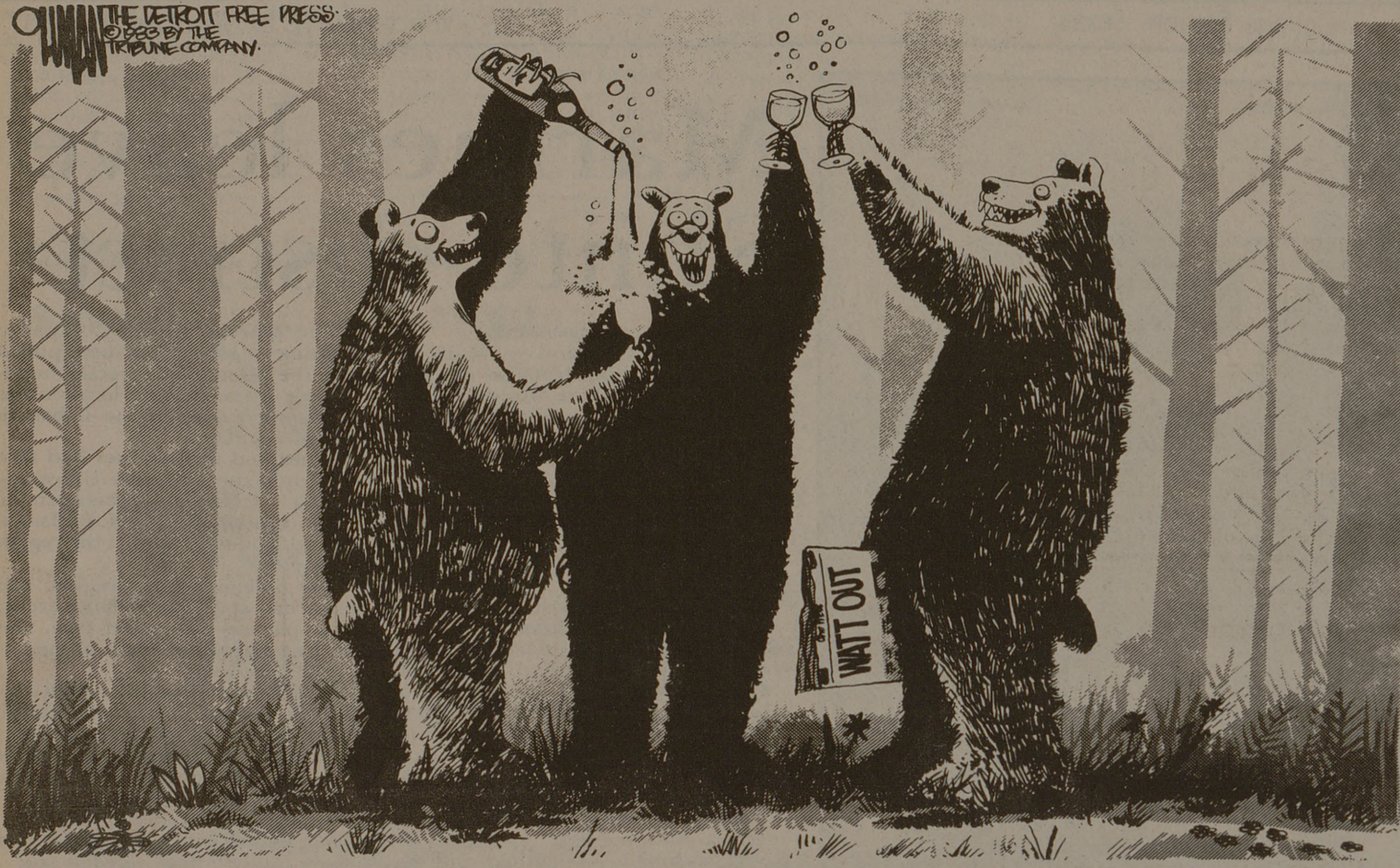


opinion

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Columnist's job not always easy

Being a columnist may be fun, but it is not an easy task.

Week after week, the ever-vigilant columnist must come up with a fresh idea for this week's column. That's the hard part.

Writing a column becomes easier, however, as the writer develops his or her own style. Take Andy Rooney for example. A person familiar with his style of commentary can spot Rooney a mile away.

