

# opinion

## Letters

### Don't allow dumping

Editor:

"Fishermen Lose Fight to Discontinue Dumping;" that was the story in Thursday's Battalion. A U.S. District Judge in Houston decided against a law suit by commercial fishermen and the Sportman Club to stop the U.S. Corp of Engineers from dumping tons of dredge spoil being removed from the Intracoastal Waterway into East Matagorda Bay.

The Corps justified its actions by saying that the Waterway is becoming too silted for shipping traffic. It is also revealed that to stop the operation would cost the federal government \$20,000 a day, plus \$150,000 to break the dredging contract with the unnamed company. To counter these excuses, the law suit states that the dumping is being done in a prime shrimping and sport fishing area of the bay. Valuable spots have already been lost because the waste is covering ocean floor that once supported shrimp and numerous other commercial and sport fish.

The shrimpers stated that the loss of shrimp from the disputed area costs them \$1,000 a day, small amount compared to that of the government. Apparently, the question comes down to whether we want to save the government money, or if we want to keep our environment from deteriorating beyond its present level (we know which the court wants). What would have happened if the courts had decided not to stop the use of the herbicide DDT in the '70s? Would we still have the Bald Eagle or the Brown Pelican? Possibly not.

The repercussions of losing one fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico will admittedly be much less than losing our national symbol. Probably, the only noticeable effect will be slightly higher prices at our favorite roadside seafood stands, but what will happen when the same decision allows this to go on again, and again, ...

Kevin Peter '86

### Critics too serious

Editor:

To all those people who have been so critical of the Aggie football game last

Saturday: Why is winning a game so extraordinarily important to you? Why does losing bring out such vitriolic and hateful remarks?

Personally, I like a game because I can enjoy the competition and excitement and, whether my team wins or loses, go home knowing that no impact was made on any important issue of life on this planet. It is a diversion for the fan: a way of getting oneself totally involved for a few hours in an activity that invigorates without worry of consequence.

If each team plays in such a manner that challenges the other to do its' very best and is the competition is evenly balanced so that there is excitement until the end, then I will enjoy the game and it will have fulfilled its reason for being. I enjoyed the game last Saturday.

O.C Jenkins

### Flags fly message

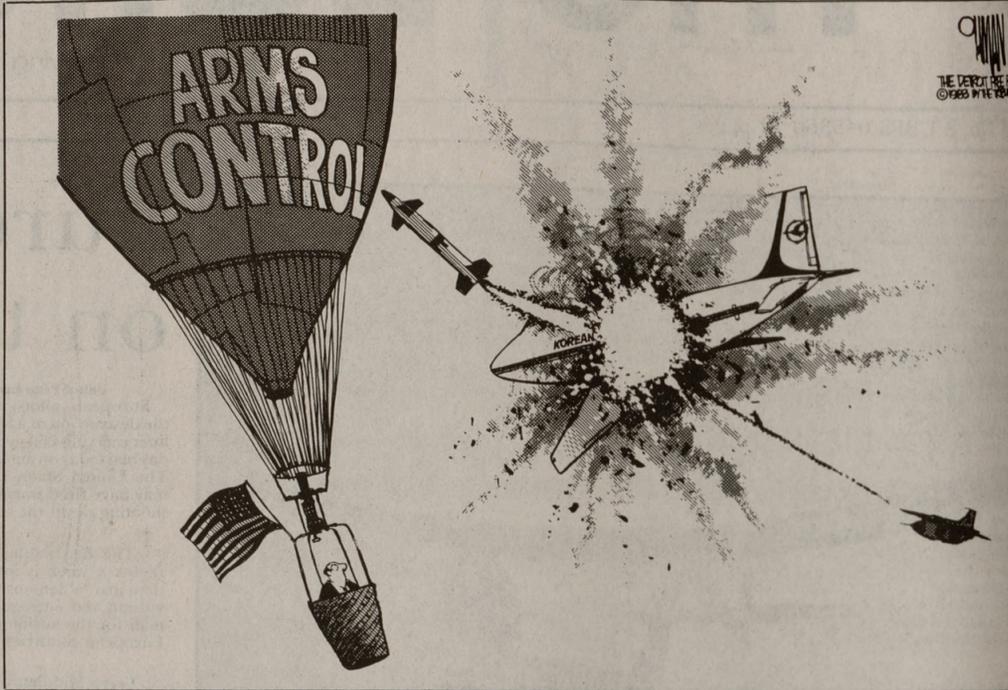
Editor:

Once more the full color and electricity of Texas Aggie football has arrived. At every game there are fifty-five flags that represent the Aggies who so valiantly gave their lives so that we may enjoy peace. But, the message of these flags is much more.

We must not only view these flags as symbols of the fierce loyalty of Aggies to their country, but as a mandate that each of us have as a human being, to do all that is in our power to ensure that the catastrophe of war does not claim the lives of our fellow class-mates. These flags must not be symbols for future generations to cherish the supreme sacrifice, but as reminders of the Aggies who left their loved ones and never returned to the maturing of their relationships.

On Saturday, when you look up to the flags don't look at them as glorious reminders. Rather, they should be viewed as reminders of the horrors of Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, and Ypres. It is now, during peace, that we must guarantee that no more Aggies or Americans will march off — never to return.

Mark C. Johnson '84



## You are what you read; magazines 'go with the flow'

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Although I know next to nothing about the publishing business, I must say there may be a bright future for a couple of relatively obscure journals I saw advertised the other day.

The trick seems to be to go with the flow. And if the flow happens to be in the direction of a divorce court, sobeit.

Thus we now have, ready to take advantage of current marital trends, a new publication called "Futile: The Magazine for Adult Dating."

There are, the publisher tells us, about 200 million prospective daters in the United States, many of whom are re-entering the field because of marriage breakups. So the readership potential definitely is there.

"Futile" has articles and features that almost anyone who goes out in the evening would find useful.

There is, for example, a quick IQ test that answers the question: "How stupid is your date?"

The current issue tells all about a new parlor game called "Monotony." Plus

there are all sorts of hints and tips, including the advice that "hardly ever is a good time to play a guitar on a date."

The other magazine of which I speak is "The Journal of Irreproducible Results." It sets forth such provocative hypotheses as: "Death is an inherited genetic trait," "Rapid proliferation of leftovers is inhibited when the refrigerator door is left open," and "Copies of the National Geographic accumulating in the basement are causing the continent to sink."

This magazine, as you can see, provides food for thought during those long evenings when the telephone doesn't ring.

As for books, "America's hottest new market," according to one publisher, is the computer field.

The demand for computer hardware and software, to judge from Wall Street reports, has started to taper off. But books about computers apparently still have a rising sales chart.

I just wonder how long it will be before some enterprising publisher combines two segments of the best-seller lists and brings out a computer fitness book.

(Computer dating is, of course, already old hat.)

The merging of subject matter by publishers is nothing new, as witness "Monday Night Football Cookbook."

You might think, looking over the shelves of computer manuals already in bookstores, that some enterprising publisher already had tapped the computer fitness market.

Certainly "Micros, Minis and Mainframes" sounds like an apt name for a diet and exercise plan.

If I were an author, I would try to devise a computer fitness book that brings tears to the eyes.

I mean, what is more healthful than good cry?

William Frey, a Minnesota biochemist is quoted in TVCable Week to the effect that sobbing may eliminate toxic chemicals that build up in the body.

However, he says his studies show emotionally induced tears are far more therapeutic than those produced by irritation.

The upshot of all of this seems clear: Don't waste time dating anyone on a diet.

## Information leaks serve purposes

by Helen Thomas

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Backstairs at the White House:

There is some irony when an ultra secret White House takes the initiative to declassify information that serves its purpose.

On the day it was revealed President Reagan had signed a memo warning all 2.6 million federal employees not to disclose any secret government information, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and then Reagan himself selectively revealed some of the data on the Soviet downing of a Korean airliner that was gathered from intelligence agencies.

