

## School should be liable for damages

Students in six dormitories returned from Christmas break to find waterlogged carpets, mildewed mattresses, warped furniture and personal possessions damaged beyond repair.

The severe cold spell in late December and early January caused frozen water to burst pipes in at least 35 buildings on campus. University officials estimate that repair will cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000, but they are also saying the University is not liable for damage to personal belongings. State money, the Department explains, cannot be used to reimburse individuals for their losses.

In other words, a ruined stereo is a ruined stereo — and replacing it is up to the individual, not the University.

But students are seldom warned of the dangers of dorm living, and because of that, many leave valuables in their rooms over the holidays. A freeze hits, the pipes burst and students pay the damages.

There is an alternative — take your

belongings home. But the University needs to make a more conscious effort to educate and inform dorm residents of the dangers involved when they leave for Christmas, as well as spring break.

Liability for damage done in such a situation as flooding from burst pipes or from fire *must* be explained clearly. It should be mandatory for resident advisors to point out the fine print instructions for obtaining personal insurance to students when they sign up for housing.

The University needs to remember that students can't come back to school to check on their belongings over the Christmas break because dorm residents are required to turn-in their room keys before leaving.

The damage to personal possessions was all but impossible for residents to prepare for or prevent. The University therefore should accept at least limited liability. — The Editorial Board

© 1983 BY THE TRIBUNE COMPANY

Peace Through Bombs

ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH MASSIVE DEFICITS

...1984? YOU MEAN, LIKE ORWELL? DON'T BE ABSURD...

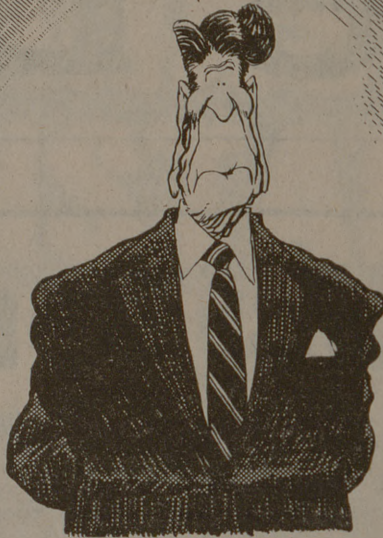
NO PEACEKEEPER

Freedom Through Secrecy

The News Media isn't on "Our Side"

THERE IS NO HUNGER IN AMERICA. Ed Meese

NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH LIE DETECTORS



## Aggies don't live by their own honor code

Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do.

That's what they told me at fish camp, anyway. At the time, fired up by the newness of Aggie yells, Aggie songs, Aggie friends and general Aggie spirit, I believed it.

Three years later, with a great deal of that freshman naivete lost somewhere along the way, I'm not so sure that the Aggie Code of Honor still holds true.

The most obvious example is Clarence "Buddy" Brown, the cadet who claimed he defended a female student by beating up three attackers. After a lie detector test, he finally admitted that he made the story up to save face after an embarrassing incident in the parking lot.

Brown's case was highly publicized. However, many violations of the honor code, many of them more serious than the cadet's "little white lie," occur on campus each semester. Most of them are largely ignored.

Last year, several students broke into the creamery two nights in a row. They weren't after money — just a little free ice

cream. But a theft is a theft, and their act was a violation of the honor code.

Secondly, those same students went back to their dormitories and bragged about it until the escapade was no secret to the other dorm residents. Look at the last half of the honor code: "...nor do they tolerate those who do." Although they were finally turned in by on their fellow students, everyone who knew of the theft and did nothing to bring the offense to light also broke the honor code. Yes, there's a bit of a stigma attached to being a tattle-tale, but hey — it's part of the sacred and often-quoted code.

During finals week a few semesters back, it was common knowledge that the final for one of the required business courses was available to anyone who wanted it. Not an old final, but the final that would be given that semester.

Not many people knew how a copy of the final slipped out of the professor's hands, but most students enrolled in the class were aware that the copy was floating around. Not a single one did anything to change the situation, and as a result

students were able to successfully pass the course by cheating — another honor violation.

One of the major problems in claiming to have an honor code is that the code must be enforced. Texas A&M has no honor court and no clear-cut way of dealing with honor violations.

kathy wiesepape

There are almost as many judicial boards as there are organizations on campus. Every dormitory has its own J-board to enforce housing regulations. Student Government has one to keep its members

in line. Several campus honor societies also have judicial committees to enforce their regulations on members.

