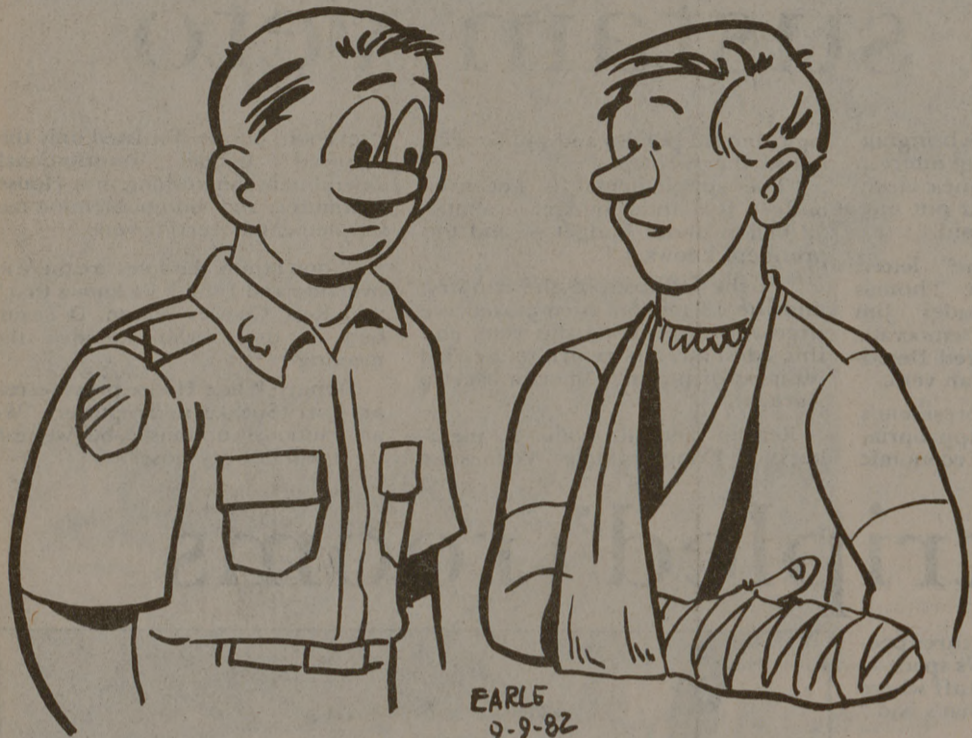


Slouch By Jim Earle



EARLE  
9-9-82

"Are you familiar with that popular karate stunt where a guy breaks a board with his hand?"

Consider this an early warning

by Rebeca Zimmermann and David Fisher

Well, the first two weeks of school are nearly over and we've all gotten into the swing of things — right? We all like our classes and have got lots and lots of fun homework to occupy our time — right?

And if you believe that ... How many of you have actually read your first chapter? Or completed your first homework assignment? Or looked at your course syllabus for more than the notes of friends' phone numbers?

We sure haven't. We keep meaning to do the assignments. We really do. But we have this problem. Not enough time.

We can't seem to squeeze all our work into 24-hour days. By the time we have a chance to get our assignments read, the class is two days further ahead. That does make scholastic life difficult.

When you carry a 17-hour class load and work at least 10 hours a day (we're writing this at 2 a.m.), when do you find the time to study? When you're in the bathtub? Of course, if you take showers, you might need plastic books. How about at breakfast? Either you don't have time for breakfast, or you can't stomach BANA with your bacon and eggs — somehow the two don't mix.

If you work anywhere, you may be able to study there. However, it's difficult to study in a darkroom or in front of a computer terminal that flashes funny things in your face while you try to write columns.

And, on top of everything else, it's difficult to concentrate on homework when there are so many other things happening.

There's the Hall of Fame on Wednesday night, Lakeview on Thursday night and Happy Hours (or Attitude Adjustment Hours) galore. And don't forget Beach Night at the RoxZ and other special events at local bars. If you time it right, you can go to Happy Hours from about noon to 10 p.m. every day.

The campus provides plenty of the too. See how many clubs you can join in a semester — and still live.

However, somewhere along the way, you need this minor thing called sleep. Or, at least, to function — eventually.

Don't get us wrong. We pass our classes and keep a fairly decent GPR. But these cramming sessions just don't cut it.

When Wednesday comes and we have three tests that day, one all-nighter doesn't work. You have too many tests to learn them all in five hours.

Oh well. We knew we'd be dead by the end of the semester anyway.

But the sad fact of a college student is that you do have to study. It's often with 2.0 and higher GPRs.

Another sad fact: going to class late. But, after those all-night cramming sessions, it's hard to keep your head from hitting the desk with a very loud thud.

So, be prepared before you pass up, do your homework and pass your

Victory for PLO in vanquishment

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — Much has been made in recent days about the Palestine Liberation Organization's triumphant defeat in Lebanon.

We all have seen pictures of the PLO's jubilant supporters lauding the retreating forces with victory signs and machine-gun salutes as they withdrew from Beirut.

