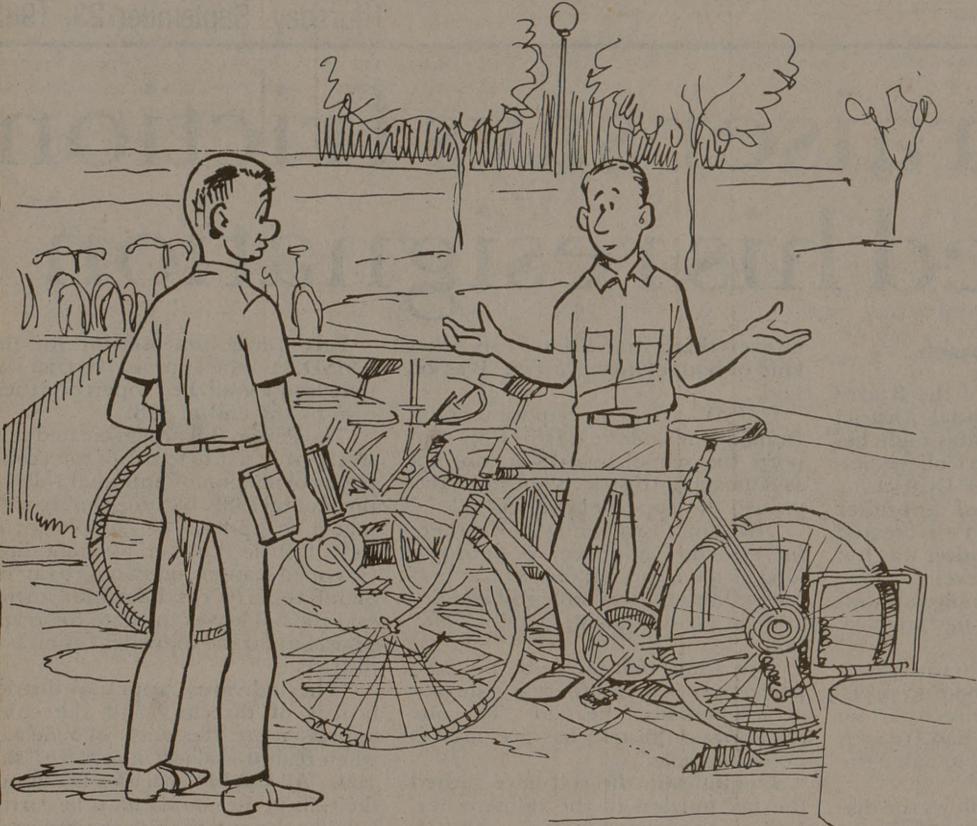


Slouch By Jim Earle



"I guess it had to happen — three bikes are chained to mine!"

Library study habits sometimes strange

by Denise Patton

The Sterling C. Evans Library has a variety of places where students can study. But, being creatures of habit, Aggies tend to find a place where they like to study and there they stay. Occasionally though, habit must be broken and a new place to study must be found.

An appropriate time to pull up your roots and re-establish yourself in a new environment is when you get to know ALL of the people in your neighborhood. Although it is nice to see a familiar face, often times that face becomes a friend and well ... friends talk and oftentimes no studying is accomplished. Sometimes, it is not enough to simply switch sides of the library, but becomes mandatory to move to an entirely different floor.

Another reason to move, though it is a little-known reason, is in the case if you mention to someone (who you think you might like) where you study, because that person cares to seek your company or study in your presence. A week later, you might know that you don't like that person, yet you find yourself haunted by someone who is always willing to suggest a study break. Maybe one of the reasons you hear so little about these cases is because one party is not particularly eager to spread the word that they have been "dumped," or the other party does not want to announce their new location.

If you are an Off-Campus Aggie, studying in the library can pose different problems. Oh, sure, Off-Campus Ags have to worry about where they will study, but in addition to that, they have to worry about catching the last shuttle-bus. And what happens to those poor souls who actually do miss the shuttle bus? Well, to some, it doesn't matter, because they drive, either a bicycle or a car.

But what of non-drivers? Well ... maybe they have a nice friend or a study partner who is kind enough to drive them home. If you do end up walking, down un-lit streets, just keep telling yourself that things could be worse; you could be walking down un-lit deserted streets in

New York City. For walkers, it is advisable to carry a heavy book-bag and walk down the middle of the bike path and most importantly, hope for the best.

In order to make studying even more difficult, Evans Library has employed a "Library Monitor." My observation's lead me to conclude he is being paid (assuming he is not doing volunteer work) to guard the exit of the lounge. He reprimands those illiterate Aggies who try to smuggle food and sodas past the sign requesting that "all food and drink be kept in the lounge." Of course, not all students who engage in smuggling are illiterate, but the "Library Monitor" does not make the distinction — you will be treated as an illiterate, even if you are carrying the most complex looking books. There are cases where students make it back to their seats, undetected, but I understand they are becoming few and far between.

