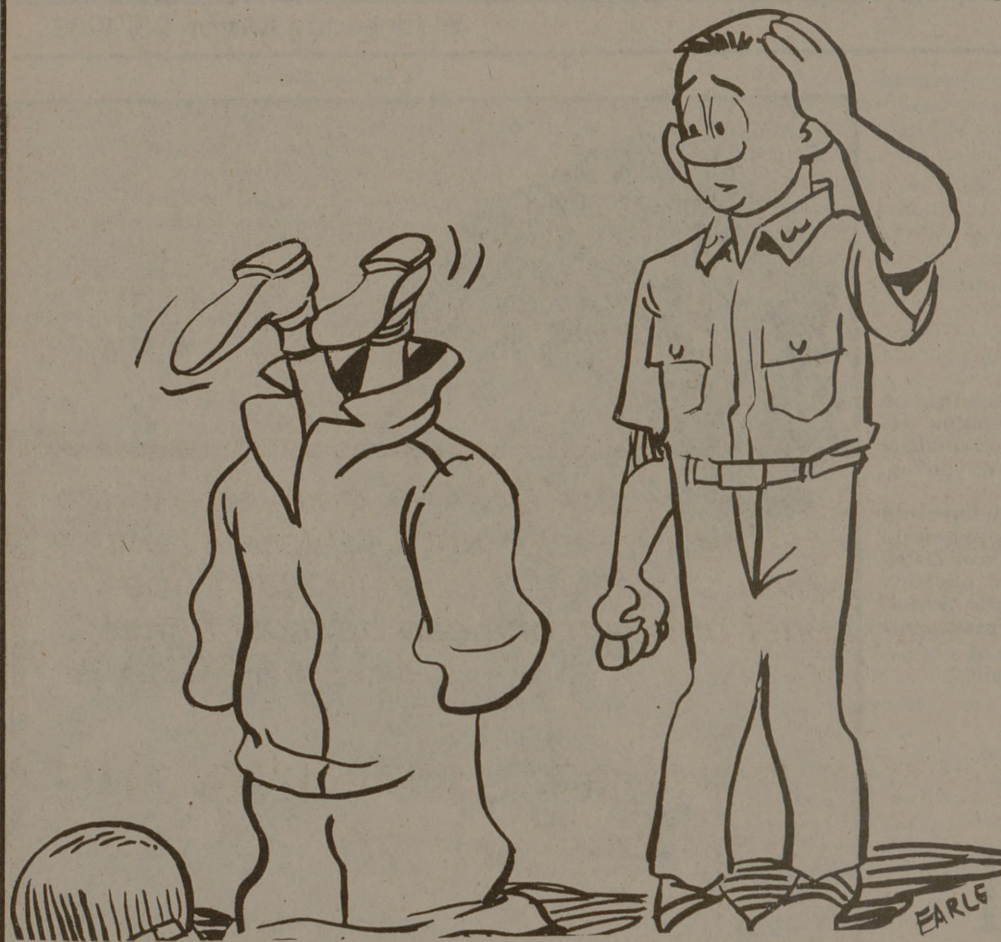


opinion

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Don't do that again. I almost fainted when your helmet fell off."

Send advisory troops to aid government

by Art Buchwald

"Sergeant, we are sending you to El Salvador to advise the government troops there how to fight the left-wing guerrillas who are winning the war."

"I got you, sir. What kind of weapons do the guerrillas have?"

"Mostly American. They got them from Vietnam or captured them from El Salvadoran troops, or bought them from the same troops. One of your jobs will be to see that the government officers don't sell their weapons to the other side."

"Yes, sir. Am I supposed to do anything to win the hearts and minds of the Salvadoran people?"

"Of course. That's why we're sending you there. One of your missions is to make sure the government troops don't kill too many peasants or burn down too many villages that are suspected to be harboring left-wing fighters."

"How do I do that?"

"The same way you did it in Vietnam. You explain to the government soldiers that rape, murder and pillaging will not be tolerated by President Reagan. That should stop them."

"It certainly should. Anything I ought to know about human rights?"

"We're not sending you down there to train anyone in human rights. The government of El Salvador has just been given a clean bill of health on human rights by the American government, so I don't want to see anything in your reports on human rights violations on our side. But if you see any committed by the other side, we want to hear about them pronto."

"I understand, sir. How is the morale of the El Salvadoran troops?"

"Excellent, although there have been a number of desertions. Your job is to see that the government troops don't go over the hill."

"Can I shoot them?"

"No, but you can authorize one of the officers you're advising to shoot them. But, for God's sakes, don't put anything in writing."

"How do we know if we're winning the war?"