Foremost among the honorees was the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, who was positively basking in glory.

Some Americans may have found these celebrations a bit paradoxical, not to say incongruous, seeing as how the PLO was beating a forced exit.

If so, they must be too young to remember Sen. George Aiken of Vermont.

It was Aiken who offered a suggestion of how the United States could honorably conclude its adventures in Vietnam. We should, the senator said, simply declare that we had won the war and bring our troops home.

I have always admired the ingenuity behind that proposal and regret the Aiken solution was never carried out. It therefore was gratifying to find Arafat acting along similar lines in Lebanon.

His strategy was impeccable. He merely called the PLO's Lebanese encounter with Israel a shining victory — and got the hell out of there.

This is the type of battle plan I would like to see enacted elsewhere. Argentina, for example, could have spared

itself heavy humiliation — and even some bloodshed — if it had followed the Aiken formula in the Falklands.

All the Argentineans had to do was call their invasion an unqualified success, and then pull out before the British arrived to drive them out.

Iraq seemingly could apply the Aiken approach to its territorial clashes with Iran.

When it became apparent to Iraqi leaders that their troops could not oust the Iranians from areas they coveted along the Persian Gulf, they should have dubbed the mission complete and ordered the armies home.

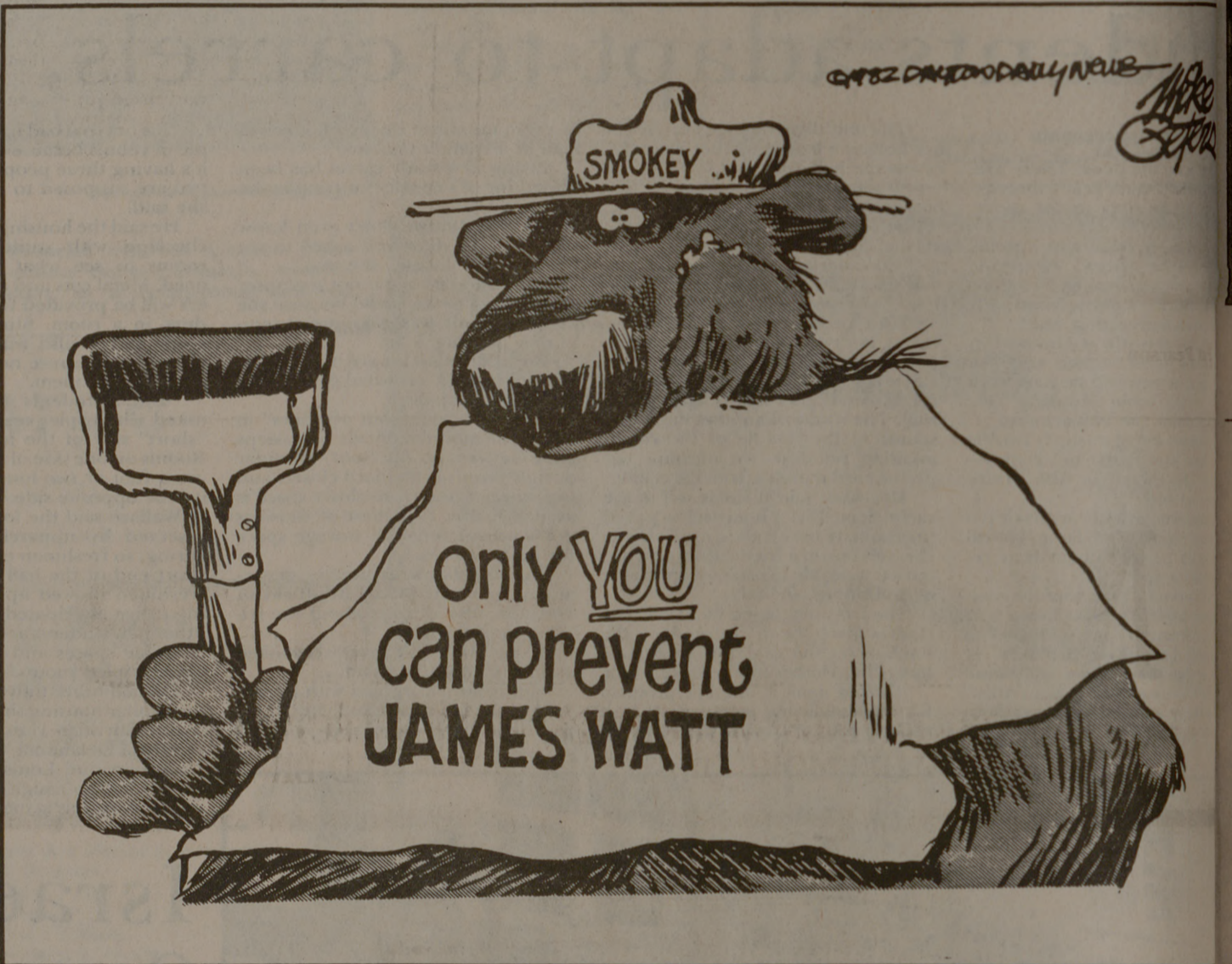
That would have prevented the necessity of trying to ward off Iranian counter-attacks that accompanied the same objective.

