

# Prof says weak king was cause of Magna Carta

by Hope E. Paasch  
Battalion Staff

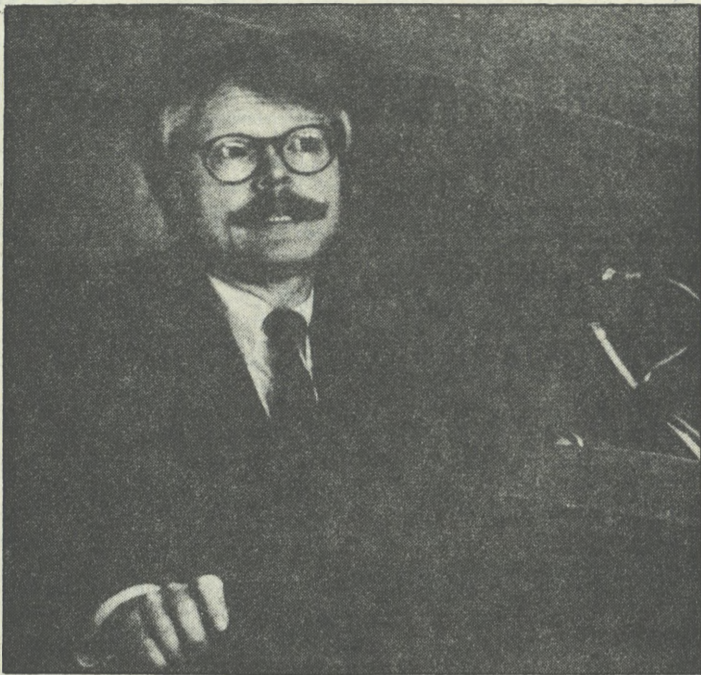
The hero image of King John presented in Sir Walter Scott's novels is not exceedingly accurate, but neither was he the sniveling coward that many of his critics say he was, a speaker in the Magna Carta speech series said Tuesday.

Dr. R.J.Q. Adams, associate professor of history at Texas A&M University, said King John could better be described as a weak, but not unusually cruel ruler.

King John was the ruler of England who signed the original Magna Carta in 1215.

Inconsistencies in the king's enforcement of law and taxes, coupled with his consistency in failing on the battlefield provoked the drafting of the Magna Carta, Adams said. English barons collectively wrote and forced the king to sign the document.

England had been ruled by Henry II and Richard the Lion Hearted immediately before John took the throne. Both, Adams said, were powerful and brutal kings. Violence was the



Dr. R.J.Q. Adams, associate professor of history

order of the era, and war was commonplace.

Richard placed taxes on the people that were higher than

any before, and spent only six months of his 10-year reign in England. Yet, the nobility did not rebel against Richard. The reasons, Adams said, are that Richard was victorious in war and was, in his way, consistent in enforcing law.

John tripled taxes when he came to power, but this alone was not sufficient for the barons to join against him. John's failure on the battlefield, Adams said, is what made the taxes intolerable. The barons saw no point in excessive financial support for a losing king.

In addition to his record in battle, John's inconsistent enforcing of law displeased the barons, Adams said. John's assigning of punishment was unpredictable. He might, for instance, sentence someone to hang for a crime and later that day sentence someone convicted of the same crime to have his eye gouged out.

The barons drafted the Magna Carta in an effort to put the king under the authority of the law. Since the document was signed, no ruler of England has risen above the law again, Adams said.

# Clinic services help animals and owners

by Cheryl Maynard  
Battalion Reporter

This is Burt's first time at the Small Animal Clinic. She's nervous, crying and scratching at anyone who tries to touch her. The nine-month-old kitten is at the clinic for a general physical and her first vaccination.

Greg Cizik, a senior finance major from Houston, brought Burt to the clinic because he thought it would be cheaper than taking her to any other local veterinarians.

Burt's visit is routine. The clinic, part of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, works on an outpatient and emergency basis. A staff of senior veterinarians work with students to care for animals brought to the clinic.

"The Small Animal Clinic primarily treats domestic animals," said Roberto Espitia, clinic supervisor. This includes dogs, cats, parakeets and gerbils, but the clinic also treats such exotic species as cougars and lions.

The clinic, which cost \$11 million to construct, is a two-story building west of the University on Highway 60. Opened in May 1981, its clinic area on the first floor has nine surgery suites. The second floor contains clinic and diagnostic services and administrative offices. The basement has a teaching and research area.

The clinic treats about 1,000

animals per month, for anything from simple vaccination to special procedures and surgery. The clinic can house 360 animals at full capacity.