Students violating University regulations in any way are dealt with through several different channels. Those who break portions of the honor code go through these same channels, depending on their offenses.

A student caught cheating will be confronted by his instructor. He may request a hearing before the department head, appeal to the dean and, finally, appeal to the University Disciplinary Appeals Panel. The panel consists of a chairman, four faculty members and three students.

A student suspected of theft will be accused by the Department of Student Affairs and may also appeal to the University Disciplinary Appeals Panel. Both of these offenses may result in suspension from the university for a definite period of time, dismissal for an undefined time period or permanent expulsion.

Still, there is no method of dealing with students who lie, or students who tolerate those who break the honor code.

Last semester Student Government formed a committee to study the honor code and how it is enforced at the University. Because of internal problems which diverted its attention to other matters, the committee somehow never got around to completing the study.

Since no method for enforcing the honor code has been established, violations are common. How many Aggies honestly say they have never lied, cheated or stolen? How many can say they've never heard of someone that did? It seems that as it stands now, the Aggie Code of Honor is little more than a farce.

Aggies do lie, cheat and steal. We're to either find a practical way to enforce the honor code and do something about the lack of basic honesty among students, or else drop the honor code altogether to avoid the taint of hypocrisy.

### Editor's Note:

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the First Amendment as one of the basic freedoms of a democratic society. That freedom was meant to be used by all the people, not just by a handful of journalists who control the content of newspapers and bend the opinion of the masses to their will.

We want you to use that freedom. This page is meant to be an open forum for students, faculty, administrators and all readers of The Battalion. It is your place to air a variety of views on any and all topics relevant to your lifestyle.

So the next time you have an opinion about an issue, a complaint about how the University is being run or just something that you want to scream about, drop a letter by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

Help us make the opinion page the people's page.

— The Editors

## Computers the real threat in 1984

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Forget George Orwell in 1984, and keep your eye on the computer.

The new computers, which are being installed in Washington by the bureaucracy to save money and make our government more efficient, may chip away a little more at our rights to privacy.

The new computers can now "talk" to each other and gather information from other computers without the average citizen knowing anything about it.

For example, the IRS computer can call up a credit bureau computer and say, "Honeywell, can you give me some idea on how much money Charley Ogilvy spent last year on lunches, dinners, hotels, and transportation?"

"Sure TRW, hold on a second. Here it is, \$23,800. Is he in any kind of trouble?"

"He might be. Call me in a few weeks and I'll let you know."

"While I've got you on the line, can you tell me what Sam Knishe filed as his income last year? He claims he's dead broke and can't pay his Lord & Taylor bill."

"Knishe made \$150,000."

"Thanks for the data. I'll talk to you soon."

Meanwhile over at the FBI, its master computer is trying to locate a Fred Lumbach, who bilked them on a sting operation. It calls up the U.S. Census Bureau. "Apple, what's the last address you have for Fred Lumbach?"

"Gosh, our census data is supposed to be confidential."

"We know that but we have to find him."

"Okay, 122 Harding Road, Beesville Virginia, but you don't know where you got it."

Next call: "Is this the Lethargic National Bank computer?"

"Speaking."

"This is Hewlett Packard, the Social Security mainframe. A Mrs. G.L. Caruthers has been collecting health benefits when she doesn't deserve them. Would you transfer \$800 from her bank account to ours?"

"Sure, what are friendly computers for?"

And on another line:

"Hi Sperry, what's new at Selective Service?"

"Did Frank Dolan ask for a student loan from your bank?"

"If my memory serves me he did."

"Well, don't give it to him. He's registered for the draft."

"It's done. You promised me in-depth profiles on Ivan Monk, Donald Grwald, and George Dormer."

"I'll call you tonight, pal."

And one final call:

"This is the New York Welfare Department computer. Am I talking to the Health and Human Services computer?"

"That's correct."

