

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"We have 500 decals like this — do you think anyone will notice?"

Student seeks freeze on nuclear weapons

Editor:

Surprise! While we here at Aggieland have been worrying about whether or not we should wear our hats in Kyle Field, the rest of the world has gone right on by with some very real issues.

Let's face it, whether our traditions go on or not, if Israel and Palestine fight

Reader's Forum

each other until both are totally obliterated, whether or not the people of Poland are allowed to have a labor union, the world will go on. However, if the arms race between the United States and the USSR is permitted to go on, the inevitability of nuclear war will also race on until there is no hope of stopping it.

We live in a society which thinks "that only happens to the other guy," but in a nuclear attack, if it happens to anyone, it happens to everyone. The idea of a "limited" nuclear war is totally ludicrous. Once a nuclear warhead hits an area, killing the inhabitants, the radiation will be carried by the wind for several hundred miles, killing many thousands more. Another way to put the situation into perspective is like this: our nation was shocked at the slaughter of a few hundred people in Lebanon in September, most were civilians, most were women and children. To drop a nuclear warhead on just one major city could increase that number literally ten thousand times.

It may be hard to believe that the whole country was misled by the underestimation of nuclear warfare during the era just after World War II, but what is even more difficult to accept is the fact that the government is still trying to sell us on the notion that a nuclear attack would be survivable. Do they really think that the Soviets are going to give us a three-day warning so we can all evacuate the cities before we're incinerated by their mushroom clouds?

All the "bomb shelters" and fallout

shelters built during the 1950s and maintained by the Civil Defense won't help the problem. In the first place, the buildings won't be left standing, and those far enough away from the blast to stay intact will be drowned in poisoned air, rendering them useless also. Aside from the fact that there will be no place to seek shelter, the ground will absorb enough radiation to kill all vegetation, leaving no continuing source of food. As you can see, even if by some miracle a person did survive a nuclear war, all that would be left is a poisoned planet unable to sustain even the most primitive civilization.

If the danger of this issue still does not seem clear, think about this for a minute. On June 3 and 8 of 1980, a 46¢ computer circuit chip malfunctioned. That alone is no problem, but this particular chip just happened to be in the advanced warning system of the Strategic Air Command, and it signalled a Soviet missile strike. The result was that our nation's defenses were on full alert, and preparations were made to launch a counter attack that would have been the beginning of the last war — no apologies accepted.

We cannot let this race for doomsday go on. We can stop it. We have to stop it if we want to survive. All we have to do is let ourselves be heard. The call for a freeze on nuclear weapons is not being run by a bunch of long-haired, dirty people rioting for peace. It is the American Medical Student Association, the National Conference of Black Mayors, the Federation of American Scientists, and the Student National Education Association. It is almost two and a half million Americans who have signed petitions calling for a halt to the production of nuclear weapons.

It is time that Texas A&M stand up for something more than Texas A&M. It is time that we became known for more than tradition. Let's show the world that we care about what happens to it. If we just sit back and watch, it's going to be too late.

Kevin Peter '86

The Battalion

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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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Rock seminar opens eyes

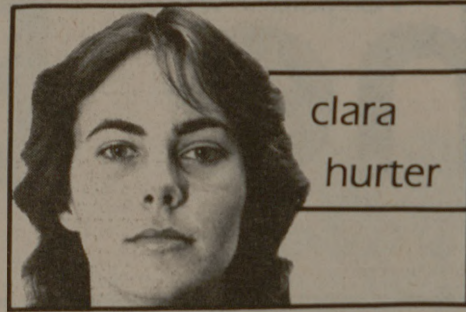
Last Friday, a friend and I decided to go to the Maranatha Seminar on Rock and Roll. The Christian-oriented seminar was to be about backmasking and subliminal suggestion, so we thought it might be interesting.

The seminar began with a warning that anyone wishing to make comments should save them for a question-and-answer session at the end of the program.

After Maranatha pastor Brady Clark introduced the program and guest speaker Lee Taylor, the show began ... show and tell, that is. For the next two hours, Taylor, from the University of Texas, denounced the rock-and-roll and country-and-western music of our generation, saying that they had satanic origins and are corrupting the morals of young people today.

Slides of AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, KISS, Rush and the Rolling Stones album covers were projected on the screen, and Taylor pointed out various satanic emblems.

Songs were played forward which used blatant references to death, hell and



clara hurter

Satan. Then, six different songs were played from rock groups that used backward masking. Clark played parts of the songs several times until most of the audience agreed that they could hear satanic references.

Clark said a prayer at the end of the presentation asking for protection from the evil of Satan.

