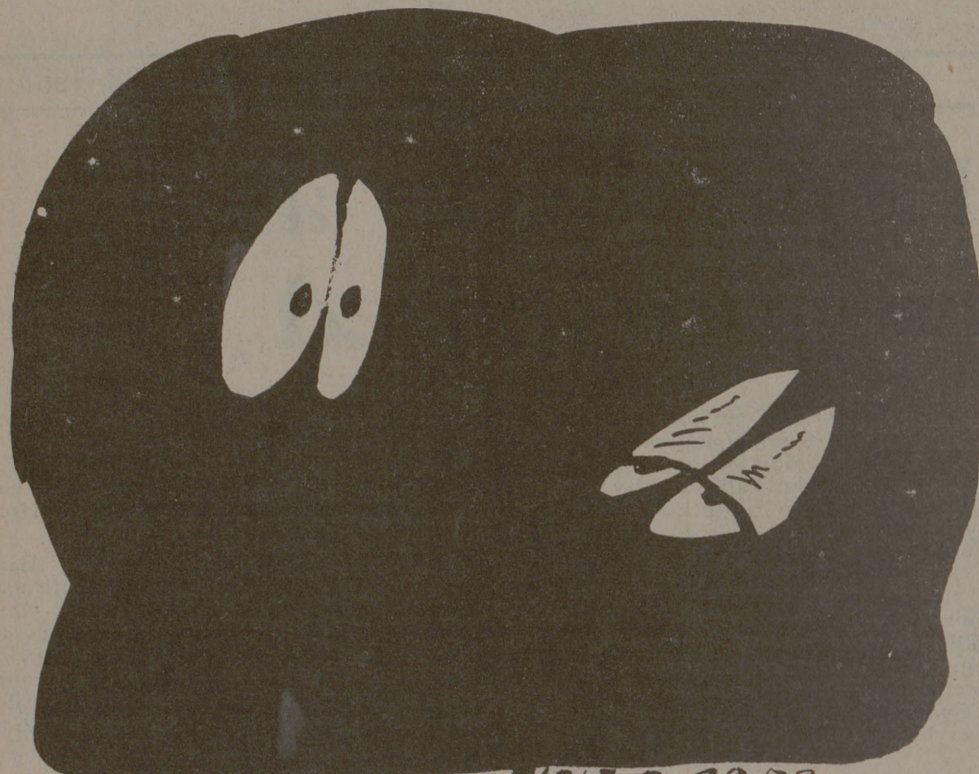


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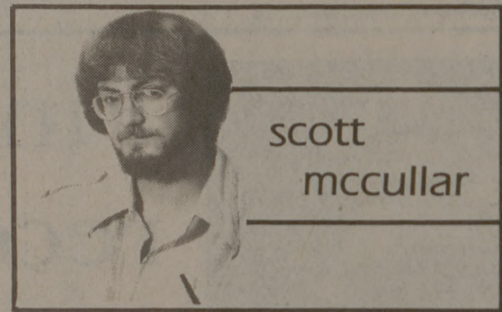
By Jim Earle



EARLE 2-28-83

"Midsemester grades! Already? But I haven't even gotten settled down in class yet."

Hawkeye, you're going home



scott
mccullar

The last new episode of M*A*S*H airs tonight. Television is generally thought of as a vast wasteland, and the 4077th M*A*S*H unit exists in that wasteland the same way it exists on the battle-torn wastelands of Korea. It survives. It comforts and provides relief. It keeps us going, and has for the past eleven years. M*A*S*H ends tonight, and so does the Korean War for a generation that has never experienced the reality of a war. It seems we should reflect on that.

M*A*S*H gave us an eleven-year view of war from the "front lines." We got a concentrated view of the worst part of war, the suffering that goes on in a hospital. We were shown how such a war affected members of our own family, for if any television characters could be called "family", those of the 4077th certainly could.

M*A*S*H actually stands for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, although the 4077th wasn't really mobile. Oh, it moved a few times, sure, but it really stayed in the same place. "Rosie's Bar" was always just across the street from the camp. The M*A*S*H camp was home, and home is

thought of as a stationary place. The war always revolved around the 4077th.

M*A*S*H was supposedly about the Korean War, but the stories and lessons it told were relative to all wars. M*A*S*H never limited itself to the 1950s. There were occasional references to events and music of the period, but M*A*S*H never made it essential for the viewer to believe in a specific place or time, only in wars and the people in them. On screen, M*A*S*H looks like it could be set in the

2nd World War, or Vietnam or even Middle East.

M*A*S*H may live on in more than re-runs. Our generation has spent a lot of time and love with these characters. We have experienced a war with them and grown to despise and hate it the way they do. We saw characters, people, we loved and cared about suffer, die, and die because of war. Some of them died. In between the jokes and the M*A*S*H brought us the most important lesson of war — that it costs something to wage it. What we have seen in 4077th has affected how we think now and how we'll perceive it in the future.

M*A*S*H will be remembered many things: the characters we empathized so deeply with, the lessons we were made to use while watching the fun and joy the staff lived. We even longed with them to leave war and go home, even though we were home. And tonight, we get to see them come home. Watching the re-runs will be a little more enjoyable because that it all comes out all right.

