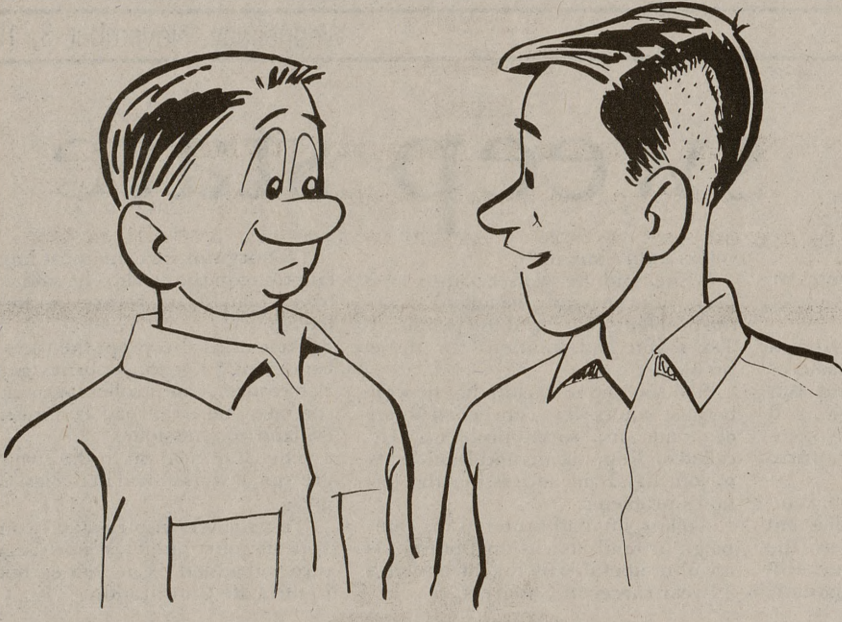


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Don't ever get a haircut from a barber who's trying to watch television at the same time."

Toxic sludge woes

by Art Buchwald

May I help you?  
"Yes, somebody is pouring toxic sludge in my back yard."  
"I'll connect you with Mr. Digging in our mudslide division."  
"I don't want to talk about mudslides I want to talk about toxic substances."  
"We've combined toxic wastes, mudslides and killer ants in one department, as an economy measure. Mr. Digging is on the line."  
"Digging, I want you to know that someone is dumping toxic sludge in my back yard."  
"So?"  
"So what is the Environmental Protection Agency going to do about it?"  
"How much waste is being dumped?"  
"Three truckloads and the driver says he's going back for more. I thought your job was to see that the citizen was protected against the dumping of toxic substances in residential area."  
"It is. Where do you live?"  
"In North Carolina."  
"Did you call the Denver office to lodge a complaint?"  
"Why should I call Denver?"

"It handles all poison waste complaints for North Carolina. At least it did until we shut it down for economy reasons."  
"Then what good would it have done me to call Denver?"  
"You would have gotten a telephone recording referring you to one of our other regional offices."  
"Well, since I've got you on the phone and Denver is closed, where do I call?"  
"Let me see. St. Paul, Minnesota, is closed; Portland, Oregon, is closed; Albuquerque is closed. Here's one that is still open — in Baton Rouge, Louisiana."  
"Give me their number."  
"You'll waste a call. They only deal in waivers for dirty coal furnaces."  
"We're involved in getting the government off people's backs. We weigh the price of environmental protection against the price to industry and then decide, cost-wise, whether we should enforce the regulations or not."  
"I thought you were mandated to protect the environmental health of the country."  
"We are, but we have priorities."  
"What kind of priorities?"

"The Clean Water Act for one. It lowered the pollution levels permitting communities who discharge sewage lakes and streams by 50 percent. That save the taxpayers over \$2 billion a hazard to the people."  
"Who says so?"  
"Our new studies indicate water absorb a lot more pollutants than we originally believed."  
"What about acid rain?"  
"The jury is still out on acid rain. There are rumors it stunts trees, and wildlife, but we only have the word of people who live in the Midwest, Northeast and Canada for that. We're going to go on a fishing expedition because the water in Maine tastes like shaving lotion."  
"Okay, let's get back to my problem. What are you going to do about the waste they're dumping in my back yard?"  
"Have you thought about selling your house?"  
"Yeah, but who is going to buy it?"  
"If you don't report it to the EPA, will ever know?"

How great senators selected from history

by Steve Gerstel

WASHINGTON — A quarter of a century ago this year, a special committee undertook and completed a herculean and what, at that time, must have been a most controversial task.

The committee was ordered to pick five outstanding members who had served in the U.S. Senate during the first 168 years of its history.

The number was dictated by the presence of just five empty spots in the ornate Senate reception room, vacancies suitable for the hanging of portraits to honor the worthies.

The chairman of that committee was John Kennedy, then a Massachusetts senator already gearing up to run for the presidency.

In an article for the New York Times magazine, Kennedy explained the problems faced by the committee in selecting just five.

"In truth, the value of a senator is not so easily determined as the value of a car or a hog, or even that of a public utility bond of a ballplayer," he wrote.

"There are no standards to apply to a senator, no Dun & Bradstreet rating, no scouting reports," Kennedy said. "His talents may vary with his time, his contribution may be limited by his politics."

Kennedy said, "To judge his true greatness, particularly in comparison with his fellow senators long after they are all dead, is nearly impossible."

Nevertheless, the committee proceeded. They polled countless historians and political scientists from every state. There were strong urgings for many candidates from other senators, editorial writers and citizens.

Former President Truman, once a senator, sent Kennedy a letter with the names of 39 senators for consideration.

The names presented by the committee to the Senate were Henry Clay of Kentucky, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, John Calhoun of South Carolina, Robert LaFollette Sr. of Wisconsin and Robert Taft of Ohio.