I think I could make a fairly decent Rooney-type columnist. I have been known to ramble every once in a while.

"Have you ever noticed that cockroaches don't wear bow ties? I wonder why. Bow ties are nice.

"I have several bow ties. I have one I wear especially when I take my dog to the veterinarian. My uncle has a bow tie with a hula girl that wiggles her grass that he got one night in downtown Honolulu from a girl named Lola.

"Have you ever noticed that Doberman Pinschers don't wear socks?"
Dear Abby is one columnist who has it pretty easy. All she has to do is answer strange letters from strange people.

My hometown newspaper once ran a letter to Abby which said, "Dear Abby: I'm 39, divorced, have four kids, am on welfare and think I am pregnant again. That's not bad enough, but what's really bothering me is that my hair won't hold a perm. Can you please advise me? — Elaine in Louisville."

Quick as a whip Abby replied, "Dear Elaine: First, see a doctor. It could be due to your physical condition. If it's not that, inquire at a beauty parlor that specializes in hair care."



I'm still wondering why a woman's welfare with four kids and one on is worrying about her hair.

Abby never has to worry about a block either. Writer's block is the disease that afflicts all writers at one or another and that prohibits any rational thought.

Some writers deal with writer's block by swearing or scribbling while simply force words out. I get the idea once ended up getting an idea for a column by walking across the tops of desks in the room.

However, some people do understand the writer's plight. I once saw a cartoon, drawn by Jeff MacNelly, among you the reporter Perffessor showing the office girl, how to write.

"Writing is simple Muffy," he said. "First you have to make sure you have plenty of paper, sharp pen and typewriter ribbon. Then you get behind the desk, roll a sheet of paper on the typewriter and stare at it until your blood appear on your forehead." I can relate to Shoe.

Letters: Grenada invasion signal to world

Editor:
This is in response to the article written by Kathy Wiesepape in the Oct. 28 issue of The Battalion. I also grew up in a warless time, but, like many, I believe the soil we stand on was earned by brave men like the ones who died in Lebanon and Granada. Ronald Reagan will not let the domino effect of communist expansion continue in Central American or the mideast and I for one am proud to see it end.

Grenada is a signal to the world that the United States will sit still no longer. Many people think Grenada and Lebanon are insignificant parts of the world and are not worth defending. Any place where there are people striving for freedom and a better way of life, the leader of the free world should be by their side. The real question of this issue is do we want to defend small countries like Grenada now in Central America or wait until we have to defend our border when the Soviets achieve their ultimate goal?

To address another point, some people refer to the training of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M as "little more than a game." It is not. It's purpose is to train men to defend the United States and others who strive for freedom. Most cadets and non-regs such as ourselves would be bound by honor to fight or even die for this great country.

If our ancestors in the last 200 years were willing to die for their beliefs, why are so many today not willing to die for theirs? If you are not willing to sacrifice for what you believe in, do you truly believe in it? As J. F. Kennedy once said "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Todd Mills '85
(Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by three signatures.)

Kill all liars

Editor:
Hopefully, Corps Commander Preston Abbott can instill in the Corps and in the rest of us Ags his obviously well-thought-out opinions on the subject of justice. I, too, am a supporter of capital punishment, although I had erringly believed it a punishment reserved for some of our society's more serious crimes. I must admit that the idea of capital punishment for liars had never occurred to me until I read Comm. Abbott's comment in The Battalion.

Just think how much more room we truth-tellers would have if all liars were shot! I know golf courses and fishing streams would be virtually emptied of people. The ratio of women to men would increase as a large percentage of Aggie men (those who have claimed to have "scored big-time") would have to be shot for lying. (Surely some virtue remains among women at Texas A&M?)

Should we stop at liars? What about other crimes that are more serious than lying? Shouldn't traffic violators and check bouncers also be shot? And what about students with overdue library books and students under 19 who drink alcohol? Wait — maybe I am getting carried away by it all. We'll just stick to shooting liars, okay, Comm. Abbott? By the way, when is Cadet Brown's execution to be held? I wouldn't miss it for the world, because I believe in truth, justice, the American way and the Corps.