Letters: SCONA thanks from UT

Editor:

It is with deepest humility and respect that we, the UT delegates to the SCONA 28 conference on the Latin Americas, convey our profound admiration and effusive praise to you and the entire Texas A&M student body for the great Aggie hospitality shown to us and to all the delegates the week of Feb. 16-19. We felt proud to be fellow Texans at this international event and honored to participate in such a prestigious forum so enriched by that special Aggie spirit for which A&M has become famous.

The rivalry which exists between our two great universities is common knowledge to Texans everywhere and indeed to people the world over. Yet a fact not so well known is that this healthy rivalry actually is rooted in a relationship characterized by genuine mutual admiration. The manner in which we "teasips" were received by the wonderful people of SCONA 28 only served to enhance this relationship. The entire three and one-half days of the conference were held in an ambience of friendliness and camaraderie that not only provided the comfortable medium so crucial to the success of all such meaningful endeavors but also created everlasting bonds between its fortunate participants.

The SCONA 28 conference was therefore a success not only in terms of fulfilling its primary objective of generating useful and constructive dialogue between peoples of diverse backgrounds on a subject of major contemporary significance. It also succeeded in forging strong links between old and new friends alike. To the many remarkable members of SCONA 28 — the planners, organizers and especially those on the "front line" — we extend our warmest compliments and appreciation for including us in this outstanding event. And, thanks largely to our SCONA experience, to the entire A&M population we reluctantly confess a heretofore well-guarded secret: it strikes us that to be an Aggie is an honor of

which one can be most proud.

Kevin D. Mitchell
Warren G. McKesson

Big Event thanks

Editor:

I would like to thank all the many students who participated in the Big Event this past weekend. I think it is very gratifying to find students who are interested in providing this kind of service to their community. Even though the weather did not cooperate, I was very impressed to see many students who continued to work despite the very heavy rain. I know the community benefited from your effort and I hope that each of you benefited from your experiences. Hopefully this can become an annual event.

Gary Halter
Mayor, College Station

Donate canned goods

Editor:

Although the sarcastic jabs of the group's display in the MSC may be a turn-off to some, I hope that students, faculty and staff support SWAMP in their ongoing collection of food and clothing. It's a good time to clean out closets and shelves anyway and time to recognize that the lives of our needy neighbors in B-CS cannot be made significantly better by a single afternoon of well-meaning efforts (i.e., the Big Event).

Donations of clothing and canned food can be dropped off in 216 MSC and will be delivered to Twin City Mission by SWAMP members.

Rita R. Hamm
Center for Energy and Mineral Resources



Letters: Notification law questioned

Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter on the Parental Notification Rule ("Squeal law").

Dear Dannette Heren:

You did not state your age, but I must assume that it is well past being able to remember your thoughts and attitudes of your teen years. I am in my late 20's and I still remember mine.

First, you end your letter with "A morality has to be enforced for their (minor's) sakes." Morals or principles of right and wrong are things that are learned and developed in life. The concept of blanket enforcement of morality is ludicrous.

Next, you said "but the sexually active minor should be the exception, not the rule." This must be a personal wish or hope, because you are not talking reality. Have you read any recent sexual surveys (Playboy, Hite Reports, etc...)? A sixteen-year-old virgin is becoming very rare, whether or not they should be.

My God, "peer pressure" on sex, come on. I don't know if you have had sex, but my first time (as a minor) was not because of "peer pressure." Ever since puberty there was a lot of sexual curiosity just waiting to be satisfied, and sexual drive filled in where curiosity left off.

Concerning "sexual flings," you must not remember your teen emotional state. Sex was something very serious (almost religious). As a teen, once you had sex (just once) with someone, meant that you were together and (some how) knew the innermost feelings, thoughts and aspirations of each other.

Question, who really would be financially affected by this rule?

Last, you ask "What about the countless minors who are sexually active only because these birth control devices are so "easily" and "secretly" available." Easy,

how easy do you think it is to go into a strange clinic, talk to a strange nurse or doctor, and ask for help for something as personal as your sexual relations. You need to do some research and see how many virgin minors apply for birth control devices and then have sex only because the birth control devices are so easy to get. Those countless minors are very countable.

In closing let me partly quote you again. "We need to open our eyes and help many teen-agers," and many past their teens also. Most children are sexually developed by 13, however, very few if any are capable of raising a child at that age. With the system as it is now, look at the number of unwanted teen-age pregnancies. Parental notification will not significantly reduce the number of sexually active minors. However, parental notification will reduce the number of protected sexually active minors.

Chris Zimmerman, '84

conduct the shouting of your obscenity from the safety of your dorm room, not one resident adviser (or any other for that matter) had the guts to shut you up. Well, we're asking you the next time you have the urge to shout loyalty, write a note.

P.S. We're also curious — what does your body's mother have to do with you live in Davis-Gary or Moses?

Report thefts

Editor:

To whom it may concern: The person who had his or her articles stolen from the MSC Bookstore downstairs should please report this incident to campus police. This is the only way the police can help you recover your property.

Necklace returned

Editor:

To: Mary
Thank you very much for returning my add-a-bead necklace.

Keep it down

Editor:

This is a letter to the "men" (or should we call them boys?) of Davis-Gary and Moses halls.

Last weekend, we were treated to the most heartwarming display of dorm loyalty that we ever hope to hear. We can't tell you how impressed (not to mention how disgusted) we were of the yelling match that you boys so thoughtfully provided for everyone to hear (at 2 a.m. no less). However, we were also just a bit disappointed — not only did you boys

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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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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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