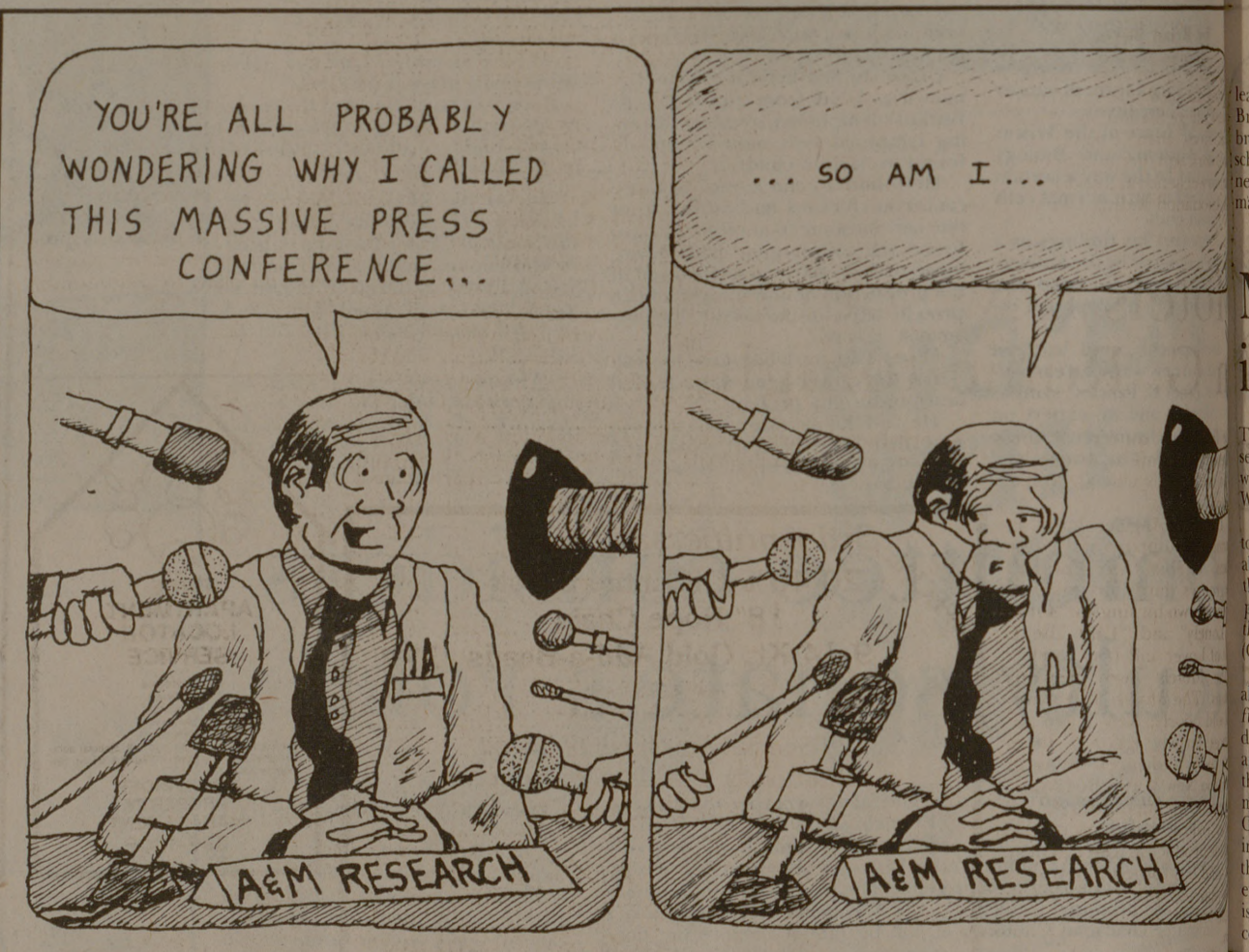
The last 10 minutes consisted of a question-and-answer session. Only 10 or 15 questions had time to be asked when Clark interrupted the session and ended the seminar. There were several pro-

rock people who stated their dissent with the facts presented in the program. I feel that the rock element did not have a fair chance to present their side before the seminar. However, Clark said anyone who wanted to discuss the issue further was to stay and talk with him until the seminar closed.

"Nobody but the groups known as backward masking is accidental," Clark said. "In my opinion, it is no accident that whole sentences can be heard when understood. The idea that it is on purpose just doesn't hold water."

I must admit I was shaken at what I heard, and wondered if the playing tricks on my senses. I can but wonder at the rapidity at which we have progressed from the days of Dick Van Dyke Show, with single he and Laura, to the blatant satanic AC/DC saying "I'm on a high way."