"We're working up a body count system at the Pentagon that will soon go into effect. We'll expect body count reports from you every day."

"It sounds more like Vietnam all the time."

"This is not a Vietnam operation, and you're not to refer to it as such. This is a rescue operation to uphold a democratic government in Central America, and to protect a freedom-loving people from being taken over by the Communists."

"I gotcha, sir."

"Stop winking. I'm serious. Now you were chosen to be one of 110 American advisers to turn this war around."

"That's not a lot of advisers for a full-scale guerrilla war."

"It's only a beginning. Once we get enough of you in there, Congress will be in no position to stop the president from sending in more American troops to support you."

"I hope so. I don't want to get my keister shot off."

"Sergeant, I have utmost confidence that you can do the job. And one more thing, don't talk to the press. They'll only write how incompetent and corrupt the El Salvador military officers really are."

"Are they?"

"That's top secret information."

Coaches can do anything

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

A civil society requires that everyone behave within reasonable limits of propriety. Everyone, that is, except coaches.

Bobby Knight and Lefty Driesell, two of the nation's more notorious college basketball coaches, have been demonstrating the extent to which they play by different rules. At the same time, the U.S. Olympic Committee, which has retained Knight as its 1984 coach, and Driesell's superiors at the University of Maryland, have shown how we let them get away with it.

Knight technically fouled out in 1979 while coaching the U.S. team at the Pan American Games in Puerto Rico. Though he denies all charges, the Indiana University coach received a fine for slugging a policeman after a team practice, and denunciations in the San Juan press for referring to a Brazilian women's team as "dirty people."

Now, as a joke for banquet audiences, Knight will only acknowledge that he bade farewell to Puerto Rico by exposing his behind from an airplane window because "that's the last thing I would want them to see of me."

Not surprisingly, Puerto Rico's governor and congressional representative and members of Congress' Hispanic Caucus want the Olympic Committee to sack Knight. Yet, committee president William Simon, the former Treasury secretary,

refuses to investigate the allegations against him.

In deeper trouble, however, is Maryland's Driesell. Last fall, one of Driesell's star players was accused of assaulting a woman in a dormitory room. The player, Herman Veal, was benched for the season by a student court, just prior to last weekend's ACC tournament.

Driesell then took matters into his own hands, according to The Diamondback, the University of Maryland's student newspaper. He phoned the victim and asked her, "How could you do this to me? Do you know what tomorrow is?" (referring to a big game against the University of Virginia).

Perhaps sensing that he was behind with time running out, Driesell made repeated calls to the woman, promising that, as she recalled, "there would be trouble" and "her name would be dragged through the mud." He even asked assorted campus jocks to check out the woman's "reputation" on the Maryland campus and at Clemson, where she'd previously studied.

At a press conference March 8, Driesell denied allegations of harassment. Being a good sport, he took Veal to the ACC tournament and allowed him to practice with the team. "In my mind," the coach told reporters, "Herman Veal is the victim. He's more of a victim than the girl." Nonetheless, university officials have convened an internal inquiry into

