

A look back at 'Sherrillgate'

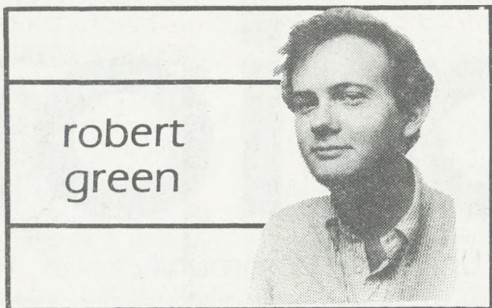
Forget everything you've heard about what a disaster the Jackie Sherrill controversy was for Texas A&M. It was probably the best thing that's happened to the University since we decided it might be kind of fun to beautify the campus by admitting women.

First things first. Sherrill is not paid too much. One and a half million was what the traffic would bear, and that was what he got. That professors of chemistry make less than that is perfectly irrelevant. No chemistry professor of my acquaintance can draw 50,000 people on Saturday afternoon to watch him mix test tubes.

And Jackie Sherrill may eventually make Texas A&M a national football power.

Why is everyone embarrassed to mention that? Yes, Tom Wilson was cruelly used. The way the hiring and firing was handled was straight out of the Marx Brothers. But after all of that is behind us, what if we really do win big? Sherrill has the track record to make it possible. What if?

Has the nationwide publicity over our new coach hurt Texas A&M? Not in the long run. There is such a thing as bad PR (it's rare), but in this case there was some definite compensations. For one thing, the world at large learned that we exist,



robert green

I don't mean to shatter your illusions, little children, but Texas A&M University is not a name to conjure with in Brooklyn, Boston or Burbank. Not all that many people know we're down here. At least they didn't. Now, they may learn.

Think about it: All the hoopla now virtually guarantees some media follow-up examining just how well Sherrill actually performs. There's a good chance that could be the occasion for some sidebars on the University itself. Gradually, a national sports identity could lead to a national academic identity. Someday the name of Texas A&M could roll as trippingly off the tongue as Ohio State, UCLA and Michigan State now do.

That in itself, of course, would not guarantee academic excellence. I take it,

however, that in general we would rather be renowned and far-famed than ignored.

Finally, about the way the Board of Regents "handled" the imbroglio, two observations:

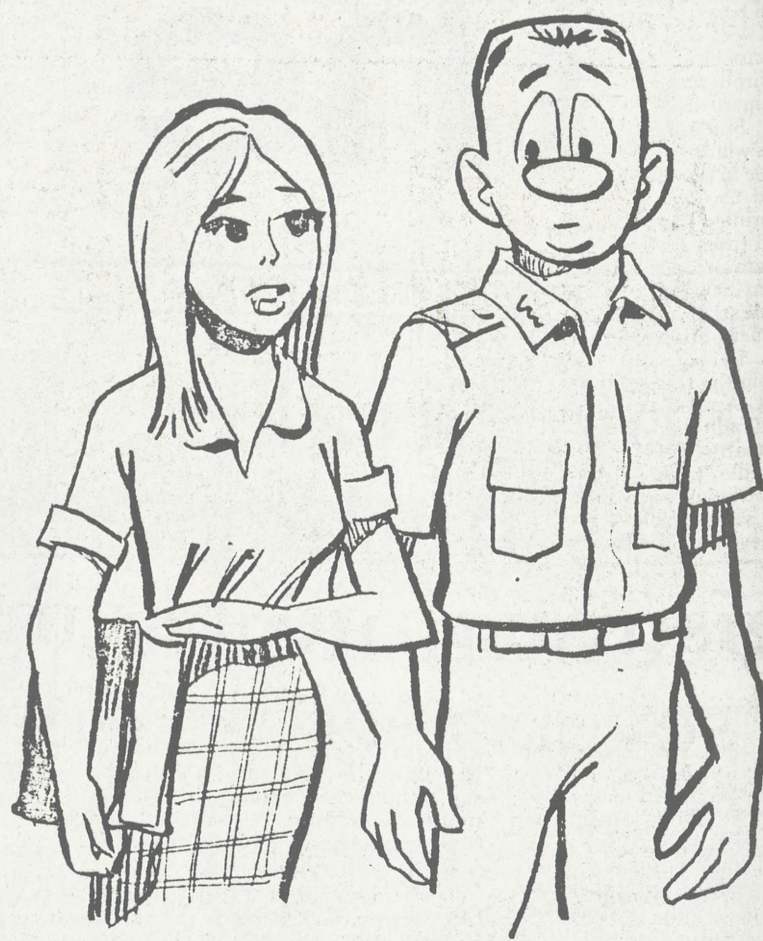
First, the Sherrill affair, at minimum, insures there won't be any more major administrative shakeups (at least regent-initiated ones) for some time. The regents can't afford it. They know that neither their credibility nor the University's, nor alumni goodwill, will survive another Sherrillgate (yes, I know, but someone was bound to coin it sooner or later). So we will have stability for a while, which is precisely what we need at the moment.

