

Slouch By Jim Earle



"At this point, there's no need for you to write your name in the concrete. Since you're stuck there, you can just tell people your name on a one-to-one basis."

Nuclear war deserves concern

by David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — Two paperbacks are on my desk. One is "Nuclear War. What's In It For You?," written by Roger C. Molander of Ground Zero, the organization running rallies against the threat of U.S.-Soviet atomic war. The other is "Freeze! How You Can Help Prevent Nuclear War," written by Senate staff members Carey Parker and Robert Shrum for publication under the names of their employer, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), and the co-sponsor of his nuclear freeze resolution, Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.).

Together, the two books demonstrate why the nuclear weapons protest movement is so vexing.

The case for the movement is as obvious as it is compelling. Nuclear war is the greatest threat to humanity, and reducing the risk of its occurrence is therefore the single greatest responsibility of any nation that possesses these weapons.

Every American president from the birth of the atomic age has recognized and acted on that responsibility. President Reagan signaled his recognition of that duty in his speech last November, calling for a series of negotiations on strategic and tactical nuclear arms. He has repeated the message several times in the last four months.

The protesters have perceived, however, that the Reagan administration is of two minds about arms-control. Its internal debate has delayed the talks. The President asserts that "substance is more important than timing" but, having thrown his considerable weight against the Ford-Brezhnev Vladivostok agreement and the Carter-Brezhnev SALT II treaty, Reagan bears a special responsibility for the long hiatus in negotiated

nuclear arms pacts.

Beyond that, one encounters a greater mass of determined resistance to arms control and a greater cynicism about the negotiating process among key officials in this administration than in any other since the nuclear age began.

So public pressure is probably needed to prod the administration toward the bargaining table.

That much can be said on behalf of the movement — but no more than that. Its impact may be needed, but its approach is a far cry from the seriousness with which this survival issue needs to be discussed.

If you want a model of an approach that is serious — and non-sensationalist — you need look no further than Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.). He is trying to nudge the United States and the Soviet Union into improving their ability to determine whether a nuclear attack is under way, to detect who launched it and to guarantee their ability to talk to each other under those threatening circumstances.

There is no emotionalism in Nunn's speeches and writing on this subject — even though he is dealing with a terribly dangerous eventuality.

Contrast that with Molander's handbook for the Ground Zero movement, which purports to be "the presentation of basic, factual information to answer technical questions and a balanced representation of both sides of policy questions subject to varying analysis and interpretation."

The prologue to that book is the rumination of an Army widow who supposedly survives a Soviet nuclear attack on the United States. "The letter she had received shortly after her husband's death (two years earlier) had said Bill had died

so we would all be safe. She remembers politicians saying that we needed weapons to be safe — because the Soviets had more weapons. Great. He died and the government had built weapons, and look at us now ...

"She recalled reading somewhere in the United States had 10,000 BOMBS. They made her feel safe — safe. She couldn't remember thinking about all. She'd left it up to the experts. She said 10,000 weren't enough and wanted more — for national security. She suddenly felt bitter ... she would have done something? she would. Maybe if I had told them that nuclear weapons didn't really make us feel safe. Maybe if a lot of people spoken up, had cared a little more, would have made a difference."

That is no balanced, factual proposition. That is liberal sentimentalism amok. And there is more of that emotionalism and simple-mindedness in the Kennedy-Hatfield opus. The authors (or their ghosts) ask a series of questions: "Shouldn't the public keep in out of the experts' business of de- and arms control?" Answer: "This is posed to be a democracy." Question: "Won't a nuclear weapons freeze give the Soviet Union an advantage, since we have more conventional forces?" Answer: "A freeze won't stop the Army, or start it."

It's a crummy situation. A real, sometimes cynical administration prodded toward vital negotiations propaganda campaign that instead of clarifying, distorts a major public question. On both sides, we're cheated of what we deserve: serious negotiations and serious debate.

Graduating senior thanks Texas A&M

Editor:

As a graduating senior, I would like to thank all those profs who put some energy into their lectures (especially the 8 a.m. ones) instead of treating them as just another day at the office. For those profs who were bored teaching us, believe me, we were more bored listening to you.

I would like to thank the University Drive McDonalds for supplying students

Reader's Forum

(especially engineers) with countless semi-digestible meals.

I would not like to thank the Texas A&M football team. In four years you never beat Baylor. Why do we make such a big deal about beating a school of 50,000 when we cannot even beat a private school of 10,000? They not only beat us, they drummed us. If you can beat them, Jackie, I am yours forever.

