

# opinion

## Aggie Rag follows Deadly Texan legacy

As students all over Texas were awaiting spring break, journalism students at the University of Texas were fighting a losing battle.

The group was arguing for the cause of the Deadly Texan, the annual April Fool's edition of the Daily Texan.

The students lost. The Texas Student Publications Board voted down the special edition because they said it hadn't been included in the paper's budget.

Although the Deadly Texan stepped on a few toes last year, the parody will be missed this year. The satirical issue usual-

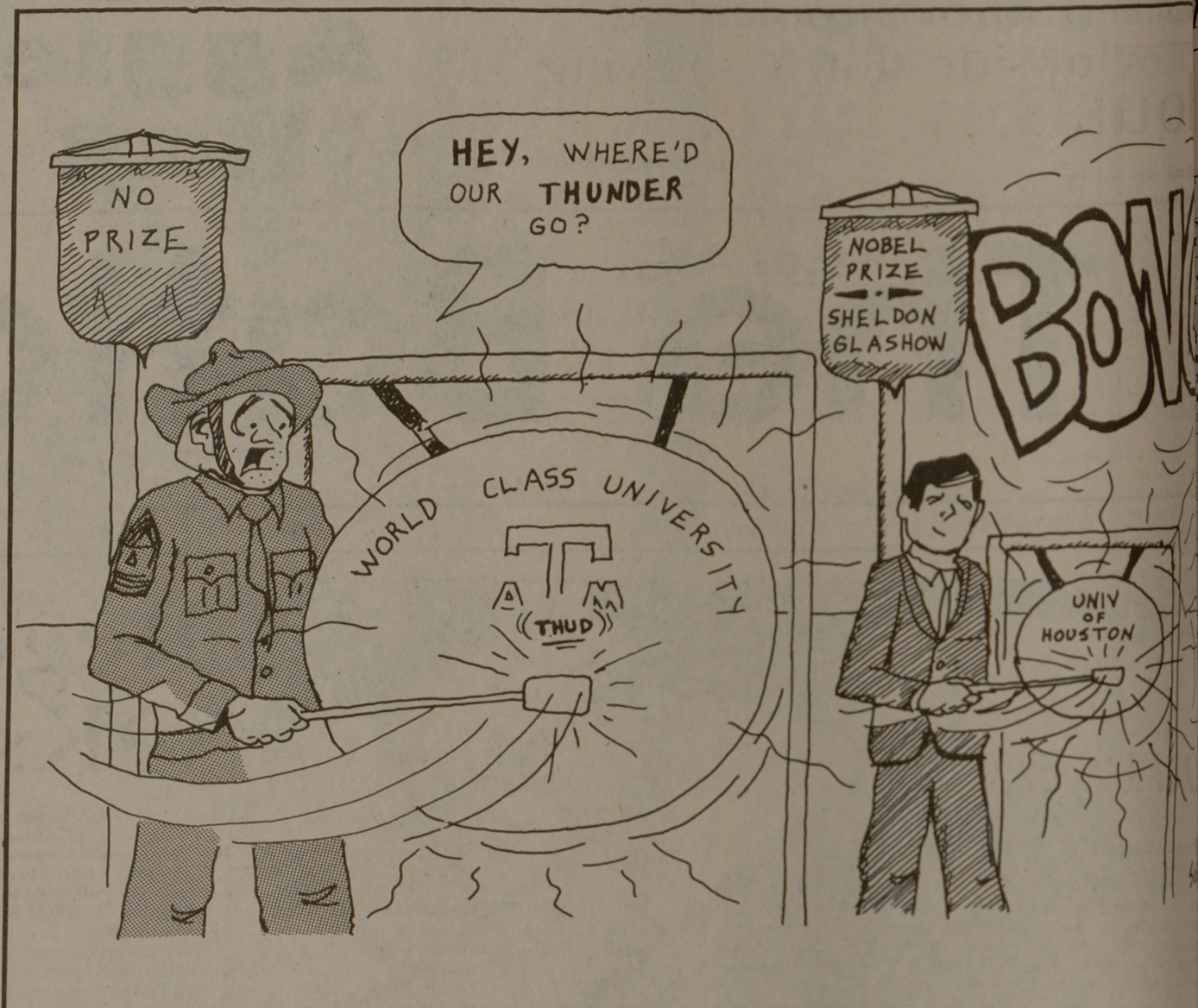
ly was both entertaining and a valuable form of criticism.