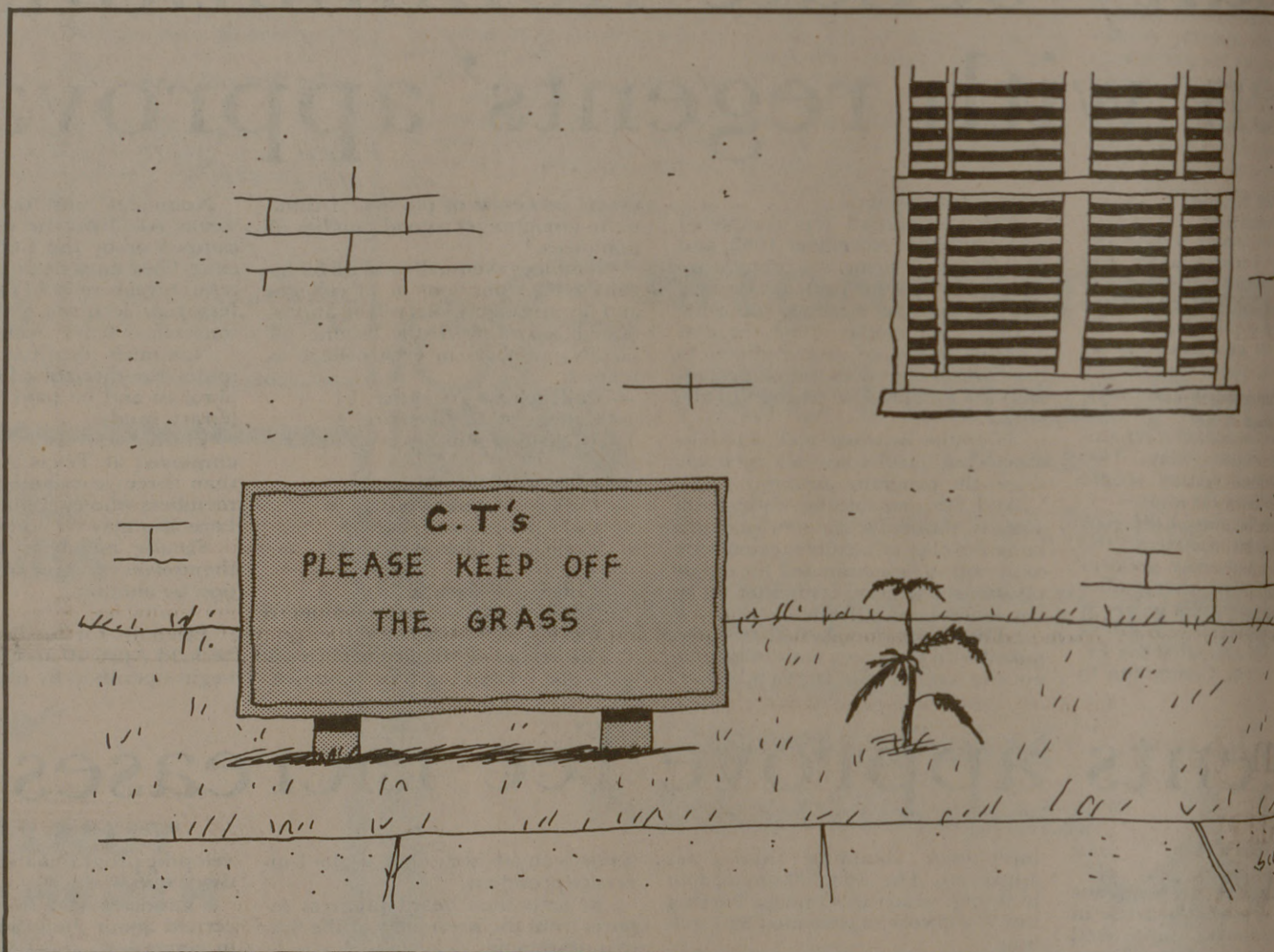
the matter.

Driesell's biggest mistake might be that a player could act with impunity as a coach. He accorded usually free rein, might presume that close associates deserve the same.

But both Driesell and Knight estimate the clout they possess sees fit to strike a balance between havior and influence; both selves as individuals, not spokesmen must think before speaking.

It's unknown who conferred with diplomatic immunity the stature of athletics in America. One explanation. So, too, is the job: Wild and crazy coach much a part of the show as the tries and playoffs. (Is it really some of the winningest Ohio State's Woody Hayes or Lou Carnesecca, provide the U.S. and the addi

In any case, coaches license that we'll never believe Driesell or forcing Knight to Olympic responsibilities. Only symptomatic problems, another pair of downs and insulting opponents and expectations. More institutions embarrassed, but most worth price worth paying.



Letters: Coaching complaints

Editor:

Well, Jackie has done it again. Evidently having a lousy football team isn't enough for him. Now, he wants to ensure that we have an equally sorry basketball team. And make no mistake about it. By renewing Shelby Metcalf's contract, he has done just that.

Metcalf's basketball teams combine a no movement offense with a porous defense in such a way as to successfully negate the physical abilities of his players. Shelby's teams are fundamentally unsound in every phase of the game and undoubtedly he is the worst major college basketball coach in America.

The combination of Sherrill and Metcalf in the Athletic Department dooms our sports program to mediocrity for years to come. The only way to avoid this fate is to fire both of them immediately.

Richard H. Fosberg '78

Library exhibit

Editor:

I wish to bring to the attention of Battalion readers, and especially the staff of the Sterling C. Evans Library, a very disturbing exhibit on the fourth floor of the library. I am talking about the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles' display case.

The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles, or CARP, is nothing more than a branch of the Unification church of Sun Myung Moon. I am appalled that Texas A&M University would judge an exhibit such as this fit for public view.

Apart from the grave constitutional problems of allowing a religious display in a public building owned by a state funded institution is the character of the church itself. It employs deceitful methods in recruiting and retaining fol-

lowers and is run for the gain of the self-styled prophet, Moon.

That Texas A&M would allow such an exhibit amounts to nothing more than official endorsement of this questionable religious cult. No amount of doublethink can make this fact more acceptable. I

wish to know the library staff permitting such an offensive

Editor's note: This letter was read by 16 other signatures.

Berry's World



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"Why, dear, how simply MARVELOUS! Why did you first realize you already know everything worth knowing."

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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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