Second, there's at least an outside chance that even Bum Bright learned something out of all this. Because of all the stink they've caused, the regents may decide to actually let their hired administrators administer instead of doing it themselves. Not a necessary outcome, true, but a possible one.

Sherrillgate (now I can't stop) was the result of, in the words of a recent novel, a confederacy of dunces. But in a perverse sort of way, it was also a healthy experience for Texas A&M.

At least that's what my mother used to tell me about castor oil.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I didn't understand that part in class so I didn't study it."

Everyone knows, it's all in the game

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Video games you can play on your television set at home are on a roll right now. A local four-store retail chain recently sold 3,000 "Pac-Man" cartridges in a single 24-hour period. I doubt, however, that the full potential has been realized.

One possible "Pac-Man" sequel might be to link the science-fiction concept so appealing to young players with some real life problems. The following games illustrate the format I have in mind:

"Tax-Man" — As play begins, hordes of alien tax evaders swoop across the screen. The idea behind "Tax-Man" is for the player to zap the evaders before they bombard the country with writeoffs.

To score a hit, a player must press the "audit" button at the right moment. That maneuver causes an evader to vanish in a puff of simulated smoke.

Be warned, however, that sending up a volley of "audits" won't necessarily win the game. The evaders may take refuge in "shelters" or escape through "loopholes."

When an audit hits a shelter or loophole, it ricochets harmlessly into the top, right-hand corner of the screen, leaving the evader clear to drop another writeoff.

"Gerry-Man" — Another spinoff of "Pac-Man," the idea is to protect incumbent office holders from alien candidates bent on taking over their seats.

As play begins, the screen is filled with

legislative districts that conform to ethnic and party patterns. Hordes of alien political forces appear on a mission to destroy existing lines and twist the districts into crazy shapes that expose incumbents to hostile balloting.

Players try to counter these moves by firing off simulated lawsuits that zap the newly drawn lines and restore the districts to their own legislator. Points are scored each time a player succeeds in establishing a "safe" district in areas where incumbents are threatened.

"Quota-Man" — The object of the game is to protect the domestic auto industry from foreign invaders.

To zap an alien manufacturer, a player pushes the "quota" button, which spreads an impenetrable shield across contested markets and prevents imports from reaching consumers.

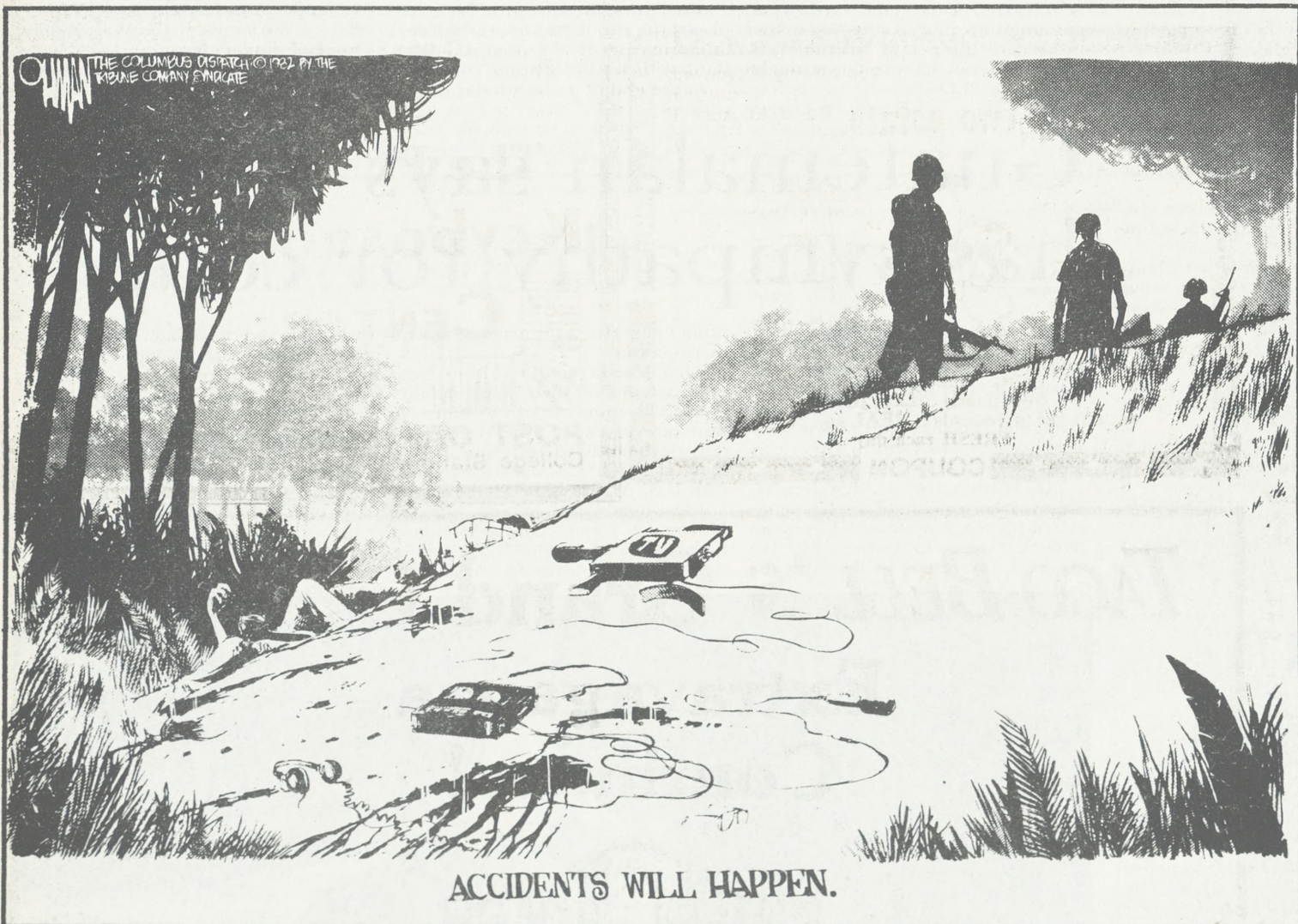
Other defensive moves may include maneuvering the "trade restriction" lever so that imports are blocked off at the border.

