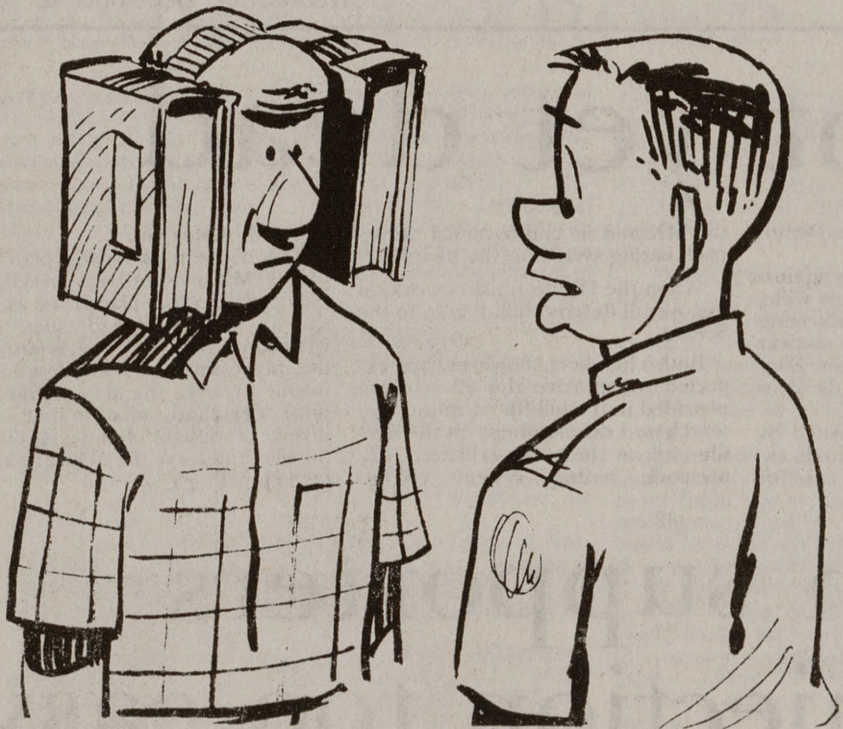


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I hope it works, but just in case it doesn't, I would suggest that you study some, too."

# Honeymoon for Yuri Andropov

by Art Buchwald

"What do you plan to do about Yuri Andropov?" I asked a Soviet correspondent in Washington.

"We always give a new leader of the Soviet Union a honeymoon for six months before the press goes after him," he said. "The Soviet people don't want us to be too cruel at the beginning. After all, he won an overwhelming mandate and he should be given a chance," he said.

"We do the same thing in this country," I said.

"But if Andropov doesn't fulfill his campaign promises, then the power of the Soviet media will turn against him."

"I didn't know you could do that in your country."

"We certainly can and we will. Our readers expect us to keep our Soviet leaders honest. The function of our press and television is to tell the truth about our politicians no matter what position they hold in government."

"Do you think the fact that Andropov was head of the KGB might hurt his image with the people?"

"No. You people elected a former actor as your President, and it had no effect on Reagan's image."

"But an actor is not the same as a KGB director."

"It is in the Soviet Union. Our people revere the KGB. Anyone who rises to the top is in touch with ALL the people. He can identify with the workers, and the peasants, and the people trying to scratch out a living in the cold Siberian wastes. He knows about crime, and he has dealt with subversive elements in neighboring states. The KGB is much better training ground than Warner Brothers."

"Will the social life in Moscow pick up with Andropov in the Kremlin?"

"It always does when you get a new leader. Mrs. Andropov is now working with her decorator to change the living quarters, as she's very unhappy with what Mrs. Brezhnev did. She has ordered new china for state dinners. She believes the Kremlin belongs to all the Soviet people

and she wants them to be proud of it. She's also ordered new clothes because she feels that the Russians pay close attention to what the first lady of the Secretary of the Communist Party wears."