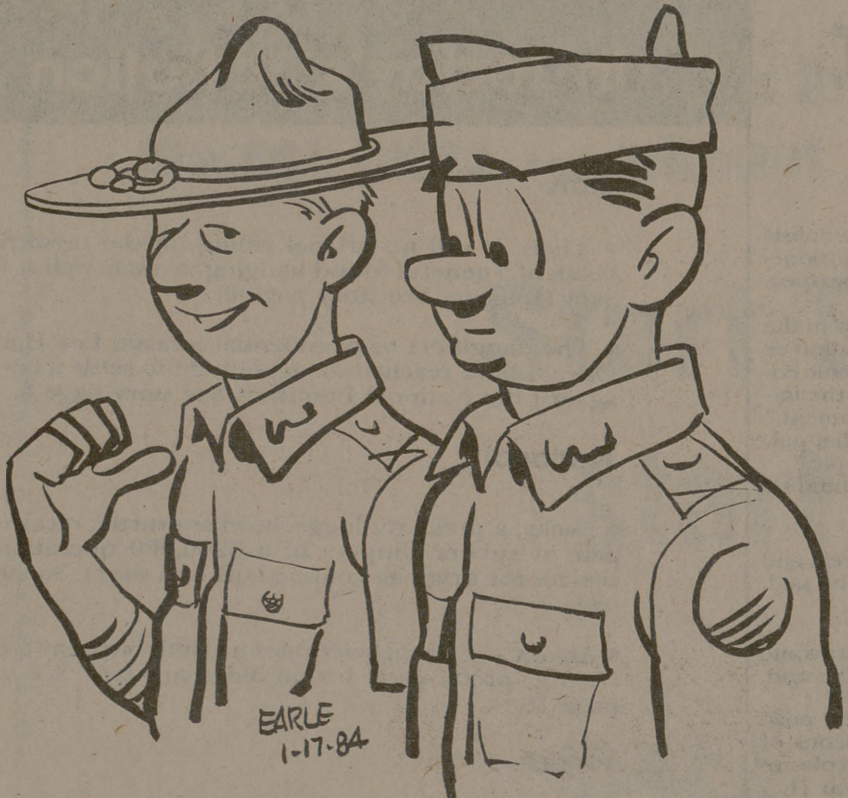
"We have a Mrs. L.L. Jones who she hasn't received her Medicare dis for the past five months."

"Mrs. Jones is dead."

"She's in our office kicking and screaming and seems to be very much alive."

"I'll send you a printout of her death certificate. If that doesn't convince nothing will."

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"The next change in policy will be back to exemptions from final exams for graduating seniors. Do you think professors will like grading a hundred exams over a weekend before graduation?"

## Letters: Disarmament protest naive

Editor:

This Saturday, A&M's Student Peace Action will demonstrate against the Westinghouse Co. The members plan to unfurl a banner reading "Beat Cruise Missiles into Toasters."

I agree that this is a good-humored approach and I don't doubt their sincerity in fighting the arms race, but let's face it — these folks haven't left square one: understanding the issue at hand.

One Peace Action member was asked if his position was for unilateral or bilateral disarmament, and he replied bilateral. Asked to explain, he said the U.S. would disarm itself, then ask the Soviets to do likewise.

Semantics aside, these folks don't seem to understand that there will be no similar demonstrations in the USSR (against the Soviet buildup) other than by those anxious for a long stay at the Gulag Archipelago. In fact, in East Germany the slogans "Frieden schaffen ohne Waffen" (achieve peace without weapons) and "Schwerter zu Pflugshare" (Swords into plowshares) are banned.

Unilateral disarmament is neither sensible nor realistic. Protesting against U.S. involvement in the arms race without considering the Soviet's active participation in it is closed-minded and naive.

B. Mecum  
Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

### The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor ..... Rebecca Zimmermann
- Managing Editor ..... John Wagner
- City Editor ..... Patrice Koranek
- Assistant City Editors ..... Kathleen Hart, Stephanie Ross
- News Editor ..... Tracey Taylor
- Assistant News Editors ..... Susan Talbot, Wanda Winkler
- Editorial Page Editor ..... Kathy Wiesepape
- Sports Editor ..... Donn Friedman
- Assistant Sports Editor ..... Bill Robinson
- Entertainment Editor ..... Shelley Hoekstra
- Assistant Entertainment Editor ..... Angel Stokes
- Photo Editor ..... John Makely
- Staff Writers ..... Robin Black, Brigid Brockman, Bob Caster, Ronnie Crocker, Bonnie Langford, Christine Mallon, Kay Mallett, Sarah Oates, Michelle Powe, Lauri Reese, Dave Scott, Kelley Smith, Karen Wallace
- Photographers ..... Michael Davis, Bill Hughes, Katherine Hurt, Eric Lee, Dean Saito
- Cartoonists ..... Paul Dirmeyer, Scott McCullar

#### Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

#### 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.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches created to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.