"Budget-Man" — The player's goal is to protect budget-busters who swarm in from South Succotash and bombard the deficit with social programs.

Points are scored by zapping social programs with New Federalism vetoes.

"Sno-Man" — Swarms of aliens are firing the screen with radioactive snowballs and other acid rain projectiles.

The goal of the ASD (Anti-Snowball Defense) operator is to zap polluted missiles with regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency.



Letters: Support your baseball team

Editor:

Having followed all kinds of Texas A&M athletics around the country, I see a great injustice being done to a fine group of athletes. I am referring to the lack of support of the Texas A&M baseball team. National ranking has been a rarity to Texas A&M athletics the last few years, but this year's baseball team can boast that claim and for what reward? To play in an empty stadium. I realize that it is different going to a sporting event where there are no yell leaders, but the team needs your support. If you enjoy sunshine and good baseball, support the 1982 Texas Aggie Baseball Team.

Brian Turner '81
Mark Roberts '82

man nature is flawed. Personal experience supports this: being selfish or rude when we'd resolved to behave decently, saying cruel or bitter words we regret, breaking rules we believe in. If a few moments of reflection does not make this flaw in human nature obvious, get to know some young children. None of them, sweet as they may be, had to be taught to hoard their toys or deny when they've done wrong.

Sharing and honesty don't come naturally. There is something wrong with the human race, and in spite of our desire for peace and love, our flawedness limits our ability to be loving, compassionate and understanding

political education is a must if people are to remain free. We, if we are to consider ourselves an intelligent people, must neither condemn nor applaud the economic ideology of any political philosophy until we have been afforded the opportunity to objectively examine each aspect of it.

The men immortalized in the MSC died for the ideology of Democracy, as such, Political Forum should be praised for their wisdom in preserving and promoting that same concept of Democracy, through their open-minded appreciation of various political viewpoints.

Richard McLeon '85

Human nature is the cause

Misplaced patriotism

Letters policy

Editor:

While I don't wish to quarrel with Jeff Nuzzaco, who wrote about the causes of war (Monday, March 22), I disagree with his conclusion that wars are basically good. As he points out, that is inconsistent with the presence of war. One can blame either society or human nature for such ills. Those who believe society is at fault claim the cure is different social structures and better education. The existence of oppression, bigotry, torture and injustice through the ages suggests that we have had poor luck finding the right structures and training.

The alternative is to conclude that hu-

Editor:

Recently Mr. C. G. Darnell Jr. wrote a letter to The Battalion condemning the MSC Political Forum for "... A grave wrong..." which they committed in sponsoring a speaker from the American Communist Party in the Memorial Student Center. Mr. Darnell further stated that "It is an absolute disgrace... (to the)... thousands who lost their lives fighting oppression caused by similar political beliefs." Actually, the only disgrace found is the Socratic irony of a shortsided opinion, I commend Mr. Darnell's concern for the memory of the numerous heroes from Texas A&M who died fighting oppression, but the need for

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, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Articles for Reader's Forum are also welcome, and 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.

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

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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