"Style has always meant a lot to the Soviets," I said.

"It's good newspaper copy. But as far as newspapermen are concerned it's what Andropov does that counts. He inherited a stagnant economy from Brezhnev and he was elected because he promised to lower the inflation rate, balance the ruble. If he can do all this before he dies he could go down as one of the greatest Soviet leaders in history. But if his economic plan doesn't work we'll be as tough on him as we were on Brezhnev."

"Do you think he can do it?"

"He's a great communicator, thanks to his days in the KGB. And he has a lot of goodwill going for him. The people want change, but he's going to have to work closely with the leaders of the Presidium to get his programs through."

"I guess he'll have to throw a few bones to the right wing of the Communist Party since they did so much work in his election," I said.

"He will. Andropov feels very strongly about prayers in school."

"Who would the schoolchildren pray to?"

"Marx and Lenin. Who else is there?"

"So we can't look for anything critical in the Soviet press about Andropov for at least six months."

"That's just about as long as the honeymoon will last. Then the Kremlin correspondents will get bored and we'll start telling it as it is."

"At which point Andropov will say you people are distorting everything he is trying to do to save the country."

"We're used to that in the Soviet Union. When the honeymoon is over every Soviet leader thinks the press is giving him a raw deal. But all Andropov can do is send us to a Gulag for 20 years and you know as well as I do, the Soviet public would never stand for that."

# U.S. meets foreign leaders

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Virtually every tourist will concede that there's never enough time to see all the sights. Nor are the places visited always representative: Houston isn't Texas; Dearborn isn't Detroit.

To a certain extent, President Reagan will be a victim of this truism on his first trip to Central America. After a mere 15 hours in Costa Rica and three in Honduras, the president, like most tourists, will return home having experienced only a dismal cross-section of local color.

Reagan might have benefited from a more extended schedule in both countries. U.S. interest there is far from passing: Each country is playing a key role in an American-backed campaign to destabilize the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

Lately, the Reagan administration has been pressuring Congress for funds to improve two Honduran airfields. John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, wants approval to use supposedly-charitable Agency for International Development (AID) money for a new road from central Honduras to the Nicaraguan border. Both projects would have military applications.

Meanwhile, Costa Rica has relaxed its grip on the comings and goings of anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan exiles. Some say

that change could be the first step in an effort to make Costa Rica a second staging ground for military operations against Nicaragua.

If nothing else, the president would have done well to schedule a meeting or two with those who are overseeing the insurgency campaign. Nicaraguan exiles and mercenaries of various stripes are feared to be beyond control.

"The administration is blinded by its objective to squeeze the Nicaraguan government dry," one former U.S. ambassador to Central America told us last Sunday. "The agency (CIA, which is executing the covert effort) throws down money so fast that it doesn't seem interested in knowing who these operatives are."

Reagan might try to change that and save U.S. interests from inevitable embarrassment.

As the political climate in Central America heats up, even traditionally neutral nations such as Costa Rica have begun to arm themselves. Despite awesome civilian debt, the bankrupt Costa Rican government recently received a line of credit from Argentina to purchase 200 patrol vehicles and shotguns for purposes of national security.

When meeting the Soviet Union's new leader, former KGB chief Yuri Andropov, for the first time last month, Vice

President George Bush wasn't the opening line. "When I was at the Bush is reported by aides to have always wanted to meet my country the KGB ..."

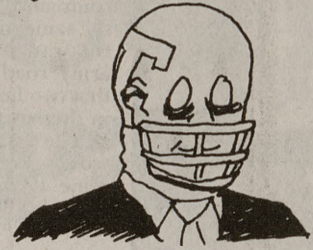
Local black leaders may have the rioting that followed the Nat Klux Klan demonstration in Newton. Rep. Walter Fauntroy, the delegate, contends that the leadership's lack of involvement in anti-Klan march may have emboldened Sparta, an otherwise obscure, anti-Communist group, to foil the peaceful march of organizers.