Unilateral victory claims, if carried off with style and élan, are difficult to refute. At the least, they can sow confusion among neutral observers who are trying to figure out who won.

When Arafat, although being pushed into exile, boarded an evacuation ship with the mien of an Olympic runner setting out on a "victory lap" around the track, I couldn't help but wonder if he knew something I didn't.

And when I saw PLO refugees being hailed in alien ports as if they were conquering heroes, I got the impression their campaign was proceeding according to plan.

Too bad Aiken is no longer in government service. Perhaps he could now come up with a suggestion for renaming some uninhabited spot and calling it the Palestine homeland.



Letters: Media hype is over now

Editor:

So, the Aggies were "humiliated" last Saturday Evening. So we're the laughing stock of the nation (this week). So, they say we hired a million dollar coach for a 10-cent team. So what? Are we all that concerned about what others think?

Let them laugh, let them gloat, let them say whatever they like. They will never know what it means to be an Aggie, and for that I pity them.

If it's an A&M tradition to exemplify such passe values as integrity, patriotism and pride, then it's traditional for others to try and debase our institution. Ours is the Rodney Dangerfield of Universities. But will we ever get the respect of a world whose values change daily when ours remain the same year to year?

Our football team has a great deal of talent, anyone who has followed them knows that is true. We have the coaching staff. We have the fans. We have the alumni. We have the stadium. And we definitely have the money. So why didn't we win? I think the appropriate phrase is "The Eye of the Tiger".

Now that the wind has been blown out of the bag and the media hype is over, I am sure Coach Sherrill will turn this loss into a desire to never let it happen again. The boys can now concentrate on winning football games the way they are supposed to be won, one play at a time.

Coach, if you're ever short for bucks I got a couple I can spare ya.

Jeff L. Fitzgerald '82

Nuclear freeze

Editor:

In reference to a current "popular" issue of the past few months, I would like to say a few words about the nuclear freeze movement.

The first point that I will make is that I recognize the good intentions of many of the people advocating a nuclear freeze. However, their reasoning is tragically

flawed in that arms control is only advantageous as long as it locks an aggressor nation into inferiority.

Unfortunately, this would not be the case if the United States were to negotiate a freeze in the development and testing of nuclear weapons. If a freeze were to be negotiated, the United States would be left with two alternatives. The first would be to implement a "launch on warning" policy, while the second alternative is to be prepared to accept the damage that the Soviets would inflict with their superior strategic nuclear forces.

Both of these policies are invitations to disaster. I urge you to write to your congressman and senators asking them not to accept the weak strategic position that America would be left in if a nuclear freeze were enforced.

Murray E. Moore '84

Thanks for the ride

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity in the Battalion to thank some good Ags.

On Friday, Sept. 3, five of my friends and I were on our way to the Ox Roast when we hit something in the road which blew out two of our tires.

The car went off the road and stuck in the mud.

After trying unsuccessfully to flag down several cars, two men in a small truck stopped, but couldn't help. Finally, four people in an LTD stopped to give my friends and I a ride to the Roast.

Since no one was able to help, we had to get the Max to use their U-Haul to tow us out, after a Highway Patrolman refused to help (he must have been a teapip).

Having only one spare, we couldn't drive the car. Luckily, an old Ag happened to be passing by, and gave us a ride back to campus, which was opposite from the direction he was headed.

In all the confusion, my friends and I never got anyone's name. So to all that

helped, and you know who you are, bless you and thanks.

Ashley E.  
138 Dunn

Silver Taps conflict

Editor:

I was reading Tuesday's Battalion when I stumbled upon Pi Kappa Alpha and Kappa Sigma's advertisements for their respective fall rushes. Much to my dismay, I noted that it coincided with Silver Taps. I remembered that two years ago the same thing happened between another fraternity. Several critical letters appeared in the Battalion concerning their lack of respect for Aggies. That particular fraternity wrote a letter back explaining their mistake and saying in general that the Greek system was very Aggie.

Bull. The Greeks have done it again. No frats at Texas A&M.

Bill Mcspadden  
James Seiler  
Moses

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 116 other signatures.

Missing bike returned

Editor:

I am writing this letter to thank someone. I want to thank whoever it was who read my letter in Monday's Battalion and called to tell me where my bike was. I'm right where you said it was, a little bit up, but it can be fixed. I wish I could have been there when you called to thank me personally, but I guess this letter will do. Thank you for calling, not everyone would have. Hardly anyone would call back to make sure I found it. It's people like you who re-establish faith in mankind and give Aggies a name. Thanks again for calling.

P.S. My dad thanks you too.

Tracey Taylor

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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.

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 and 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.

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