together last year.

Grassley and Quayle should be the last to jump ship.

Ideologically, they are both Reagan offspring; they endorse Reagan's economic policy; they went down the line for him last year; and they are four and a half years safe from the voters.

The Grassleys and Quayles are Reagan's Senate shock troops. If Reagan cannot count on them, the game is over.

Reagan can haggle in the Oval Office with the Senate GOP leaders; he cannot expand his energies on the rank-and-file. To bring the Grassleys and the Quayles back in line, Reagan will have to make major concessions. Starting with defense.

Both, judging from their news releases, are most concerned about the projected deficits. One of the few — perhaps the only area that can be cut — is the military.

Although Grassley is not specific, his freeze implies that the Iowa Republican is willing to accept a \$33.6 billion cut in Reagan's proposed defense budget.



Letter: Openness isn't artificial

Editor:

Now a four-year veteran at Texas A&M, I have seen few letters which have burned me up so much as the one written by Glenn Gardner '84, which appeared in The Battalion, Feb. 23.

I will freely admit that I am slightly prejudiced against our friends on the other side of the Mason-Dixon, but if Mr. Gardner's attitude is typical of northerners, I can feel all the more proud of calling myself a Confederate. A good friend of mine once shared his apartment with three others, all of them yankees. Just for good bull he announced that "I was 13 years old before I realized that 'damn yankee' was two separate words." They almost threw him out the window. Now such a remark takes on new meaning.

If saying "howdy" to people you don't know is indicative of an artificial openness, then as an Aggie I must take part of the blame and for that I sincerely apologize. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Over the Christmas holidays I had the opportunity to meet quite a few Aggies — most of them former students who I had never met before — while vacationing in Colorado. I met on Aggie in, of all places, a restroom in a greasy-spoon cafe in New Mexico. He recognized the patch on my jacket and my short haircut confirmed his suspicions. He and I spoke to each other as if we'd known each other since the first day of our fish years, talking about the "good old days" at A&M when he was here and of what was going on at Aggieworld presently. No "artificial openness" here.

Nor is there any artificial openness on campus. I have in my scrap book a letter which appeared in the Batt some time ago. Apparently a female "second class citizen" was riding her bike when it sud-

denly ceased to function for some reason. Along came a "knight in shining armor on his magnificent steed" (the knight was a fellow Ag, the steed was a pickup) to rescue the damsel from her plight. That isn't too uncommon.

I have in my possession a book called "Aggies: Ya'll Caught That Dam' Ol' Rat Yet?" by Joseph G. Rollins '38. In it he describes the days at A&M while he was here. One thing he mentions is the fact that there were no women on campus during his day. Consequently, when women did visit A&M, they were treated royally. I believe this tradition has been passed on, and I see nothing wrong with it.

I have rambled on long enough. It has been mighty tempting to just say "Highway 6 runs both ways," but you have probably heard it all before. Nor would that change your point of view. The Aggie Spirit is real, not just something dreamed up by the propaganda department. You can catch it if you honestly mean it when you say "howdy," and treat people as potential friends instead of strangers. I've been here long enough to know.

Alton Meyer '82  
Dorm 7

Women's basketball

Editor:

Last Friday evening as I sat in the bleachers of G. Rollie White a feeling of disappointment overcame me. It was not the performance of the women's basketball team, for this was one of their most exciting games. But rather, it was the fact that the yell leaders' shoes had to be filled by a spirited fan, and despite promotions to attract a larger crowd, a vast number of

seats remained empty. These vacant seats echoed an obvious sentiment toward women's athletics here on campus.

I feel that the amount of time and work that these ladies put into their sports deserves much more student body support.

This women's basketball game was filled with excitement, as were all of the regular season games. The few fans that did attend this game were rewarded with intense play and a great victory for the Aggie Ladies.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to everyone to attend just one of their games. I am confident that after seeing one of their games you will return time and time again. And now, as the season draws to a close, I would personally like to congratulate the women's basketball team for a fine season.

Jim LePage  
Tim Howard  
Steve Crandle  
Aston Hall

Megawatt religion

Editor:

I am quite willing to defend to the death, as my forefathers, the freedom of speech of anyone, be they Rice Brooks, Adolph Hitler, Ronald Reagan or Bozo the Clown. This is not to say that I am in favor of 500 watts of fascist fundamentalism being blasted at me from some cult's PA system on my way to class.

There are over 100 churches in Brazos County, and within the Rudder complex a myriad of facilities for Rice and his suckers to experiment with Megawatt religion.

In addition, there are two student radio stations, KANM and KORP, that are open to freedom of speech.

I would prefer that the faithful of Ayatollah Brooks use these media outlets because then I can turn them off. I can't turn them off on my way to class, or for that matter, anywhere in a quarter-mile radius. This group's imposition of its cult gobbledegook is in direct violation of my freedom from an official state religion as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Texas A&M has no right to force me to listen to sermons on the way to class. If I had wanted Big Brother to mind my business for me, I would bloody well have gone to Baylor, not to the greatest institu-

tion of higher learning in the State of Texas.

As a student of Texas A&M University, I hereby call on the students to pass a resolution reaffirming freedom of speech on the Texas A&M campus and also banning the use of PA systems outside the auditorium.

Rice, either get rid of the PA in Highway 6 runs both ways, or trucking. Iran ain't half full.

God save the Constitution.  
Lewis College

The Battalion

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

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 exceed this length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit style and length, but will make every effort to reflect the author's intent. Each letter must be accompanied by the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome and 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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