Since then administration officials are disclosing information wherever it helps to make a case that the Soviets knew they were shooting down an unarmed passenger plane.

"The president can declassify on his own without further steps," said deputy press secretary Larry Speakes, adding that the decisions were made in consultation with Reagan's foreign policy advisers.

**Slouch**  
by Jim Earle

"I've got this buddy who parked his car out there a week ago. He hasn't found it, yet, but he's still looking."

10 days after his assassination on the tarmac at Manila International Airport. More than 1 million Filipinos joined in the funeral procession; undoubtedly many more mourned in absentia. So far, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has tried to disavow any role in the death of his chief political rival. Yet most of his country seems unconvinced. Reagan, who likes Marcos as much as the Pentagon likes its Philippine military installations, hasn't changed plans to visit Manila next November.

\*Widespread and broadly-based demonstrations against Pakistan's autocrat, Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, entered their third week. Organized by the Movement to Restore Democracy, the anti-government actions have resulted in thousands of arrests and injuries. Though Zia has promised elections in 1985, his opponents have heard such promises before. Even the powerful Islamic party, once a government supporter, has called for an earlier return to democracy. Zia and Marcos have at least one prospect in common: numbered days.

\*Perhaps the same could be said for Sen. Augusto Pinochet, chief of Chile's ruling junta. Now the middle class is on his back, fed up with high prices. Measures to curb anti-government activities have only fanned the often violent passions of a country restless after 10 years of military reign. Assassination has struck both left and right, including Santiago's regional military commander, Gen. Carol Urzua, last week. Though the opposition Democratic Alliance may yet call off mass protests scheduled for Sept. 8, national reconciliation seems a distant dream until Pinochet goes.

One could go on. South Africa, El Salvador, Chad and Peru (not to mention West Germany and Poland) were beckoning American responses last week, too, if not as dramatically as some other countries.

So welcome back, Mr. President. With all the time bombs threatening stability around the world, one might wonder why anybody would want to be president in 1985.

WASHINGTON — Presidential counselor Edwin Meese had assured White House staff members and reporters in California that Thursday, Sept. 1 would be another uneventful day for a vacationing Ronald Reagan. Meese announced, as consolation, the special screening of an unreleased film, "The Final Option," at 10 a.m. Thursday. "This highly-acclaimed film on the subject of terrorism," Meese wrote in a memo, "is being made available to all of the traveling party and their guests without charge."

Unfortunately, real-life terrorism spoiled the special preview. A downed Korean jumbo jet and the demand for a quick response prompted Reagan to end his summer holiday two days early.

In fact, any one of several international incidents or developments last week, all indicative of a tenuous global stability, could have compelled Reagan's early return from Rancho del Cielo.

\*Natives of Rochester, N.Y., and Winston-Salem, N.C., became the first U.S. Marines to die on international peacekeeping duty in Lebanon. Their comrades, of whom 14 suffered injuries, responded with real bullets against Moslem factions that might have been responsible. Now the Pentagon has positioned another 2,000 Marines off the coast of Beirut to "assure the safety" of those on shore. Though the U.S. has been drawn into the fratricidal conflict, Secretary of State Shultz said that the Marines' role is unchanged.

\*Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin turned over leadership of his Herut party to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, his hawkish equal, assuring that Jewish settlements on the West Bank would continue to increase. (According to the World Zionist Organization, the number of West Bank Jews is expected to more than double over the next two months.

\*Benigno Aquino was finally buried.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes who once worked for the Nixon White House, made an understandable slip of the tongue during one of his briefings the plane. He reported Reagan had taped "18 minutes" of tape conversations from the Soviet pilots for congressional leaders. He quickly corrected himself to say "eight minutes."

The spokesman apparently was thinking back to the Watergate scandal when it was revealed someone had eavesdropped minutes of a crucial taped conversation in the Oval Office.

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acy program in the East Room, Reagan wound up his remarks by saying "now, they've told me I got to get back to the Oval Office."

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