If computers are the future, college students don't want it — at the University of Iowa. The Daily reports that approximately 31 percent of the 400 students originally registered for an introductory computer course dropped out before the mid-semester line.

Twentieth Century-Fox, owned by man Marvin Davis, lost \$16.9 million the fiscal year ending last May. Nonetheless, according to a report with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company paid \$50 million to Fox board members Gerald R. Ford and Henry Kissinger. The report specifies the particular expenses of Ford and Kissinger to the film firm.

# Jackie

LIVE ON FIELD (NEXT SEASON)



NEXT SEASON, NEXT SEASON, I LOVE YA, NEXT SEASON, YOU'RE ONLY A YEAR A-WA-A-Y.

WITH LOVE, TO THE CAST OF "Annie" AND TO THE COACH AND TEAM.

# Letters: Parents' Day preparation

Editor:

This is a letter to all Ags who are proud of Texas A&M University and what being a student is all about.

Since 1919, when a mother from the Dallas Aggie Mothers Club worked with student government in setting up a program much like "open house", Parents' Weekend has become a tradition here at A&M. This year, April 15-17 has been set aside for this special tradition which allows us to show our parents the campus and what being an Aggie is all about.

Some of the activities during Parents' Weekend include the presentation of the Gathright Academic Awards, the Corps of Cadets Awards, a traditional yell practice, concerts and a chapel service along with a reception for the visiting parents.

Each year, Parents of the Year are chosen and then presented during this weekend. The selection of these parents is determined in large part through applications turned in by students who feel their parents possess the necessary qualities which make them deserving of the Parents of the Year award. Applications are available in 216 MSC, and must be picked up before 5 p.m. on Dec. 17.

Also, as a note, it is important that you make reservations for your parents now, as space in local hotels is filling up already.

Matt McKay  
Parents' Weekend Committee

## Don't accuse t.u.

Editor:

This letter is specifically addressed to Beth Bizzell. We agree that parts of "The

Buttalion" may be a bit distasteful to some, (us included) but satire is generally of an extreme nature. You must admit that writing of this type does cause people to think about certain aspects of the University.

Before we draw a flood of angry letters, we should make it clear that we enjoy the opportunity to take part in the University's traditions and "culture". Unfortunately the reactionary habit of considering the University of Texas as the root of all evil is typical of the closed-mindedness that was the target of most of "The Buttalion's" sarcasm.

True, a rivalry is good, but many of our friends attend "that university" and aren't exceptionally different from us. Beth, maybe you have no acquaintances from the University of Texas, but we'd like to think that none of our friends there crawled out of the "gutters of Austin." In short, one can not go through life looking out of the maroon glasses that your parents put on you at birth.

Cyrus Marter  
McInnis Hall

Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by two other signatures.

## Lost jacket

Editor:

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, one maroon football jacket was left in 324 Academic Building. It was left for no more than one hour, and in that time it disappeared. The jacket had a "W" on the chest and three patches on each sleeve including a #73. It is of great sentimental value. The

return of the jacket (or any information about its whereabouts) would be appreciated, money is no object.

David Marter

## Art thanks

Editor:

On behalf of the few remaining core Ags, I wanted to express overdue congratulations for those individuals who took it upon themselves to rid our campus of the so-called "art" which has been appearing in front of Academic Building. I'm sure the crew found the display completely tasteful and certainly not something we would wish to view every day.

Attracting attention to itself by detracting from the natural beauty of campus, this type of liberal posturing be kept in its place (the back of your mind) and not thrust into view under the guise of art. Here, bastion of conservatism, we must protect the firm foundation of tradition and decency from such insidious notions of liberality which belong to the socialists of Berkeley. Once again, congratulations and thanks to those enterprising individuals.

Tom Brown

## Bravo

Editor:

Bravo to Russell Sanders and "Greatest Musical Hits."

John A. Wehner

## The Battalion

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Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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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