We at The Battalion decided to put out a humor supplement of our own this year — "The Aggie Rag."

We did not intend to offend anyone — just elicit a few laughs and stir up some thought about things we take for granted here.

Like the Deadly Texan, our issue may upset a few groups on campus. We hope that students and faculty will read the supplement in the spirit in which it was written.

We dedicate The Aggie Rag to the would-be satirists at UT.



## Poor Nazi fugitive — the pain of it all

by Art Buchwald

I was very disturbed to read in the newspaper the other day that convicted Nazi war criminal Klaus Altmann-Barbie had to undergo an emergency hernia operation in Lyon, where he is awaiting trial for his role in the deaths of hundreds of Jews and resistance fighters.

I immediately called the French Embassy to find out how he was.

"Are you a friend of his?" the embassy official wanted to know.

"Not exactly," I said. "But I am interested in his health. Tell me, was the operation very painful?"

"It might have been," the man said. "Did he scream a lot? Was he in real agony?"

"I doubt it. I'm sure the doctors gave him anesthesia."

"Oh that's too bad."

"What do you mean, that's too bad?"

"Klaus never believed in anesthesia. He felt a man should be fully conscious when he was worked over. It would have been nice of he was awake when the doctors did it to him."

Barbie is a sick man. He has, besides hernia problems, stomach pain, kidney disease and a nervous disorder.

"Poor Klaus. Does his stomach pains make him wretch a lot? You know, double over as if someone kicked him with a boot?"

"I have no idea. Why are you interested?"

"No one likes to be kicked in the stomach. I know Klaus liked to kick other people in the stomach, but he never wanted anyone to do it to him."

"I don't understand where this conversation is leading."

"I told you. I'm just interested in Klaus Barbie's health and I want to make sure he's getting the best medical help available. You say he has kidney trouble. He must be very uncomfortable."

"The French doctors are taking very good care of him."

"I'm sure of that. But tell them not to give Klaus any painkillers."

"Why not?"

"Klaus never believed in painkillers. He said painkillers dulled the mind and senses. I'm sure if he wouldn't prescribe them for others, he wouldn't want any for himself. Tell me about the nervous disorder."

"From what we know he can't sleep at night."

"Poor Klaus. He used to sleep so well in Lyon. Don't let the doctors give him anything to get a good night's rest. Barbie always maintained the less you let a person sleep, the more willing he was to cooperate with his captors. Be sure and shine a light in his eyes all night long. He likes that."

"How do you know what he likes?"

"He used to do it all the time to the people in his care. He wouldn't have done it if he didn't believe a bright light was good for someone who needed sleep."

"Are you a doctor?" the man at the embassy asked.

"Not exactly. But when someone like Klaus Barbie gets sick, I like to be of help. Have the French doctors hit his kidneys with a night stick?"

"I'm sure they haven't."

"They might try it. Klaus always said hitting a person in the kidneys was a good way to make him forget his hernia problems."

"I don't think the doctors are about to hit Barbie in the kidneys with a night stick."

"I guess not. Maybe the cure is an old wives' tale or maybe Barbie made it up during World War II. What else is wrong with him?"

"He's also supposed to have a heart condition."

"Poor Klaus. It's as if his entire professional life has caught up with him. The man must be miserable."

"I imagine he is."

"How miserable?"

"I have no idea. Why is it so important to you how miserable he is?"

"I just wanted to know how much to spend on a 'Get Well' card."

## Study: Truth about China?

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

In the real world, thousands of newly- and nearly-born babies have been murdered in rural Chinese villages.

But in the academic world of Steven Westly Moshier, who first reported modern China's infanticidal habits in 1981, reality has become virtually irrelevant. Unimpressed by his methods, Moshier's dons at Stanford University bounced him from the doctoral program Feb. 24.

