

Story perpetuates 'anti-Corps' image

There's a front-page story about the Corps of Cadets in today's paper. It's not a favorable story. It does not attack the Corps, but it does report an incident involving Corps members. Unfortunately, that article will fuel an already hot fire in the quad that asserts The Battalion is "anti-Corps."

This allegation is nothing new. Even when the University was all-military and everyone on the newspaper staff was a member of the Corps, The Battalion was accused of being anti-Corps. Just read the Letters to the Editor from 20 years ago.

The perennial problem stems from a disagreement over what is news and what is a "family problem." On the story about hazing and countless others, Corps members have maintained that problems within the Corps are "family matters" that are "best taken care of from within" and are "nobody else's business." It is an attitude that ends up causing more problems than it solves.

When The Battalion began investigating the hazing incident, questions such as "Nobody else really cares about this, so

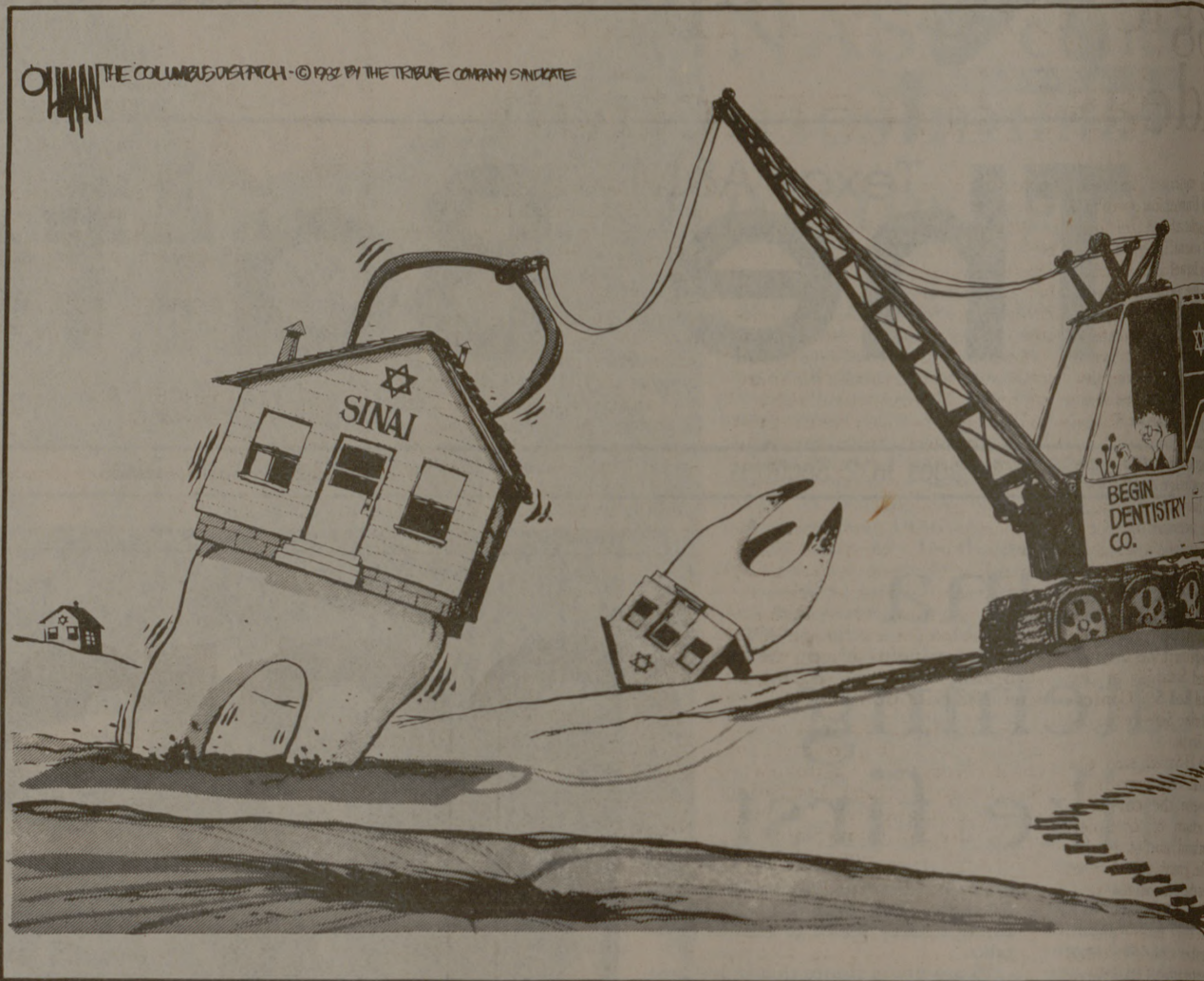
why run a story?" and "The Corps has taken care of it, why make it worse by running a story?" were raised again and again by Corps members — when they would even talk about it.