Some Aggies are smart enough to outwit the "Library Monitor." It was last night when I saw a young man in a Corps uniform, making admirable use of his little hat; he nonchalantly hooked it over his finger and let it dangle at his side. Closer inspection revealed a Dr Pepper nestled within the hat. Hmm! Pretty clever!

It seems as though one more general observation can be made about library inhabitants. Those students who study at a large desk, seem to be people who can concentrate on their studies even if they were at a desk, in the middle of Kyle Field, at midnight, on a Friday night, during football season. A truly enviable personality trait. This trait is usually envied most by people at the opposite end of the spectrum. They are the Aggies who sit in a cubicle — with walls on both sides — similar to horse-blinders. The negative aspect of their personality is that they have an attention span of zero. The positive aspect of their personality is that they acknowledge the fact that they think better when they are surrounded on three sides by walls. These Aggies usually prefer a cubicle in some dusty forgotten corner, where distractions are at a minimum.

Voters: Satisfaction, or apathy

by Clay F. Richards

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Unemployment is the highest since the Great Depression, interest rates have put home buying beyond the means of most Americans, businesses are failing daily ... and there are signs the voters are not alarmed.

According to all the polls, a majority of Americans do not think they are better off today than when Ronald Reagan took office. But those same polls show there is no strong indication the voters will throw the Republicans out of office in the 1982 congressional elections.

And the turnout in the long string of summer primaries show that in these economic troubled times the voters aren't coming out to show their displeasure at the polls. Those that do turn out are not in a mood to throw the bums out. Only two House members and one governor were defeated in the primary.

"Where's the passion?" a Democratic Party official asked recently. "Don't they care? There doesn't seem to be any excitement in this election."

As a result of what the polls tell them, in the past months Democrats have privately scaled down their expectations in the fall elections and now say they don't expect to gain more than a dozen House seats. That practically amounts to a victory for the GOP, since the average loss for the party in power in recent years is 38 seats.

Reagan can take a large share of the credit if his party has minimal election losses this fall. It's no accident the Republicans are running ads saying, "lets give the guy a chance."

The same polls that blames the administration for the nation's economic ills show the country is still has high personal regard for the great communicator in the White House.

There are also indications that voter reaction to the nation's problems will be to stick it out with the guy you got, rather than vote for a change in the mid-term. The long string of one term presidents has convinced some voters that contin-

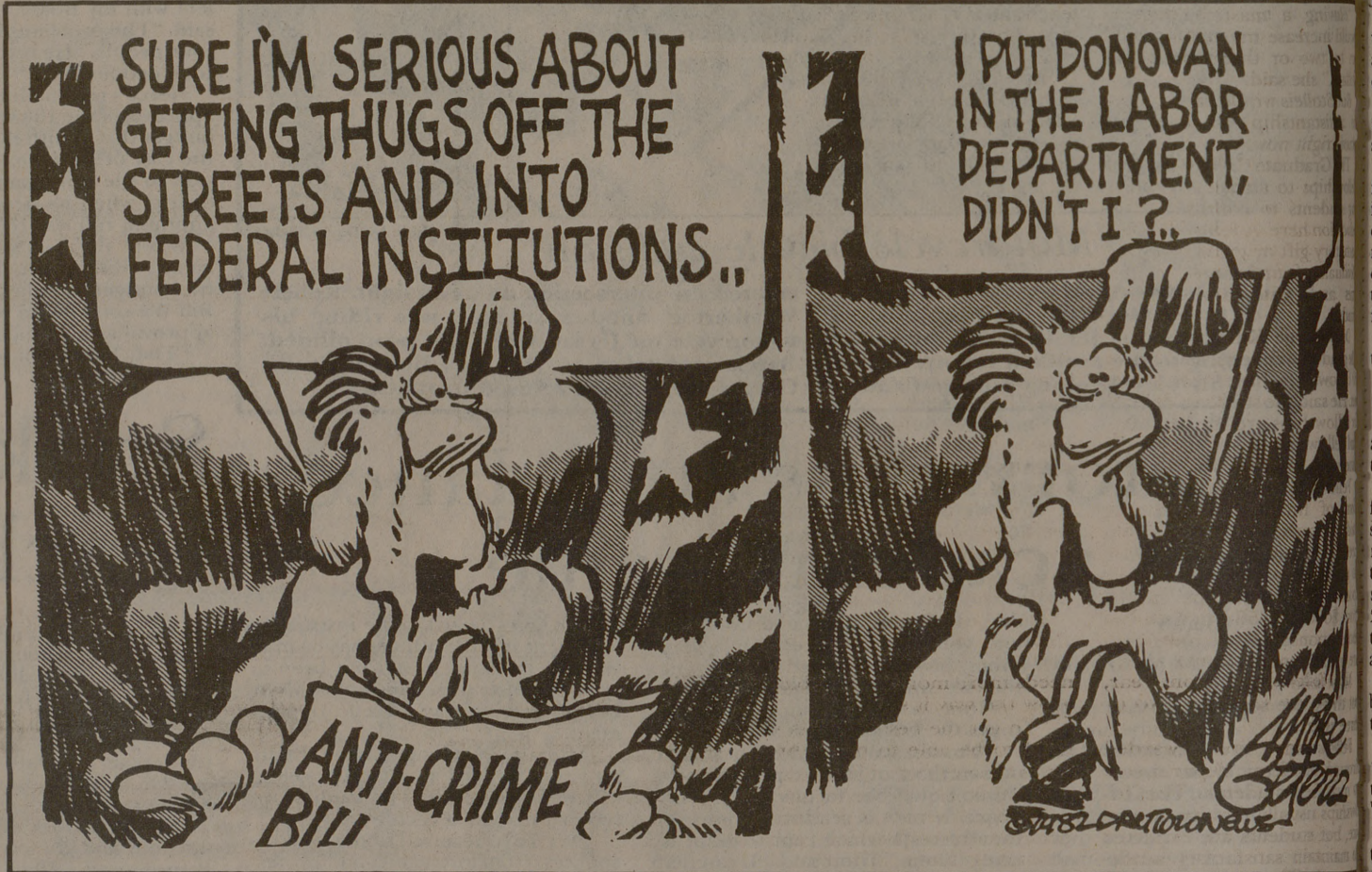
uity may be important after all.