All five were on Truman's list, although he cautioned that in the case of LaFollette and Taft, "They are too close to us for true perspective."

Only LaFollette and Taft served in the 20th century and Taft had died only a few years earlier.

Although senators had reservations about some of the choices, the Senate agreed on the five recommended without any dissent.

But Kennedy did say that he had "the most difficulty excluding" George Norris of Nebraska, Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri and Oliver Ellsworth.

And Sen. Francis Case, R-S.D., said he would not have recommended Calhoun.

"In a 1957 newsletter announcing the selections, Case said, 'His views of slavery and nullification would have prevented my voting for him.'"

Twenty-five years have passed and there is no pressing need for a new round of selections. There still is no space left to hang portraits and the current fad is to name buildings and rooms after outstanding senators.

There are the three office buildings named after Sens. Richard Russell, D-Ga., Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., and Philip Hart, D-Mich.

A main meeting room in the Senate bears the name of Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., and the Health and Human Services Department building is the Hubert H. Humphrey building.

But those decisions did not entail the study that went into the selections of those who are portrayed in the reception room.

When the Senate's second office building was completed, the decision was made to name one after a Democrat, one after a Republican — Russell and Dirksen.

Hart was dying of cancer when the Senate wanted a permanent expression of its deep admiration for him. A similar wellspring of affection existed for Hubert Humphrey.

And Mansfield, of course, was one of the most respected and highly-regarded of senators.

Are there any in the Senate now who would pass muster. No, but as Truman cautioned 25 years ago, "They are too close to us for true perspective."



OK, LISTEN UP... FIRST THE UNION STEWARD HANDS OFF TO THE PLAYERS REP... THUS ALLOWING THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE TO KNOCK OUT A MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATOR WHILE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL GOES FOR THE EXTRA POINT...

Letters: Abuse of position corrected

Editor:

Mr. Tom Joseph, Head Yell Leader: Just who do you think you are? Where do you get off leading a yell like "Beat the Hell out of the Faggots"? The votes that you received for yell leader of Texas A&M did NOT commission you as a judge of others. I can hardly think of a more cruel, inhuman act, not to mention the lack of character and immaturity displayed by your actions.

Tom, I realize that you are entitled to your personal opinions, but that is all they are — personal opinions. Please do not use the position of Yell Leader to publicize your own prejudices and attitudes. That is not your privilege. As a student leader and representative of Texas A&M, you should learn when to put yourself second and our school (of which gays are a part) first.

And as for the rest of the yell leaders, please consider what I have said if you agree with Tom's actions. If you do not support that type of leadership, tell him. He is not the only yell leader and he should not be allowed to act foolishly and tarnish the reputation of the position of Yell Leader.

Brent Taber '83

Apology

Editor:

This is a letter of apology to the Student Body for expressing my opinion in an inappropriate manner in the MSC and at yell practice. Thursday, the political forum invited the GSSO and the communist party to represent themselves in the MSC.

These organizations were expressing opinions and values which contradict my personal convictions as well as what the traditions of our university and the MSC stand for. The MSC is dedicated as a memorial to the men who gave their lives in opposition to these beliefs.

As Head Hell Leader, it is my responsibility to maintain tradition and create

Aggie Spirit at sporting events and yell practice. It is not, however, in place for any yell leader to express his opinion on any controversial issue at yell practice, and for this, I apologize.

This great university through the years has supported the Godly principles and morality upon which this nation was founded. As a Christian, I subscribe to these beliefs. Never forget that most things are lost through small compromise.

The very freedoms that we enjoy allow such groups as the communist party and homosexuals to have accessibility to our campus and all other walks of life. If we are not careful and are not alert to the consequences, we will lose the very freedoms that we hold.

Therefore, it is due to my strong feeling, not only for this university but for our great country, that I could not resist the need and urgency to express to you my concerns with regards to these activities. I hope that as an A&M student and an American that you feel as I do.

Tom Joseph  
Head Yell Leader

Drinking age

Editor:

In January, the Texas Legislature will have the final say on whether or not we Aggies under the age of 21 will have the legal right to drink alcoholic beverages.

If this proposition becomes law, many students will be prohibited from entering any of the drinking establishments throughout the state.

Would you like to have your current drinking privileges revoked? Now is the time for all you "Good Ags" to voice your opinion concerning this issue. If we are given the right to vote, we should also be allowed the choice of whether or not to drink.

Eligibility for voting implies that is capable of making a mature and responsible decision concerning the issue of our government. If this implication is correct, then we, as students, should be able to make a mature decision regarding alcoholic beverages.

Statistics drawn from the Texas Department of Public Safety state that 11 arrests for the 22 to 24-year-old group are markedly higher than those of the 19 to 21-year-old group. It is obvious that raising the drinking age is not an effective way to decrease the number of DWI arrests. It is, however, a very effective way to reduce your partying privileges and cripple the local economy. Unemployment will be increased due to the fact that students under the age of 21 will no longer be able to serve alcoholic beverages in restaurants and clubs.

If we, as students, wish to maintain status quo concerning the legal drinking age, we must act now. There is little time left to take a stand on this issue, for January is just around the corner.

Drink up, Ags!

Jill Schmahlenberger  
Donna Cancemi

Party thanks

Editor:

The MSC Hospitality Committee should be commended for their efforts in holding a super Halloween party for children of faculty, staff and students on Thursday. Not only did my daughter enjoy the activities presented to her... she had all the costumed students. I could tell a lot of time and effort was spent by everyone there seemed to have a real evening. Thanks for helping make one see that not all Halloween parties are bad!

Betty B. W.  
TTI Administration

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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