The Battalion does not run stories like this because it is "anti-Corps." The stories run because they are news. Just like it's news when a student is arrested for possession of narcotics. Just like it's news when a student is arrested and charged with tampering with governmental records.

Just like it's news when eight juniors are dismissed from the Corps of Cadets for hazing and face possible disciplinary action by the University.

The Corps' attitude that it is best to take care of your own is a dangerous one. And refusing to comment won't make the problem go away. Rumors are much easier to keep alive and flourishing when the people involved maintain an attitude of silence and secrecy than when the truth simply is told.

Angelique Copeland



Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Graduating senior or not, don't you think you may be pushing your luck?"

Budget debate is political poker

by David Broder

WASHINGTON — The negotiations aimed at producing a budget for the federal government for fiscal 1983 have been a drama of many dimensions. This is high-stakes economic and political poker, with the future of an ailing economy and the advantage in the 1982 and perhaps even the 1984 election at risk.

But no one should lose sight of the fact that it is also a human struggle, with two oddly matched but appropriate antagonists, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill.

Oddly matched, because, at first glance, the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives seem polar opposites. After 45 years in public office, O'Neill is easily caricatured as a bumbling relic of the political past, a ward-heeler who threatens harm to the Queen's English every time he puts down his cigar and opens his mouth.

Reagan, the movie actor and television host who took up a second career in politics as he was approaching retirement age, is just as easily caricatured as a lightweight charmer with a gift of gab but no talent for sustained leadership.

Each man has come to know the other's caricature is a lie. O'Neill learned last year that Reagan is as tough as he is charming; and Reagan is learning this

year that O'Neill can be as stubborn about his convictions as the President himself.

What is not so obvious is this: Reagan and O'Neill — the two men whose agreement is essential if there is to be a compromise on the budget — have more in common with each other than either of them does with most of the others involved in the lengthy negotiations.

They are of an age: Reagan just past his 71st birthday, O'Neill approaching his 70th. Although they draw different lessons from it, both of them know, in a bone-deep personal way that younger politicians do not, what the struggle for survival meant in the hard times of their youth, 50 years ago.

The young men who have been negotiating on their behalf — House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Jones (D. Okla.), White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, budget director David A. Stockman — are products of the prosperous postwar world, with its overflowing economic and educational benefits.

But Reagan and O'Neill are not just stubborn Irishmen; they have convictions, and those convictions were forged a long time ago.

They understand — both of them — that this is a critical moment for them personally and for the parties and branches

of government. O'Neill, a rollback in Social Security payments is the cornerstone of the New Deal that promise has kept in almost unbroken continuity for 50 years.

For Reagan, an increase contradicts the first principle of conservatism he has preached since Democratic fold, the belief that the way to curb big government is the torrent of taxes on which it is sustained that principle, the Republicans hold power on term basis.

These two men — so many yet so different — lived through the historical experience of the depression and came to diametrically opposite conclusions. Reagan's sentiment as the source, not the nation's economic ills, is just as convinced that, when government must be ready to lend a hand.

To ask these two men, at their lives, to rethink the lessons of youth and the principles of asking a lot. And a lot deeper doing it.

Letters: Photography craze threatens to ruin Muster

Editor:

Aggie Muster made me very sad. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to be sad for the right reasons, such as the passing away of a friend. No, it seems that the only ones who were afforded this luxury were the avid photographers who so busily scrambled for the perfect shot, rudely stuck their cameras into the face of a solemn parent, and carelessly tried to trip the R.V. Commander with a bulky tripod.

The death march, formerly a solemn ceremony, has been lowered to a photographic modeling session for the Ross Volunteers and unsuspecting spectators. The flash bulbs during the volley made Muster look like tourist day at the Hollywood Wax Museum.