The clinic operates on an appointment and cash basis. For routine appointments, the clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday. After 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday at noon until Monday morning, the clinic operates on an emergency basis. It then treats only emergency cases and discharges patients.

"The emergency room here seems like a regular 'people' emergency room," Greg Barfield, a sophomore from Arlington, said. Barfield was at the clinic for emergency treatment for his Golden Retriever puppy which was hit in the head with a softball. He added that a local veterinary office would probably not have the facilities that the clinic has, nor the operating hours.

"The clinic is occupied by staff personnel or students every day of the year on a 24-hour basis," Espitia said. There are at least two people in emergency and one in the intensive care unit at the clinic every night.

The clinic accepts out-of-town referrals on an appointment basis. The client can get a complete diagnostic workout for

his animal with such advanced equipment as radiograph or radiation and cobalt treatment.

"A lot of individual veterinarians don't get the volume to justify buying this equipment," Espitia said. "But since the clinic is supported with state funds, we can afford to buy it."

Espitia said that people bring their animals to the clinic because of its convenience and that prices for vaccinations and outpatient care may be slightly lower at the clinic.

"I checked around, and I saved a few dollars by bringing Burt here for her vaccination," Cizik said. He added that he was happy with the service he received while at the clinic. Meanwhile, Burt looked more than ready to go home.

### Top Drawer

from Basics to Designers

Final Fall Merchandise on Sale Assorted Clothing 75% Off

Levis - Sedgfield - Lee - Bill Blass - Calvin Klein - Ocean Pacific - Jockey - Stanley - Blacker - Esprit - Jordache - and more.

# Battalion, Aggieland to select new editors for summer, fall

The Student Publications Board is accepting applications for 1982 summer and fall editorships of The Battalion and for the 1982-83 editorship of the Aggieland.

Application forms are available at the Department of Communications office, 301 Reed McDonald, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The deadline for submitting applications is 5 p.m., March 22. Applications should be returned to Bob G. Rogers in 301 Reed McDonald.

The Battalion summer editor will serve from May 19 through Aug. 30. The fall editor will serve from May 3 through Dec. 10, excluding the summer session.

The Aggieland editor will serve for the academic year 1982-83.

Qualifications for the Battalion editor are:

— 2.0 overall and major grade point ratio at the time of taking office and during the term of office.

— at least one year of experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or a comparable student newspaper, at least one year of editorial experience on a commercial newspaper or at least 12 hours of

journalism including Journalism 203 and 204 (Reporting and Editing I and II) or equivalent. The 12 hours must include completion of or enrollment in Journalism 402 (Mass Communication Law) or equivalent.

Qualifications for the Aggieland editor are:

— 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and

during the term of office.

— at least one year in a responsible staff position on the Aggieland or equivalent year-book experience elsewhere.

The Student Publications Board will interview candidates and nominate editors March 29 beginning at 4 p.m. in 301C Reed McDonald.

## Today's Almanac

**United Press International**  
Today is Wednesday, March 3, the 62nd day of 1982 with 303 to follow.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was born March 3, 1847.

On this date in history:  
In 1849, the U.S. Department of the Interior was created by Congress.  
In 1879, Belva Ann Lock-

wood was first of her sex to practice before a U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1931, the Star Spangled Banner was designated by an Act of Congress as the national anthem of the United States.

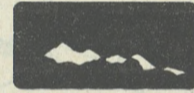
A thought for the day: American writer William Henry Hudson said, "You cannot fly like an eagle with the wings of a wren."

**Mot Rae Boutique**  
Your Danskinn Headquarters  
Manor East Mall 779-6718

## MSC Arts, Basement, Camera & Outdoor Recreation present "I SAW THE WIND"

I SAW THE WIND is an exciting concert combining Mark Thompson's live musical performance and Bob Jamieson's spectacular photographs taken from ten years of climbing in the Yukon, Alaska, South America, and North American Rockies.

WITHOUT using any pre-recorded music, Bob adapts precisely arranged slides to Mark's songs as if creating the choreography for a dance, challenging us to see the world through a new set of lenses.



©NEVER SUMMER PRODUCTIONS 1981

Wednesday, March 3  
8 p.m. Rudder Theatre

Tickets available at MSC Box Office  
Call 845-1234

# GRAND OPENING



Featuring fine women's apparel and men's classic sportswear. The "classic" of course refers to items such as navy blazers, tartan plaid shirts, Weejuns, and Topsiders. But David Shellenberger doesn't stop here. He also offers a large line of boy's Polo along with an exclusive line of Polo for men.

## shellenberger's

"Not just apparel, but a way of life." 520 University Drive