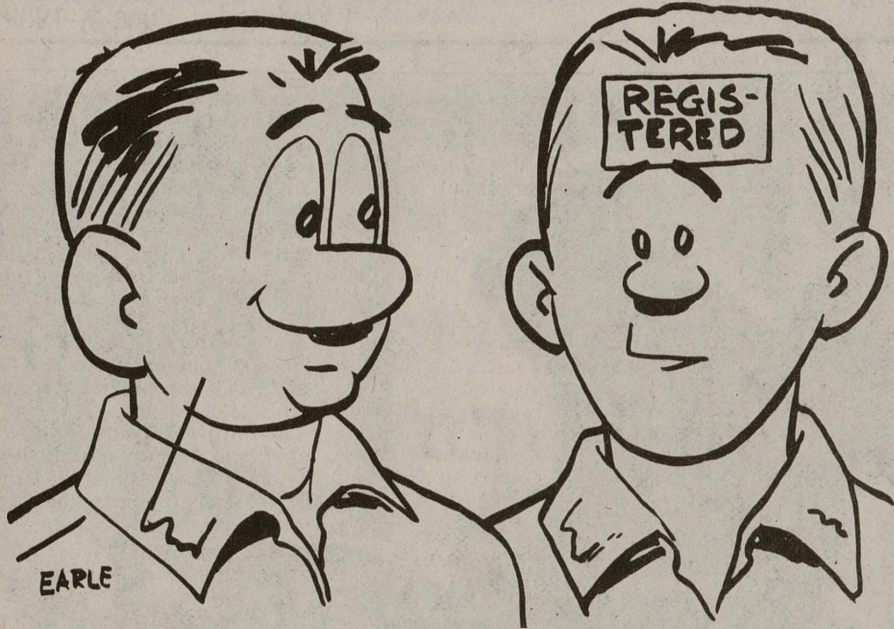


Slouch

By Jim Earle



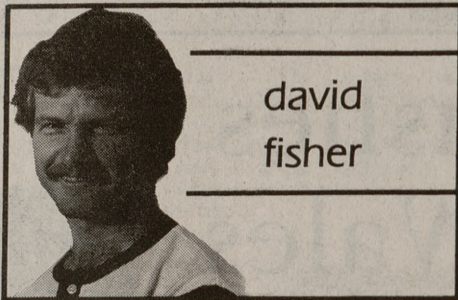
"Frankly, I would prefer a less personal registration process."

Aggie opinions important

I was trying to think of a way to fill up a little space the other day, so I decided to put down my thoughts about something that seems to be rampant at Texas A&M these days. Opinion! I feel about opinions the same way I feel about a hamburger. They're pretty good unless they're overcooked. Then they're kind of dry and rather useless.

But they're also one of the reasons that I like Texas A&M as much as I do. If there is nothing else that anyone could ever say for Aggies, they could at least say that they're not afraid to give you an opinion on something. The editorial page of this paper is testimony to that.

There have been opinions rendered on this page on everything from homosexuality to photographers at muster. You could walk up to somebody on campus and ask them how they feel about the fire ants invading Mars after they chew up Texas and get some kind of opinion on the matter. It might be that they don't give a damn or that it's better the little green men than us. But you would at least get some kind of answer. The only



david fisher

problem is, the answer might be to see somebody pull up in an ambulance with a white jacket, one size fits all, and a nice little comfortable room waiting for you. I always did love white.

But seriously, it really is something good about our school. People here are not afraid to speak their mind. It is a freedom that we ought to hold dearly and protect at all cost. Maybe the fact that we have always had it has made us take it for granted. That could be the reason that sometimes we tend to run things into the ground by just continually tossing our opinions back and forth without ever

really coming to any solution or deem worthy to discuss. After a just gets kind of old and boring.

When you open up the pages weeks in a row and we're still debating rights of little white mice (you know ones who get cancer from rat) you begin to wonder. It's not the matter of peoples' opinions that me, but the length of time that to dwell on one subject. We need to settle our differences a little quicker.

That might even be the problem our governments today; they take forever just to trade secrets with others skiing teams. Not to mention amount of time they take to solve problems like little children start somebody's freedom being surprised. If they'd get on the stick and get business, we might be a little better just remember opinions are a good if you don't leave them on the long. If they boil over, then they just up the place. But, hey, that's just my opinion.

Rollercoaster — only young once

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — First, a disclaimer. Anyone experimenting with the therapeutic technique discussed below does so at his own risk. My advice is to consult a physician before trying it.

That said, let me now introduce a woman I shall identify here as Lobelia Ligamento. (Real name supplied upon request.)

Miss Ligamento admits to 53 years of age, and when I recently made her acquaintance she told me she suffers occasional twinges of arthritis. But only in winter.

During other seasons, Miss Ligamento said, she wards off arthritic attacks by taking daily rides on a roller coaster.

In evaluating this treatment, it is important to know that Miss Ligamento works for an amusement park whose entertainments include one of the world's highest, fastest and longest roller coasters.