The photographer who was using the tripod in the center was the rudest of all. He obviously has never been on stage before or he would have realized that all of G. Rollie White was watching his every move. He upstaged all the Ross Volunteers! His worn out blue jeans and T-shirt made me feel like I was back stage at a rock concert, not at a solemn ceremony. Come on guy, you might as well have worn a Speedo and a Minolta to your grandmother's funeral!

Being an avid photography fan, I can understand the desire to capture the emotion involved in Aggie Muster. But if we let this keep up, there won't be any emotion left at all.

I suggest that the Muster Committee strongly prohibit flash pictures (with 400 speed film, who needs them), allow only authorized photographers on the floor, make them dress properly for the occasion (since they will be seen), and give them an area well away from the action so they will not get hurt (either by Reveille, the R.V.'s or me!).

We do need photographs of an important event, but we shouldn't let rudeness and thoughtlessness ruin the importance

of the Aggie Muster.

Nancy Cramer '84

ID of 'Good Ag' needed

Editor:

On April 6, at 10:25 p.m., my blue Toyota was hit by a black Oldsmobile in the parking lot behind the Commons. A note was left on my car by a good "Good Ag" with a description and license plate number of the car that hit mine. Unfortunately, the note was not signed with a name or phone number and the person who owns the black Oldsmobile claims that his car was not involved. The damage is more than \$200 and the car is a 1981 — still being paid off. In order for the insurance company of the other car to even consider paying for the damage, the "Good Ag" who left the note must identify himself/herself.

I appreciate the thoughtfulness of the Ag who left the note on my car — it would have been so easy to just pretend that it never happened. Unfortunately, it did. If the "Good Ag" cares to identify himself/herself, or if anyone else may have seen this accident happen, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Glenda Erp '82

260-1469

Klan story offensive

Editor:

The large picture of the Klansman on the front of Wednesday's (4-14-82) Battalion was offensive and frightening. Since I assume that the Battalion does not support the Klu Klux Klan, I would like to point out that this is irresponsible journalism. It is not good journalism to report factually and in a "value free" format, the rantings of madmen. If the Bat-

talion thinks that the appearance of a Klansman on campus is a newsworthy event, then the article should say why he was invited, what were the goals of the Texas A&M Sociology club that invited him and does the Sociology club endorse the activities of the Klan. I think it is important for the Battalion to make clear whether it endorses the activities of the Klu Klux Klan.

Perhaps the Battalion thinks that the Klansman's statements show him up and that editorial comments are not necessary. I think that it is just as likely that people will be attracted by the Klansman's hatred of Blacks, Jews, Mexicans and Catholics as will be repelled by it and I do not understand in what way it benefits The Battalion to help stir up this hatred.

Finally, the symbol of the hooded Klansman is odious. It does not deserve center front page on the newspaper of any university.

Michael Marcus
Professor of Mathematics

Does beauty have a price?

Editor:

Filling every available space with a modular dorm I suppose is a necessary evil, and I have held my tongue. But I must speak out now concerning the proposed building of a Hilton on Texas A&M property at the corner of Texas and University.

I am adamantly opposed to the idea for two basic reasons. 1) The University should not have a large privately owned hotel on its property because it is completely counter to the tenets of private enterprise. There would be an implied endorsement of the Hilton by the University, and this would be unfair competition against the new 17-story Ramada Inn under construction across the street and the Sheraton that is planned to go up

just down University. Let Hilton build their hotel here — but don't do it on University property.

My second objection is more esthetic and probably won't speak to those in authority. Nevertheless in my opinion, the last open field at the corner of Texas and University is one of the nicest things about campus. Of course it would generate more revenue to have a high-rise on the spot, and sure that area isn't "efficiently utilized" — but if we build on every square foot of our land accessible to students, the campus will be efficient but not enjoyable. Sometimes a little inefficient beauty is invaluable also. It speaks more

quietly than our pocketbooks — but modern man's basic problem is just too loud around here. What do you think?

Wade Brad

Not wasting words

Editor:

In response to Vic Sylvia's cord review of Van Halen's... WRONG!

Tony Hen

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 matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed length, and are subject to being cut if they exceed length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must also include the address and phone number of the author. Columns and guest editorials are also not subject to the same length constraints. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Tower Building, College Station, TX 77843, or phone 2611.

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