The voters also seem less interested this year in radicals of the right or left. The multimillion dollar effort of the Right's National Conservative Political Action Committee has thus far not threatened any of its targets and hasn't been any upsurge in the number of successful liberal candidates either.

Also while economic conditions are bad, they are not as bad as the Depression. Then when dad lost his job there was no money to put food on the table. Today, in the age of two parent families, one spouse can still feed family when the other is laid off.

Or maybe it is the year of the voter. The pollsters have been fooled the voters before. Just as recently as years ago no one was predicting a Republican landslide over President Carter and Republicans would sweep into control of the Senate.

That's what's making the political uneasiness as they move into the heart of the campaign.



Letters: Lebanon situation continues

Editor:

In light of recent developments in Lebanon and the publicity it has generated, I decided to write The Battalion in order to present some observations.

First, I would like to say that the Middle East as a whole is a volatile area and will probably continue in the same fashion for years to come.

Atrocities have been committed against innocent civilians in Lebanon before; this is not new. The culprits have been from many different factions, both pro and anti-Israeli groups.

Both Israelis and the PLO will continue to retaliate against each other for what they perceive as acts of terrorism, which will lead to more deaths among civilians on both sides.

The PLO barricaded themselves in heavily populated Beirut knowing that many innocent civilians would become victims of the Israeli-PLO fighting.

The Lebanese people should be left to control their own destiny, this means the withdrawal of Syrian, Israeli and PLO forces from their country.

In closing, I would like to say that the blame cannot be laid on any one group for the terrible situation that now exists in Lebanon. I would like to suggest that rational thinking is needed, not decisions based on fanatical religious and cultural biases.

Could humanity be reduced to such barbarian savageness? Can man become such a beast?  
I wonder!

Dalia El Sayed  
Agricultural Economics

Protest posters

Editor:

After seeing the PLO supporters' demonstration on Tuesday, I feel that it is my duty to speak up on the Israeli-PLO situation. I must say that I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw some of the posters that PLO demonstrators were holding. For example, a Star of David with a swastika inside — that is the worst insult to not only the Israelis, but also to

all the Jews around the world, including the ones going to Texas A&M.

Another poster was equating Bin Laden with Hitler. Now, how can a rational half-educated person even compare Bin Laden, who has not been accused of anything, to Hitler, a mad mass killer and the darkest figure in Jewish history. It is apparent to all that instead of simply voicing their protest, the PLO supporters maliciously attacked the emotions of Jewish people with their tasteless signs. In regard to their protest, I feel that no one should make such strong accusations without substantial evidence to back them up. As Matthew wrote in Chapter 3: "But why notice the splinter in your brother's eye without taking the log of the beam in your own eye?"

Liza Ostrowski  
401 Anderson

Berry's World



"Your manuscript is trashy, tawdry, sleazy and idiotic — in short, it's DYNAMITE!"

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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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Joe Howard Frey  
Graduate student  
Political Science

Why did it happen?

Editor:

After hearing and watching the news about the massacre of the hundreds of innocent civilians in Lebanon, which used to be a peaceful country, I am asking myself questions to which I can't find answers.

Why? Why? Why does such a thing happen, the scene of slaughtered men and children are inconceivable under any moral or immoral code. Women crying for their lost husbands and children and still no one understands why!

No religion on earth, no law, no principal allows this.