Nevertheless, there is nothing in her contract that requires her to expose a somewhat frail-looking frame to daily drops of more than 140 feet at speeds of almost 65 mph.

Nor is she is any way behooved to attribute any curative, restorative or immunitive powers to the mechanism.

Scientific curiosity aroused, I asked her to supply me with some literature about the ride.

She did, and it cited one roller coaster addict as having lost 70 pounds during a period in which he took 2,450 rides.

OK. You don't have to be a Harvard Medical School graduate to leap to a conclusion that roller coasters have certain weight-reducing and medicamentous potentials.

The first is understandable. Purely in the interest of science, I took a ride on the coaster and found that it jolted my giblets, including the digestive tract, with sufficient vigor to curb my appetite for hours.

The anti-arthritic aspect is a bit more difficult for a layman to grasp.

Nothing I have read suggests that relief from stiffness and soreness caused by inflammation of the joints would be provided by blood alternatively rushing between head and feet, eyeballs forced back in their sockets by centrifugal force, giddiness and stark terror.

Consequently, I am inclined to suspect Miss Ligamento is using her arthritis as an excuse to indulge in what are generally regarded as youth-oriented thrills.

If Miss Ligamento finds herself surrounded by coasterloads of pre-pubescent and juvenile passengers, all screaming her heads off, as I did on my ride, her age might make her feel a bit conspicuous, as mine did.

If, however, she is able to explain she is doing it for her health, it all seems perfectly legit.



'LET'S GET AWAY FROM IT ALL,' YOU SAID... 'A CRUISE ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH,' YOU SAID...

the small society

by Brickman



Black caucus budget unpublicized

by David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — A budget offered to the Congress and the country last week would have pleased the advocates of a nuclear-weapons freeze and those who want to balance the budget faster than President Ronald Reagan.

It would have restored last year's cuts in education and Medicaid and provided an extra 13 weeks of unemployment insurance for those who have lost their jobs.

It had other interesting features, including a nickel-a-gallon gasoline tax to repair our deteriorating highways and improve mass transit systems. That is an idea Secretary of Transportation Drew Lewis has been trying, without success, to sell the President.

Despite the appeal of most of these proposals to various constituencies — and the controversy at least some of them stir in other quarters — chances are, you heard nothing about this proposal.

It was offered by the Congressional Black Caucus, and it was trounced. There is a perfectly good case to be made that it deserved to be defeated. A lot of people — myself included — would have gagged on the elimination of all new strategic-weapons systems that it proposed.

But this budget was not just defeated by the House of Representatives. It was ignored. And that is what grieves the 18 men and women who make up the caucus and who worked hard at putting the budget proposal together.

The black caucus got into the budget-drafting business in 1981, when President Reagan challenged them at a meeting to "come up with something better" if they didn't like his way of reducing deficits.

Last year, and again this year, they drafted a counter-budget designed, in the words of Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), to "give people one reasonable ray of hope" against a "hopelessness ... that simply cannot be measured."

They were working within the system, as people are supposed to do. Although no blacks are currently assigned to the

And then, at the proper time, they brought their proposal to the floor. And they were ignored. Well, not totally ignored. Some white liberal Democrats told them that what they were doing was wonderful, and they were with them, heart and soul.

House Budget Committee, they mounted a staff effort from their individual offices, drawing on the expertise of their varying committee roles, and put together the pieces of the budget. Then, as serious people are supposed to do, they set out to build coalition support. They talked to some 100 labor, environmental, disarmament and other issue groups, and lined up 15 of them as co-sponsors when they introduced their budget at an April press conference.

Inside the House, they played by the rules, as you are supposed to do. They met with the party leadership (all of them being Democrats) and they took their numbers to the Congressional Budget Office for official authentication. And then, at the proper time, they brought their proposal to the floor. And

they were ignored. Well, not totally ignored. Some white liberal Democrats told them that what they were doing was wonderful, and they were with heart and soul.

Two Republicans — Reps. James Martin of North Carolina and John H. Saylor of California — cared enough to challenge them briefly on their defense proposals. The exchange of those two points did not take more than five minutes.

For the rest, the House ignored them as the caucus members went through their prepared statements. The result was, "Let them talk. Then we can get to the serious business."

That patronizing, barely contemptuous impatience, got to the members of the caucus. Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York, who once ran for nomination for President and is quitting politics now, exploded at one point.

"Here we come again today," she said, "and everybody wants to get rid of us off the floor, because we are taking their time. Well, we're going to take the time because it is important to recognize that 18 members of the House of Representatives have been responsible terms of accepting certain challenges beyond the individuals who happen to be black to come up with ... a document to deal with the issues ... and not deal with numbers?"

Still, no one rose to debate the budget seriously — as other budget proposals had been debated and would be debated. Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Michigan turned his fire on the leaders of his party, who, he said, choose "to ignore this work product. They do not criticize it. Leaders of the party will praise it. They just do not see that it is the invisible document."

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion is published three times a week — Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday — during Texas A&M's summer semesters, except for holiday and examination periods, when it is published only on Wednesdays. 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.