Moshier, 34, says his dismissal was a matter of publish-or-perish. For anthropologists at Stanford and social scientists elsewhere, "unethical" and "illegal" behavior was the pivotal issue. In the end, a pox falls on both houses, blemishing scholars and scholarship.

For all those who thought Margaret Mead's techniques were anthropology's only controversy, a brief synopsis of this scholarly soap opera may be in order:

For nine months ending in June 1980, the former naval officer studied rural Chinese life in the ancestral village of his (now divorced) Hong Kong-born wife. As part of a new scholarly exchange between China and the U.S., Moshier's research was the first of its kind in a country understandably suspicious of social scientists.

In the course of his field work, Moshier discovered and documented with photographs the darker side of China's birth control crusade: abortions forcibly performed on rural women in the third trimester of pregnancy, newly-born females killed outright. An illustrated article on these practices, written under the byline Steven Westly (Moshier's first

two names), appeared in a Taiwanese news magazine in May 1980. Not surprisingly, the People's Republic didn't like the story; nor did many American academics, who blamed Moshier for China's subsequent restrictions on visiting U.S. scholars.

Stanford insinuated the two-year investigation leading up to Moshier's expulsion

*The case, for now, is closed. Academic relations with the Chinese, precious to so many institutions, are on the mend.*

was aimed at more than a reconciliation with its Peking colleagues. Last week, it also said that Moshier's choice of a less-than-scholarly journal for publishing his story was irrelevant to the verdict.

"There were numerous violations of our ethical standards," said James Fox, one of the 11 anthropology faculty members who voted against Moshier, "... and they were serious and included illegalities."

Unfortunately, the evidence for these claims lies in a 47-page report that neither Moshier nor Stanford will make public out of fear, each says, of "injuring innocent parties." Nevertheless, until the report is made public, a number of important questions can be raised in Moshier's defense:

• If illegal acts occur in a totalitarian country, does it matter? Had Moshier been studying in South Africa, would the "illegalities" be taken so seriously? In any event, charges first passed by Peking to U.S. officials hardly seemed damning.

(According to the Chinese, Moshier imported a van through restocking and exchanged gifts with village formation.)

• If Moshier acted unethically, standards was he subverting? All accounts one of Stanford's anthropology students, says he received specific instructions on the do's and

Cantonese field work. So far, it questioned his research procedure. (Stanford's case isn't helped by the fact that it relied on testimony from

people who had a stake in the case. Moshier's scorned wife and two sons who wanted access to the

• If Moshier's article wasn't published, why did Stanford wait until after publication to begin investigating? Accounts, allegations of misconduct have been known for more than a year.

Indeed Moshier's problem was not that he did something extraordinary — he made news — without following standard practices. Instead, he published an obscure scholarly journal (a humbly expected Asian Survey), he chose an equivalent of Time magazine, his story automatically became prominent. Even Moshier admits that he is dumb.

The case, for now, is closed. Academic relations with the Chinese, precious to many institutions, are on the mend.

But, for many of us, irreparable damage may have already been done. Notion of scholarship and professional knowledge. Emphasis on means to equal recognition of the ends.

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"As an adult, I am not obligated to have my midsemester grades sent home; it's an invasion of my privacy! But Mom has made a good point: no grades, no money!"

## Reader calls Alaska beautiful, magical place

Editor:

Hi: I would like to respond to the article pertaining to Governor Mark White and Alaska. I was surprised at the gentleman's ignorance.

I'm wondering who put Mr. White in charge of making a decision for a vacation site for other people. Evidently he let his mouth go into action before his mind did.

I know from experience that Alaska is a beautiful, magical place. Agreed, it can only be appreciated by a certain breed of person. One who desires independence, simplicity and beauty. I'm sorry to find out Mark White is "miffed" by such things. He certainly has my pity.

P.S. In answer to your question on: "Who would live in such a cold and barren place?" My sister.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photographing within the Department of Communication.

Questions or comments concerning any matter should be directed to the editor.

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The Battalion is published daily during fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per year, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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