I would like to thank the Data Processing Center for doing the best job that it can under limiting circumstances. Maybe some day Texas A&M will come out of the computer dark ages and offer real academic computing power — the power for students to learn as much as possible without monetary restraints. To do this, the University administration will have to wake up — did you hear that Frank Vandiver? Why don't you stop cancelling visits to the Texas A&M computer facilities?

I would not like to thank those profs who care more about research and publications and tenure than they do about their students. You need a reminder on your desk saying, "Twer it not for the students, I wouldst not be here."

I would like to thank Jackie Sherrill

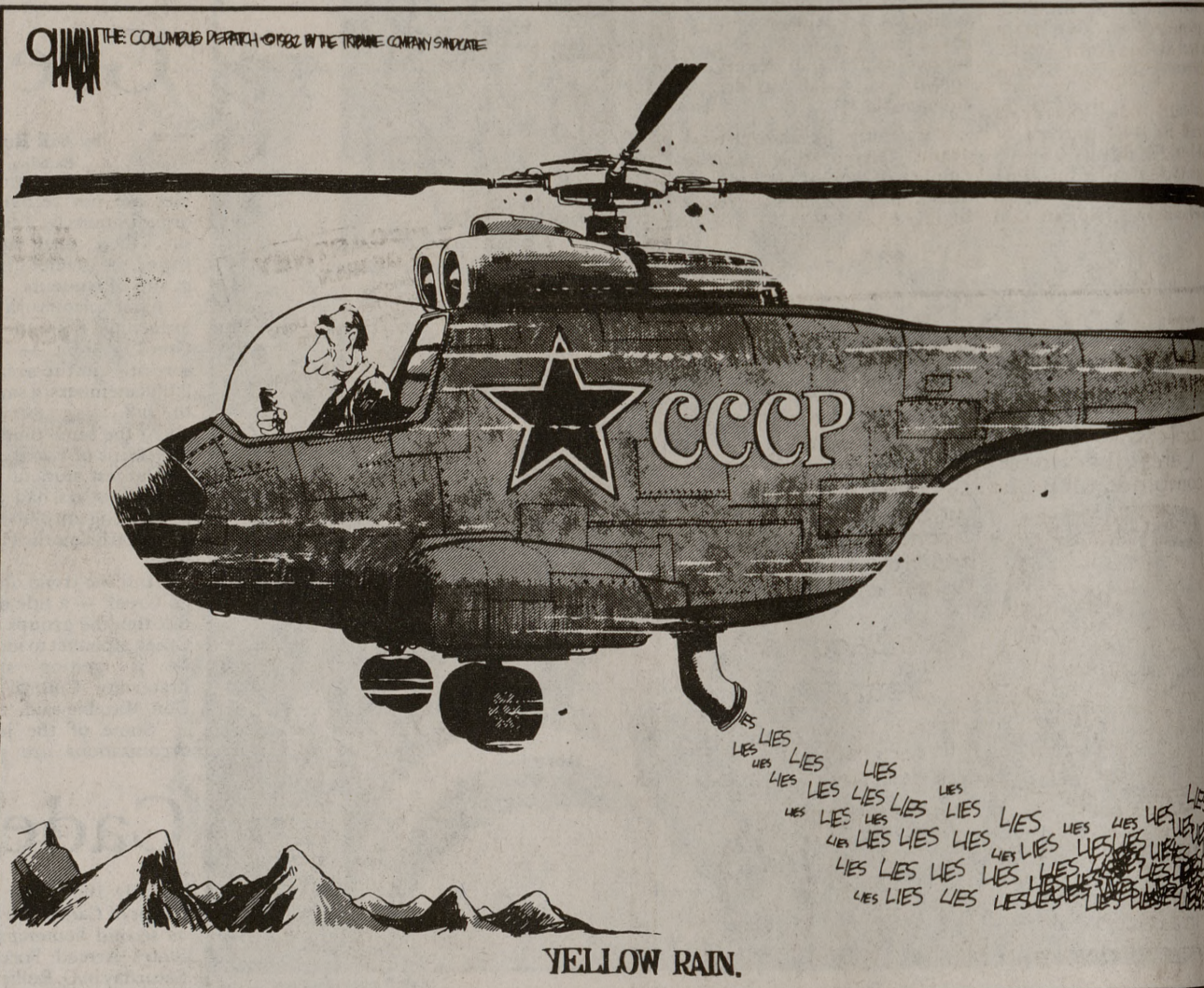
for realizing we need better pass blocking. Taking one step back, someone needs to thank the former students for procuring Jackie Sherrill. I would like to thank Bum Bright for knowing what he wants and then getting it.

I would not like to thank the individual who, on a rainy day in 1980, stole my umbrella.