Maybe they're right. Maybe rock and roll is a bad influence. Meanwhile, I'm still listening, and roll, but classical and instrumental music appeals to me more each



Letters: Reply on bonfire safety

Editor:

The Environmental Health and Safety Committee has possibly taken the next step in eliminating an important tradition at this University — Bonfire. "Faculty members from various departments" have come to the conclusion that Duncan Field, the site of the Bonfire since the late '50s, is an unsafe location (Oct. 21, The Battalion).

I have reservations about several of the issues in this judgement. I especially would like to know who makes up this committee and what their special qualifications are concerning the various safety aspects of the Bonfire. Have any of them ever worked on it or seen it built? How many of these faculty members even graduated from Texas A&M? And why, when students build the Bonfire, was there no student representation on this committee? The earlier safety study referred to by Professor Marsh was conducted by students, myself included.

The specific safety objections motivating their decision have been discussed in The Battalion previously. The New University Press Building was supposedly built with Bonfire in mind. Student Government last year passed a resolution to move the press building and we were given that response in reply. Fire hazards to homes on Jersey Street have always come up, but I have not missed a Bonfire in the past 16 years and I have never seen nor heard of Bonfire setting anything else afire. The fact is that Bonfire spends money pre-fireproofing buildings and keeping firefighters on hand for just that reason. No need to fight that Jersey Street congestion, the trucks are right here.

Still the alternate locations might be somewhat safer. But would a Bonfire at Texas World Speedway mean quite as much? Would fewer buildings on the west campus be endangered or would grass just become an additional fire hazard?

Bonfire poses some enormous problems at times. The logistics are often staggering. Thousands of students cutting in the woods along with fleets of trucks and tractors are required to bring in the wood

to build it. But students and former students alike give time, money and equipment every year so that it will continue. After all, if it were easy anyone could do it.

The committee is overlooking human factors. Bonfire is a student project for all Texas A&M students. Students plan, manage, raise funds and build the Bonfire. It is a unique project that helps make this university unique, for it serves but one purpose — to symbolize the ties between all of us as Aggies. Nothing could ever replace it as a cherished symbol of Aggie Spirit.

James Starr
Redtop
Bonfire '82

Yearbook extension

Editor:

Attention Ags:

Forget the Aggieland is a tradition-bound yearbook that wins awards for photographic excellence every year, — just remember that when the Aggieland comes out next year, without your picture in it, it is only because you did not take the time to go to the Yearbook Associates studio at 9700 Puryear Drive and have your picture taken.

What are you going to say to your mom when you bring your copy of the Aggieland home, and she asks "Where is your picture, son?"

What are you going to say to your children twenty years from now when they ask "Where is your picture, pop?"

How about — "I was too lazy, I did not hear about it, or I did not care?"

The deadline for freshmen and sophomores to have their pictures taken has been extended until Oct. 29. You still have until that time to get your picture taken. This will be absolutely, positively, compound, complex, the final deadline for freshmen and sophomores.

Junior and senior mugs will be taken until Dec. 17.

Also, the Aggieland and Yearbook Associates studio regret any inconvenience caused when students were turned away from the studio this week. We have

been in the process of trying to meet the deadlines, since many students not aware pictures were being taken the yearbook.

For more information call: 655- or check the Around Town column in The Battalion.

Donn Fries
Aggieland Editor-in-Chief

Student body president defended

Editor:

In response to Spunky's letter regarding the character of our less beloved Student Body President, I do know what affiliation she has with the Government. This letter was strikingly brutal, it only made me question the conflict that must have existed between 'ol' Spunk and Pearson of heave such a personal vendetta.

This girl, and I assume Spunky's girl, has openly expressed some biased opinions, taking full advantage of the First Amendment but failing to do the method to her madness, and I must term loosely. How 'bout a character sketch on Spunky!

Granted, Pearson probably is a bit of a maniac or even a megalomaniac (I'm up), but can you think of anyone who would run for president of anything didn't have an ego? Unfortunately, who choose to be in the public eye usually with good intent, have to be subjected to the idiocy of one-sided attacks — it simply goes with the territory. Luckily for Pearson, who cares?

But Spunky has attacked "P.P." saying that a public rebuttal is near impossible. I'm not condoning Pearson's questionable incompetence, nor praising accomplishments, and I understand there are a few, but I just want to "Elect Spunky Student Body President." Let's see what she can do with the job, the verbal harassment that accompanied it. (I wonder if her license plate will say, "Spunky Prez.")

Patti Fulton

CSI app

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