Ben Horrell

Editor's note: In order to maintain a flow of ideas and discussion of current issues in letters to the editor, The Battalion will not run any letters after today in response to the following: G. Brown's letter concerning homosexuality at Texas A&M; Corps Commander Preston Abbott and his comments on the Buddy Brown case; and the letter from Stephen Weiss on the rights of pedestrians.

Editor:
This letter is written in response to Mr. Filho's letter on Nov. 4 concerning homosexuality at Texas A&M (or anywhere else for that matter).
You state at the close of your letter that you were born gay, that you are comfortable that way, and that is the way God

God's will and Gays

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White House aids struggle with some unusual problems

by Helen Thomas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan recently told a group of Jewish leaders, "We're on the road to Armageddon."

Aides were at a loss to explain what he meant and in what context, particularly since the United States has escalated its military involvement in the Caribbean and the Middle East and soon will deploy intermediate-range missiles in Europe that can hit Moscow in a matter of minutes.

But deputy press secretary Larry Speakes had an explanation. "The Bible says that," he told reporters.

The White House had a hard time deciding how to handle the bill creating a national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. after it reached the president's desk.

For several days, aides were unable to say whether there would be a signing ceremony with fanfare and all flags flying, particularly because the measure originally was opposed by Reagan.

When it was finally decided to have a ceremony, the question became how big and where. At first it was arranged that Reagan would sign the measure in the Oval Office, with members of King's family and a few congressmen on hand. But aides, realizing it was a historic event worthy of more pomp and circumstance,

wants you to be. We beg to disagree with this ridiculous and blasphemous statement. For someone who surely puts much faith in God, you have put forth little effort in study about your present condition.

In the Bible, God definitely speaks out against such practices of homosexuality. In Romans 2:27, He condemns the man who leaves the natural lust of the woman and performs this unseemly deed with another man. We must assume, therefore, that God does not approve of homosexuality. Also, woman was created to assist man and to replenish the earth through reproduction with man. Is reproduction possible between two people of the same sex? Certainly not! So we are not sure where you get some of these ideas.

God does love all, but it seems plain that he does not approve of the practice of homosexuality, and it is not the normal human being who goes against God's will.

D. Faltys
D. Eubanks

A modest proposal

Editor:
Mr. Weaver's letter of Oct. 31 has sparked a brainstorm. His deeply philo-

then moved the signing to the East Room, scene of the signing of several civil rights bills in the Johnson era.
By the time the guest list had grown to more than 200, including black politicians and King's former civil rights allies, the signing program was moved to the Rose Garden with all the trappings of a state visit.

When it was over, the guests joined in softly singing, "We Shall Overcome," the battle cry that symbolized King's struggle for racial equality — the song that was sung so many times by anti-war protesters outside the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue during the turbulent 1960s.

David Gergen, director of White House communications, was asked recently: "Is the war over?"
"Which one?" he smiled.

Since the U.S. invasion of Grenada, presidential aides have had to play the role of reporters in trying to extract information from the Pentagon, even though they are all one official family. And their batting average is not good.

Even spokesman Larry Speakes strikes out when he calls the Pentagon public affairs office.

In response to questions, White House aides claim they have been trying to find out the death toll among Cubans and Grenadans during the one-week war, and are told by Pentagon officials, "We

sophical ideas, whose depths are cloaked to sound semi-literary, brought me a point of truth, a subtle moment, if you will: that A&M would be better off without us gays. Subject City and Weaver's approval, I hereby submit my modest proposal:

1) We get the Chem department to devise this little pill that we drop in our campus water supply that'll make one who has gay feelings immediately radioactive.

2) Then we give all non-gays counters. When you come across a body who ticks, you can all make the sound like Lenard Nemo on "The Body Snatchers," to indicate you found one of us.

3) Then you ship all of us off (in crates, please) to t.u. where we'll live our lives far away from Texas A&M slave labor making bumper stickers say "Steers and Queers Without Siers," or something equally as catchy non-gay delectation.

Then Mr. Weaver and the 32,399 (cf. G. Brown's letter) Aggie campus can have a cosy, gay-free environment in which to bask in the being the normal guys God meant to be.

Jay E. McShane

Slouch

by Jim East



"Thanks for the compliment on the coffee, but it's really not coffee. I'm just finishing up washing these socks."

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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 telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

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