I would like to thank Goff, Woods, Smith, Wright and Britton for the glorious 1979-1980 basketball season. As I watched this year's team get destroyed by Houston at Reunion, I found myself longing for the days when: Goff supplied the floor leadership we now lack (and stole the game from Bradley); Woods could play a whole game instead of merely be present for it; we had bookend forwards that worked; and last, but not least, "Great'est," we had Britton, who we could give the ball to and know something good would happen. Not since Sonny Parker has Texas A&M had an exciting player like Great.

In conclusion, I would like to leave Texas A&M with a few parting remarks. With 35,000 plus students, the University is now so highly diversified that a single group can no longer rule the campus. Of course, the Corps wants to, but the non-reggs don't like that idea — while the Greeks laugh at it, and the Waggies just get walked on. The two-percenters have grown to four, there are as many Greek houses as there are Corps dorms, and our sacred Texas A&M has considered recognizing the GSSO. You can't fight change and, conversely, you can't change what has always been. As I leave Texas A&M for the slings and arrows of the real world, I will most likely be called upon to defend the honor of Texas A&M against those who do not understand our ways. Even with its many faults, the University is worth defending, though as long as employers continue to hold Texas A&M graduates in such high esteem, I really don't care what the world says about us.

Robert E. Green '82



Letters: Corps needs to build pride

Editor:

This is an open letter to the Corps. This weekend marks the end of five memorable years of my life. Four of these years were spent in an organization that taught me much; the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. During my stay at Texas A&M, I've seen the Corps go through many changes. I've also seen the Corps' reputation slowly deteriorate, and if something isn't done, the problem will only get worse.

I think part of the problem is that the Corps has lost some of its pride in itself. The men of the Corps are some of the finest in the world, yet our reputation suffers at the hands of a few. I have heard cadets degrade the Corps in public, reinforcing negative attitudes in their own minds as well as those listening. Only by changing the Corps attitude toward itself can we hope to improve our reputation with the civilian population.

To the fish in F-2: let me assure you that physical hazing does not go on in every outfit in the Corps. It has never gone on in mine. I know because the outfit came into existence my fish year. There are people who still strive to uphold the highest standards and traditions of the Corps.

Finally, I challenge Mike Holmes and his staff to set as a goal for the coming year, a revitalization of the Corps' honor.

Let's show this campus what the Corps stands for and do away with some of the negative feelings that exist both in and out of the Corps.

Greg Hargis '81

Greeks speak out against comment

Editor:

All year long, I have been hearing and reading derogatory comments and criticisms concerning the sororities and fraternities here at Texas A&M, and, until now, none of it has bothered me. But, when the commander of an organization, (the Corps of Cadets), that I highly respect and admire condemned the Greek System, it really opened my eyes. I had no idea that I was less of an Aggie because I belonged to a sorority, and I'm sure neither did my sisters. I thought that attending Texas A&M and proudly sharing and participating in its traditions and heritage made me unique; it made me an Aggie. But Woodall, if in your opinion belonging to a Greek sorority prevents me from belonging to the AGGIE Fraternity — so be it. But, believe me, I'll still

consider myself an Aggie first and foremost, and no amount of extracurricular involvement will change my opinion.

Terri L. Ganem

Geography students praised for meeting

Editor:

I would like to acknowledge the Geography students at Texas A&M for the work at the April 25-28 national meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Antonio. It was very evident that the smooth functioning of the meeting would not have been possible were it not for the efforts and time contributed by geography students. In addition, as many of my colleagues have noted, the Texas hospitality and camaraderie developed at this convention set a standard for future AAG meetings. This could not have occurred without the supportive involvement of geography students. Thank you for your fine work at this excellent academic meeting.

Dr. Paul Meloy  
Assistant Professor  
Eastern Illinois University

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference  
Editor: Diana Sultenfuss  
Managing Editor: Phyllis Henderson  
Associate Editor: Denise Richter  
City Editor: Bernie Fette  
Assistant City Editor: Gary Barker  
Sports Editor: Frank L. Christlieb  
Focus Editor: Nancy Flock  
Assistant Focus Editor: Colette Hutchings  
News Editors: Tracey Buchanan, Cathy Capps, Daniel Puckett, Mary Jo Rummel  
Staff Writers: Cyndy Davis, Susan Dittman, Beverly Hamilton, John Lopez, Hope E. Paasch, Bill Robinson, Dana Smelser, Joe Tindel, John Wagner, Laura Williams, Rebecca Zimmermann  
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar  
Graphic Artist: Richard DeLeon Jr.  
Photographers: David Fisher, Jane Hollingsworth, Peter Rocha, John Ryan, Colin Valentine

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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.

Letters Policy

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. Columns and guest editorials 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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.